April 25, 2018

2016 Annual report

Tracking Silicosis & Other work-related Lung Diseases in michigan

2016 ANNUAL REPORT TRACKING SILICOSIS & OTHER WORK-RELATED LUNG DISEASES IN MICHIGAN

Silicosis & Other Work-Related Lung Disease Surveillance Program

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There are many resources available to help employers, employees, health care professionals and others understand more about work-related lung disease. Links to these resources can be found at: **www.oem.msu.edu**.

Acronyms

AB Asbestosis

COPD Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

ED Emergency Department

LARA MI Department of Licensing & Regulatory Affairs

MIOSHA Michigan Occupational Safety & Health Administration

NAICS North American Industrial Classification System

NIOSH National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health

OLDS Other Work-Related Lung Diseases

PEL Permissible Exposure Limit

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We sincerely appreciate the commitment of those health care providers who understand the public health significance of diagnosing a patient with an occupational illness, as well as the Michigan employees who took the time to share their experiences about their work and subsequent development of work-related lung disease.

Summary

This is the 25th annual report on silicosis in Michigan. This is the 6th year of the expansion of the annual report to include surveillance data on the magnitude and nature of all work-related lung diseases in Michigan. In 2011, we expanded surveillance of silicosis in Michigan to include other lung disease, including asbestosis, work-related hypersensitivity pneumonitis, hard metal lung disease, minor pneumoconiosis, and emerging work-related lung diseases. Work-related asthma has always been covered under a separate annual report.

The annual average incidence rate of silicosis among African American males is 6.8 cases per 100,000 workers. Among white males the rate is 1.4 cases per 100,000 workers. Within specific counties in Michigan, the annual average incidence rates of silicosis range between two to 392 times higher for African American males than the rates for white males.

Part 56 of the Michigan Public Health Code requires reporting of all known or suspected occupational illnesses or work-aggravated health conditions to the Michigan Department of Licensing & Regulatory Affairs *within 10 days of discovery*.

Summary, continued

- From 1985-2016, 1,192 silicosis cases have been identified through the Michigan tracking system.
- On average since 2000, 22 new cases of silicosis were reported to LARA each year.
- We estimate there were 67-139 adults in Michigan with silicosis who were not reported in 2016.
- Asbestos-related lung changes are the most common work-related lung disease in Michigan, identified through hospital discharge data, B-Readers, the courts and other sources.
- 316 cases of Other Work-Related Lung Disease (OLDS) were identified in 2016; chemical irritation, asbestosis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) were among the conditions reported.
- Adherence to the new federal silica standard, which, beginning in 2018, requires medical monitoring for construction workers and in 2020 for general industry workers, should result in more timely identification of silicosis and silica overexposures.

Background

In 1988, the State of Michigan instituted a tracking program for silicosis with financial assistance from NIOSH. In 2011, surveillance was expanded to include Other Work-Related Lung Diseases (OLDS). This is a joint project of MIOSHA and Michigan State University, Department of Medicine, Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

The reporting of an index patient is a sentinel health event that may lead to the identification of employees from the same facilities who are also at risk of developing silicosis or OLDS. The goal is to prevent work-related lung disease through the identification and workplace follow-up of these index patients.

Work-Related Lung Disease Tracking Procedures

There are four main activities related to occupational lung disease surveillance in Michigan: identifying patients, interviewing patients and collecting relevant medical records, conducting workplace inspections, and sharing the overall results and lessons learned with industry, employees and other stakeholders.

IDENTIFY PATIENTS

Patients are identified through mandatory reporting of any known *or suspected* occupational illnesses, including silicosis and other work-related lung diseases.

SOURCES TO IDENTIFY PATIENTS IN MICHIGAN

- **Health Care Providers** Private practice, working for industry, NIOSH-certified "B" readers
- **Hospitals** International Classification of Disease 10th Revision **(**ICD-10) Silicosis (J62, J65), Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis (J67), Other Pneumoconioses (J63, J64), Other Respiratory Conditions (J66, J68, Z57.2, Z57.3, Z57.5)
- **Workers' Compensation Agency**

Work-Related Lung Disease Tracking Procedures, continued

- **Poison Control Center**
- **Reports from Co-Workers or MIOSHA Field Staff** confirmed by a health care provider
- **Death Certificates**
- **Michigan 3rd Judicial Court** for asbestos-related disease
- **Mine Safety and Health Administration**
- **Michigan Cancer Registry** for mesothelioma
- **Clinical Laboratories** for specific IgE allergy testing

INTERVIEW PATIENTS

Once patients are identified, a letter is sent asking them to participate in a telephone interview. Afterwards, medical records are requested, including chest x-rays and pulmonary function test results.

CLASSIFICATION OF WORK-RELATED LUNG DISEASE

A physician who is board-certified in internal and occupational/environmental medicine and also is a NIOSH certified B-reader reviews medical evidence which may include interview, medical records, breathing tests and chest x-rays. In addition, for silicosis and asbestosis the following criteria are applied:

SILICOSIS

1) History of silica exposure.
and
A) Chest x-ray interpretation with rounded opacities of 1/0 or greater profusion in the upper lobes.
Or
B) A biopsy report of lung tissue showing the characteristic silicotic nodule.

ASBESTOSIS

1) History of asbestos exposure.
and
2) Chest x-ray interpretation showing linear changes in the lower lobes and/or pleural thickening.

WORKPLACE INSPECTION

After the patient interview is completed, MIOSHA determines whether a workplace enforcement inspection will be conducted. During an inspection, co-workers are interviewed to determine if other individuals are experiencing similar breathing problems from exposure to the agent. Any workers reporting breathing problems are sent a letter advising them to see their doctor. Chest x-rays are reviewed if the company performs periodic chest x-ray surveillance. Air monitoring for any suspected agent is conducted. The company's health and safety program and its Injury and Illness Log are reviewed. After the investigation is complete, a report of air sampling results and any recommendations is sent to the company and made available to workers. A copy of the report is also sent to the reporting physician.

OTHER FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES

Outreach, educational activities, and recommendations may be developed. An annual report summarizing the activity is completed. Brochures or other materials may be developed to address specific emergent issues identified.

Results—
SILICOSIS, ASBESTOS-RELATED & OTHER WORK-RELATED LUNG DISEASES

The following sections report results in this order: **silicosis** surveillance in Michigan from 1985-2016, **asbestos-related lung disease and mesothelioma**, and **all other OLDS surveillance** for calendar year 2016.

REPORTS OF SILICOSIS

Table 1 shows that 1,192 people were confirmed with silicosis between 1985 - 2016. Figure 1 shows the number of confirmed silicosis cases by year, for 1987 - 2016. Figure 2 shows the overlap of reporting sources.

TABLE 1
Year and Reporting Source for 1,192 Confirmed Silicosis Cases: 1985-2016

Initial Reporting Source*

YEAR	PR	HDC	DC	WC	ICFU
85-87	0	67	35	42	0
1988	0	56	6	7	0
1989	7	40	9	4	3
1990	5	44	0	6	1
1991	5	37	1	6	0
1992	16	54	6	2	0
1993	6	31	1	4	0
1994	7	36	1	28	0
1995	26	35	3	2	0
1996	28	35	0	0	0
1997	13	48	1	0	0
1998	10	28	1	0	0
1999	5	25	1	1	0
2000	4	32	0	0	0
2001	8	11	1	0	0
2002	1	32	1	0	0
2003	8	26	0	0	0
2004	2	24	0	0	0
2005	4	26	0	0	0
2006	1	17	1	0	0
2007	2	19	0	1	0
2008	4	18	0	1	0
2009	1	12	1	0	0
2010	2	19	0	0	0
2011	0	11	0	0	0
2012	0	11	0	0	0
2013	0	17	1	0	0
2014	1	17	0	0	0
2015**	2	11	0	0	0
2016**	0	7	0	0	0
TOTAL	168	846	70	104	4

*PR– Physician Referral; HDC-Hospital Discharge ; DC-Death Certificate; WC-Workers' Compensation; ICFU-Index Case Follow-Up.

