



Join us in moving science to solutions for...

Construction





The NIOSH Research to Practice (r2p) program seeks partners for improving workplace safety and health. The r2p program joins NIOSH researchers and outside partners throughout the research process—from identifying the problem to implementing effective solutions. Do you want to make a positive impact for workers? Contact the r2p program to find out how, working together, we can make an impact.

nioshr2p@cdc.gov

Partnerships to Protect Construction Workers

Partnership makes a difference . . . here is one example

■ ■ ■ Challenge

Bridge repair and maintenance activities, such as paint removal and drilling, can disturb lead-containing paint, which was once commonly used on steel structures. As a result, high blood lead levels have been found in workers in this field. Chronic exposure to high levels of lead can result in kidney and nerve damage. The Connecticut Department of Public Health (CDPH) wanted to take action and protect workers involved in bridge repair and maintenance.

■ ■ ■ Approach

Working with a grant from the NIOSH Adult Blood Level Surveillance Program, the CDPH created the Connecticut Road Industry Surveillance Project (CRISP) to monitor and prevent lead poisoning among bridge construction workers. This innovative program required contractors bidding on state projects to include three key worker protection measures on their worksites: respiratory protection, on-site industrial hygiene monitoring, and centralized blood lead level monitoring and management. CRISP brought together numerous state agencies, labor unions, and NIOSH researchers. NIOSH industrial hygienists provided guidance on proper controls, such as warning signs for work areas, decontamination trailers, promoting hand washing and good hygiene.

■ ■ ■ Impact

Over 2,000 workers employed by over 120 contractors had significantly lower blood lead levels compared to their counterparts in other states. Additionally, the number of new workers with elevated blood lead levels dropped from 21% in 1992 to just 1% in 1995. CRISP continues to be a successful model for other state and federal programs involved in bridge construction and repair.



Here are just a few of the businesses, organizations, labor groups,
and research centers that have partnered with NIOSH.

American Academy of Clinical Toxicology
American Association of Poison Control Centers
American Chemistry Council Diisocyanates Panel
American College of Medical Toxicology
American Industrial Hygiene Association
American Medical Response
American Society of Safety Engineers
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Center for Business and Public Policy –
Georgetown University
Commonwealth of PA Bureau of Deep Mine Safety
Dynamic Systems
Electric Power Research Institute
EPA Office of Research and Development
FEMCO
Finnish Institute of Occupational Safety and Health
General Electric Energy and Resource Systems
General Motors United Auto Workers
Highmark, Inc.
Joy Mining Machinery
Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
National Center for Health Statistics
National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey
National Energy Technology Lab (DOE)
National Institute of Environmental
Health Sciences (NIEHS)

National Institute of Industrial Health
National Institute of Mental Health
National Institute of Occupational
and Environmental Health
National Institute on Aging
NIEHS–National Toxicology Program
National Wooden Pallet and Container Association
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Employment Standards Administration –
Office of Workers Compensation Program
Phoenix Firefighter Department
RM Wilson
Sandia Corporation (DOE)
Scag Power Equipment
SIRTI
SkyJack Inc.
Springfield Pike Mine
State of Alaska
University of Connecticut
University of Connecticut Health Center
Veterans Health Administration
West Virginia University
Yale University

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Safer • Healthier • People