

## **Occupational Injury Mortality Surveillance in New Mexico, 1998-2002**

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The Office of Epidemiology in the New Mexico Department of Health and the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center Program in Occupational and Environmental Health have established an occupational illness, toxic exposure and injury surveillance program in the State of New Mexico – the New Mexico Occupational Health Registry (NMOHR). The project has been utilizing existing data to create a single repository for combining these data into valid, reliable and useful surveillance information. Data from New Mexico Vital Records and Health Statistics and the Census of Fatal Occupational

Injury has revealed a fatality rate of 4.4-7.6 deaths per 100,000 employed persons aged 16 years and older that is higher than the U.S. mortality rate of 4.0–4.6 deaths for the years 1998-2002. Analysis of the causes and distribution of the deaths was conducted. Preliminary findings showed that in the year 2000, 27% of the deaths were among Hispanic workers, that the rates were highest in rural counties, and that 15.6% of workers worked in industries and occupations at high risk for occupational mortality, compared with 6.6% nationally. The presentation will discuss the findings and plans for further development of occupational injury surveillance in New Mexico.

Topic Area – Approaches to occupational health surveillance