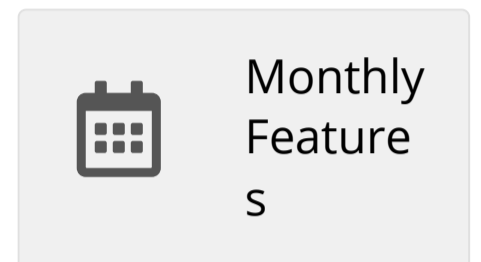
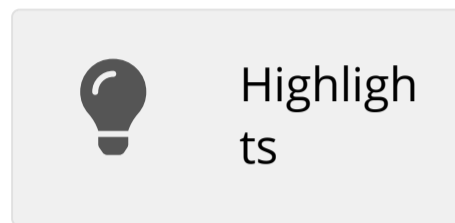
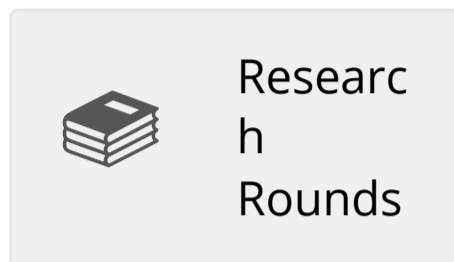
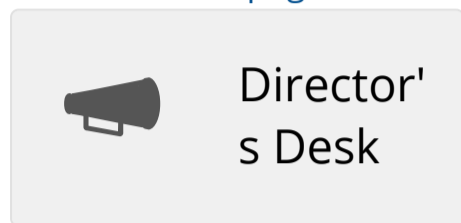


eNews: Volume 19, Number 9 (January 2022)

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Volume 19, Number 9 (January 2022)

From the Director's Desk

John Howard, M.D. Director, NIOSH

Planning for 2022 and Beyond

It's the beginning of a new year, which gives us an opportunity to reflect on our past achievements, while also planning and setting goals for the year ahead. Given the variable conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are constantly changing plans, including many workplaces postponing their return-to-office dates. While some workers continued to work at their physical worksite throughout the pandemic, many workers have been working remotely since early 2020.

As we look to the future and what 2022 will bring, the NIOSH Office of Research Integration is exploring what the future of worker safety and health looks like in a post-pandemic world. In the last two years, we have seen new safety requirements integrated into workplaces, implementation of remote work schedules, reduced working hours, furloughs, and loss of jobs.

To examine how the COVID-19 pandemic may impact the future of occupational safety and health (OSH), NIOSH's Office of Research Integration hosted the 2021 Expanding Research Partnerships (ERP) webinar series titled *Exploring the Future of Worker Health and Safety in the Post-pandemic World*. This series included three webinars featuring perspectives from organized labor, employer groups, and OSH professional associations discussing the future of worker safety, health, and well-being. A [NIOSH Science Blog](#) summarized each webinar's key points from the labor, employer, and OSH professional perspectives. To learn more about the upcoming 2022 ERP webinar series, please visit their [webpage](#).

To further plan for workplace contingencies, NIOSH launched the webinar series Foresight Friday @ NIOSH as an avenue to connect research communities to strategic foresight practice—the practice of looking ahead to anticipate what challenges may be coming and what we can do to prepare for and influence the future. The first [webinar](#) of 2022 takes place January 7 at 11 a.m. (ET). It will present findings from NIOSH's first strategic foresight project that explored the



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future of occupational safety and health. The webinars are held quarterly, and a recording is posted after each event. To learn more about Foresight Friday @ NIOSH and future presentation topics, please contact ORI@cdc.gov.

There's no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way many of us work. Whether you are working remotely or returning to the workplace—or perhaps you never left—it's important to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendations for [getting vaccinated](#) and the additional steps you can take to [protect yourself and others](#) from getting COVID-19. After all, the safety and well-being of workers remains our top priority.

Research Rounds

For 2022, we are returning to our standard series of Inside and Outside NIOSH, where we look at one internal and one external study each month. We hope that you enjoyed last year's [NIOSH 50th Anniversary series](#) reflecting on research from the past half century.

