

# Opioid Use Disorder Prevention Strategies

for the Mining Industry

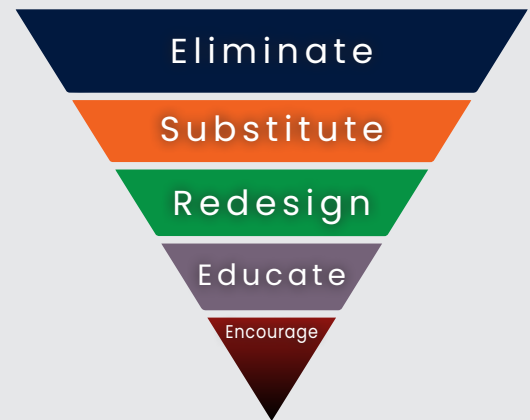


When miners are injured on the job or develop musculoskeletal disorders like those affecting the back, neck, upper and lower limbs, and knees, they can be at higher risk for opioid use disorder (OUD). Implementing effective prevention strategies can reduce harmful opioid use and support workers.

**MINE WORKERS WERE PRESCRIBED OPIOIDS MORE OFTEN, AT HIGHER DOSES, AND FOR LONGER PERIODS OF TIME THAN WORKERS IN OTHER INDUSTRIES.**

The Hierarchy of Controls can be applied to workplace health and safety issues that may lead to OUD. From the most effective to least effective, some examples are:

- **Eliminate** hazards that may cause worker injuries and pain
- **Substitute** policies to improve paid sick leave, access to non-opioid treatments, and mental health services
- **Redesign** tasks to reduce physical and mental demands for workers
- **Educate** workers and supervisors on opioid risks and nonopioid pain treatments
- **Encourage** workers to seek treatment and recovery supports



**MINE WORKERS HAVE AMONG THE HIGHEST RATES OF ILLEGAL OPIOID USE COMPARED TO WORKERS IN OTHER INDUSTRIES.**



Employee training and education can help workers to:

- Identify and reduce risks of prescription opioids for management of injuries, prescription opioid misuse, and OUD.
- Seek help for themselves.
- Recognize possible impaired work performance in a coworker.
- Help a coworker access help and supportive services.
- Respond appropriately to a potential overdose event.
- Reduce stigma by supporting open discussion and increasing knowledge.

## Components of Comprehensive Workplace Prevention

As an operator, you can help keep workplace health and safety front and center by implementing some or all of the suggested programs below:

- **Workplace Health Promotion**
- **Injury Prevention Programs**
- **Workplace Policies**
- **Employee Education & Training**
- **Medical, Behavioral, & Pharmacy Coverage**
- **Employee Assistance Programs**
- **Peer Programs**



Learn more in MSHA's newly published document "Implementing Effective Workplace Solutions to Prevent Opioid Use Disorder: A Resource Guide for the Mining Industry"

For additional resources, scan the QR code or visit [www.msha.gov/Opioids](http://www.msha.gov/Opioids)



September 2026