

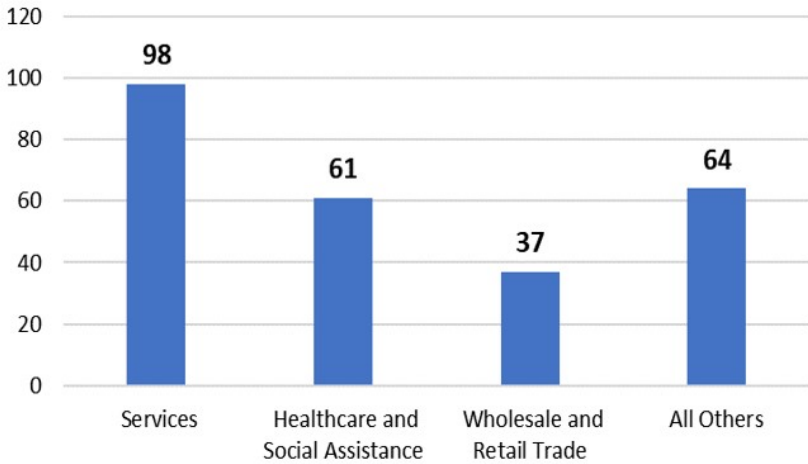
# 2020 Annual Report



# Health Hazard Evaluation (HHE) Requests

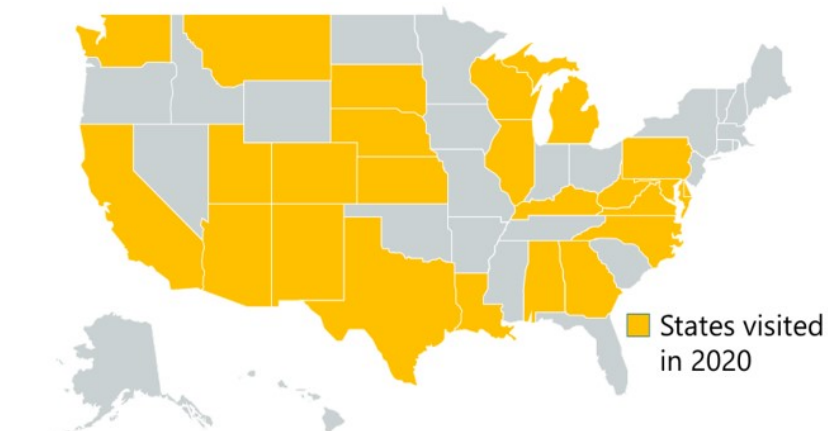
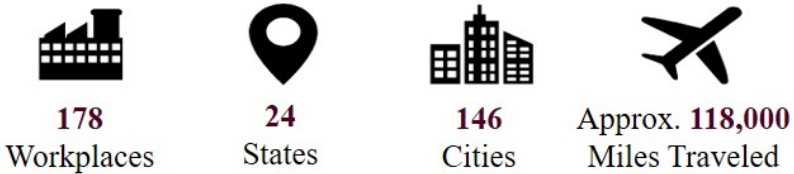
## 260 HHE Requests

Top 3 Sectors by HHE Request in 2020



Source: NIOSH Program Records

## 58 Site Visits and Deployments



## By the Numbers

# Outreach

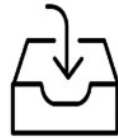


HHE webpage viewed **20,305** times

HHE Reports downloaded **21,806** times



**12** New HHE reports published



Most downloaded report of 2020  
(**3,600** downloads)

**University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, University Hospital, Newark, New Jersey.**  
This HHE report evaluated HEPA filtration and the potential for reducing the risk of tuberculosis transmission.

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/1995-0031-2601.pdf>



**56** Presentations



**43** Peer-reviewed publications

# Highlighted HHE Final Reports from 2020

## Evaluation of Occupational Exposures to Illicit Drugs at Forensic Sciences Laboratories

### Findings

- Cocaine, fentanyl, heroin, and methamphetamine were found in the air, on surfaces, and on employee hands.
- Work practices and conditions may have contributed to unintentional employee exposures.
- Employees reported several past incidents of skin, breathing, or mucus membrane exposure.



Photo by NIOSH

### Recommendations

Some specific actions we recommended include:



Improve the performance of existing ventilated workspaces.



Update laboratory protocols to reduce employees' exposure during handling and analysis.



Adhere to existing cleaning and hygiene protocols.



Train employees on laboratory handwashing policies.

This report is available at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2018-0116-3370.pdf>

# Evaluation of *Coccidioides* Exposure and Coccidioidomycosis Infections Among Warehouse and Distribution Employees







## Findings

- Employees could possibly breathe in dust during indoor and outdoor work.
- Some cases of coccidioidomycosis among employees occurred during 2014–2019.



Photo by NIOSH

## Recommendations

<u>Some</u> specific actions we recommended include:	
 <p>Keep warehouse bays, doors, and windows closed as much as possible.</p>	 <p>Use a wet sweeping method or a filtered vacuum.</p>
 <p>When replacing equipment, pick machinery with closed cabs and increased filtration.</p>	 <p>Clean and maintain window air-conditioning units.</p>
 <p>Educate employees about coccidioidomycosis.</p>	 <p>Tell employees when respirator use is required or voluntary.</p>

This report is available at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2019-0074-3376.pdf>

# Evaluation of Silica Exposures During Dowel Drilling





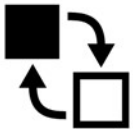

## Findings

- Silica concentrations for some employees exceeded occupational exposure limits.
- Samples of respirable dust did not exceed any exposure limits.
- Improvements to the respiratory protection program could be made.



Photo by NIOSH

## Recommendations

<u>Some</u> specific actions we recommended include:	
 <p>Train drill rig operators on proper respirator use.</p>	 <p>Improve respirator cleaning and storage practices.</p>
 <p>Spray the drill rig with water at the end of each shift.</p>	 <p>Require high visibility safety apparel for all equipment operators.</p>
 <p>Explore alternatives to stepping into the live traffic lane.</p>	 <p>Improve vehicle spacing and safety within the work zone.</p>

This report is available at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2019-0178-3368.pdf>

# Evaluation of Exposures and Respiratory Health at a Rubber Manufacturing Facility





## Findings

- 96 volatile organic compounds were detected in the integrated air samples.
- 74% of participants reported at least one upper respiratory symptom in the past 12 months.
- Most local exhaust ventilation systems throughout the facility provided good capture of released contaminants.



Photo by NIOSH

## Recommendations

<u>Some</u> specific actions we recommended include:	
 <p>Ensure all ventilation units are functioning properly.</p>	 <p>Implement a medical surveillance program for extrusion, finishing, or mixing employees.</p>
 <p>Translate health and safety communication materials to languages spoken at the facility.</p>	 <p>Encourage employees to report respiratory symptoms to a designated individual at the workplace.</p>

This report is available at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2016-0227-3364.pdf>



**HealthHazard<sup>®</sup>**  
Evaluation Program

**The mission of the NIOSH Health Hazard Evaluation Program is to respond to requests from employees, employers, and union representatives to evaluate potential health hazards in their workplace.**

**These evaluations are done at no cost to the requestor. Once the evaluation is complete, recommendations are made on ways to reduce or eliminate identified hazards. Health Hazard Evaluations can help reduce hazards and create more healthful workplaces.**



If you have questions, please contact the HHE Program Monday–Friday, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. EST  
Phone: 1-513-841-4382



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