

NIOSH HEALTH HAZARD EVALUATION (HHE) PROGRAM

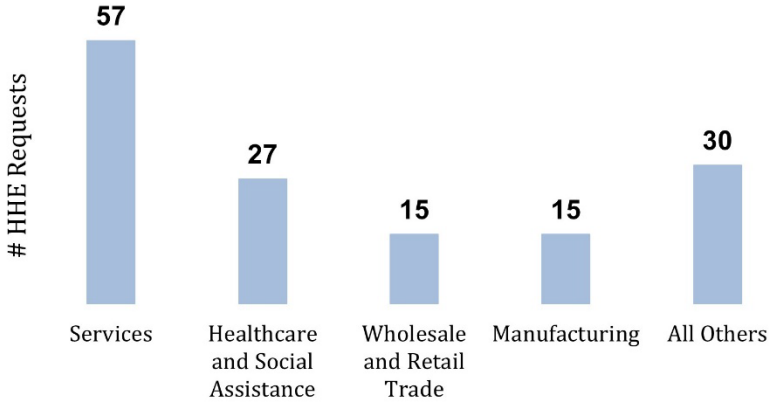
2022 Annual Report



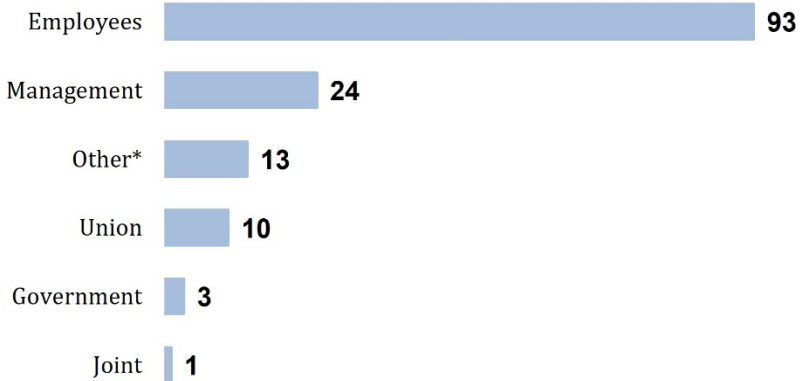
HHE Requests in 2022

144 Requests

Top 4 Sectors by HHE Request in 2022



HHE Requests by Requestor Type



*Other (not valid): anonymous, family member, outside US, other non-emp

25 Site Visits and Emergency Response Deployments



25 Workplaces



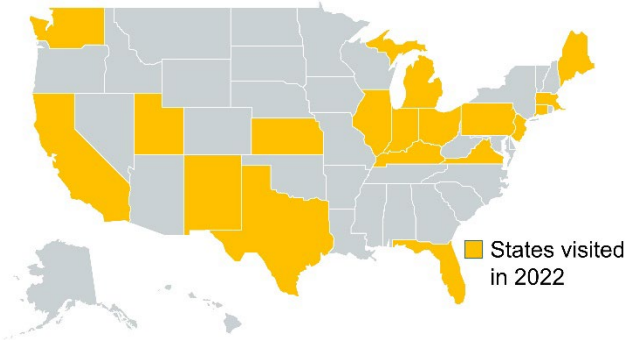
18 States



25 Cities



Approx. **33,884**
Miles Traveled



Outreach



[HHE website](#) viewed **38,206** times

[HHE reports](#) downloaded **13,818** times



3 New HHE reports published



Most downloaded report of 2022 (**575** downloads)



*Evaluation of Occupational Exposures to Opioids,
Mental Health Symptoms, Exposure to Traumatic Events,
and Job Stress in a City Fire Department*

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2018-0015-3384.pdf>



36 Presentations



46 Peer-reviewed publications

HHE Final Report Examples from 2022

Whole-Body Vibration Analysis of Golf Course Maintenance Tasks

Management from a golf course was concerned about maintenance employees' exposure to whole-body vibration.

What NIOSH Did

- Observed work processes, work practices, and workplace conditions.
- Measured employees' exposures to whole-body vibration.
- Held confidential employee interviews.



Photo by NIOSH

Key Findings

- Whole-body vibration exposures for most job tasks were above occupational action levels.
- Interviewed employees reported work-related pain and discomfort.

