

### 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 HHE 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 various groups, including small businesses, labor unions, local health departments, and underserved populations.
  - 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?

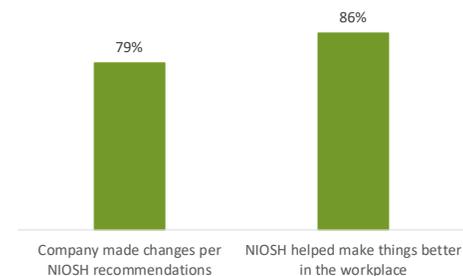
- Made 38 visits for new field investigations and completed 66 final reports in 2017, including reports related to:
  - flame retardants in electronics recycling
  - chemical exposures in vape shops (use of electronic cigarettes)
  - diacetyl and other flavoring chemicals at coffee roasting and packaging facilities
  - nanoparticles and other emerging exposures in additive manufacturing facilities
  - mental health stressors and bloodborne pathogen exposure among first responders
  - *Legionella* in a manufacturing facility
  - a sporicidal (disinfectant) product containing hydrogen peroxide, peracetic acid, and acetic acid in a hospital
- Published a manuscript which found over 40% of healthcare personnel reported working while ill with an influenza-like illness.
- Implemented a new HHE report format based on feedback from stakeholder interviews.
- Deployed 8 HHE Program staff to locations including Texas, Georgia, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands in response to the unprecedented natural disasters caused by the 2017 Atlantic Hurricane season.
- Implemented the NIOSH Participant Portal which provides, in a secure electronic format, personal exposure and health results for HHE participants.
- Created additional [videos](#) concerning activities performed during HHEs.

### What's next?

- Respond to at least 200 HHE requests, including at least 30 initial site visits in 2018.
- Issue reports and prepare other NIOSH guidance on work-related exposure to illicit opioids among first responders, healthcare workers, security officers, and medical examiners.
- Evaluate potential exposures from cured-in-place pipe repair (trenchless underground pipe repair technology).
- Finalize and distribute a new informational brochure concerning the HHE Program to state health departments.

The Health Hazard Evaluation (HHE) Program evaluates workplace exposures and health effects potentially related to hazardous exposures among workers. This snapshot shows recent accomplishments and upcoming activities.

### Percent of respondents in 2012-2016 reporting positive changes after HHE was completed



Source: NIOSH Program Records

### Number of HHE field investigations addressing priority issues in rapidly growing industries 2012-2016



Source: NIOSH Program Records

### Evaluation of health care personnel working while ill with influenza-like illness (ILI) during the 2014-2015 influenza season

#### Occupation most likely to work with ILI:

- Pharmacists (67%)
- Physicians (63%)

#### Top reasons for working with ILI:

- "I could still perform my job duties"
- "I wasn't feeling bad enough to miss work"

Source: American Journal of Infection Control. 2017. 45(11):1254-1258

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

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