**Reports are still being processed for calendar years 2015 and 2016.

FIGURE 1
Confirmed Silicosis Cases by Year Reported

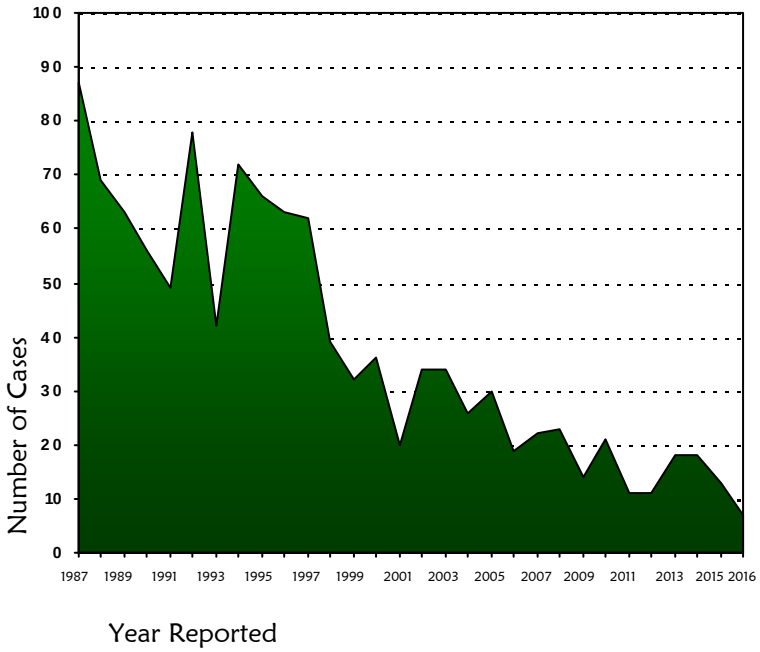
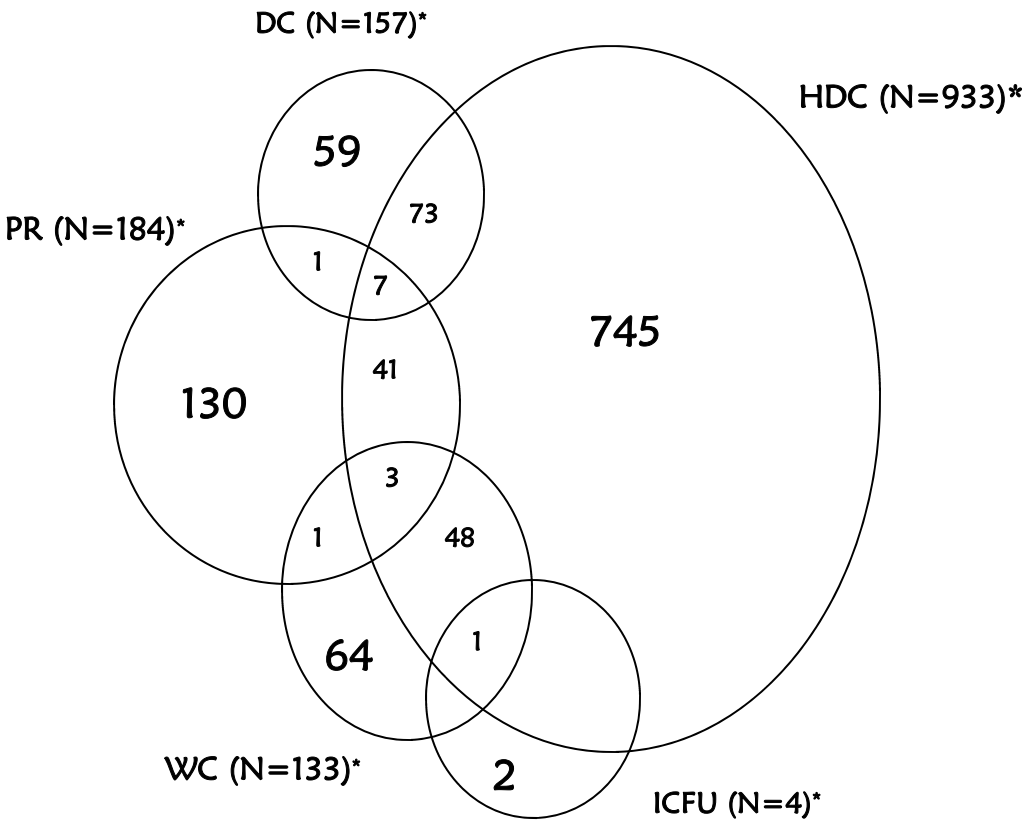


FIGURE 2
Overlap of Reporting Sources for 1,192 Confirmed Silicosis Patients: 1985-2016



*N's represent the total number for that source.
Reporting Source Codes: HDC=Hospital Discharge Data; PR=Physician Referral; DC=Death Certificate; WC=Workers' Compensation; ICFU=Index Case Follow Up.
There was also an overlap of HDC-DC-WC for 13 individuals; an overlap of HDC-PR-WC-DC for one individual; an overlap of WC-DC for two individuals; and an overlap of HDC-DC-ICFU for one individual.

Hospitals are the most frequent reporters of workers with occupational lung diseases.

Based on capture-recapture analysis we estimate that although on average we receive 22 reports of silicosis a year, there are an additional 67-139 cases that are diagnosed each year but are not reported. [2]

Demographics-Silicosis

GENDER

- Women 28 (2%)
- Men 1,164 (98%)

YEAR OF BIRTH

- Range 1888 - 1971
- Average 1924

RACE

- White 697 (58%)
- African American 453 (38%)
- Alaskan/American Ind. 1 (<1%)
- Asian 2 (<1%)
- Other 30 (3%)
- Unknown 9 (1%)

AVERAGE ANNUAL INCIDENCE RATE

- African American 6.8 per 100,000
- White 1.4 per 100,000

The average annual incidence rate for African Americans is 4.9X greater than that of whites.

Numerator is the average number of silicosis cases by race for 1987-2014. Denominator Source: 2000 Census population data by race, age 40 and older.

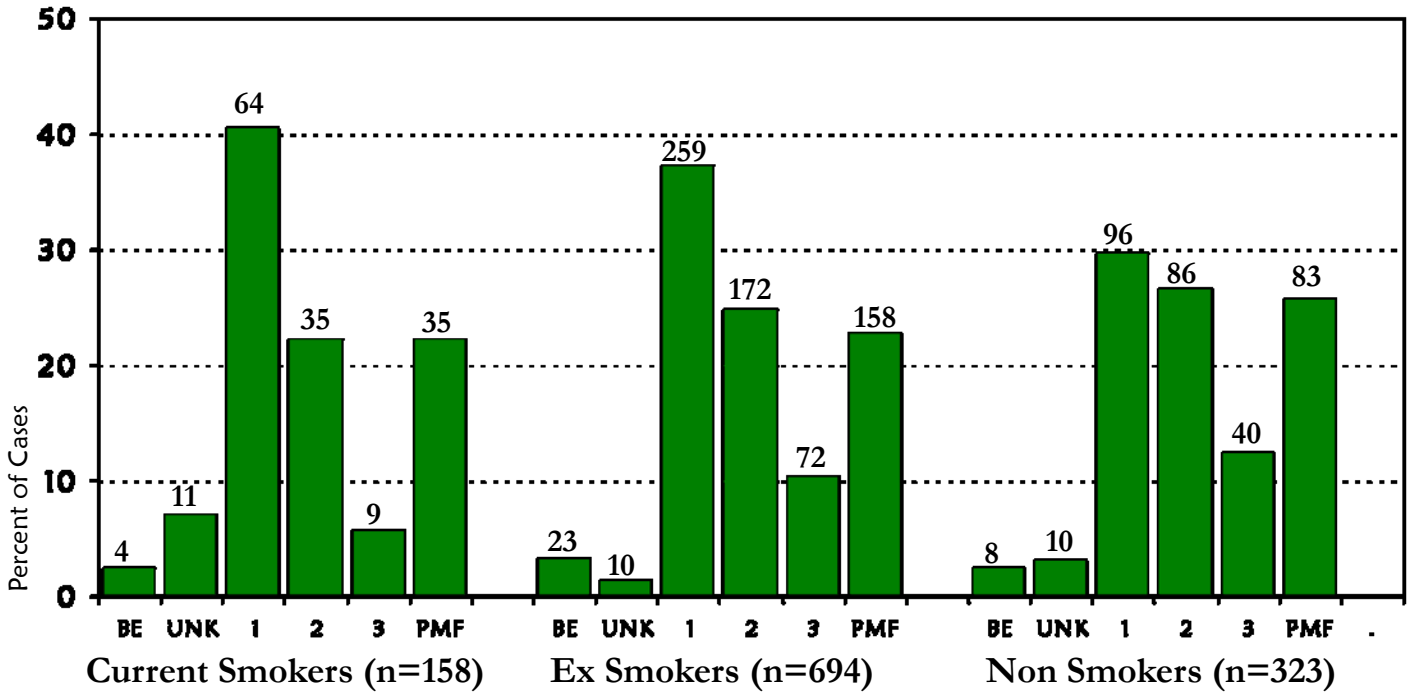
Medical Results-Silicosis

Overall, 844 (70.8%) of the people with silicosis had simple silicosis and 280 (23.5%) had progressive massive fibrosis. Thirty-six (3.0%) silicotics had normal x-rays with lung biopsy evidence. Thirty-two (2.7%) individuals had x-ray reports which were consistent with silicosis but the actual radiograph could not be obtained to classify.

