

Industrial Hygiene Worksite Visits to Employers of Silicosis Cases

Between 1979 and 2013, NJDOH staff conducted 74 worksite visits to employer sites where cases were exposed. Thirty-seven of the worksites had multiple cases of silicosis associated with them. The visits reached the employers of 198 confirmed cases. Each site visit consisted of an opening conference, a walk-through inspection, interviews of current employees, air monitoring if appropriate and a written report of findings, including dust control recommendations. In four cases, the NJDOH requested assistance from the Centers for Disease Control's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). These worksite health hazard evaluations were performed jointly by NIOSH and NJDOH personnel.

With the exception of the construction sector, distribution of worksite visits reflected the distribution of cases across industry sectors. Visits to construction sites are challenging due to the transient nature of the work and delayed onset of silicosis. An additional 13 visits to employer sites were conducted as a result of referrals from other NJDOH programs or state agencies. These visits were not related to silicosis cases but were prompted by recognized silica dust hazards.

Distribution of NJDOH Worksite Visits and Confirmed Silicosis Cases by Industry Sector, New Jersey, 1979-2013				
Industry Sector	# of Visits	% of Visits	# of Cases	% of Cases
Manufacturing	58	78.3	386	70.1
Mining	11	14.9	81	14.6
Construction	3	4.0	60	10.8
Services	1	1.4	12	2.2
Transportation/Communication	0	0	8	1.5
Agriculture	0	0	2	0.4
Retail	1	1.4	1	0.2
Public/Military	0	0	1	0.2
TOTAL	74	100	551	100