

Occupational Health

About

Occupational health surveillance is the tracking of injuries, illnesses, hazards, and exposures that may be occupationally related. Any work place can have hazards that put workers at risk for occupational health injuries and illnesses. Work-related injuries, illnesses, and deaths are largely preventable. The Louisiana Department of Health Occupational Health and Injury Surveillance Program tracks work-related injuries and illnesses in attempts to better understand the underlying issues leading to these conditions in order to implement efforts to reduce these numbers and improve the health and safety of Louisiana work places.

About the Measures

The occupational health indicators on the LDH Health Data Portal are a set of surveillance measures used to monitor the health of the Louisiana workforce. Each measure highlights a risk factor or category of injury and illness, usually expressed as the number of occurrences among the relevant population. These measures help to track occurrences over time, comparison between individual states and the nation, and to highlight areas that may need additional exploration. The occupational health measures were created through a joint effort between the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) and the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

These measures include the following:

- Lead Poisonings
- Number of cases, incident rates, and prevalence rates of cases with elevated blood lead levels of greater than or equal to 10 mcg/dL, 25 mcg/dL, and 40 mcg/dL
- Pesticide Poisonings
- Number and Incident rates of reported work-related pesticide poisoning cases
- Asbestosis Deaths
- Number of asbestosis deaths
- Age-Standardized asbestosis death rate
- Asbestosis death rate
- High Risk Industries and Jobs
- Number and Percent of employed persons in high mortality risk occupations and industries
- Pneumoconiosis Deaths
- Number, Crude Rate, and Age-standardized rate of coal workers' pneumoconiosis deaths
- Number of other and unspecified pneumoconiosis deaths
- Number and Crude Death Rate of total pneumoconiosis deaths
- Annual age-standardized total pneumoconiosis death rate
- Health and Safety Professionals
- Rate of board-certified safety health professionals
- Rate of board-certified industrial hygienists
- Rate of board-certified occupational health registered nurses
- Rate of board-certified occupational physicians
- Amputations
- Number and Incident Rates of Amputations involving days away from work

- Asbestosis Injuries/Illnesses
- Number, Rate, and Age-Standardized Rates of Asbestosis hospital discharges
- Burn Hospitalizations
- Number and Rate of work-related burn hospitalizations
- Carpal Tunnel Syndrome Cases
- Number and Incident Rates of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome Cases
- Number and Incident Rates of Carpal Tunnel cases filed with workers compensation
- Days Away from Work
- Number and Incident Rates for cases with days away from work
- Number of Cases with greater than 10 days away from work
- Fatal Work-Related Injuries
- Number and Crude Rate of Work-Related Fatalities
- High Risk Injuries
- Number and Percent of employed persons in high morbidity risk North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industries
- High Risk Occupations
- Average Number and Percent of workers in high morbidity risk 1990 Bureau of Census occupations
- Malignant Mesothelioma
- Number, Incident Rates, and Age-Standardized Incident Rates of incident mesothelioma cases
- Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSD)
- Number and Incidence Rates of MSDs of neck, shoulders, and upper extremities
- Number and Incidence Rates of MSDs of the back
- Number and Incident Rates of MSDs
- Non-Fatal Injuries/Illnesses
- Number and Incidence Rates of Work-related Injuries/Illnesses
- Pneumoconiosis Injuries/Illnesses
- Number, Age-Standardized Rate, and Crude Rate of coal workers' pneumoconiosis hospital discharge
- Number, Age-Standardized Rate, and Crude Rate of other and unspecified pneumoconiosis hospital discharges
- Number, Age-Standardized Rate, and Crude Rate of total pneumoconiosis hospital discharges
- Work-Related Hospitalizations
- Number and Crude Rate of work-related hospitalizations
- Work-related low back disorder hospitalizations
- Number of work-related low back disorder hospitalizations for persons age greater than or equal to 16 years
- Number of work-related surgical low back disorder hospitalizations for persons age greater than or equal to 16 years
- Rate of work-related low back disorder hospitalizations
- Rate of work-related surgical low back disorder hospitalization
- Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) Inspections
- Number of employees under OSHA jurisdiction whose work areas were inspected
- Number of employees whose work areas were inspected by OSHA
- Number of establishments inspected by Federal/State OSHA
- Number of establishments under OSHA jurisdiction

- Percent of all establishments under OSHA jurisdiction inspected by OSHA
- Percent of OSHA-covered employees eligible for inspection whose work areas were inspected
- Workers Compensation Benefits
- Average amount of workers' compensation benefits paid per covered worker (\$)
- Total amount of workers' compensation benefits paid (\$)

About the Data

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), Section of Environmental Epidemiology and Toxicology, Occupational Health and Injury Surveillance Program, with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), conducts surveillance of worker related hazards, injuries, illnesses, and deaths. Data are collected from various sources such as hospital discharge records, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, the BLS Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), the Louisiana Adult Blood Lead and Epidemiology Surveillance System (ABLES), the Louisiana Tumor Registry data and death certificates, and the Louisiana Poison Control Center. The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) in collaboration with CDC/NIOSH provides guidance to assist state health departments in developing occupational health indicators.

Disclaimer

Data are intended to spur further research and should be used only as a starting point to understanding how the environment and other contributing factors may be connected to disease. Datasets presented on this site are intended to answer some basic questions, but should ultimately lead to further inquiry and more detailed study.

Data limitations should be noted if conducting exploratory ecological studies with these data. Limitations may include data gaps, reporting discrepancies (for example, a disruption of reporting or instrument recording following hurricanes) and insufficient data on all potentially confounding factors. There are numerous additional factors which may contribute to disease onset. These include genetics, access to health care, existing health conditions, medicines, other chemical substances we come into contact with or ingest, nutrition, route and duration of exposure, level of activity, level of stress, and many others.

Responsible use of this data therefore requires exercising caution when drawing conclusions based solely on views of the limited available data. Any perceived relationship, trend, or pattern apparent in the data should not be interpreted to imply causation; may in fact be unrelated; and should be regarded as preliminary, and potentially erroneous, until more in-depth study and if applicable, statistical evaluation, can be applied. The LDH Bureau of Health Informatics and Environmental Public Health Tracking Program cannot guarantee the completeness of the information contained in these datasets and expressly disclaim liability for errors and omissions in their content.

Data Sources

- [LDH Occupational Health Surveillance Program](#)

Additional Information

- [Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\)](#)
- [National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health \(NIOSH\)](#)
- [NIOSH Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology and Surveillance](#)
- [Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists - Occupational Health Indicators](#)
- [Bureau of Labor Statistics - Injuries, Illnesses, and Fatalities \(IIF\)](#)
- [Louisiana Tumor Registry](#)
- [LDH State Registrar and Vital Records](#)
- [American Association of Poison Control Centers](#)

Questions

- Email: healthdata@la.gov