

# National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health



## Our Mission

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) seeks to generate new knowledge in the field of occupational safety and health and to transfer that knowledge into practice for the betterment of workers. To accomplish this mission, NIOSH conducts scientific research, develops guidance and authoritative recommendations, disseminates information, and responds to requests for workplace health hazard evaluations.

## Activity Snapshot

- NIOSH provides national and world leadership to prevent work-related illness, injury, disability, and death by gathering information, conducting scientific research, and translating the knowledge gained into products and services. NIOSH conducts occupational safety and health research in its own laboratories and in academic centers, and is the major source of occupational safety and health research in the United States. NIOSH initiatives focus on the transfer and translation of knowledge, interventions and technology into practice and products for the workplace.
- For more than 30 years, NIOSH has promoted and supported state-based occupational safety and health surveillance and intervention programs. NIOSH provides states the tools necessary to understand and prevent work-related risks, activities that are vital to the prevention of occupational injuries, illnesses and death. In 2010, NIOSH expanded funding from 15 to 23 states. Fourteen states are funded to build capacity in occupational safety and health surveillance and nine states are funded to expand their programs that address state priorities, including occupational fatalities, pesticide poisonings, work-related asthma, silicosis, teen injuries, truck driver health, hospital workers injuries, and temporary worker health.
- The National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) is an innovative public-private partnership to establish priorities for occupational safety and health research both at NIOSH and throughout the country. In 2006, NORA began its second decade by focusing national research on the problems of highest relevance to workers, employers, and occupational safety and health practitioners in the major industrial sectors of Agriculture, Construction, Healthcare, Manufacturing, Mining, Services, Trade, and Transportation. NIOSH serves as the steward of NORA and facilitates the work of stakeholder-driven NORA Sector Councils, which have developed roadmaps to direct research and service activities in each sector.





## NIOSH Divisions

In order for NIOSH to carry out its statutory responsibility, NIOSH has nine program-specific divisions to support and implement program activities and initiatives.

**Education and Information Division** develops and transfers information and provides recommendations to foster prevention of occupational injuries and diseases. This is done through targeted information dissemination, training research, and the development of qualitative and quantitative risk assessments.

**Division of Surveillance, Hazard Evaluations, and Field Studies** conducts surveillance of the nation's workforce and workplaces to assess job-related illnesses, exposures, and hazardous agents, as well as research into the causes of diseases in the working population and their offspring.

**Division of Applied Research and Technology** provides national and international leadership in research focused on the prevention of occupational illness and injury by developing and evaluating methods and tools to identify and quantify workplace hazards (chemical, physical, organizational); and strategies and technologies to control exposures to workplace hazards.

**Division of Compensation Analysis and Support** assists with implementing a program created by the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA) which provides compensation and medical benefits for nuclear weapons workers who may have developed certain work-related illnesses.

**Health Effects Laboratory Division** conducts basic and applied laboratory research. Primarily staffed by engineers and biologists, its focus is to establish the causes of occupational disease and injury, and to contribute to the development of valid strategies of intervention and prevention.

**Division of Safety Research** serves as the focal point for NIOSH's traumatic occupational injury research program.

**Division of Respiratory Disease Studies** provides national and international leadership toward the identification, evaluation, and prevention of occupational respiratory disease, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and pneumoconiosis.

**Office of Mine Safety and Health Research** seeks to eliminate mining fatalities, injuries, and illnesses through research and prevention.

**National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory** seeks to prevent work-related injury, illness, and death, by advancing the state of knowledge and application of personal protective technologies.

### NIOSH Atlanta:

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