
Silicosis Surveillance Among Uranium Miners in New Mexico

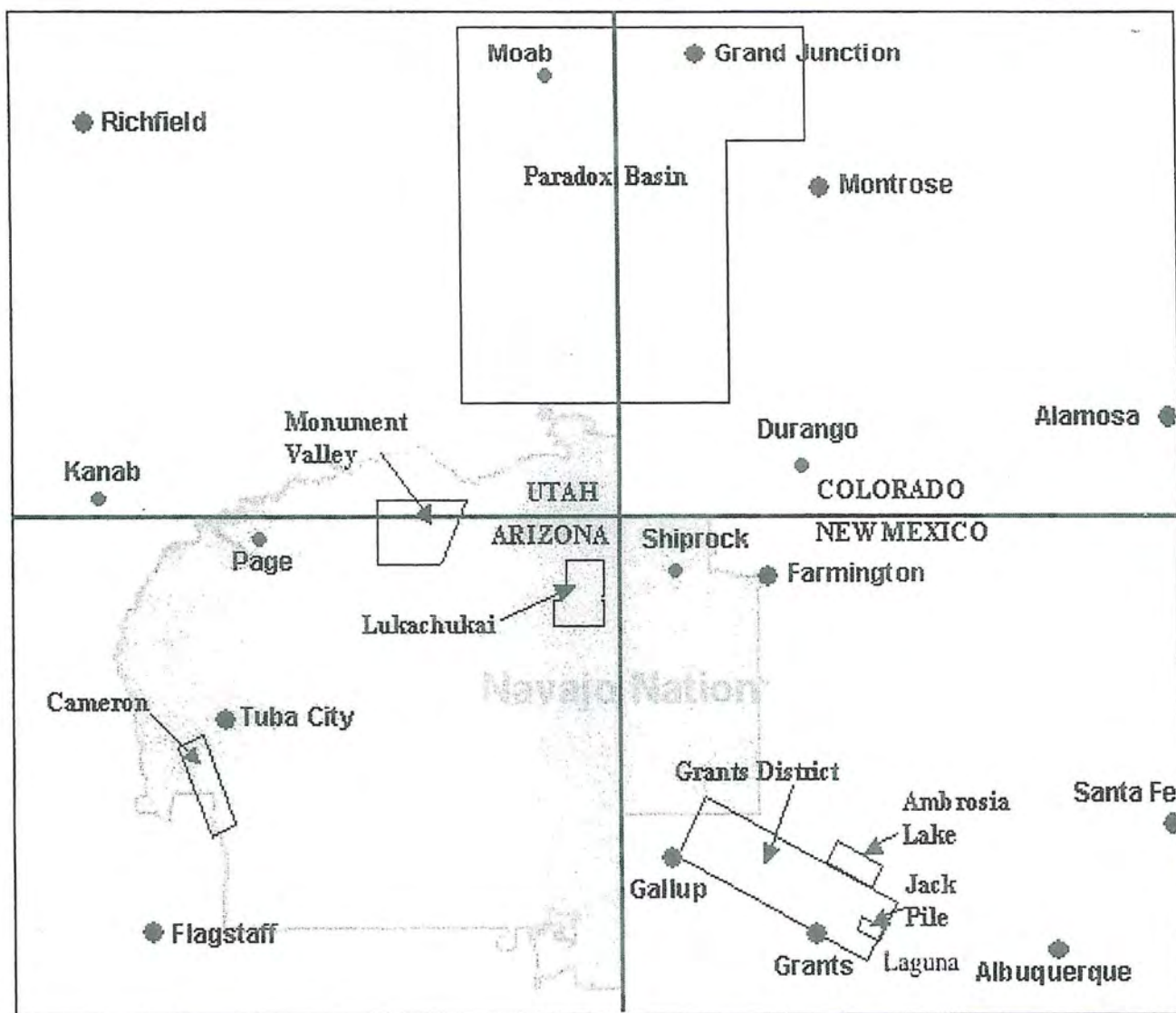
Karen B. Mulloy, DO, MSCH

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New Mexico Occupational Health Registry