For the 1,175 silicosis cases with known history, 323 (27.5%) of the people with silicosis never smoked cigarettes, 694 (59.1%) had quit, and 158 (13.4%) were still smoking. No information was available on 17 individuals. Figure 3 shows the distribution of x-ray results according to the International Labor Organization (ILO) classification and smoking status. Non-smokers tended to have more severe silicosis. This latter finding may be an artifact of our reporting system, which is mainly based on reports of hospitalized individuals. Non-smoking individuals with simple silicosis are less likely to be symptomatic and hospitalized and therefore less likely to have been reported to the surveillance system.

Tables 2 and 3 show the distribution of percent predicted forced vital capacity (FVC) and the ratio of forced expiratory volume in one second (FEV_1) to FVC by x-ray and cigarette smoking status. Approximately 60% of people with silicosis had reduced breathing function, either restrictive or obstructive. Obstructive changes (Table 3) were found in two-thirds of the individuals who had ever smoked cigarettes and among half of the individuals who had never smoked cigarettes. A more comprehensive analysis of spirometry results was published in 2010. [3]

FIGURE 3
Severity of X-Ray Results* by Smoking Status for Confirmed Silicosis Cases: 1985–2016**



*BE = Biopsy Evidence; UNK = Unknown; 1-3 = International Labor Organization categorization system for grading pneumoconises; Category 1 = 1/0, 1/1, 1/2; Category 2 = 2/1, 2/2, 2/3; Category 3 = 3/2, 3/3, 3/+; PMF = Progressive Massive Fibrosis.

**Total number of individuals: 1,175. Unknown smoking status for 17 individuals.

Medical Results-Silicosis

TABLE 2

Percent Predicted Forced Vital Capacity (FVC) by X-Ray Results and Cigarette Smoking Status for Confirmed Silicosis Cases: 1985-2016

	Percent Predicted FVC***					
	<60%		60-79%		>=80%	
X-Ray Results*	Ever Smoked	Never Smoked	Ever Smoked	Never Smoked	Ever Smoked	Never Smoked
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Biopsy Evidence	20	--	40	40	40	60
Unk Severity	38	50	38	25	25	25
Category 1	24	31	35	29	42	41
Category 2	29	38	37	33	34	29
Category 3	33	63	39	21	28	17
PMF	38	39	33	31	29	30
Total**	29	38	35	30	35	32

*Biopsy Evidence if no x-ray available; International Labor Organization categorization system for grading pneumoconioses: Cat 1= 1/0, 1/1, 1/2; Cat 2= 2/1, 2/2, 2/3; Cat 3= 3/2, 3/3, 3+; PMF=Progressive Massive Fibrosis.
**Total number of individuals: 754. Information was missing for 438 individuals.
***Percentages represent the proportion of individuals in each x-ray result category, within smoking status category.

TABLE 3

Ratio of Forced Expiratory Volume in 1 Second (FEV_1) to Forced Vital Capacity (FVC) by X-Ray Results and Cigarette Smoking Status for Confirmed Silicosis Cases: 1985-2016

	FEV_1/FVC***							
	<=40%		41-59%		60-74%		>=75%	
X-Ray Results*	Ever Smoked	Never Smoked	Ever Smoked	Never Smoked	Ever Smoked	Never Smoked	Ever Smoked	Never Smoked
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Biopsy Evidence	5	25	15	--	40	50	40	25
Unk Severity	8	--	8	--	25	75	58	25
Category 1	9	2	22	7	37	31	33	61
Category 2	4	5	22	14	42	29	32	52
Category 3	7	4	16	--	11	30	66	65
PMF	18	8	33	23	29	33	21	37
Total**	9	5	23	12	34	32	33	51

*Biopsy Evidence if no x-ray available; International Labor Organization categorization system for grading pneumoconioses: Cat 1= 1/0, 1/1, 1/2; Cat 2= 2/1, 2/2, 2/3; Cat 3= 3/2, 3/3, 3+; PMF= Progressive Massive Fibrosis.
**Total number of individuals: 727. Information was missing for 465 individuals.
***Percentages represent the proportion of individuals in each x-ray result category, within smoking status category.

Location

Table 4 shows the annual average incidence rates of silicosis among the working population, by race and county where there was at least one case in that county. Yellow-highlighted rates are for counties where both white and African American cases were reported. The highest rates were among African American males in Shiawassee (275 cases per 100,000), Muskegon (122 cases per 100,000), Saginaw (41 cases per 100,000), and Monroe (22 cases per 100,000). The incidence of African American silicosis cases was approximately 5 times greater than white males. More information about health disparities and occupational lung disease, particularly silicosis, can be found in our Fall 2014 PS News newsletter (V25N4), at: www.oem.msu.edu. Figure 4 shows the counties of the companies at which the patients' silica exposure occurred; Muskegon, Wayne and Saginaw were the main counties.

TABLE 4
Average Annual Incidence Rate of Silicosis Among Michigan Workers by Race and County of Exposure: 1987-2014

	White* Males			African American** Males				White* Males			African American** Males		
County	County Pop'n	#	Rate	County Pop'n	#	Rate	County	County Pop'n	#	Rate	County Pop'n	#	Rate
Allegan	20850	2	0.3	275		—	Lapeer	18176	1	0.2	226		—
Alpena	7388	27	13.1	8		—	Lenawee	20192	4	0.7	573		—
Arenac	4168	1	0.9	62		—	Livingston	32610	3	0.3	111		—
Baraga	1815	1	2.0	78		—	Mackinac	2761	1	1.3	6		—
Barry	12360	4	1.2	34		—	**Macomb**	**156926**	**26**	**0.6**	**3233**	**7**	**7.7**
Bay	23674	7	1.1	226		—	Manistee	5999	3	1.8	67		—
Benzie	3898	1	0.9	9		—	Marquette	14199	15	3.8	224		—
Berrien	**30479**	**7**	**0.8**	**3594**	**3**	**3.0**	Mason	6683	1	0.5	41		—
Branch	9525	4	1.5	288		—	Menominee	6054	11	6.5	2		—
Calhoun	**25345**	**25**	**3.5**	**2650**	**13**	**17.5**	Midland	16605	2	0.4	128		—
Charlevoix	5942	3	1.8	5		—	**Monroe**	**29452**	**8**	**1.0**	**497**	**3**	**21.6**
Chippewa	7286	2	1.0	616		—	Montcalm	12433	3	0.9	335		—
Delta	9045	3	1.2	5		—	Montmorency	2957	1	1.2	3		—
Dickinson	6419	1	0.6	5		—	**Muskegon**	**30132**	**119**	**14.1**	**3564**	**122**	**122.3**
Eaton	20377	3	0.5	781		—	**Oakland**	**216359**	**16**	**0.3**	**20085**	**6**	**1.1**
Genesee	**69596**	**11**	**0.6**	**13423**	**5**	**1.3**	Ontonagon	2295	2	3.1	1		
Gladwin	6615	1	0.5	8		—	**Ottawa**	**41916**	**4**	**0.3**	**270**	**1**	**13.2**
Gogebic	4353	3	2.5	22		—	Roscommon	7325	1	0.5	9		
Gd Traverse	16451	1	0.2	57		—	**Saginaw**	**36097**	**63**	**6.2**	**5936**	**68**	**40.9**
Gratiot	8356	1	0.4	371		—	**St. Clair**	**33209**	**5**	**0.5**	**623**	**1**	**5.7**
Hillsdale	9857	7	2.5	36		—	**St. Joseph**	**12266**	**4**	**1.2**	**251**	**1**	**14.2**
Ingham	41166	10	0.9	3987		—	Sanilac	9753	3	1.1	23		—
Iosco	7280	1	0.5	30		—	Schoolcraft	2121	1	1.7	18		—
Iron	3531	3	3.0	28		—	**Shiawassee**	**14737**	**3**	**0.7**	**26**	**2**	**274.7**
Jackson	**31380**	**3**	**0.3**	**2685**	**2**	**2.7**	Tuscola	12334	1	0.3	108		—
Kalamazoo	39985	3	0.3	3004		—	Van Buren	15129	2	0.5	808		—
Kent	**93136**	**15**	**0.6**	**6768**	**2**	**1.1**	Washtenaw	47535	7	0.5	5758		—
Keweenaw	639	1	5.6	1		—	**Wayne**	**236472**	**127**	**1.9**	**134974**	**159**	**4.2**
Lake	2817	2	2.5	251		—	Wexford	6478	2	1.1	6		—

*Rate per 100,000 among white men age 40+. Numerator: average number of white males with silicosis for the years 1987 – 2014; denominator: 2000 Census population data for white men age 40 and older, by county. In 2000, there were 1,730,017 white males 40 years and older living in Michigan.

** Rate per 100,000 among African American men age 40+. Numerator: average number of African American males with silicosis for the years 1987 – 2014; denominator: 2000 Census population data for African American men age 40 and older, by county. In 2000, there were 219,076 African American males 40 years and older living in Michigan.

Type of Industry-Silicosis

Table 5 shows the Michigan industries by NAICS codes, where exposure to silica occurred from 1985 to 2016. The predominant industries were in manufacturing (85%), construction (9%) and mining (4%). Most of the manufacturing jobs were in iron foundries. Exposure to silica is still occurring in foundries (Figures 5 and 6). In 2007, MIOSHA inspected all silica-using foundries in the state. Forty-seven foundries were inspected. Personal air monitoring for silica was conducted in 43 of the 47 facilities; 28 companies had silica levels below the MIOSHA PEL and 15 were above the PEL.

Although silicosis typically occurs after a long duration of exposure to silica, some patients develop silicosis after a relatively short period of time because of the severity of that exposure. The average year of hire is 1950, ranging from 1910 to 2007. Two individuals began working in the 2000s, six began working in the 1990s, 23 in the 1980s, 85 in the 1970s and 183 in the 1960s. The average number of years worked at a silica-exposed job was 27.3 years.

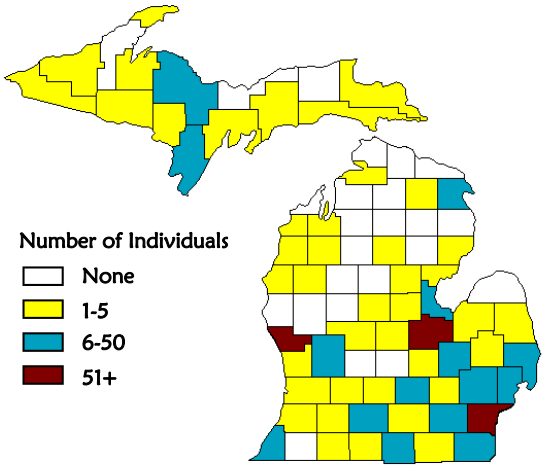
TABLE 5
Primary Industrial Exposure for Confirmed Silicosis Patients: 1985-2016

INDUSTRY (2002 NAICS)

		#	%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting	2	0.2
21	Mining	50	4.2
22	Utilities	1	0.1
23	Construction	103	8.6
31-33	Manufacturing	1,008	84.6
42	Wholesale Trade	2	0.2
44-45	Retail Trade	3	0.3
48-49	Transportation & Warehousing	7	0.6
56	Administrative & Support & Waste Management	1	0.1
62, 81	Health Care & Social Assistance	6	0.5
92	Public Administration	4	0.3
00	Unknown	5	0.4
Total		1,192	100.1*

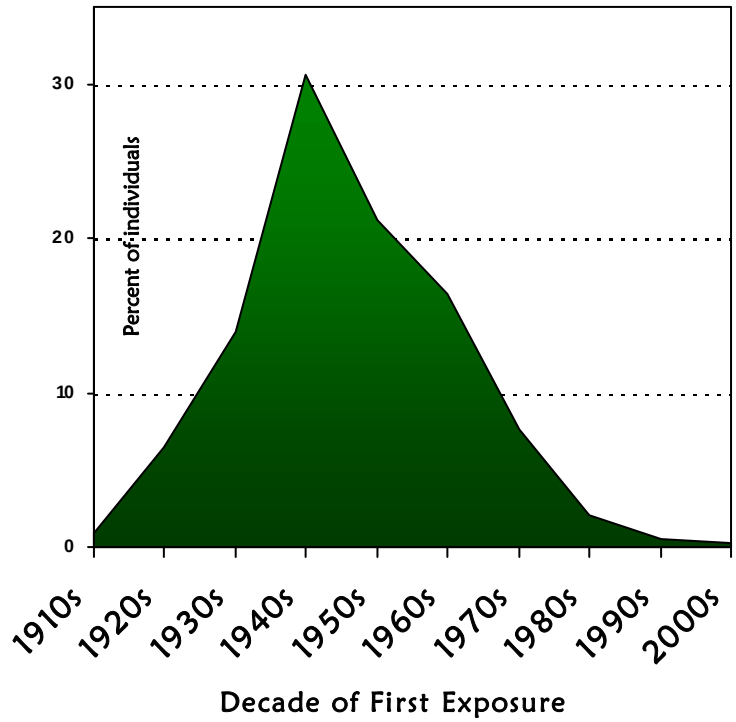
*Percentage does not add to 100 due to rounding.

FIGURE 4
Distribution of Confirmed Silicosis Cases by County of Exposure: 1985-2016*



*Seventy-seven individuals were exposed to silica out-of-state, and 30 individuals had an unknown county of exposure.

FIGURE 5
Distribution of Decade when Silica Exposure Began for Confirmed Silicosis Cases: 1985-2016*



*Decade of first exposure was unknown for 76 individuals with silicosis.

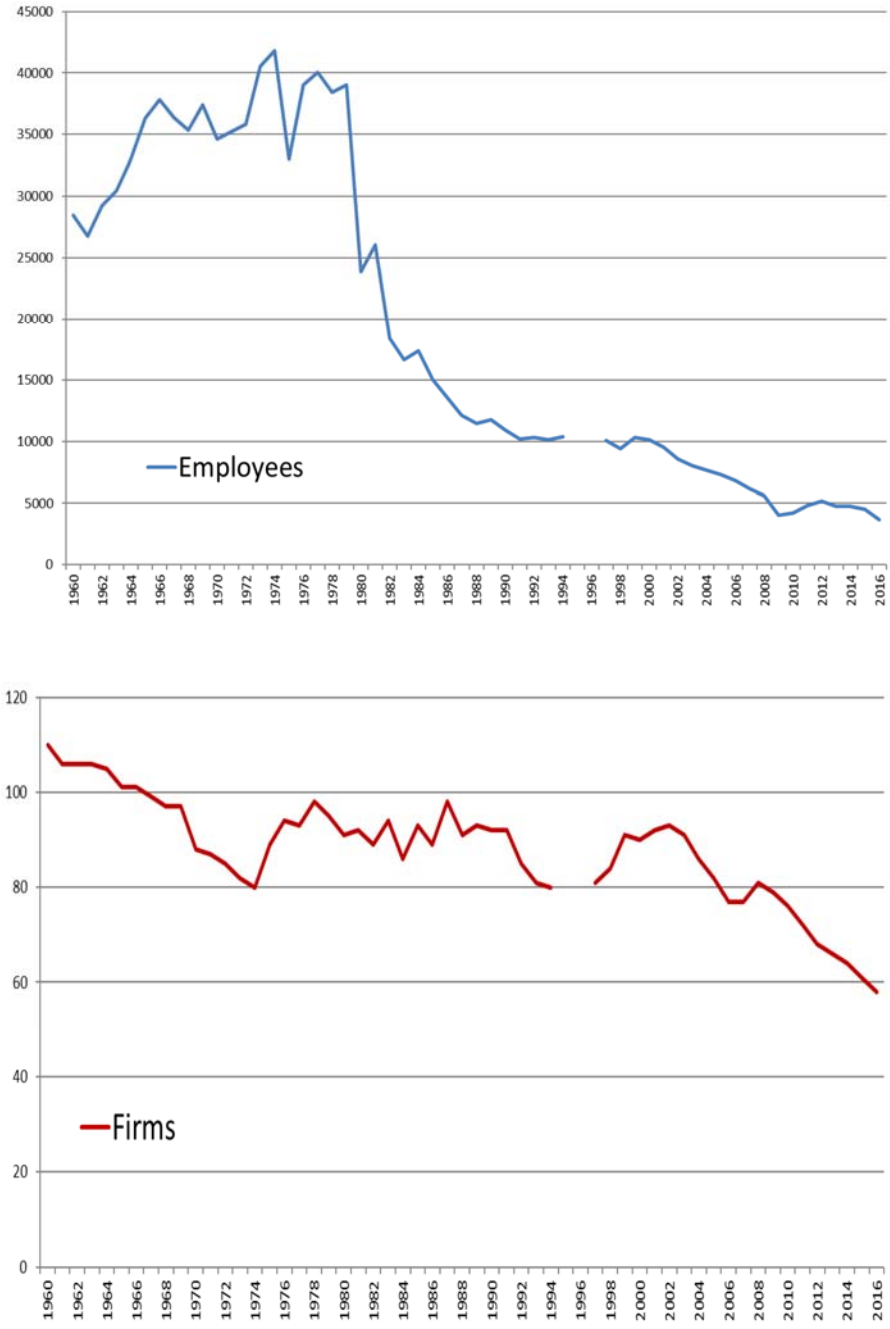
Industrial Hygiene Results-Silicosis

The 1,192 individuals with silicosis were exposed to silica in 491 facilities (Table 6). There were no silica-related inspections conducted in 2016. Since 1988, inspections were performed by MIOSHA at 89 (18.1%) of the 491 facilities associated with silicosis cases. One hundred fifty-seven (32.0%) facilities were no longer in operation, 70 (14.3%) were located out of state, 27 (5.5%) facilities no longer used silica, 74 (15.1%) workplaces were in the construction industry, eight (1.6%) were covered by the Mine Safety and Health Administration jurisdiction, and for 65 (13.2%), the specific location where the silica exposure occurred was unknown. There is one facility scheduled for inspection.

Air sampling for silica was conducted in 63 of the 89 facilities inspected (Table 7). Thirty-seven of 63 (58.7%) facilities were above the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) recommended exposure limit for silica. Twenty-three of the 63 (36.5%) were above the enforceable MIOSHA permissible exposure limit (PEL) for silica. Another two (3.2%) companies were above the MIOSHA standard for beryllium and one company was above the MIOSHA standard for silica and silver.

Only eight of the 71 (11.3%) facilities where the medical surveillance program was evaluated provided medical screening for silicosis for its workers that included a periodic chest x-ray interpreted by a "B" certified reader. Three (4.2%) companies provided periodic chest x-rays that were not interpreted by a "B" certified reader. Twenty-one (29.6%) only performed pre-employment testing, 27 (38.0%) provided no medical surveillance, and 18 (25.4%) performed annual or biennial pulmonary function testing without chest x-rays.

FIGURE 6
Michigan Ferrous Foundries 1960-2016:
Number of Employees and Number of Firms



Source: www.bls.gov data extract from Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Michigan, NAICS 33151 Ferrous Metal Foundries, Private ownership, all establishment sizes.

Industrial Hygiene Results-Silicosis

TABLE 6
Status of Facilities Where 1,192 Confirmed Silicosis Cases were Exposed to Silica: 1985-2016

	Cases	Facilities	
Inspection Status	#	#	%
Inspection Completed	493	89	18.1
Scheduled for Inspection	1	1	0.2
MSHA* Jurisdiction	20	8	1.6
Facility Out-of-Business	432	157	32.0
Facility Out-of-State	75	70	14.3
Facility No Longer Uses Silica	32	27	5.5
Building Trade: No Inspection	74	74	15.1
Unknown	65	65	13.2
Total	1,192	491**	100.0

*MSHA= Mine Safety and Health Administration.
**Four facilities are related to one silicosis case's work history.

TABLE 7
MIOSHA Inspections of 89 Facilities of Silicosis Cases Exposed to Silica: 1985-2016

	Companies	
	#	%
Air Sampling Performed	63	
Above NIOSH* Rec Std for Silica	37	58.7
Above MIOSHA Enforceable Std for Silica	23	36.5
Medical Surveillance Evaluated	71	
Periodic Chest X-Rays with a B Reader	8	11.3
Periodic Chest X-Rays without a B Reader	3	4.2
Pre-employment Testing Only	21	29.6
No Medical Surveillance	27	38.0
Periodic Pulmonary Function Testing	18	25.4

*NIOSH National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health.

Sandblasting-Silicosis

Three hundred twenty of the 887 individuals for whom sandblasting history was known (36.1%) stated they had done sandblasting as part of their work.

New Silica Standard

The new silica standard was promulgated on June 23, 2016. The following details the key elements of the new standard.

Key Provisions of the new OSHA Silica standard
https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3683.pdf

- Reduces the permissible exposure limit (PEL) for respirable crystalline silica to 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air, averaged over an 8-hour shift.
- Requires employers to: use engineering controls (such as water or ventilation) to limit worker exposure to the PEL; provide respirators when engineering controls cannot adequately limit exposure; limit worker access to high exposure areas; develop a written exposure control plan, offer medical exams to highly exposed workers, and train workers on silica risks and how to limit exposures.
- Provides medical exams to monitor highly exposed workers and gives them information about their lung health.

Compliance Schedule

Construction -
Fact sheet http://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/lara_miosha_part690_553349_7.pdf
Employers are required to comply with all obligations of the standard including medical examinations (except methods of sample analysis) by June 23, 2017.

General Industry and Maritime -
Fact sheet http://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/lara_miosha_part590_553335_7.pdf

- Employers are required to comply with all obligations of the standard, with the exception of the action level trigger for medical surveillance, by June 23, 2018.
- Employers are required to offer medical examinations to employees exposed above the PEL for 30 or more days a year beginning on June 23, 2018.

New Silica Standard, continued

General Industry and Maritime, continued -

- Employers are required to offer medical examinations to employees exposed at or above the action level for 30 or more days a year beginning June 23, 2020.

Hydraulic Fracturing

- Employers are required to comply with all obligations of the standard, except for engineering controls and the action level trigger for medical surveillance, by June 23, 2018, except Engineering Controls, which have a compliance date of June 23, 2021.
- Employers are required to comply with requirements for engineering controls to limit exposures to the new PEL by June 23, 2021. From June 23, 2018 through June 23, 2021, employers can continue to have employees wear respirators if their exposures exceed the PEL.
- Employers are required to offer medical examinations to employees exposed above the PEL for 30 or more days beginning June 23, 2018.
- Employers are required to offer medical examinations to employees exposed at or above the action level for 30 or more days a year beginning June 23, 2020.

Content of Medical Examination - Appendix B – Medical Surveillance Guidelines http://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/lara_miosha_part690_553349_7.pdf

- Medical and work history, with emphasis on: past, present, and anticipated exposure to respirable crystalline silica, dust, and other agents affecting the respiratory system; any history of respiratory system dysfunction, including signs and symptoms of respiratory disease (e.g., shortness of breath, cough, wheezing); history of TB; and smoking status and history.
- Physical examination, with special emphasis on the respiratory system - Initial examination and every three years.
- TB testing - Initial examination.
- Spirometry - Initial examination and every three years. Must be administered by a spirometry technician with a current certificate from a NIOSH approved course.
- PA radiograph of the chest at full inspiration - Initial examination and every three years. Must be interpreted and classified according to the ILO International Classification of Radiographs by a NIOSH-certified B Reader.
- Additional testing the provider deems appropriate.

Requirements on Reporting Results of Medical Examination

Written medical report to employee within 30 days must include:

- The results of the medical examination, including any medical condition(s) that would place the employee at increased risk of material impairment to health from exposure to respirable crystalline silica and any medical conditions that require further evaluation or treatment;
- Any recommended limitations upon the use of a respirator;
- Any recommended limitations on exposure to respirable crystalline silica;
- A statement that the employee should be examined by a Board Certified Specialist in Pulmonary Disease or Occupational Medicine, where the B reading is 1/0 or higher for rounded opacities or where the PLHCP has determined such a referral is necessary.

Written medical report to employer within 30 days must include:

- Date of the examination;
- A statement that the examination has met the requirements of this section; and
- Any recommended limitations on the employee's use of a respirator.

Asbestos-Related Lung Disease and Mesothelioma

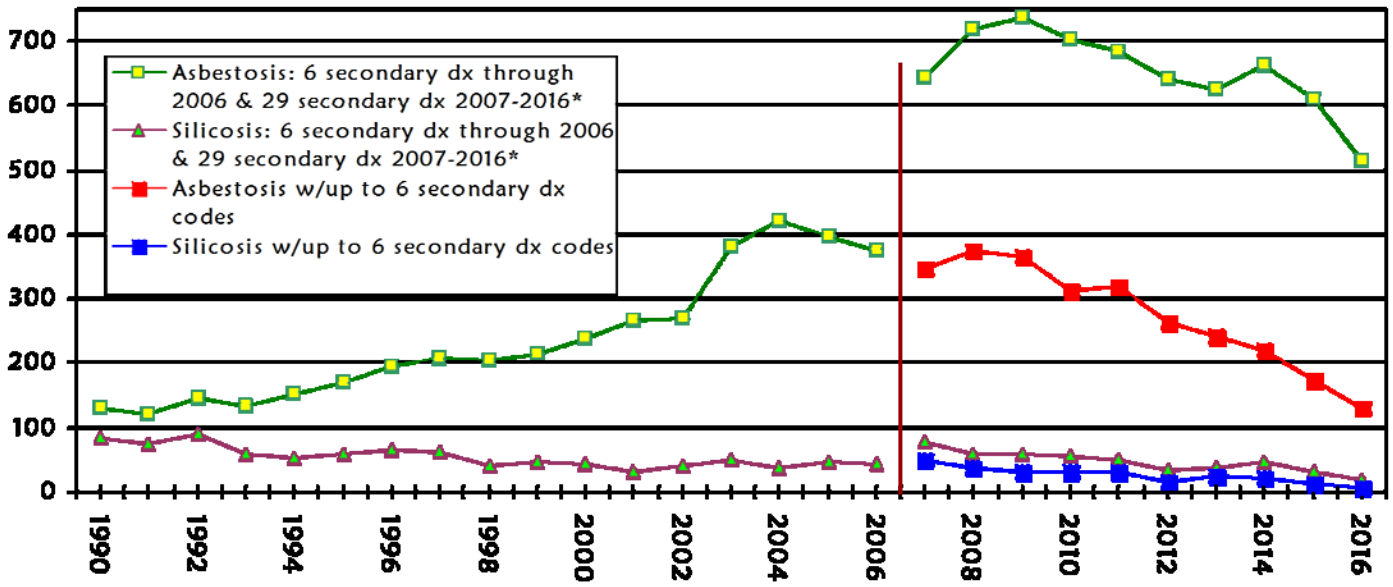
The following section reports the results of **asbestos-related lung disease and mesothelioma**.

Figure 7 shows the number of individuals hospitalized in Michigan with asbestosis and silicosis from 1990 to 2016. Repeat admissions of the same individual within each calendar year are excluded from these counts of inpatient Hospital Discharge Data (HDC). For most of these patients, pneumoconiosis was not the primary discharge diagnosis listed on the discharge record. From 1993 to 2006, there has been a steady increase in the number of hospitalizations for asbestosis; from 2007-2016 the large increase in reports is due to the availability of additional secondary discharge diagnosis codes from up to six secondary codes through 2006 to up to 29 secondary diagnosis codes beginning in 2007 (Figure 7). The horizontal red line in Figure 7 for 2007 - 2016 shows that the number of asbestosis cases would have decreased if only up to six secondary discharge diagnoses had continued to be used.

Regulations to control asbestos exposure were not promulgated until the early 1970s and were not widely implemented until the 1980s. Given the 25-year or greater latency period from the time of first exposure to the development of asbestos-related radiographic changes, the cases being identified now represent exposures from these earlier less-regulated years. The trend we are seeing in Michigan is consistent with national data published by NIOSH through 2014. [4]

Payment source from the Michigan Health and Hospital Association (MHA) is the source of data displayed in Figure 8. Medicare is the primary payment source for hospitalizations for these dust diseases of the lung. WC insurance is very rarely the source of payment, which is consistent with previous reports in both Michigan and New Jersey that the majority of patients with pneumoconiosis never apply for WC insurance. [1,5] It should be noted that if the anticipated payment source was initially Workers' Compensation but then changed to a non-work-related payment source, the record in the MHA file would still indicate the initial source after the patient was discharged, or vice-versa. Again, for this discharge data of payment source, there is increased availability of secondary discharge diagnosis codes since 2007.

FIGURE 7
Hospital Discharges of Inpatients with Asbestosis & Silicosis in Michigan: 1990 - 2006 & 2007 - 2016*

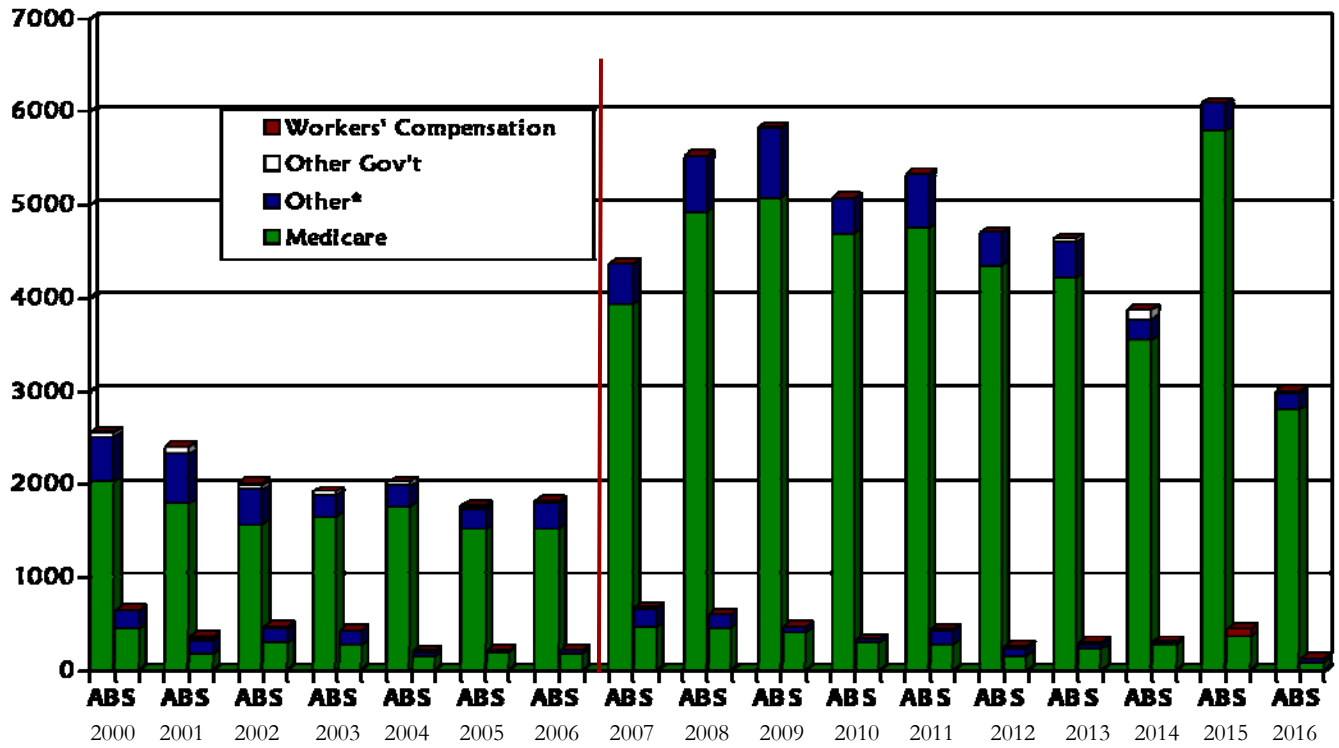


In addition to identifying asbestos-related disease from HDC inpatient data, occupational disease reports submitted to LARA constitute another large source of reports. In fact, asbestos-related lung disease is the most common dust disease reported to LARA (Figure 9), through individual physicians certified as B-Readers, death certificates and the Michigan Courts. The newer OLDS surveillance initiative is yet another source of reports on patients with asbestos-related lung disease (see page 17). In 2016, for example, 75 cases of asbestos-related lung disease were identified through physician review of medical records, death certificates or hospital records. Some of these patients reported may overlap with those reported in the HDC data (Figure 7). The total number of asbestos-related cases would therefore be less than the combined total of HDC cases (Figure 7) along with the cases reported directly to LARA (Figure 9 and Table 8) as this may or may not overlap as they each represent a different way to obtain a count of asbestos-related disease from these three different sources.

B-READER SURVEY

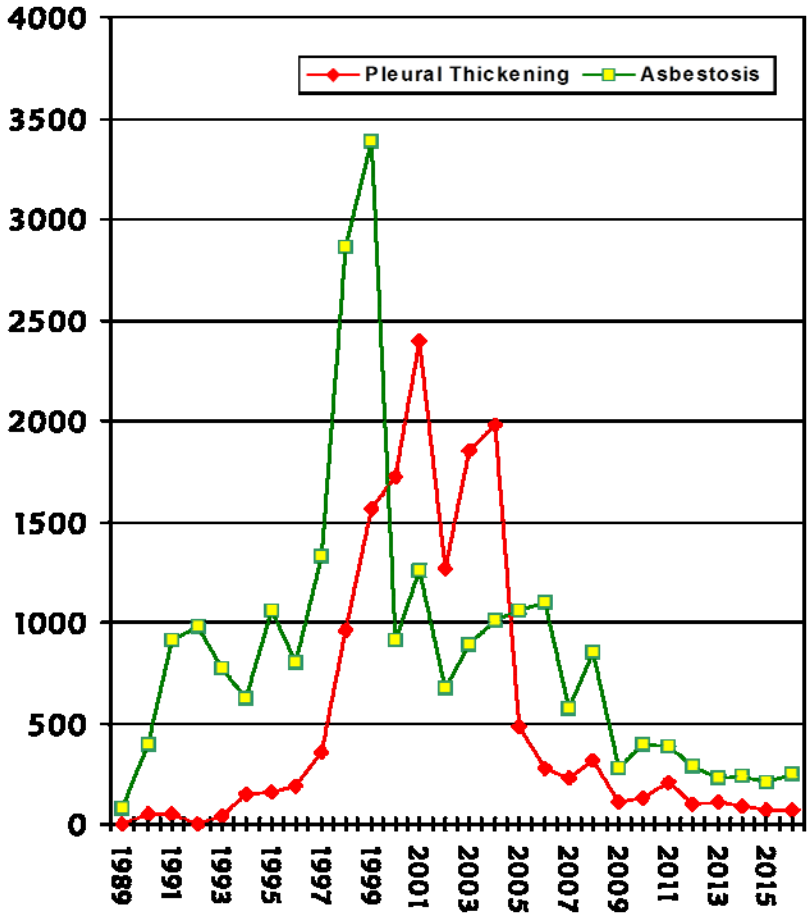
In 1995, there were 16 B-readers in Michigan. In 2015, there were only six physicians in Michigan who are certified as B-readers; in 2017, there are only five. Table 8 shows the number of B-readers, chest x-rays that were reviewed, and x-rays that showed evidence of asbestos-related lung disease, with pleural and parenchymal changes separately and combined. Since 1995, about 20% of the x-rays reviewed showed evidence of occupational disease, ranging from a low of 110 (3%) of 3,572 x-rays reviewed in calendar year 2015, to a high of 3,640 (34%) of 10,575 x-rays reviewed in calendar year 1999. The downward change in percentages over time may represent a decreased incidence of radiographic changes and/or a change in the source of reports (more radiographs being interpreted from current rather than retired workers). Table 8 is based on an annual survey that the B-readers in Michigan complete. The numbers of reports listed in the survey are greater than the number of occupational disease reports received from B-readers.

FIGURE 8
Days Hospitalized by Payment Source at Discharge for Asbestosis & Silicosis in Michigan: 2000-2006 & 2007-2016**



*Other includes: Medicaid, HMOs, PPOs, Other Insurance, Self-Pay and No-Charge payment sources. AB–=Asbestosis, S=Silicosis.

FIGURE 9 Asbestos-Related Cases Reported from B-Readers, Death Certificates and the 3rd Judicial Court: 1989-2016



Mesothelioma

The association between exposure to asbestos and the risk of developing mesothelioma was first reported in the medical literature in 1943. [6] The only other exposure associated with the risk of developing mesothelioma has been the therapeutic, not diagnostic, use of x-rays. The percentage of patients with mesothelioma who have a history of occupational asbestos exposure is lower in studies that are based on review of medical records compared to studies based on a complete work history where 90% of mesothelioma has been attributed to asbestos exposure. [7] Among cohorts of asbestos-exposed workers, up to 10% of deaths have been attributed to mesothelioma.

The Michigan Cancer Registry collects data on the demographics of mesothelioma in Michigan. From 2000 through 2014, there were 1,789 Michigan residents reported to the Michigan Cancer Registry with invasive mesothelioma.

TABLE 8
Results of Annual Survey* of B-Readers in Michigan: 1995-2017

YEAR	# B- Readers	Pleural Changes Only	Parenchymal Changes- W/ & W/out Pleural Changes	Pleural or Parenchymal Changes	Total X-Rays Reviewed	% of Total w/ any Changes
1995	16	--	--	1,406	8,165	17
1996	16	--	--	837	4,825	17
1997	16	446	522	968	6,652	15
1998	16	--	--	3,111	--	--
1999	18	1,045	2,595	3,640	10,575	34
2000	16	532	297	829	10,591	8
2001	17	1,211	1,316	2,527	11,149	23
2002	16	683	905	1.588	7,189	22
2003	11	1,440	1,289	2,729	10,589	26
2004	--	--	--	--	--	--
2005	9	502	343	845	3,060	28
2006	10	391	127	518	5,382	10
2007	9	201	130	331	3,661	9
2008	10	337	320	657	4,757	14
2009	9	247	66	313	4,170	8
2010	6	202	45	247	2,804	9
2011	6	183	46	229	2,862	8
2012	6	139	52	191	4,419	4
2013	6	130	46	176	2,802	6
2014	6	127	56	183	3,765	5
2015	6	67	43	110	3,572	3
2016	5	112	39	151	2,247	7
2017	5	75	28	103	2,600	4

*Actual chest radiograph interpretations were not submitted with the surveys.

Mesothelioma, continued

Figure 10 shows the number of men and women diagnosed with mesothelioma by year, from 1985 to 2014. Overall, approximately one quarter of the reports of mesothelioma occurred in women. In 2014, 24% of the 121 cases were women. Mesothelioma occurred predominantly among Caucasians (93.5%) compared to African Americans (5.6%). Approximately 1% were classified as "other" ancestry. In 2014, of the 78 new cases where race was known, 92% were Caucasian and 8% were African American.

Figure 11 shows the age at diagnosis separately for men and women. The peak age of occurrence of mesothelioma was for individuals 65 years and older for both men and women.

Figure 12 shows the distribution of the number of cases of mesothelioma among Michigan residents by county. The southeast and central region of Michigan has the highest number of cases of mesothelioma. Figure 13 shows the average annual incidence rates of mesothelioma among Michigan residents by county. The counties with the highest rates are: Marquette (2.3 per 100,000); Bay (2.2 per 100,000); Midland (1.9 per 100,000); Muskegon and St. Clair (each with 1.8 per 100,000); and Van Buren and Saginaw (each with 1.6 per 100,000). The annual average mesothelioma incidence rate for 2000-2014 in Michigan was 1.1 cases per 100,000.

FIGURE 10
Number of Men and Women in Michigan Diagnosed with Mesothelioma: 1985-2014

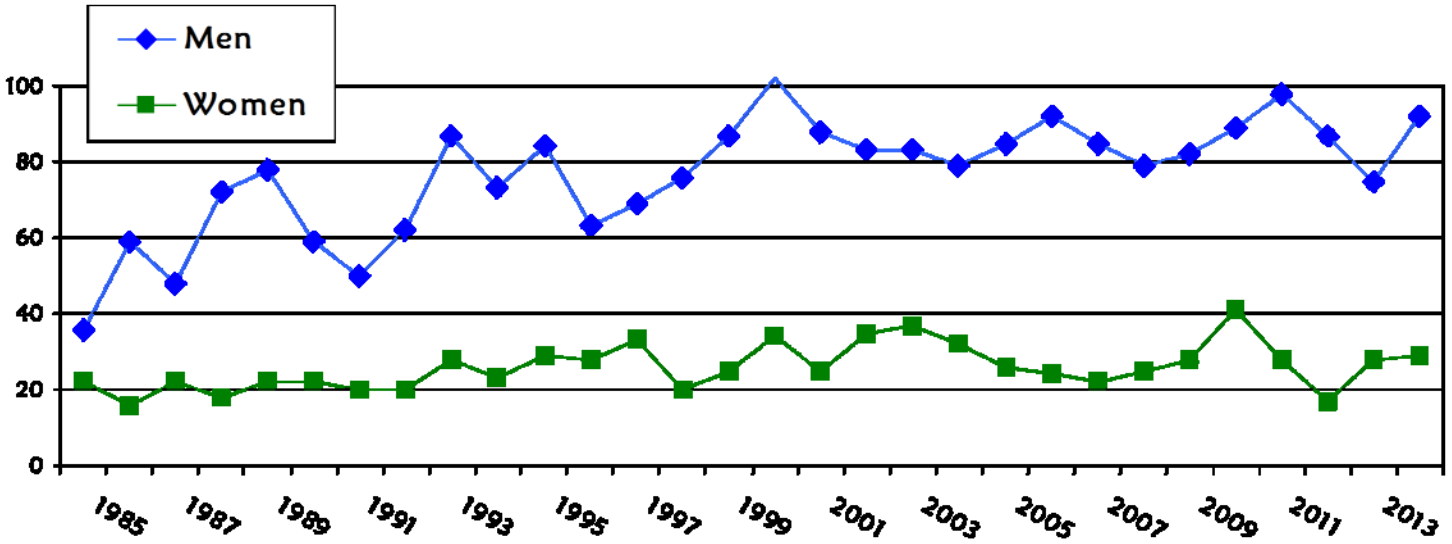


FIGURE 11
Cases of Mesothelioma in Michigan by Gender and Age at Diagnosis: 1985-2014

