

Unit 3: Know Your Rights

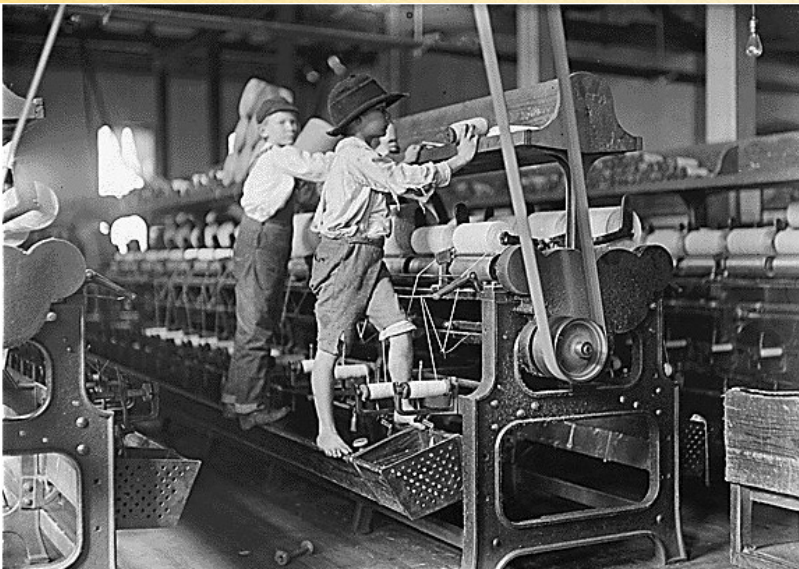
Health and Safety Awareness
for Working Teens



Dept of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences
School of Public Health, University of Washington
Washington State Department of Labor and Industries

Child Labor in the US

The industrial revolution ushered in an age of factories and the use of children as cheap labor. By 1900 about 2 million children were working in mills, mines, fields, factories, stores and on city streets.



Small kids had to climb up on the spinning frame to mend broken threads and to put back the empty bobbins. Macon, GA, 1909¹



Oyster shuckers in canning factory. All but the very smallest babies work, from 3:30 am to 5 pm. The little girl in the center is “a real help to me” says her mother. Dunbar, La.¹

1 - The History Place - Child Labor in America, Photographs and captions by Lewis W. Hine, www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/childlabor/

2 - American Literature Survey 2, Dr. Ron Tranquilla, Photographs of Lewis Hine, http://www.eng.fju.edu.tw/ron/american_lit2?Images/childlabor.htm

Child Labor in the US

Founded in 1904 the National Child Labor Committee (NCLC) used information and documentation to lobby for child labor laws. The pictures in these slides were taken by Lewis Hines as part of that documentation.



Berry pickers, age 7 and 9. Children worked from 4:30 am until sunset. Rochester, MA. 1908^{1, 2}



Miners waiting for the cage to go up at the end of the day. Two sides of the cage are open; the other two sides have little protection. The cage is usually crowded. S. Pittson, PA¹

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“Among the related reforms championed by the movement (NCLC) to end child labor were:

- innovations in national regulation of labor conditions,
- the minimum wage,
- worker’s compensation insurance,
- uniform standards for compulsory education,
- school food programs,
- shorter work days,
- regulation of health and safety conditions in the workplace
- and many others that Americans take for granted today.”

—The Campaign to End Child Labor, by Jim Zwick



Girls at weaving machines
Evansville, IN, October 1908

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Child Labor in the US

Over the next two decades, several attempts were made to pass a federal law controlling child labor but none succeeded until in 1938 when the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) was passed. This act still serves as the guiding legislation on child labor in the U.S.



A Bowery bootblack in New York.¹



A young driver in the Brown mine. Has been driving one year. Works 7 am to 5:30 pm daily. Brown, WV.¹

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Child Labor in the US



“Breakers” sorting coal. The dust was so dense at times as to obscure the view. This dust penetrated the utmost recesses of the boys’ lungs. A kind of slave-driver sometimes stands over the boys, prodding or kicking them into obedience. s. Pittston, Pa.^{1, 2}

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Child Labor in the US



Cutting fish in a sardine cannery. Large sharp knives are used with a cutting and sometimes chopping motion. The slippery floors and benches and careless bumping into each other increase the liability of accidents. Eastport, Me.¹



