

Kramer Enterprises Inc., City Laundry, Findlay

Intervention Key Words: Laundry, Sewing, Chairs, Tables, Adjustable, Anti fatigue mats, Automation

Industry: Service

Risk Factor(s): Repetitive motion, Awkward Posture- Back deviations, Neck deviations, Wrist deviations

Situation:

Kramer Enterprises is an industrial laundry facility that sews, repairs and makes alterations to garments and uniforms. The typical workday for an employee involves sitting at a single sewing station, without rotating tasks. These work stations lacked any adjustability and provided the worker with antiquated machines and tools. The absence of adjustable stations created awkward and uncomfortable postures while the tools and machines took their toll on the workers arms, hands, wrists and ankles due to unbalanced design and lack of ergonomic considerations.



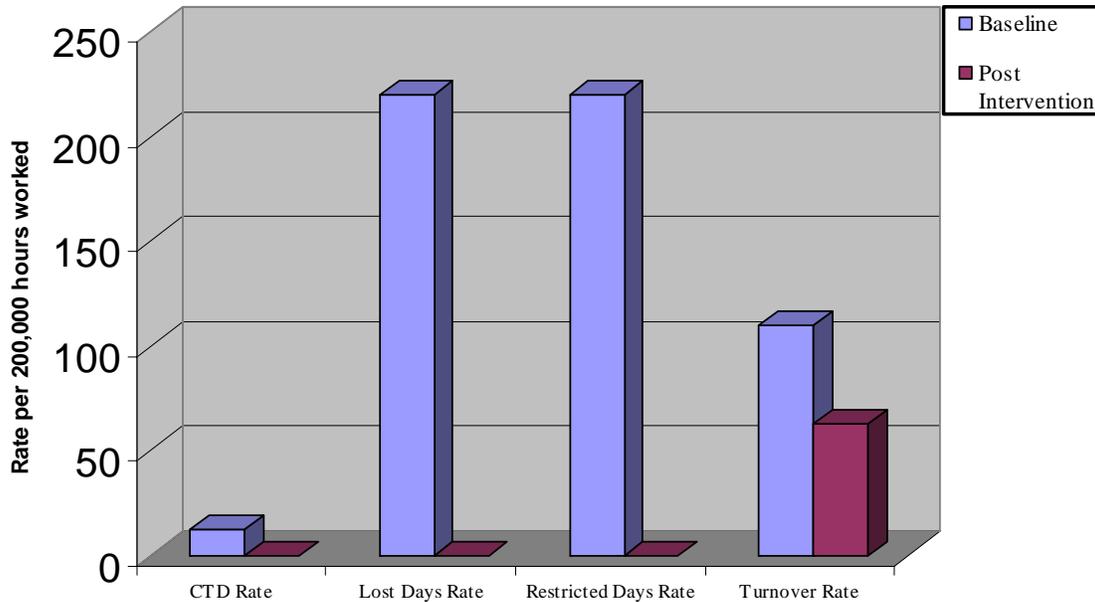
Chairs and tables lack adjustability and proper cushioning

Solution:

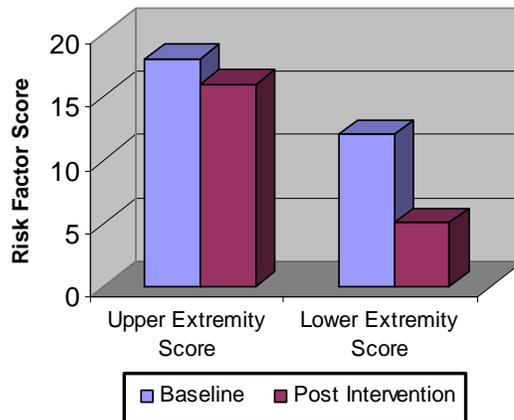
For Kramer Enterprises to reduce the risk of injury they not only needed the right equipment but also needed to know how to use the equipment properly. An outside company was brought in to assess the workspace and determine what interventions needed to be made in order to create a safer work site. The company suggested a continuous flow order processing system known as the “Toyota Stock Room System”, designed to eliminate repetitive motions, vary task handling and reduce injury risks. This was accepted and proper training was administered to all workers involved in the

change. In addition to the processing format, Kramer Enterprises implemented the use of such things as adjustable chairs, and tables, motorized machines, standing works stations, improved lighting, electric cutters and anti-fatigue mats. Total cost for the consultation, equipment and training totaled \$50,016. Safety Grant\$ awarded Kramer Enterprises \$40,000 to help offset the costs incurred.

Results:



- CTD rate, Lost Days rate and Restricted Days rate all decreased 100% when standardized per 200,000 hours worked. Turnover Rate decreased 43% when measured on the same scale.
- Productivity reported by Kramer Industries increased 94%, from 15.4 units per hour to nearly 30 units per hour.



- Upper Extremity Risk Factor scores fell from 18 to 16 while Lower Extremity scores dropped from 12 to 5.