

sentinel deaths to shoe machine operators. Comparisons with data for 1981-1984 showed a generally consistent pattern.

Reports of chlorine leaks at a paper plant in 1988 triggered a review of the mortality experience of Maine pulp and paper workers. Mortality profiles showed significantly high PMRs for selected cancers, heart disease, and renal failure among male workers. A significantly high PMR for cancer of the lymphatic and hematopoietic tissue was observed among females. Further analysis revealed 11 sentinel deaths to pulp and paper workers.

### **Presentation of Occupational Injury and Illness Recordkeeping Issues**

*Stephen A. Newell, OSHA, Washington, DC*

Concerns about the accuracy and utility of injury and illness data currently available have been raised by OMB, Congress, OSHA, NIOSH, BLS, The National Academy of Sciences, the General Accounting Office and representatives of business and labor. In addressing these concerns, OSHA believes that the existing regulations in 29 CFR 1904 should be clarified and revised through the rule making process and the revision of interpretive materials.

Our presentation will describe the recent transfer of the recordkeeping function from the Bureau of Labor Statistics to OSHA and examine some current recordkeeping issues, including a discussion of the proposed revision of the recordkeeping requirements.

### **Successful Follow-Back of Silicosis: Three Case Studies**

*Dennis M. O'Brien, T. C. Cooper, J. W. Sheehy, CDC, NIOSH, Cincinnati, OH, D. Valiante, P. Bost NJDOH, Trenton, NJ*

The largest number of silicosis cases in New Jersey exist in the sand mining and processing, foundry, and pottery (sanitary ware) industries. Early in 1988, an informal working agreement was established between the New Jersey Department of Health and the NIOSH Division of Engineering and Physical Sciences, to conduct a comprehensive study in one facility in each of these industries. Studies were performed to develop specific control recommendations for each facility and to provide training in survey techniques and in the application of engineering controls for state personnel. These studies found that about 50% of the pottery workers, 33% of the foundry workers, and none of the sand mine workers were overexposed to silica. Other exposure hazards were also identified. Material handling operations were found to be a major source of potential silica exposure in all three plants. Recommendations for exposure reduction included: substitution of non-silica materials where possible, improvements in existing ventilation, and automation of material handling tasks. Follow-up visits indicated good compliance with the recommendations. These case reports demonstrate the value of active surveillance in silicosis prevention and the value of state/federal cooperation.



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## Conference Abstracts

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