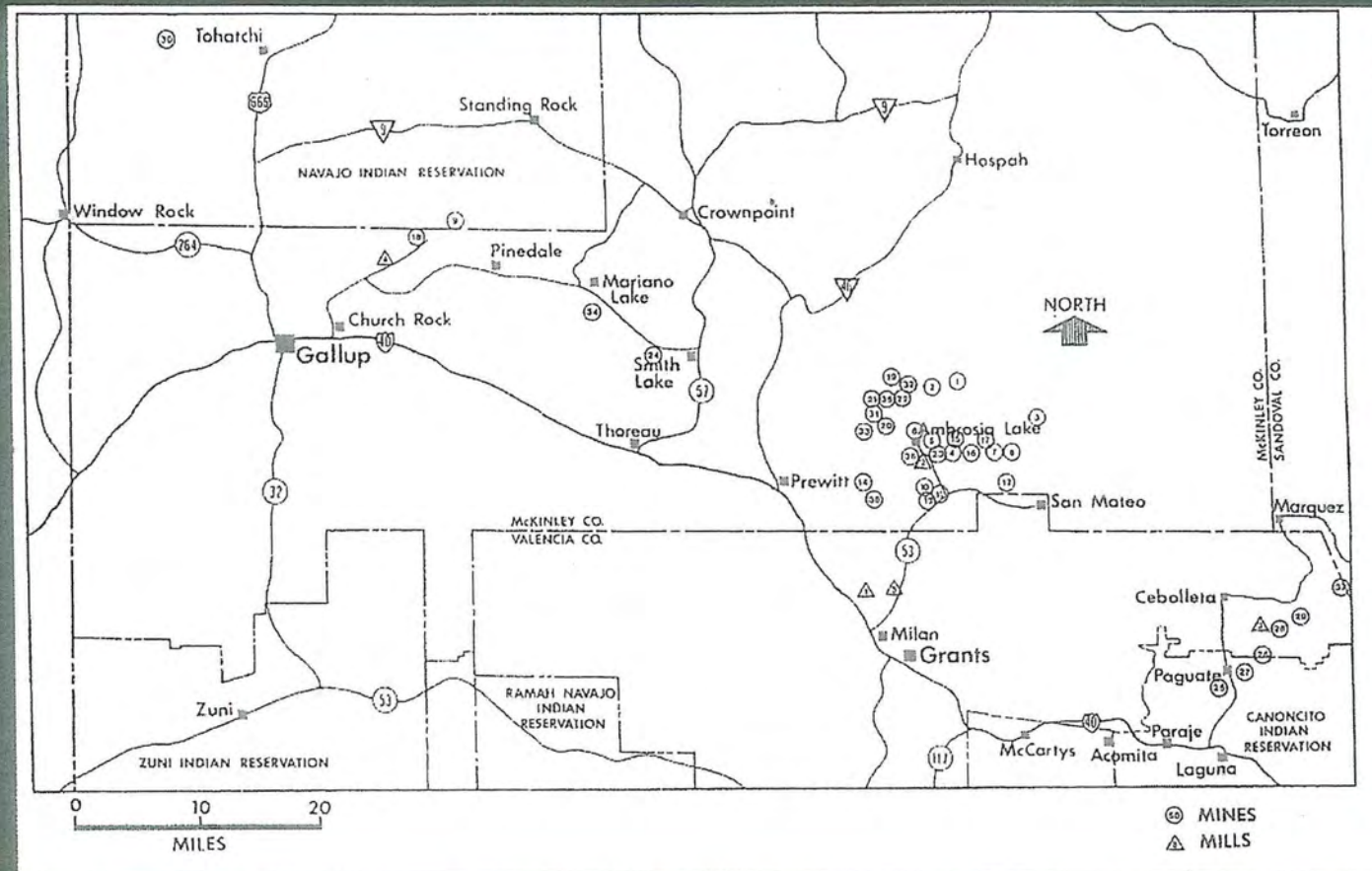
University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center

