

What are our priorities?

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Health Hazard Evaluation (HHE) Program evaluates potential workplace hazards through field visits and phone consultations in response to requests from workers, unions, and employers. On the basis of investigation findings, the program provides recommendations to improve the health and safety of the U.S. workforce. The HHE program focuses on these areas:

- Reducing or eliminating hazards and preventing work-related illnesses
- Identifying new and emerging hazards

What do we do?

- Complete timely, high quality investigations that meet stakeholder needs.
- Make and promote relevant, feasible, and effective recommendations to prevent adverse effects of workplace health hazards.
- Raise awareness about hazards, emerging issues, and recommended controls through HHE reports, trade publications and meetings, social media, and scientific publications and meetings.
- Encourage HHE Program requests:
 - From underserved populations, small businesses, labor unions, and local health departments.
 - That address emerging occupational health problems.
 - That are likely to have findings that can apply to many workplaces.
- Encourage research on emerging hazards identified by HHE investigations.

What have we accomplished?

- Responded to 247 HHE requests, including making 39 visits for new field investigations and issuing 159 final reports in 2016.
- Published a peer-reviewed journal article and completed medical and environmental data collection at 10 coffee processing facilities to characterize exposures to diacetyl and other flavoring chemicals, assess health outcomes, and recommend ways to prevent lung disease.
- Completed a series of three HHE promotional videos to inform employers and employees about the work of the HHE Program and what to expect if we do an evaluation in their workplace.
- Won the 2016 CDC Technology Challenge with a proposal to get useful personal exposure and medical results to HHE participants in a secure and easy-to-use manner.
- Released report on law enforcement agent exposures to synthetic drugs during a raid of a clandestine lab. Found markers of exposure in agents' urine after the raid and recommended work practice and environmental changes to reduce exposure.

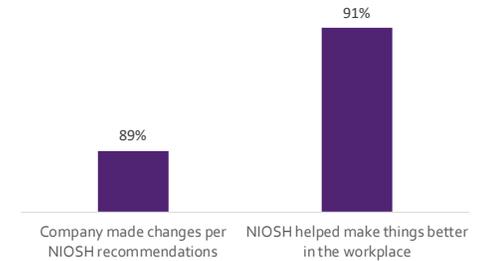
What's next?

- Respond to at least 220 HHE requests, including at least 32 initial site visits and 146 final reports in 2017.
- Issue reports and other dissemination products on emerging workplace hazards including flame retardants, electronic cigarettes, and nail salon products.
- Carry out evaluations of coffee processing facilities and issue final reports.
- Finalize prototype of new design for HHE program reports.
- Survey local health departments' knowledge of the HHE Program and communication preferences.
- Release web portal for providing HHE participants with their personal exposure and health test results.
- Develop educational materials on musculoskeletal risks in the food service industry.

At-A-Glance

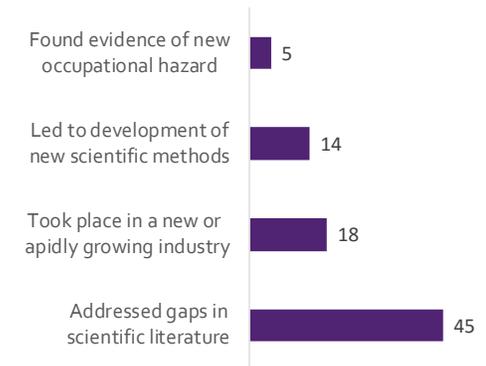
The Health Hazard Evaluation (HHE) Program provides studies of requesting workplaces to learn whether workers are exposed to hazardous materials or harmful conditions. This snapshot shows recent accomplishments and upcoming work.

Percent of respondents in 2011-2015 reporting positive changes after HHE was completed



Source: NIOSH Program Records

Number of HHE field investigations addressing priority issues in rapidly growing industries 2011-2015



Source: NIOSH Program Records

Evaluation of law enforcement agents' exposure during a raid of a clandestine drug lab

Number of agents with markers of synthetic drugs in their urine

0 of 9

Before the raid

6 of 9

After the raid

Source: HHE Report No. 2014-0039-3246

To learn more, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe>