

NIOSH Miner Health Program Strategic Agenda

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Leading up to today

Individual partner meetings

Engagement & Strategic Planning

Some things happened

Miner Health Partnership Kickoff

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

National Academy of Sciences Conversation

Workshop for Miner Health

Miner Health Strategic Agenda goes live

The Miner Health Program Strategic Agenda

2020-2030

- Describes origin and direction of planned activities related to improving worker well-being for the entire mining population
- Program *Goals* and *Activities* express:
 - Desired changes in work-related illness, injuries, or fatalities
 - Actions organizations and individuals can take using NIOSH research findings or products to contribute to stated strategic goals
 - Ways to move research findings into practice

The Miner Health Program, 2020-2030 Strategic Agenda

Introduction and Purpose

What is the Miner Health Program? Why is it needed?

The Miner Health Program (MHP) has recently been established as a long-term, systematic effort to understand and improve the health and well-being of all miners through focused integration of research, transfer of findings, evaluation, and community engagement. The MHP is part of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Mining Program, whose mission is to eliminate mining fatalities, injuries, and illnesses through relevant research and impactful solutions.

Section 2 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 states the following:

The Congress declares it to be its purpose and policy . . . to assure so far as possible every working man and woman in the Nation safe and healthful working conditions and to preserve our human resources . . . by exploring ways to discover latent diseases, establishing causal connections between diseases and work in environmental conditions, and conducting other research relating to health problems, in recognition of the fact that occupational health standards present problems often different from those involved in occupational safety [DOL 1970].

This portion of the mandate highlights the fundamental need for the United States to approach the improvement of occupational health in an expansive and comprehensive manner.

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<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/researchprogram/strategicplan/MHProgramStrategicAgenda2020-2030.html>

Informing the Agenda

NIOSH

- Respiratory Health Division
- Total Worker Health
- Health Effects Laboratory Division
- Pittsburgh Mining Research Division
- Spokane Mining Research Division
- Office of the NIOSH Director
- Office of Mine Safety & Health Research

External

- Labor
- Trade organizations
- Industry
- Academia
- Government
- Independent consultants
- Legal
- MSHRAC

Ongoing

- More engagement opportunities ...

Core Functions

1. Research
2. Evaluation
3. Community Engagement



Goals & Activities

Work collaboratively with mining stakeholders to address issues affecting the well-being of miners by building trust, enlisting new resources and partners, and improving communication to promote the exchange of ideas and best practices.

- Develop partnerships and collaborations with community stakeholders
- Build strategic expertise in health communications
- Improve internal coordination with NIOSH programs and researchers regarding research relevant to miner health

Goals & Activities

Build capacity to prospectively evaluate and communicate the efficacy and effectiveness of Miner Health Program activities, interventions, and outputs.

- Build the Miner Health Program's capacity to evaluate its efforts
 - Personnel and competencies
- Develop a systematic approach to assess if MHP activities are being carried out as planned and are accessible and acceptable to our key stakeholders
- Develop, assess and characterize the effectiveness of the MHP
 - Establish methods to measure the adoption of research products and recommendations and to determine the type and magnitude of changes

Intermediate Goal 1

To better understand the health experience of miners and investigate factors that influence worker well-being

- Establish a framework to systematically measure and compare outcomes, conditions and exposures over time and to other occupational groups
 - Ongoing and in perpetuity
- Conduct studies on conditions that affect readiness-for-work
 - Heat exposure, fatigue, mental health, substance use/misuse, MSDs, etc.
- Complete studies to better understand patterns of aerosols exposures
 - Silica, coal dust, diesel particulate matter
 - Across mine sectors and among active and retired mine workers
- Complete studies to understand organizational commitment to safety, health, and well-being, and the impact on worker health
 - e.g., Risk assessment and implementation strategies

Intermediate Goal 2

To evaluate new and emerging health hazards and sentinel events (cases)

Examples

- Opioid epidemic
- Global and other large-scale events
- Pandemics
 - Maintain healthy business operations
 - Reduce transmission among employees and the public
 - Maintain a healthy work environment

Opioids in the Workplace



The effects of opioid use and misuse are not isolated to work or home environments, and the potential for opioid use disorder may be preceded by injuries that happen in the workplace, with the consequences affecting both an individual's working life as well as their home life.

By using *Total Worker Health*[®] principles, NIOSH is developing solutions to help workers and employers facing this crisis in their communities. [Learn more](#) about the specific steps NIOSH is taking to approach this challenge.

Information for:

- [First Responders](#)

Workplace Resources

- [Using Naloxone to Reverse Opioid Overdose](#)

[Find Help and Treatment for Opioid Abuse](#)

ensuring productive workplaces through safety and health research
NIOSH
workplace

Find resources and guidance related to COVID-19 in the workplace below. More COVID-19 information is available on the general [CDC COVID-19 website](#).

General Information for Businesses

Health Department Resources

Industry-Specific Resources

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/>

Miner Health Program

Mission, Vision, Values

- **Mission: a statement of purpose**

identify, develop, and promote health and safety solutions that maximize miner protection, minimize harmful exposures, and prevent disease

- **Vision: a vivid image of the future we seek to create**

improved well-being for the entire mining population

- **Values: the guiding concepts, beliefs, or principles**

service, honesty, evidence, communication, and utility

Values defined

Service

The work and research conducted is a public service directed at benefiting the health and well-being of miners and is not motivated by self-interest or promotion.

Honesty

Our research is open, transparent and collaborative, so as to assure trust and credibility.

Evidence-based

The judgement and decisions we make are informed and based on evidence, reason and an understanding of uncertainty.

Communication

We engage and listen to all thoughts before clearly articulating direction, findings or feedback.

Utility

The products of the Program are of high quality, have direct application, and can be measured for usefulness, satisfaction, or benefit.