New Mexico Department of Health

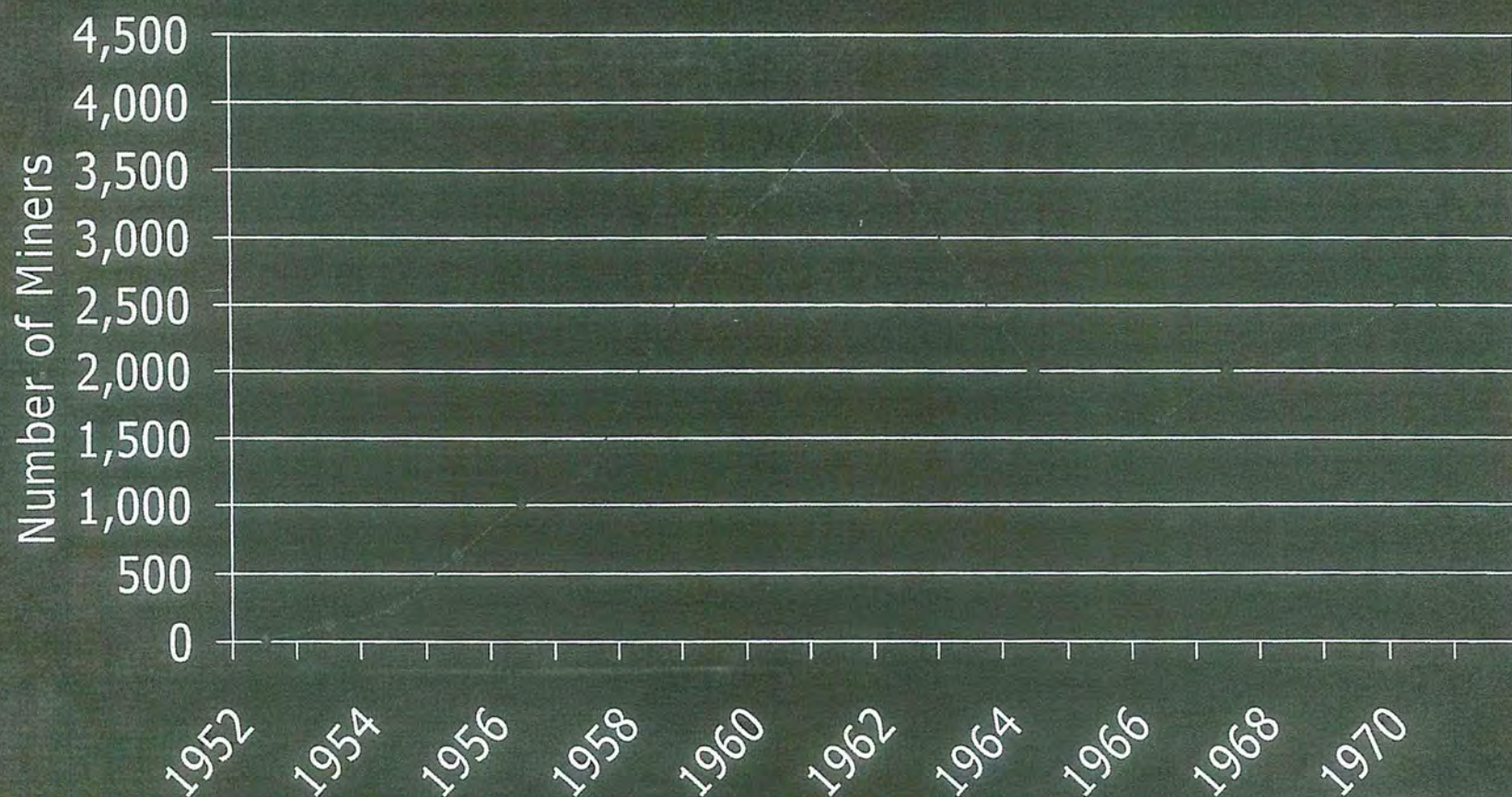


Uranium mines and mills in the Grants, NM region in 1979

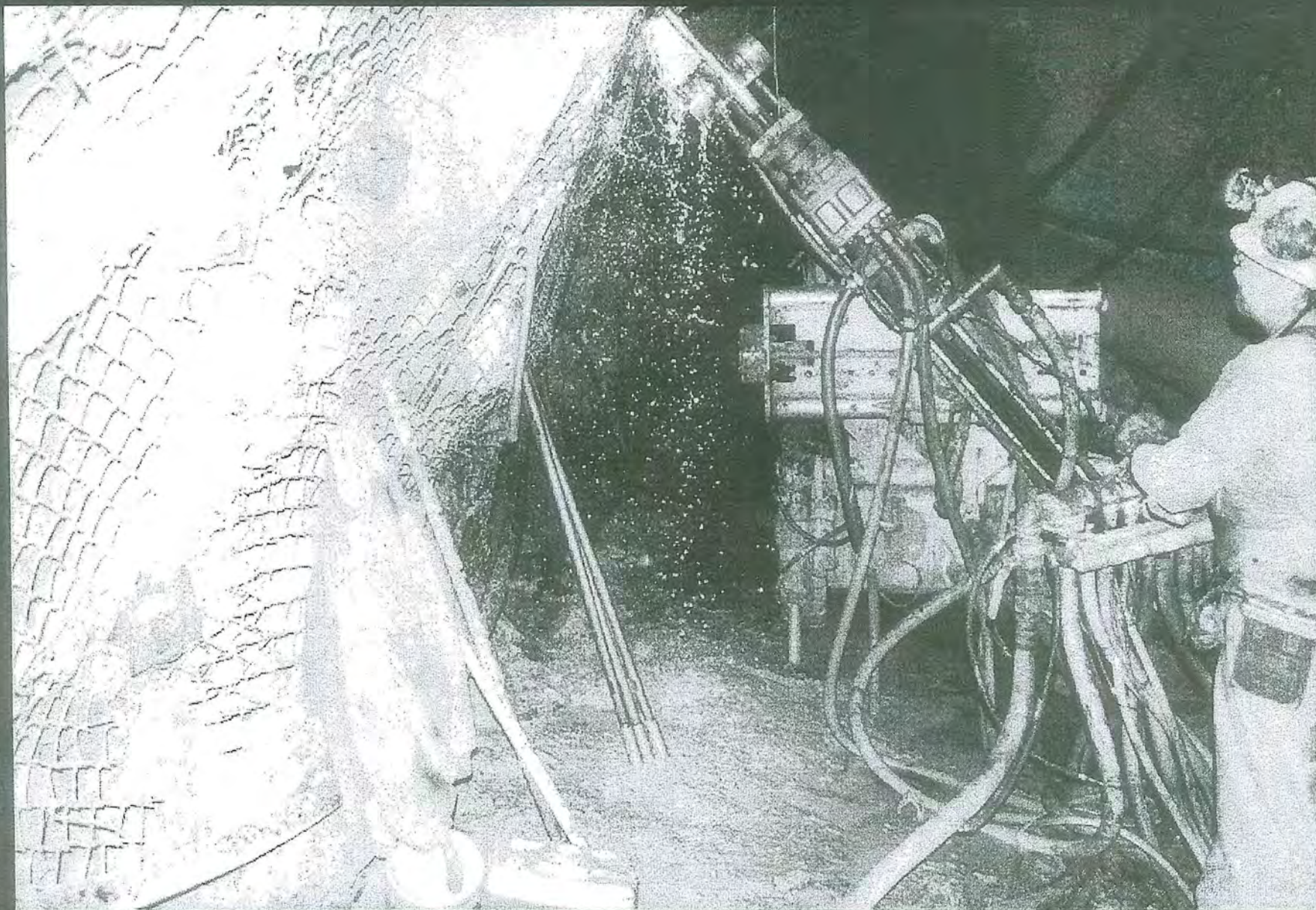
US Department of Interior, 1981

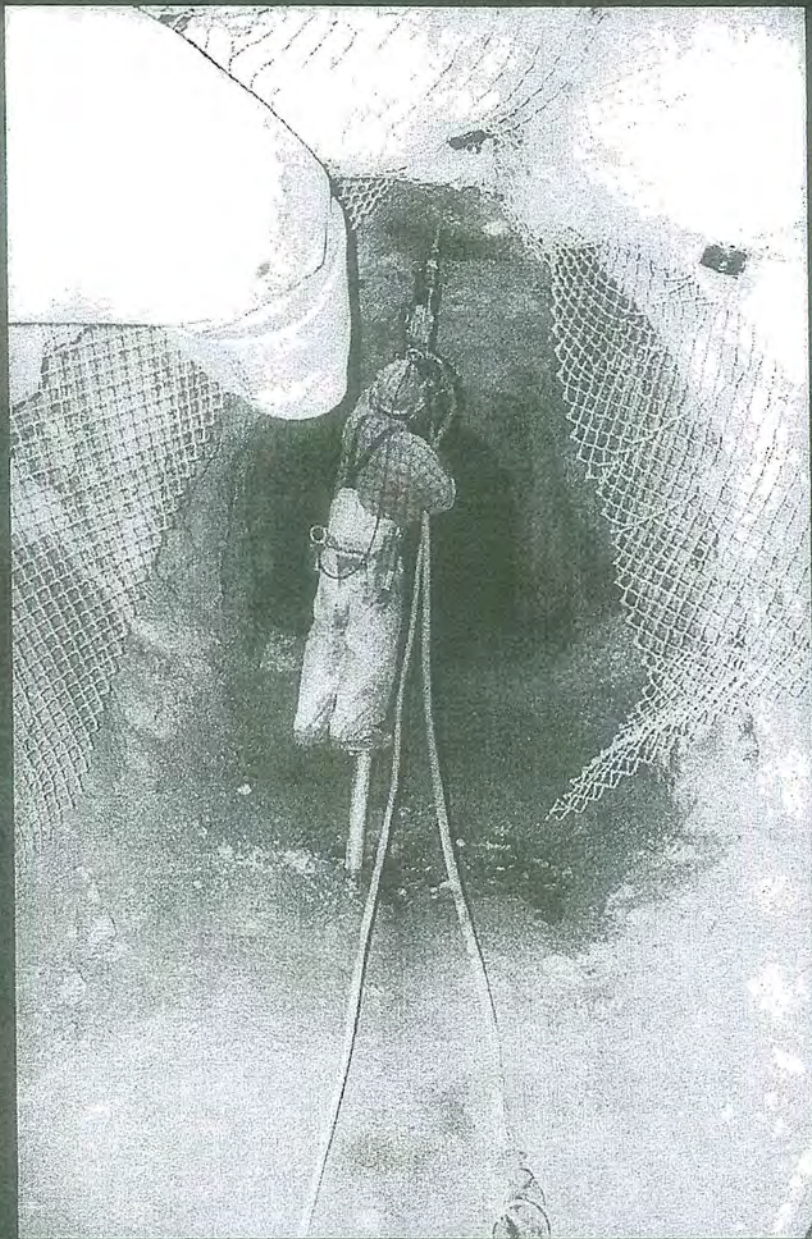


Uranium Mining Employment New Mexico, 1952-1971



New Mexico State Mine Inspector's Annual Reports, compiled by Phil Kozushko, NM Bureau of Mine Inspection.







Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA)

Passed by the US Congress in 1990

“providing for compassionate payments to individuals who contracted certain cancers and other serious diseases as a result of radiation released during above-ground nuclear weapons tests or as a result of their exposure to radiation during employment in underground uranium mines.”

