

What is NIOSH already doing?

NIOSH and our partners have started to identify the research needs for the next decade of NORA. Through town hall meetings and work with our partners and others, an initial list of targeted research priorities has been developed.

- Work life health
- Increasing the number of well trained occupational safety health practitioners, researchers and clinicians
- Dissemination and integration of knowledge into the workplace
- Respiratory diseases
- Musculoskeletal diseases
- Traumatic injuries
- Hearing loss
- Identification of work-related illnesses and injuries through better surveillance methods
- Work organization illnesses and injuries
- Special population issues related to occupational injuries and illnesses

NIOSH encourages your input at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora/comments.html> or contact the NORA Coordinator at NORACoordinator@cdc.gov to provide feedback.

Who is NIOSH?

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), with a budget of approximately \$300 million, is the only Federal agency with a mandate to conduct and fund occupational safety and health research and training. NIOSH and its partners are committed to the development and integration of knowledge to prevent occupational injuries and illnesses for over 150 million US workers.

Why are partnerships important?

NIOSH is reaching out to new partners to create a more integrated and transparent approach to apply knowledge resulting from research. NIOSH and its partners are committed to conducting research to identify critical new knowledge to improve workforce safety and health.

Why is research to practice (r2p) important?

NIOSH is focused on research to practice so as to better transfer and translate research findings, technologies and information into effective prevention practices and products for the workplace.

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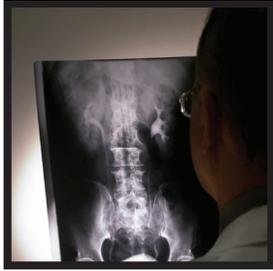


The Nation's Investment in Occupational Safety and Health Research



Research Priorities through Partnerships





Why is workplace safety and health research important?

Everyday, over 150 million Americans go to work expecting to be able to return home healthy and safe. However, the numbers show that for many this is not the case.

- Approximately 9,000 workers are injured at work every day.
- On average, 16 workers a day will be victims of a fatal workplace injury.
- Another 137 workers and retirees die each day from diseases they developed due to their current or former jobs.
- Employers spent an estimated \$50.8 billion in 2003 on wage payments and medical care for workers hurt on the job.
- The economic impact of work-related illnesses and injuries has been estimated at \$171 billion annually, the same as cancer or cardiovascular disease and much greater than the burden from HIV/AIDS or Alzheimer's.

These injuries, illnesses and fatalities take a significant economic and emotional toll on the worker, their family and friends, and employers. The statistics on acute and long term effects translate into tremendous economic costs and societal burdens.

Data shows that when interventions are based on sound occupational safety and health research injuries and illnesses can be significantly reduced.

What is the role of NIOSH?

As the only agency devoted to studying workplace safety and health, NIOSH has been able to attract highly talented investigators from many disciplines committed to conducting research to develop the critical knowledge needed in this field. The success rate for grants is approximately twelve percent.

In order to achieve its mission, NIOSH must focus and prioritize the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) to maximize the impact of its work. For this reason, NIOSH has organized its research agenda around eight industrial sectors. The eight sectors are:

- Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing
- Construction
- Healthcare and Social Assistance
- Manufacturing
- Mining
- Services
- Wholesale and Retail Trade
- Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities

Through public meetings, sector councils and other activities, NIOSH is engaging both old and new partners in developing a national and Institute research agenda to identify the critical knowledge needed to address the most important occupational illnesses and injuries.



How were the research areas determined?

The NIOSH research program portfolio is organized by industrial sector, as defined in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS, 2002; <http://www.census.gov/epcd/www/naics.html>), and more specifically according to scientific disciplines.

In addition to the eight sectors, there are also fifteen Cross-Sector Programs and seven Coordinated Emphasis Areas.

Cross-Sector Programs

- Authoritative Recommendations
- Cancer, Reproductive and Cardiovascular Diseases
- Communications and Information Dissemination
- Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Global Collaborations
- Health Hazard Evaluation (HHE)
- Hearing Loss Prevention
- Immune and Dermal Diseases
- Musculoskeletal Disorders
- Personal Protective Technology
- Radiation Dose Reconstruction
- Respiratory Diseases
- Training Grants
- Traumatic Injury
- Work Organization & Stress-Related Disorders

Coordinated Emphasis Areas

- Economics
- Exposure Assessment
- Engineering Controls
- Occupational Health Disparities
- Small Business Assistance and Outreach
- Surveillance
- WorkLife Initiative

Detailed information about all of the programs and emphasis areas can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/>.

NIOSH uses this framework to organize and coordinate projects by industrial area, to foster internal and external collaborations, and to facilitate information flow from research into practice.