

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 United States 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 32 site visits and published 34 new HHE reports in 2018, including reports related to:
 - Exposures during laser tattoo removal
 - Ergonomic evaluation of pharmacy tasks
 - Exposure to tuberculosis at a zoo elephant exhibit
- Responded to 13 opioid-related investigations including:
 - Health effects from unintentional occupational exposure among emergency responders
 - Impact of traumatic events and stressors among first responders
 - Potential exposures related to building ventilation at a jail
- Published six HHE reports in the new format, adopted in late 2017, based on feedback from stakeholder interviews
- Mailed approximately 400 HHE program brochures to local health departments as program outreach
- Published six new specialty publications targeting firefighters' risk for rhabdomyolysis and controlling hazards for employees working with nanotechnology
- Deployed a team of investigators to evaluate workers' exposure to mercury during gold mining operations in Guyana; made recommendations to reduce mercury exposure
- Completed field investigation at the site of a cured-in-place pipe installation and identified work practices that could reduce worker exposure to styrene

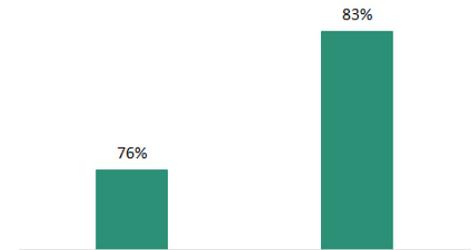
What's next?

- Respond to at least 200 HHE requests, including at least 30 initial site visits in 2019
- Complete evaluations of potential exposures of forensic scientists and first responders to fentanyl and other opioids
- Complete ergonomic evaluations impacting approximately 20,000 workers at Department of Defense facilities
- Evaluate the respiratory health outcomes among workers at a rubber manufacturing facility
- Characterize severe lung disease among workers at a metal machining facility
- Evaluate firefighters' respiratory symptoms and lung function after two large fire responses

At-A-Glance

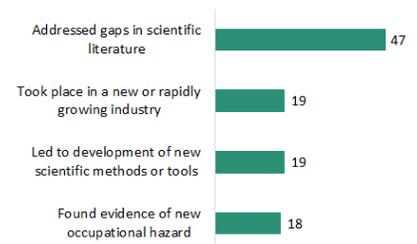
The Health Hazard Evaluation (HHE) Program evaluates workplace exposures and health effects potentially related to hazardous exposures among workers. This snapshot shows recent accomplishments and upcoming activities.

Percent of respondents in 2013-2017 reporting positive changes after HHE was completed

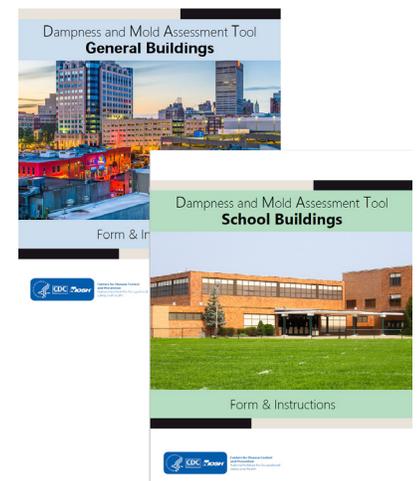


Source: NIOSH Program Records

Number of HHE field investigations addressing priority issues in rapidly growing industries 2013-2017



Source: NIOSH Program Records



NIOSH numbered publications addressing indoor environmental quality, published December 2018

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2019-115/>
<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2019-114/>

To learn more, visit
www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe

<https://doi.org/10.26616/NIOSH PUB2019157>
 DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2019-157