Radiation Exposure Compensation Act

Uranium Miners Claims (September 13, 2004)

	Approved	Approval Rate	Approval Amount
Uranium Miner	2,980	58.8%	\$297,391,500
Uranium Miller	397	76.5%	\$39,700,000
Uranium Ore Transporter	90	73.2%	\$9,000,000
Total	3,467	69.5%	\$346,091,150

Source: Radiation Exposure Compensation Program, US DOJ

Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA)

Passed by the US Congress in 2000

- EEOICPA provides benefits to workers (or their survivors) who are ill or who died as a result of their employment in the nuclear weapons industry. This program pays workers who were approved for compensation under Section 5 of RECA, or their eligible survivors, an additional \$50,000 and future medical benefits related to the condition for which they were approved for compensation under RECA.

NM RESEP

Goal

Provide comprehensive, community-based education, health screening, outreach and eligibility assistance program for former uranium workers in the state of New Mexico exclusive of those residing on the Navajo Nation.

Medical Screening Protocol Miners

- Occupational & Environmental Health History
- Complete Medical History
- Focused Medical Examination
- Pulse Oximetry – ABG if medically indicated
- Spirometry
- Chest X-ray, with B-Reading

Medical Screening Protocol Millers and Ore Transporters

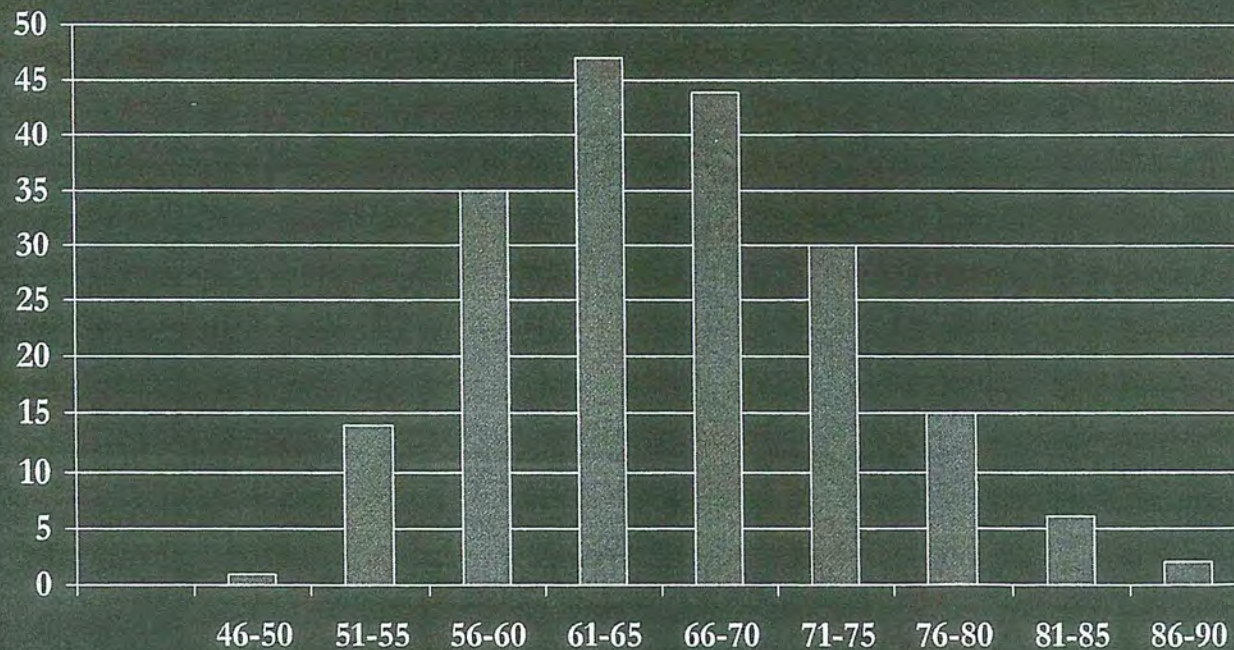
- Occupational & Environmental Health History
- Complete Medical History
- Focused Medical Examination
- Pulse Oximetry – ABG if medically indicated
- Spirometry
- Chest X-ray, with B-Reading
- BUN & Creatinine & UA

