

Conference Abstracts

In an effort to obtain a consistent style while maintaining content, we have retyped some of the abstracts submitted. Also, every effort has been made to include revisions submitted by authors before publication. Conference abstracts are listed in alphabetical order by presenter.

Reduction in Accidents Through Information and Education

Avis Acton, WC/DOE, Cheyenne, WY

Attainment of the goal of accident prevention is of primary importance. The goal of the Department of Employment, Workers' Compensation Division to effect a noted reduction in work-related accidents through information dissemination and education are discussed. Data from the Annual Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Survey and the Workers' Compensation file are presented to exemplify the need for such actions.

National Goals for Occupational Lung Diseases: Focus on State-Specific Patterns

Rochelle Althouse, R. M. Castellan, CDC, NIOSH, Morgantown, WV

The eradication of silicosis, byssinosis, asbestosis, and coal workers' pneumoconiosis has been a broad national objective. The Public Health Service's "Year 2000 Objectives for the Nation" continues to note the importance of the prevention of these occupational lung diseases. Mortality surveillance is one method by which to both evaluate and focus efforts toward meeting these objectives. State-specific analyses can identify geographic patterns useful for encouraging preventive efforts at the state level.

The majority of analyses using death certificate data are based on rates tabulated from underlying cause of death only. For public health purposes of identifying occupational diseases, multiple cause of death listings are a more appropriate source of data. We used multiple cause of death data tapes, from the National Center for Health Statistics, to identify deaths occurring in U.S. residents with mention of coal workers' pneumoconiosis, silicosis, asbestosis, and byssinosis on the death certificate. Temporal trends and geographic distributions for each of these four lung diseases were developed for 1979-1987.

Differing trends and geographic patterns were evident for each of the four diseases. For 1979-1987 over 70% of deaths with mention of CWP occurred in only two states. Deaths with mention of byssinosis, although smaller in number, are clustered as well, with over 50% occurring in two states. Mentions of silicosis and asbestosis occurred in a more diffuse pattern. Six states accounted for 48% of deaths with mention of silicosis, and approximately 52% of deaths with mention of asbestosis were distributed in six states. Although the public health objectives calling for the control of these four occupational lung diseases are national in scope, it appears that focused efforts in specific states may be warranted to achieve the overall goals.



National Conference on State-Based Occupational Health and Safety Activities

September 3-6, 1991
Hyatt Regency Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio

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