Although a traumatic noise exposure may cause an immediate hearing loss in some cases, most occupational hearing losses occur so gradually that workers are unaware they are losing their hearing. The rate of hearing loss growth is greatest during the first 10 years of exposure. This means hearing loss prevention is especially important for new workers. However, with continued exposure, the hearing loss spreads into those frequencies most needed to understand speech. This means that preventing occupational hearing loss is also important for workers in their mid and late careers.
The NORA Manufacturing Sector Council consists of individuals from areas such as industry, academia, labor, and government. The Council meets face-to-face twice a year. Additional communication occurs through email, conference calls, and web-based meetings. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) facilitates the work of the Council. The Council’s Hearing Loss Prevention workgroup relies on Corresponding Members for additional expert input and feedback on the hearing loss prevention-related goals. Members and Corresponding Members primarily meet via conference calls and web-based meetings.

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**NORA Website:** [http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora)

**NIOSH Manufacturing Program Portfolio:** [http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/manuf/](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/manuf/)