Patients seen through RESEP

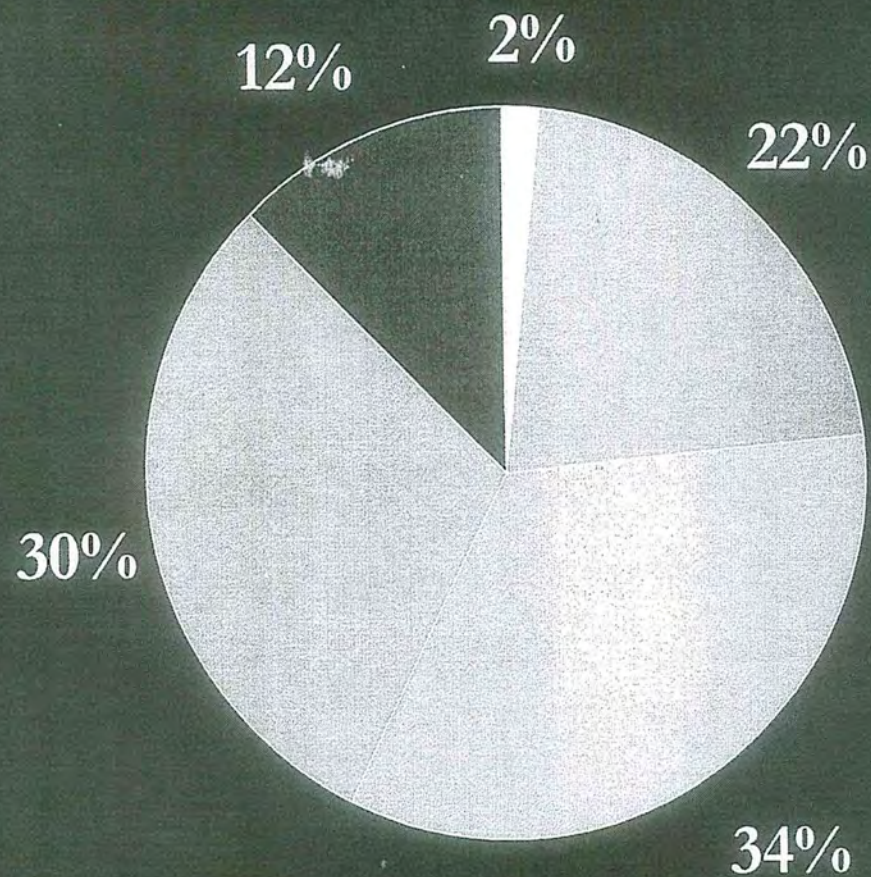
- Patients seen between April 22, 2003 (1st clinic) through August 25, 2004
- 192 patients seen in clinic + one chart review + one diagnosis from patient who died before being seen in clinic
- Total set = 194

Age of patients participating in RESEP program

- Mean age of participant: 66.1 years, SD 7.8
- Youngest 48 years, Oldest 87 years