Inside NIOSH:

Parents' Workplace Injury Is Associated With Children's Mental Health Disorders

Children of parents who are injured in the workplace are more likely than children of uninjured parents to show signs of a mental health disorder, according to a NIOSH study recently published in the *Journal of Occupational and Industrial Medicine*. The study was one of the journal's recent Editor's Picks.

Mental health disorders pose a serious threat to the social development and educational achievement of children, and to their ability to succeed in adulthood. A handful of earlier studies suggest that occupational injury to parents may elevate the risk of mental health disorders among their children. However, this risk has not been systematically investigated until the present study.

To better understand this risk, NIOSH investigators analyzed findings from the [National Health Interview Survey](#) from 2012 through 2016. The survey included reports about mental health disorders for more than 42,000 children from 6 through 17 years old. After controlling for other possible influences on mental health, the investigators compared the incidence of mental disorders among children with a parent who had experienced a workplace injury with the incidence among children of parents who were not injured at work.

Children of parents injured at work were approximately 50% more likely than children of uninjured parents to show signs of depression and signs of anxiety. This increase in prevalence of disorders grew to 72% for a combination of conditions involving emotional, concentration, behavioral, and relationship difficulties. In addition, children of injured parents were 40% less likely to exhibit a good attention span. These findings show the far-reaching effects of workplace injury on families and communities and further highlight the importance of preventing them from occurring.

More information is available:

- [NIOSH | Traumatic Occupational Injuries](#)
- [NIOSH | Safety and Prevention](#)

- [National Campaign to Prevent Falls in Construction Update: The Importance of a Year-round Fall Prevention Program](#)
- [Centers for Agricultural Safety and Health Funding Is Available](#)
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Outside NIOSH: Worker Participation Improves Hearing Conservation Interventions

Noise-induced hearing loss is one of the most common self-reported occupational illnesses or injuries. Beyond the workplace, hearing loss can also greatly decrease quality of life.

To address this issue, researchers at The Center for the Promotion of Health in the New England Workplace, a [NIOSH Center of Excellence for Total Worker Health®](#), recently designed a hearing-conservation intervention, called “HearWell,” based on their newly designed [Healthy Workplace Participatory Program](#) [↗](#). This program uses worker participation, including in the form of design teams, as part of a *Total Worker Health* approach to workplace safety and health. These design teams create solutions to workplace health and safety issues. The goals of this intervention were to increase hearing protection device use and improve the so-called “hearing climate,” which included supervisor and coworker support for using the devices.

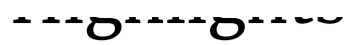
Published in the [International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health](#), the study took place from February 2016 through August 2019. Study participants were 288 New England Department of Transportation highway workers and supervisors whose construction and maintenance activities regularly exposed them to high noise levels. Participants were mostly white males, with an average age of 44 years.

The researchers compared three interventions across 12 garages where the workers were based. The HearWell and “HearWell Design Team” interventions included multiple approaches, including safety training for leadership, methods for identifying noise levels and the best hearing protection devices, and a thorough training video. In addition, the HearWell Design Team involved workers who participated in designing the interventions. For comparison, the third group received typical industry elements of a hearing conservation program. Typical elements include regularly monitoring noise levels at work, testing worker hearing, reporting results, and providing hearing protectors to workers, if necessary.

While hearing protection device use increased in all groups, the HearWell Design Team garage workers showed the only statistically significant increase, which means that it was unlikely due to chance. They also were more likely to use the devices 6 months after the intervention. Researchers also found improvements in hearing climate across all intervention groups 6 months later, with the HearWell Design Team garages demonstrating the greatest increase at 24%. These findings suggest that hearing conservation programs should encourage employee participation to help prevent work-related hearing loss.

More information is available:

- [NIOSH Total Worker Health® Program](#)
- [The Center for the Promotion of Health in the New England Workplace \(CPH-NEW\)](#) [↗](#)



Tornado Response Resources for Responders

The [NIOSH Emergency Response Resources webpage](#) has resources for responders and employers related to hazards they may face during and after a tornado. It also provides advice on how to prevent injury and protect themselves from potential hazards.

