

The contest was sponsored by the Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (MassCOSH) and state and federal agencies, including MA Departments of Public Health, Education, Labor Standards, Industrial Accidents, the Office of the Attorney General, Commonwealth Corporation, U.S. Department of Labor. 154 teens participated in the contest, and 88 youth served as judges, including young workers from MassCOSH's Teens Lead @ Work program.

“Congratulations to the winners of the Safe Jobs for Youth Poster Contest,” said Genesis Lumahan, a MassCOSH youth peer leader who presented the awards at the event. “The posters are amazing and are going to play an important role in educating youth on their rights in the workplace and hopefully bring awareness to hazardous workplaces.”

According to the state data from 2006 to 2010, the newest available, there were 2,900 emergency department visits for work-related injuries to teens under age 18. Nationally, young workers have almost twice the rate of non-fatal work-related per hour worked than older workers. The Yes Team explains this high rate of injury can be explained in part by teens tend to be hired into industries that have high risk for injury, such as restaurants, and that young workers are often provided insufficient health and safety training.

“This contest is important because through these posters we can educate society and people on their health and safety, especially youth workers,” said Daniel Martinez, another MassCOSH youth peer leader and event presenter.

Honorable mention awardees included Diomedes Anziani of Lawrence; Alexander Begin of Swansea; Christa Diaz of Worcester, Chris Lenzi of Franklin; Josephina Lin of Wellesley; Julia Murphy of Tyngsborough; Gabriel Ocampo of Springfield; Tayla Osborne of Newburyport; and Autumn Overton, Taunton

*The Massachusetts Youth Employment and Safety (YES) Team includes the Office of the Attorney General, Commonwealth Corporation, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, MA Department of Industrial Accidents, MA Department of Public Health, MA Department of Labor Standards, U.S. Department of Labor: Wage and Hour Division, and U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration.*

*MassCOSH is a non profit workplace safety advocacy organization, based in Dorchester.*