

Prevent Black Lung Disease: Why Black Lung Screenings are Important for Coal Miners

During extraction, transport, and processing of coal in underground and surface mining operations, coal miners can be exposed to significant amounts of respirable coal mine dust in the air. Inhaling particles of coal mine dust into the lungs causes several types of lung disease. These can be severe enough to cause breathing impairment, disability, and death. One of these diseases is coal workers' pneumoconiosis, or black lung.

Black lung screenings can:

About 10% of U.S. underground coal miners, who have worked 25 or more years, have chest x-ray findings of black lung.

In recent years, severe black lung has been found in younger coal miners in their 30s and and 40s.

Identify lung problems in coal miners early and help to prevent severe disease.

Help determine the risks for lung disease in coal miners.

Enable health professionals to monitor rates of lung disease in coal miners. 14.5%

of non-smoking
coal miners who
were screened
between
2005-2016 had
abnormal lung function,
according to their most
recent breathing test.

The percentage
of coal miners
with progressive
massive fibrosis,
the most severe type of
black lung, has been
on a steady

rise over the last 20 years.

A message from the **NIOSH Coal Workers' Health Surveillance Program**.

Information is provided by data collected from this program.





Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health