

Health Hazard Evaluation Program PPOP

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 consultations requested by workers, unions, and employers. Based on 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?

- Published 12 new HHE reports in 2020, including reports related to:
 - [Silica Exposures During Dowel Drilling](#)
 - [Exposures to Illicit Drugs at Forensic Sciences Laboratories](#)
 - [Exposures and Health Concerns in a Dental Clinic](#)
 - [Noise Exposures and Ergonomic Risks during Dental Procedures at a Veterinary Hospital](#)
- Published a [NIOSH Workplace Solutions](#) document on minimizing indoor environmental problems during construction and renovation (2020-110).
- Published a [peer-reviewed article](#) on hazards in the cannabis industry, including findings of exposures to allergens, endotoxins, and volatile organic compounds. Additionally, published findings of an [evaluation](#) on exposure to secondhand cannabis smoke for law enforcement officers.
- Supported the CDC coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) response, by visiting 178 workplaces and providing technical assistance to health departments to mitigate the spread of the virus causing COVID-19.
- Completed site evaluations to assess exposures associated with additive manufacturing technologies (3D printing).

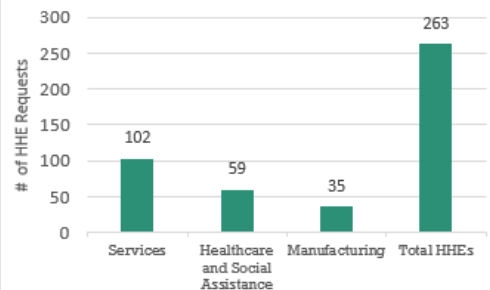
What's next?

- Respond to at least 200 HHE and technical assistance requests in 2021.
- Continue supporting CDC's response to COVID-19, helping to prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 among workers.
- Characterize incidents where first responders experience health symptoms following occupational exposure to illicit drugs.
- Evaluate exposures to styrene during cured-in-place liner preparation and during water- and steam-curing methods for pipe repair.
- Evaluate potential hazards during harvesting and trimming of cannabis.
- Evaluate worker exposures to metals and a perceived excess of cancer cases among workers in a train maintenance facility.

At-A-Glance

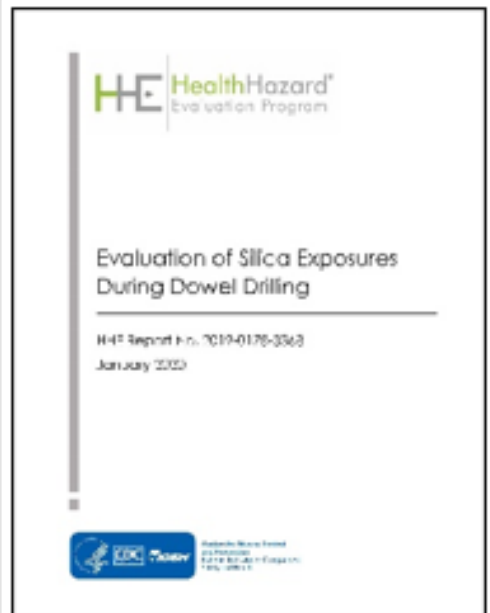
The Health Hazard Evaluation Program evaluates workplace exposures and health effects potentially related to hazardous exposures among workers. This snapshot shows recent accomplishments and upcoming activities.

Top 3 Sectors by HHE Request (FY20)



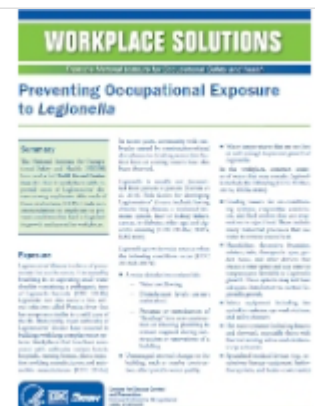
Source: NIOSH program records

Publication Spotlights: Health Hazard Evaluation Report



NIOSH HHE Program report addressing silica exposures during dowel drilling

Workplace Solutions Document



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

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