Shrimp pickers, including little 8 year old Max on the right. Biloxi, Miss.¹

Child Labor in the US



Nine-year old newsgirl. Hartford, CT,
March 1909



Boys in the packing room at the
Brown Mfg. Co. Evansville, Ind.¹

Additional Child Labor Pictures by Lewis Hine

Child Labor in the US



Boy picking berries. Near Baltimore, MD, June, 1909



Some of the young knitters in London Hosiery Mills. London, Tenn.¹



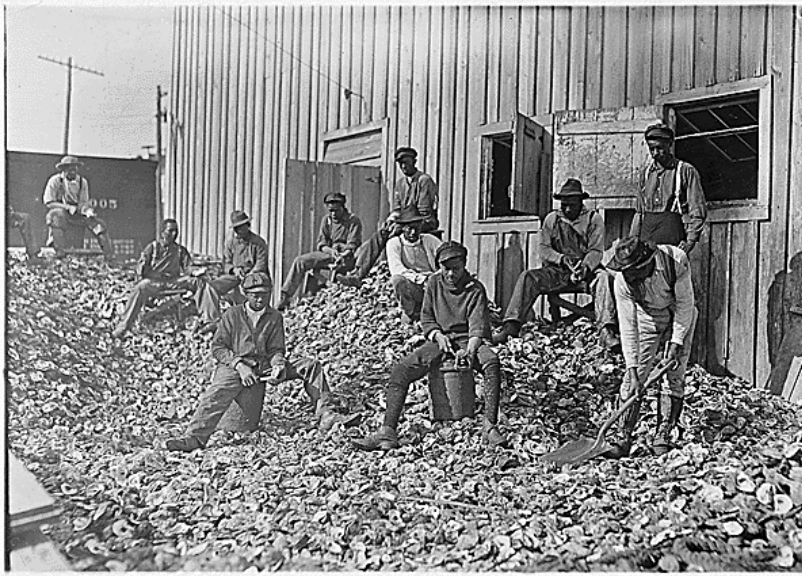
Glassblowers and mold boy, bottle factory. Grafton, WV, 1908



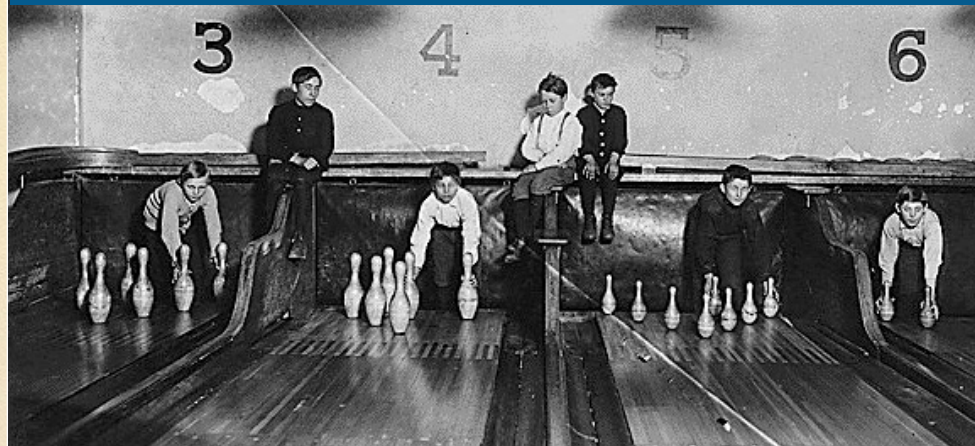
Boys in a cigar factory.

Additional Child Labor Pictures by Lewis Hine

Child Labor in the US



Bowling alley boys. Many of them work past midnight setting pins. New Haven, Conn.¹