Recommendations



Reduce exposures to whole-body vibration.

- Avoid driving on golf course areas known to be rough and uneven and take the shortest route when possible.
- Reduce driving speeds.
- Replace seats with original equipment seats or a seat designed to further dampen whole-body vibration.
- Maintain or replace rough/uneven areas of cart paths.
- Rotate employees between job tasks.



Encourage employees to report health concerns they think are work-related to their supervisors.

This report is available at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2018-0137-3385.pdf>

Evaluation of Potential Hazards During Harvesting and Trimming Cannabis at an Indoor Cultivation Facility

Management at an indoor cultivation facility was concerned about potential hazards during harvesting and trimming of cannabis crops.

What NIOSH Did

- Measured employee exposures to endotoxins.
- Sampled surfaces for cannabinoids.
- Assessed area exposures to fungi and particulates (trimming and harvesting activities).
- Interviewed cultivation, harvesting, and trimming employees.



Photo by NIOSH

Key Findings

- Employees were exposed to endotoxins in the air.
- Employees were concerned about potential exposures at work.
- Trimming employees had exposures to highly repetitive work that increased their risk of musculoskeletal disorders.

Recommendations



Reduce exposures to endotoxins in the air and dermal exposures to cannabinoids in the workplace.



Reduce risks for musculoskeletal disorders.



Reduce potential exposures to ozone, light, and noise.



Get input from employees about workplace safety and health issues and use this input to improve conditions.

This report is available at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2019-0152-3381.pdf>

Evaluation of Noise Exposures and Hearing Loss at a Forging Company

Metal forging company management and union representatives requested an evaluation to assess noise exposures and hearing loss.

What NIOSH Did

- Measured employees' noise exposures and analyzed employees' hearing tests.
- Measured impact noise and noise level frequencies.
- Interviewed employees about noise and hearing loss.



Photo by NIOSH

Key Findings

- Full-shift employee noise exposures that exceeded NIOSH and OSHA occupational exposure limits.
- Peak noise levels during hammer impacts were above 140 decibels; one reached a peak of 155 decibels.
- Some standard threshold shifts since the baseline audiogram.
- Employees had hearing loss and hearing worsened with years on the job and age, some reported permanent ringing in their ears.

Recommendations



Maintain all equipment to eliminate unnecessary rattles and compressed air leakages.



Implement a "Buy Quiet" program - <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/buyquiet/>.



Ensure that workers are properly trained on how to wear hearing protection.

This report is available at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2007-0225-3386.pdf>

What They are Saying

These quotes are from HHE participants who in 2022 commented on our evaluation at their workplace.



The staff were very friendly, professional, and had a warm concern for learning about the workplace. I appreciate their visit!
~ cultivation company health and safety staff

The team was extremely professional and a pleasure to work with. They were not intimidating to the workforce which is extremely important. The crews worked well with the investigators and were very receptive of feedback.
~ city government supervisory employee

An excellent process. The review team was thorough and professional. We truly appreciated the care in which the evaluation was conducted.
~ employee requestor at a university

The report was both educative and thorough regarding environmental standards in the workplace. While the information reported on the facility conditions it also educates the reader on what the standards are.
~ management representative from a school district

The HHE TA was clear, timely, well referenced, and thorough. I have shared it with numerous partners who have all found it very helpful. One of our colleagues said “This sorta stuff is exactly what the street level folks need to make informed decisions – based on facts and science, double.”
~ government health and safety requestor



Our Followback Program

During and after an HHE, we ask for feedback on how well we did, how was our communication, were our recommendations helpful, and other questions to help us improve what we do.

HHE Program Visibility Moving Forward

The HHE Program strives to ensure it is known to employees, unions, and employers as a safety and health resource. Efforts to increase visibility and reach those who might need assistance include:

HHE Program Outreach

- Presentations and publications about the HHE Program and completed HHEs at webinars, conferences, meetings, NIOSH Sector Councils, HHE reports, trade publications/meetings, social media, and scientific publications.
- Conduct HHE site visits to evaluate a wide variety of occupational health hazards and industries across the U.S.

Firefighter Fatality Investigations

- A new column, “NIOSH Corner,” in *CRACKYL* magazine to share NIOSH firefighter-related publications/resources with firefighters. The column will share firefighter-related materials from across NIOSH, including Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program reports, health and safety advisories, National Firefighter Registry for Cancer updates, etc.

