

NH Occupational Health Surveillance Program

**Project Summary, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
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Work-related injuries and illnesses are preventable, and control of occupational hazards is the most effective means of prevention. Research has shown that relationships exist between the demographic characteristics of workers and the risk of occupational illness or injury. Understanding the basic characteristics of the New Hampshire workforce is vital to assessing possible occupational health risks for New Hampshire's workers.

The New Hampshire Occupational Health Surveillance Program (OHSP) will build on the State's capacity for integrated collection of occupational injury and illness data and test the ability to knowledgeably apply this data in a number of applications. This enhanced surveillance will identify occupational safety and health hazards particular to New Hampshire, assist in prioritizing the numerous hazards and issues needing to be addressed, and provide key targeting demographics in the design and execution of local interventions and programs.

The objectives of the NH program include the following: Establish the New Hampshire Occupational Health Surveillance Program (NH OHSP) within the Bureau of Public Health Statistics and Informatics of the Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) utilizing existing data sources in state and federal public health and labor agencies, public and private healthcare provider data, and academic institutions, and create a single repository for combining these data into valid, reliable and useful surveillance information; establish and maintain an advisory committee to obtain stakeholder input and to identify relevant state-specific issues and priorities for state surveillance; participate in the Consortium of Occupational State-based Surveillance (COSS) meetings and workgroups; collect, analyze, and interpret surveillance data for as many of the national occupational health indicators (OHIs) as possible using existing data sources; address the utility and limitations of existing databases for collecting and analyzing occupational illnesses and injuries. We will also: establish continuous performance review (evaluation) of the accomplishments and impact of the surveillance program and prepare annual reports to the public by NIOSH sector; identify objectives and approaches for enhancing the NH OHSP; demonstrate links to prevention activities, and integrate activities with existing NH public health surveillance systems (and prepare for next steps) including:

- Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology and Surveillance Program (ABLES) - The OHSP will provide assistance to the DPHS ABLES program with characterizing the adult population with BLLs between 10 and 24 mcg/dL.
- Northern New England Poison Control Program Occupational Poisoning Project – Validation of work related poisoning indicators.
- Division of Vital Records Administration occupational mortality study in collaboration with NIOSH for the National Occupational Mortality Surveillance (NOMS) program

- Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) Electronic Medical Record Project
 - Explore the feasibility of introducing automated data collection on job type and hazard exposure in the EMR for all DHMC employees and on automated data collection on occupation and industry in the electronic medical record (EMR) at the registration process for DHMC patients.