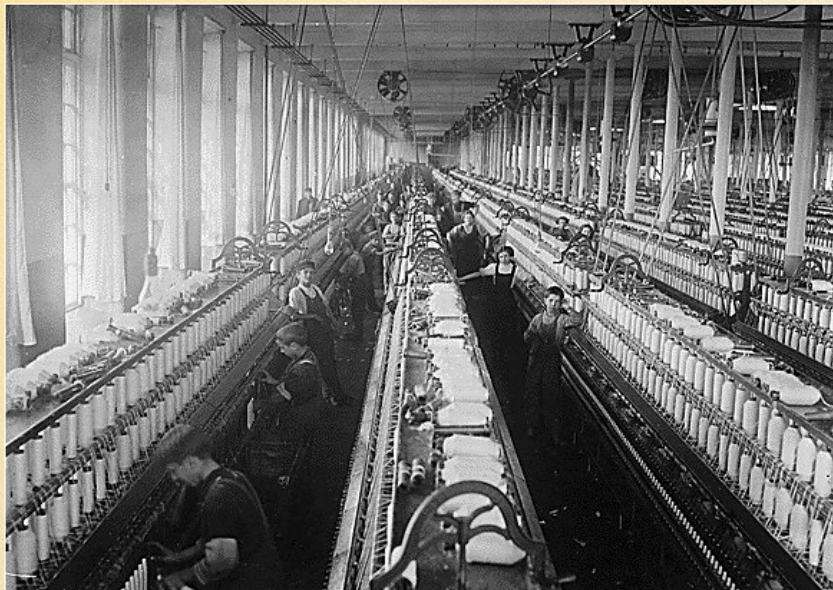


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Child Labor in the US



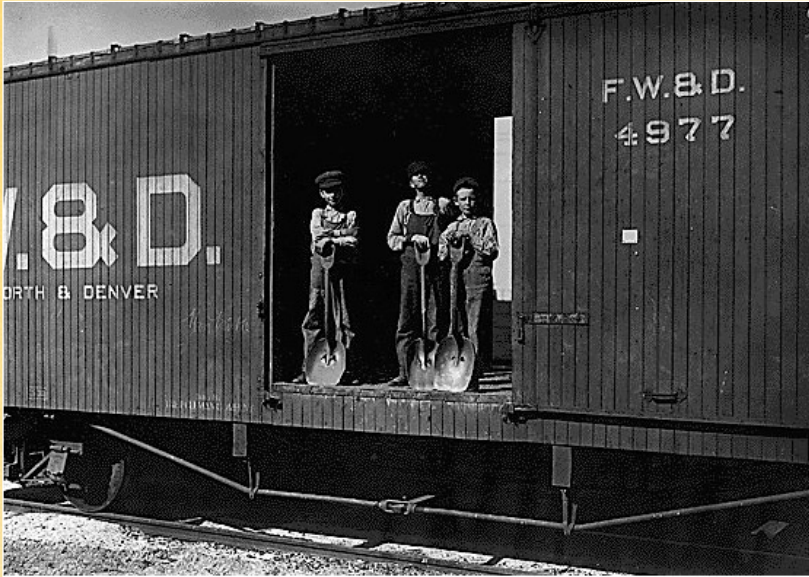
One of the spinners in Whitnel Cotton Mill. She was 51 inches (4ft 3in) high. Has been in the mill one year. Sometimes works at night. Whitnel, NC¹



Spinning room, Cornell Mill. Fall River, Mass.¹

Additional Child Labor Pictures by Lewis Hine

Child Labor in the US



Three young boys with shovels standing in doorway of a Fort Worth & Denver train car.¹



Boy running "Trip Rope" in mine. Welch, WV, September 1908

Additional Child Labor Pictures by Lewis Hine

National Level Enforcement Agency

Occupational Safety and Health Act

Passed in 1970

Created OSHA



OSHA

Occupational Safety & Health
Administration

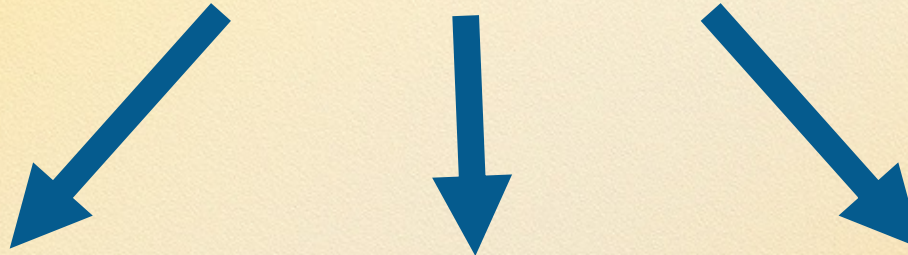
US Department of Labor

Creates and enforces workplace
safety and health regulations

State Level Agency



Regulates workplace health and safety by addressing 3 areas



Industrial Insurance

Workers compensation for workplace injuries

DOSH Services

Workplace safety and health

Specialty Compliance

Teen workers, apprenticeship and employment standards