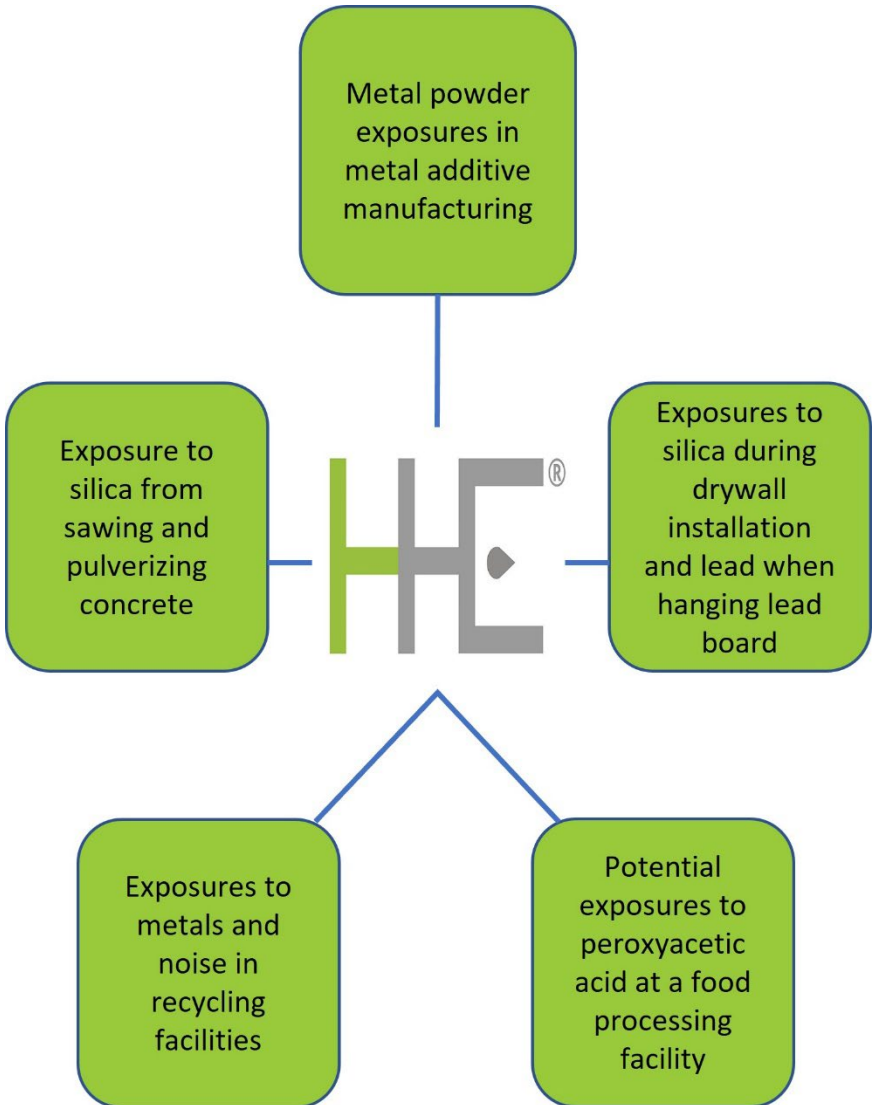
Advanced Materials and Manufacturing

- Participating in the American Industrial Hygiene Association Nano and Advanced Materials Working Group. Activities include training material development and various speaking engagements in the industry.
- Increasing knowledge about 3D printing and additive manufacturing in healthcare settings. Learning about materials and printing processes, controls and ventilation, laboratory set-up, and performing exposure assessments. Products include prosthetics, instrument design research and development, and organ models used in surgical procedure preparation.

Health Equity

- Ensuring health hazard evaluations are inclusive of foreign-born workers by planning early on in a project to incorporate interpretation and translation services.
- Encouraging requests from employees who work in settings that put them at higher risk of becoming infected or exposed to hazards.

What NIOSH is Looking at in 2023





Health Hazard[®]
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 healthier 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



HHERequestHelp@cdc.gov



NIOSH Health Hazard Evaluation Program
1090 Tusculum Avenue, Mail Stop R-9
Cincinnati, OH 45226-1988