

What are our priorities?

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Construction Program works with partners in industry, labor, trade associations, professional organizations, and academia. The program focuses on construction safety and health in these areas:

- Preventing injuries and fatalities related to falls and struck-by incidents
- Reducing hearing loss among workers
- Reducing hazardous respiratory exposures among workers, especially crystalline silica
- Reducing injuries and musculoskeletal disorders related to emerging or new technologies

What do we do?

- Raise awareness of evidence-based ways to prevent falls in the construction industry:
 - Promote the NIOSH research-based national [Campaign to Prevent Falls in Construction, and the Safety Stand-Down](#).
 - Evaluate the success of the Campaign in collaboration with the NIOSH-funded Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).
 - Develop tools, educational materials, trainings, and other resources related to preventing falls, and disseminate through electronic, web, and social media.
- Provide information, tools, and resources to advance hearing loss prevention and encourage manufacturers to design and produce quieter equipment, and encourage companies to purchase or rent quieter machinery.
- Increase availability and use of silica dust controls and practices. The Program focuses on the tasks with common and high silica exposures, such as tuckpointing and installing natural or engineered stone countertops.
- Expand the availability and use of effective interventions so that they become widely used and affect practice (research-to-practice or r2p) in the construction industry.
- Advance r2p through active partnerships with stakeholders.

What have we accomplished?

- Completed an [external peer review of the construction program](#) assessing its public health relevance and impact in the areas of silica, musculoskeletal disorders, noise exposure and hearing loss, highway work zones, and fall prevention. The Program received a score of 9.5 out of 10.
- Provided leadership for the [Campaign to Prevent Falls in Construction, and the Safety Stand-Down](#) with key OSHA and CPWR partners, reaching over 5 million construction workers. Developed a series of cobranded infographics and videos on fall prevention.
- Published several journal articles and reports on the National Falls Prevention Campaign, [fall surveillance](#), fall prevention, personal fall arrest, [small business](#), hearing loss and silica.
- Organized multiple sessions on Construction Safety and Health at the 2018 National Occupational Injury Research Symposium (NOIRS) Conference, including sessions on safety climate, safety management, safety leadership, research to practice, social networking, etc. More than 330 researchers, professionals, and students attended NOIRS.
- Published NIOSH Science Blogs on [preventing musculoskeletal disorders](#), [construction-mining synergies](#) and [preventing contractor electrocutions](#).
- Presented information on contractor electrocutions to large groups at the Association of General Contractors and at the National Electrical Contractors Association Safety Conferences.

What's next?

- Develop videos, blogs, and infographics targeting small construction businesses to more effectively reach that workforce and reduce job-site injuries, illnesses and fatalities.
- Begin conducting research on use of robotics, exoskeletons or other emerging technologies in construction to determine impact on health and safety. Develop communication products on some of these topics.
- Conduct research activities to improve surveillance, sampling, and control of silica exposures and document trends since the 2017 OSHA silica standard. Also, begin collecting data to expand OSHA Table 1 (silica controls), which is a compliance option to protect workers from silica exposure.

At-A-Glance

The Construction Program aims to eliminate work-related injuries, diseases, and fatalities among construction workers. This snapshot shows recent accomplishments and upcoming work.

Number of fatalities from falls in construction, 2004-2016 (All employment)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1992-2015 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries. Numbers are from the online CFOI database.

Rate of hearing loss in construction (Private wage-and-salary workers, per 10,000 workers)



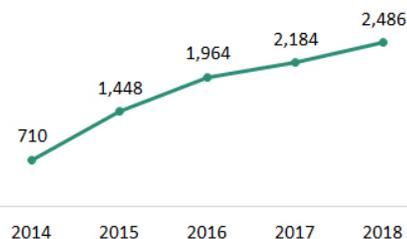
Source: CPWR. The Construction Chart Book, 5th ed. 2013

Age-adjusted silicosis death rate (per million U.S. residents age 15 and over)



Source: NIOSH Work-Related Lung Disease Surveillance System (eWoRLD)

Cumulative downloads of "Safety Culture and Climate in Construction: Bridging the Gap Between Research and Practice"



Source: NIOSH and CPWR program records

To learn more, visit www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/const

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