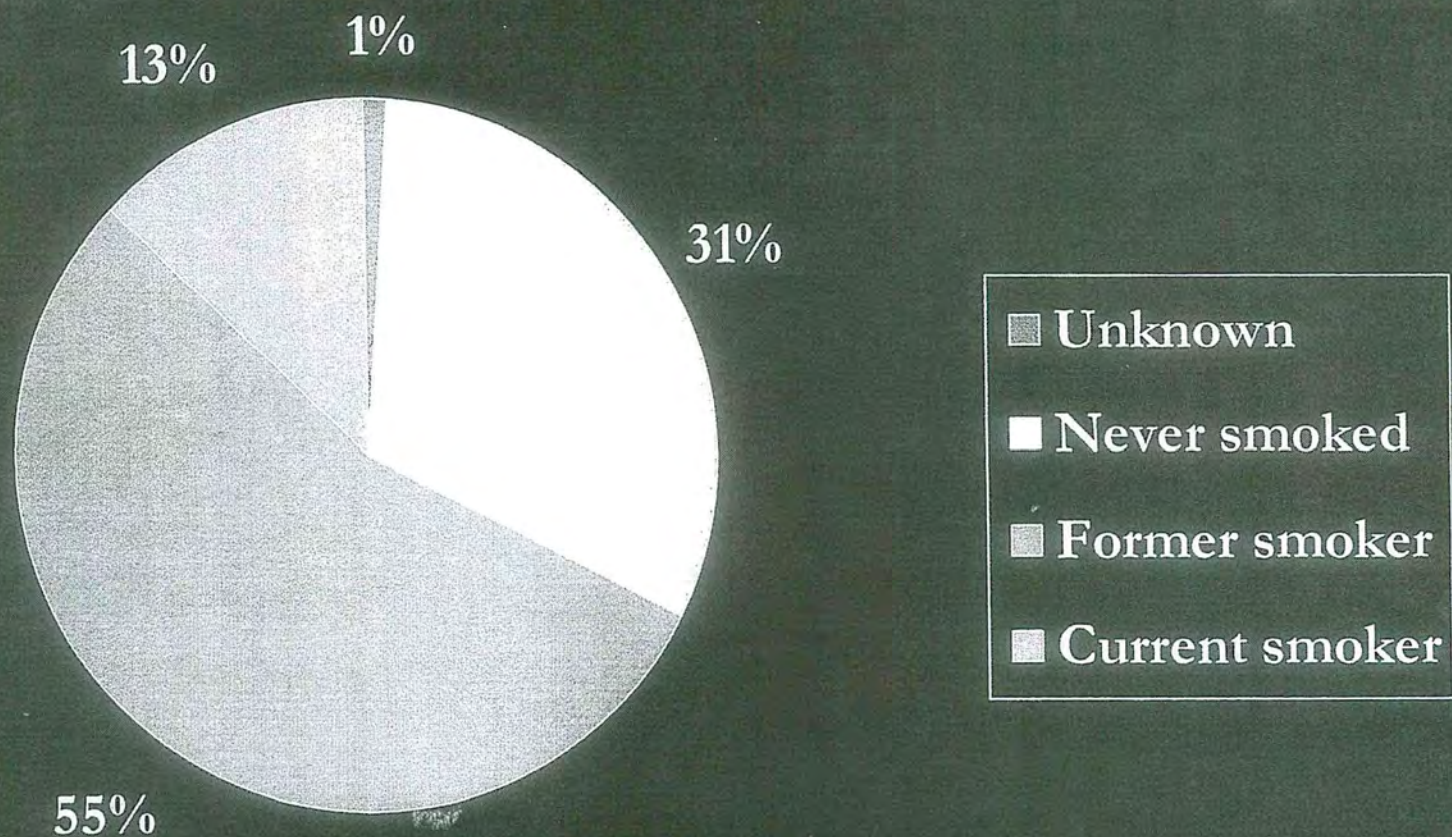


RESEP participants: years of mining

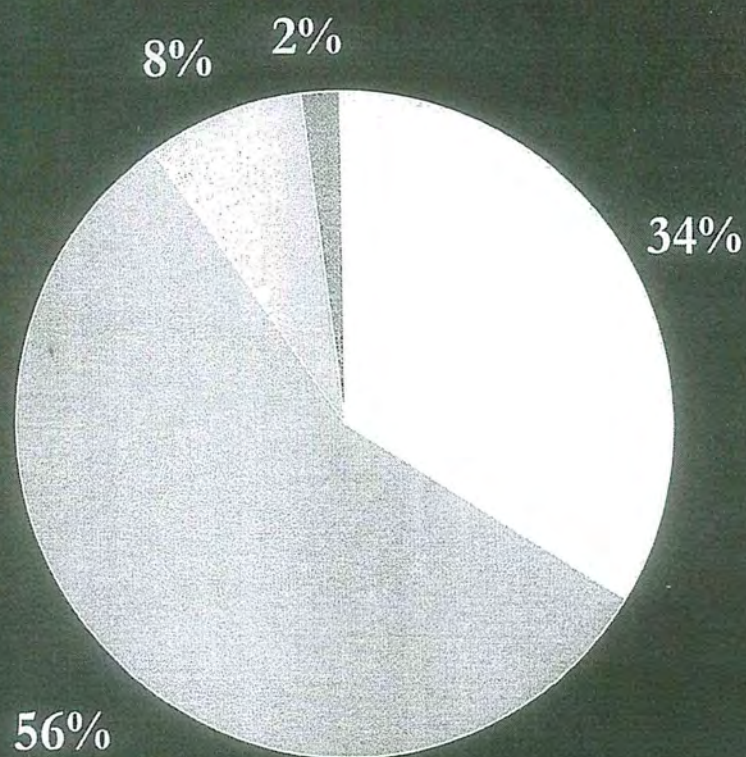


■ Unknown ■ 1-10 years ■ 11-20 years ■ 21-30 years □ 31+ years

RESEP participants: Smoking status



RESEP Participants: Ethnicity and Gender

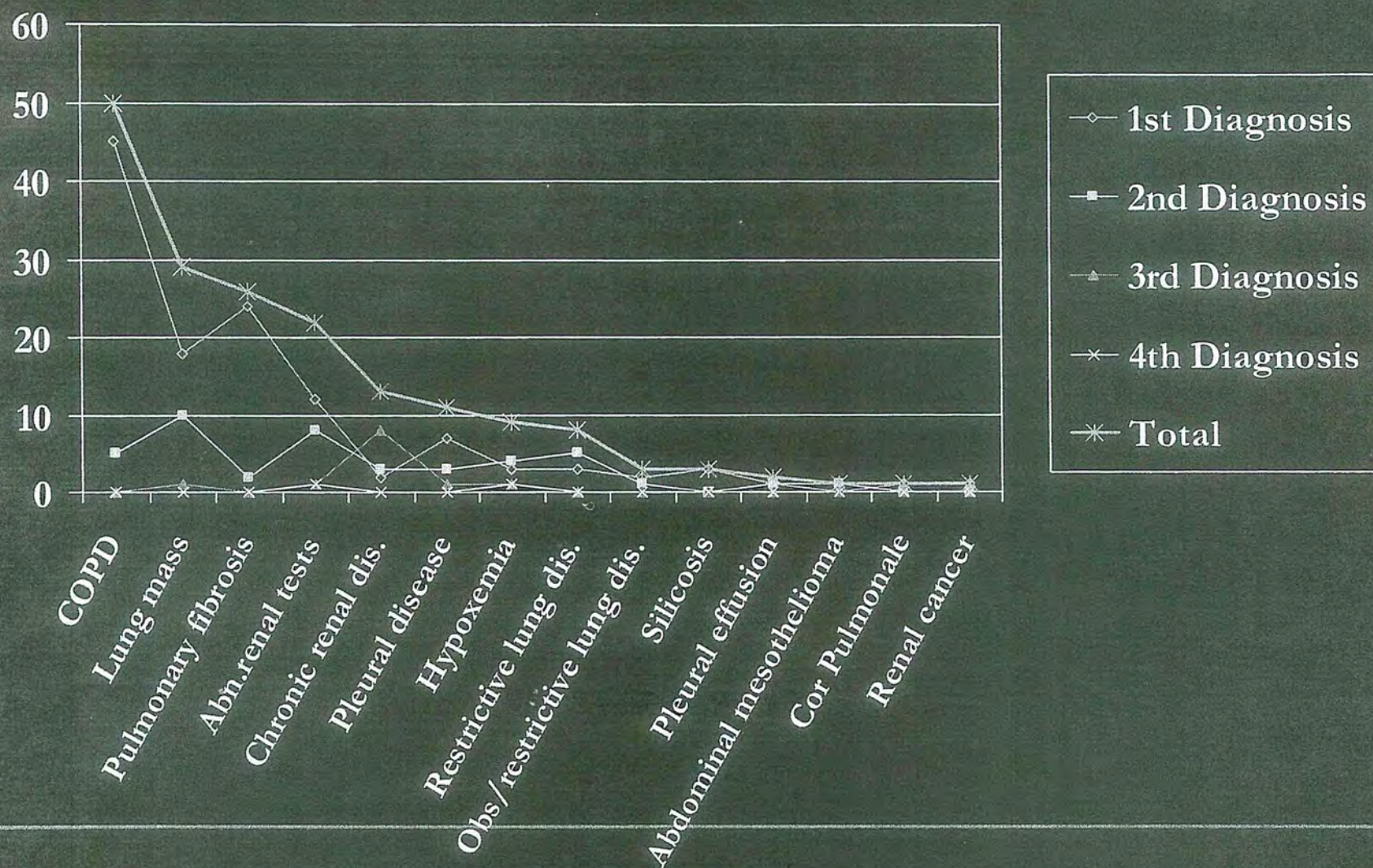


■ Anglo
■ Hispanic
■ Native American
■ Black

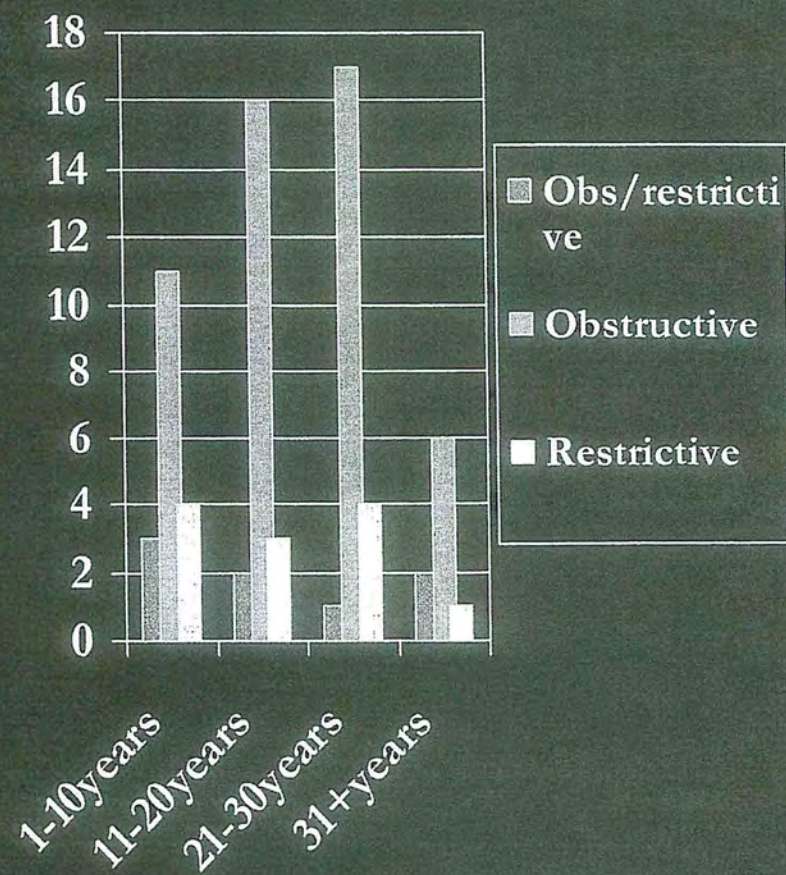
193 male (99.5%)

1 female (0.5%)

RESEP diagnosis frequencies



Spirometry results & total time mining





Floyd Frank of Oakspring, Arizona tells of his experiences during the Cold War as a uranium miner in the Navajo Nation. "Uranium is really dangerous ... Why did they not tell us this?" Photo by Doug Brugge.

*"Memories Come To Us In the Rain and the Wind",
Oral Histories and Photographs of Navajo Uranium Miners & Their Families.*