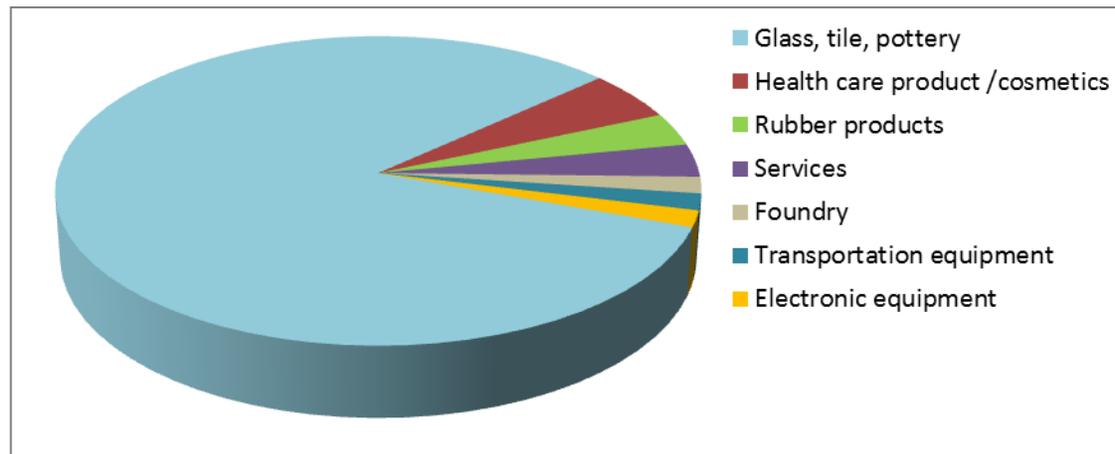


Selected Characteristics of Female Silicosis Cases, 1979-2013

All the 58 female silicosis cases worked in the manufacturing sector; 83% worked in factories that produced glass, tile and pottery products and were exposed to silica dust in the mid-1900’s (Figure 1). As these industries left the state, the proportion of NJ female cases decreased by half.

FIGURE 1
Manufacturing Industry Subsectors Where Female Cases Were Exposed
1979-2013
N=58



Twenty-eight of the 58 female cases were clustered in a single county (Mercer), the hub of NJ’s pottery and tile industry. Based on multiple cause-of-death data for the years 1995-2004 from the 2007 NIOSH Work-Related Lung Disease Surveillance Report, Mercer County also had the highest proportion (50%) of female vs. male deaths in a single U.S. county due to silicosis (Table 1).

TABLE 1: U.S. Counties with Highest Percentage of Female Deaths from Silicosis

County	State	% Female	Number of Deaths	Age-Adjusted Rate	Crude Rate
Mercer	New Jersey	50.0	8	2.9	2.9
Adams	Colorado	20.0	5	2.5	1.8
Franklin	Ohio	18.2	11	1.6	1.3
Stark	Ohio	16.7	6	1.6	2.0
Morgan	West Virginia	16.7	6	35.8	49.0
Stearns	Minnesota	9.1	11	12.3	10.3
U.S.	-----	4.1	1,827	0.8	0.8