NIOSH 50th Anniversary Webinar Recording Available on Epidemiologic and Surveillance Activities

The recording from the [webinar](#) [“Quantifying and Understanding Impact: NIOSH Epidemiologic and Surveillance Activities”](#) is now available. This webinar was the fourth in the NIOSH 50th Anniversary Science Webinar Series. Topics included mortality studies of chronic disease, the NIOSH Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) program, the Coal Workers’ Health Surveillance program, and indoor environmental quality investigations. Speakers from the NIOSH extramural State Occupational Safety and Health Surveillance Program (in California and Texas) also discussed their activities. For more information on activities recognizing NIOSH’s anniversary, see the [NIOSH 50th webpage](#).

New Fact Sheet on Respirator Protection for Construction Workers Available

This new [fact sheet](#) informs construction workers of the respiratory protection needed to protect themselves in the workplace. It describes how to select, use, and maintain NIOSH-approved respirators to promote proper respiratory protection practices and limit the number of construction workers exposed to unsafe airborne contaminants.

National Campaign to Prevent Falls in Construction Update: The Importance of a Year-round Fall Prevention Program

The NIOSH, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and CPWR – the Center for Construction Research and Training Fall Prevention campaign marks its 11th year in 2022. The campaign has successfully reached millions of construction contractors and workers nationwide through its annual [Safety Stand-Down](#) [event](#). NIOSH is cohosting a webinar January 27, 2:00–3:30 p.m. (ET), to review the latest findings from the 2021 Stand-Down evaluation and a survey identifying common underlying causes of falls with updates on the latest free resources and plans for the 2022 Stand-Down. [Register and submit a question](#) [in advance of the webinar](#).

Centers for Agricultural Safety and Health Funding Is Available

NIOSH recently published a [funding opportunity announcement](#) [for the Centers for Agricultural Safety and Health](#) (Ag Centers). Supported through a cooperative agreement, the Ag Centers represent a major NIOSH effort to protect the health and safety of workers in the agriculture, forestry, and fishing (AgFF) sector and conduct research, education, and prevention projects to address pressing AgFF health and safety problems. The deadline to apply is January 24.

Total Worker Health® in Action! eNewsletter

A [new edition](#) of the quarterly newsletter from the NIOSH *Total Worker Health* (TWH) program is now available. Find out about the upcoming [International Symposium to Advance TWH](#), learn how an organization addressed substance use and mental health, and discover exciting news about a recent funding announcement.

New Resources: Understand and Prevent Work-related Histoplasmosis

NIOSH recently released new resources for [employers](#) and [workers](#) with information needed to understand and prevent work-related histoplasmosis in the United States. A new webpage and fact sheets can help readers understand what histoplasmosis is, to recognize activities that might expose them to *Histoplasma*, and to protect themselves from exposure. Visit the [NIOSH Histoplasmosis webpage](#) to learn more.

Submit Your Proposals for the Third International Symposium to Advance *Total Worker Health*®

Don’t miss the chance to submit your work for a variety of sessions, poster presentations, or pre-conference workshops emphasizing the latest in *Total Worker Health* science and practice. [Submit](#) [your proposals](#) by February 4.

Monthly Features

New Communication Products & Reports

FACE Reports

- [Forklift Operator Crushed by Full Pallet of Soft Drink Cans—Oregon](#)

- [Operator Falls From Boom Lift While Tree Trimming—Washington](#)

Fact Sheets

- [NIOSH Division of Safety Research \(DSR\)](#)
- [What Employers Need to Know About Histoplasmosis](#)
- [What Workers Should Know About Histoplasmosis](#)

Research Agenda

- [The NIOSH Future of Work Initiative Research Agenda](#)

Topic Page

- [Histoplasmosis](#)

Training

- [Respiratory Protection Toolbox Talk](#)

Workplace & Simple Solutions

- [Conducting a Periodic Inspection for Each Procedure in a Hazardous Energy Control \(Lockout/Tagout\) Program](#)
- [Simple Solutions for Dusty Environments at Metal/Nonmetal Mines](#)


NIOSH Science Blog

Please see the following new blogs from last month. [Sign up](#) to have notifications about new NIOSH Science Blogs delivered directly to your inbox!


- [Musculoskeletal Disorders Research at NIOSH](#)
- [30 Years of the NIOSH Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing Program](#)
- [Respiratory Health Research at NIOSH](#)
- [Workplace Violence Research](#)
- [Learning From Workplace Fatality Investigations](#)
- [Santa's Workshop Keeps Spirits Bright with *Total Worker Health*® Strategies](#)
- [NIOSH in Cincinnati – A Pictorial History Part 1](#)
- [NIOSH in Cincinnati – 50 Years of OSH Research and Service](#)
- [Prevention Through Design](#)
- [NIOSH in Denver](#)
- [A Final Look at Our 50th Anniversary Commemoration](#)

Federal Register Notice

Interventions to Prevent Work-related Stress and Support Health Worker Mental Health: Request for Information

The [notice](#)  was posted on September 27, 2021. Comments must be received by January 25.

The Need to Establish Personal Protective Technology Centers of Excellence to Address Research and Practice Gaps

The [notice](#)  was posted on November 2, 2021. Comments must be received by January 31.

Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (ABRWH), Subcommittee on Procedures Reviews (SPR), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

The [notice](#) was posted on December 27, 2021. The meeting will be held on February 15. Comments must be received by February 8.

Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (ABRWH), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

The [notice](#) was posted on December 27, 2021. The meeting will be held on February 16. Written comments must be received by February 9.

News from Our Partners

New Video Series About Alcohol Terms

A [new video series](#) from National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) called “Short Takes with NIAAA” is now available! This series consists of 60-second videos that explain, in an easy-to-understand way, the meanings of commonly used, but often misunderstood, alcohol terms. Video titles include alcohol-induced blackouts, alcohol use disorder, binge drinking, and alcohol overdose; the last video is also offered in Spanish.

New Report Focuses on Michigan’s Businesses That Used Asthma-causing Agents

Michigan companies that used four asthma-causing agents in 2020 were identified in a new [report](#) by the Occupational and Environmental Medicine team at Michigan State University. The report identifies the number of Michigan workers potentially exposed to acrylic acid, chromium/chromium compounds, diethanolamine, and ethylene oxide. Michigan State University is one of 22 institutions funded from 2021–2026 as a NIOSH [State-based Occupational Safety and Health Surveillance Program](#).

Washington State SHARP Program Tracks Occupational Toxic Inhalation

A recent [report](#) from the Safety and Health Assessment and Research for Prevention (SHARP) program summarizes four years (2017–2020) of toxic inhalation data related to hazardous workplace exposures, as well as a [SHARP Stat](#) showing the causes of exposure. The SHARP program is operated by the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries, which is funded through a cooperative agreement as a NIOSH-supported [State Surveillance Program](#).

Call for Abstracts: Research Day Symposium

The Center for Health, Work & Environment and the Mountain and Plains Education and Research Center are [accepting proposals](#) from students and new researchers to present at their joint 14th annual Research Day Symposium on April 14. The submission deadline is January 6. Abstracts on all topics related to environmental and occupational health, including *Total Worker Health*® research, are welcome. The Center for Health, Work & Environment is one of 10 NIOSH-funded [Centers of Excellence for Total Worker Health](#), and the Mountain and Plains Education and Research Center is one of 18 NIOSH [Education and Research Centers](#).

Registration for the 2022 NCHCMM Opening Soon

The National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing, and Media (NCHCMM) brings together individuals representing academia, public health researchers, and practitioners from federal, state, and local governments, as well as other public and private organizations. The conference provides a forum for collegial dialogue for all attendees. Registration for this free event on August 16-18 soon will be available at [NCHCMM](#).

Conferences, Meetings, Webinars, & Events

This page provides a list of publicly available occupational safety and health-related [conferences, meetings, webinars, and events](#) sponsored by NIOSH as well as other government agencies, and nongovernment agencies, such as universities, professional societies, and organizations.

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