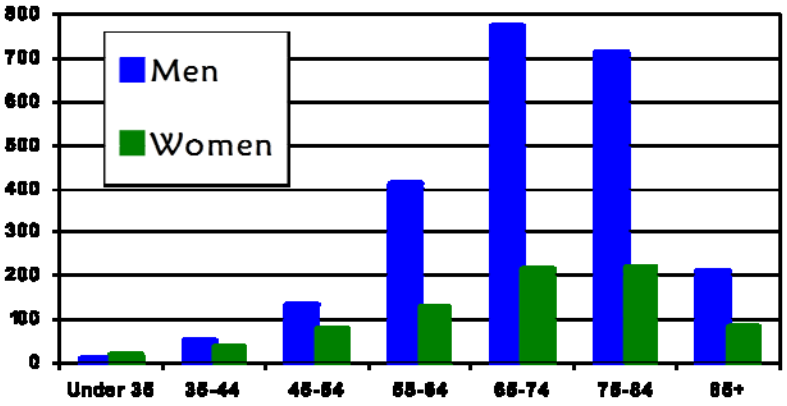


FIGURE 12

Distribution of MI Residents Diagnosed with Mesothelioma by County: 2000-2014

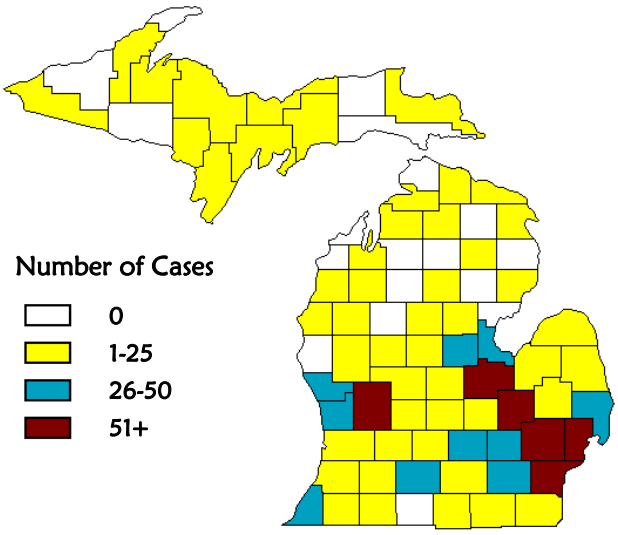
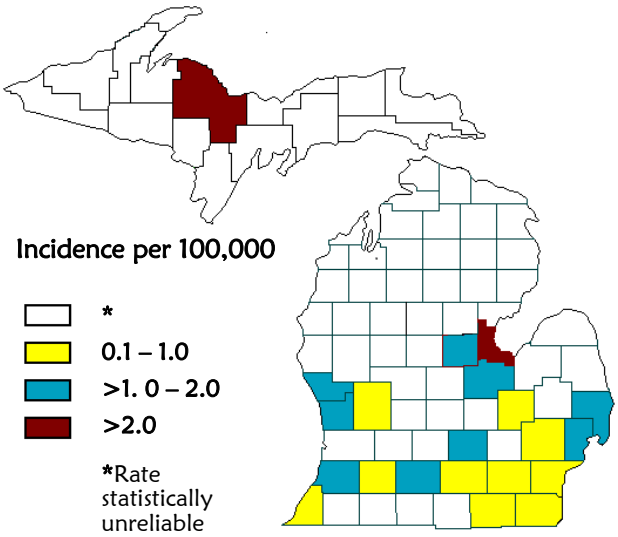


FIGURE 13

Age-Adjusted Incidence Rates of Mesothelioma Among MI Residents, by County: 2000-2014



Other Work-Related Lung Diseases

2011 was the first year of data collection for other work-related lung diseases (OLDS). Other lung diseases from exposures in the workplace include breathing problems that are not necessarily chronic in nature, in addition to those that are chronic. Conditions that we have identified since beginning OLDS surveillance include acute conditions such as chemical irritation/ irritative bronchitis where an acute exposure results in a health provider visit and limited treatment, with resolution of symptoms. Other conditions covered include smoke inhalation from fires or burning material, infectious agents from exposures at work, and chemical pneumonitis. Chronic conditions are also included in this grouping, with other pneumoconioses, hard metal lung disease and coal workers' pneumoconiosis. A physician board-certified in internal and occupational/environmental medicine reviews all medical records to determine first, whether the condition is work-related and secondly, the nature of the illness and classification into general categories of disease. In cases where the work-relatedness of the exposure is unclear, additional medical records may be obtained and/or a patient interview completed. In future years of OLDS surveillance, we expect to identify additional categories of OLDS as we expand our efforts to identify the best reporting sources for these conditions.

Table 9 shows the distribution of diseases reported by year since surveillance for OLDS began in 2011. Over all the years, chemical irritation/irritative bronchitis and chemical pneumonitis were the most common conditions. Each year varies slightly in the types of conditions reported, in part related to the reporting sources within a given year. In 2011 and 2012, hospitals and Workers' Compensation reported 72% of the 139 cases, and 68% of the 191 cases, respectively. In 2013 and 2014, the Poison Control Center and hospitals reported 69% of the 162 cases, and 63% of the 150 cases, respectively. In 2015, hospitals reported 59% of the 167 cases, followed by Workers' Compensation reporting 16% of the cases.

The following statistics are based on the 316 cases of other lung diseases confirmed from 2016.

Similar to delays in reporting cases of silicosis, OLDS reports are incomplete from delays in hospital reporting. Table 10 shows the primary reporting source of the 316 persons confirmed with OLDS in 2016. In 2016, the Poison Control Center reported 34% of the 316 cases, hospitals reported 28% of the cases, death certificates accounted for 22% of the cases, Workers' Compensation reported 12% of the cases, physicians reported 3% of the cases and laboratories reported 1% of the cases.

TABLE 9
Other Work-Related Lung Diseases Reported 2011-2016

	YEAR REPORTED											
	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
DISEASE	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Chemical Irritation/Irritative Bronchitis	63	45	80	42	104	64	84	56	94	56	166	53
Chemical Pneumonitis	10	7	20	10	19	12	11	7	10	6	9	3
Asbestos-Related	0	—	17	9	2	1	8	5	9	5	75	24
Smoke Inhalation	13	9	11	6	3	2	7	5	5	3	3	1
COPD	5	4	3	2	1	<1	3	2	14	8	13	4
Silo-Related Disease	0	—	1	<1	1	<1	2	1	0	—	0	—
Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome	1	1	0	—	0	—	1	<1	0	—	0	—
Allergies/Allergic Rhinitis	2	1	10	5	2	1	1	<1	1	1	3	1
Hard Metal Lung Disease	1	1	2	1	3	2	1	<1	2	1	2	1
Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis	5	4	3	2	2	1	1	<1	7	4	7	2
Infectious Agent	4	3	10	5	3	2	1	<1	2	1	2	1
Metal Fume Fever	0	—	0	—	0	—	1	<1	0	—	1	<1
Sinus– related	0	—	0	—	0	—	1	<1	0	—	1	<1
Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis	1	1	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—
Other Pneumoconiosis	2	1	2	1	0	—	0	—	0	—	1	<1
Lung Trauma	2	1	0	—	0	—	0	—	1	1	3	1
Respiratory Bronchiolitis	1	1	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—
Lung Cancer	0	—	1	<1	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—
Pneumothorax	0	—	1	<1	0	—	0	—	0	—	1	<1
Pulmonary Embolism	1	1	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—
Beryllium Lung Disease	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—	3	2	1	<1
Vocal Cord Dysfunction	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—	1	1	0	—
Respiratory Illness NOS	28	20	30	16	22	14	28	19	18	11	28	9
TOTAL	139	100	191	100	162	100	150	100	167	100	316	100

Other Work-Related Lung Disease Categories Reported in 2016

One hundred sixty-six of the OLDS cases were classified as chemical irritation/irritative bronchitis, 75 had asbestos-related disease, 13 had COPD, 9 had chemical pneumonitis, seven had hypersensitivity pneumonitis, three each had smoke inhalation, allergies or lung trauma, two each had an infectious agent or hard metal lung disease, and one each had metal fume fever, a sinus-related illness, another pneumoconiosis, a pneumothorax, or beryllium lung disease. An additional 28 had definite work-related respiratory illness that could not be classified more specifically (Table 9).

The following case narratives describe some exposures and symptoms related to the OLDS cases reported in 2016:

Chemical Irritation: (1) An asphalt worker in his 20s was exposed to gasoline. He was a current cigarette smoker. (2) A woman in her 40s was a bus driver for a transportation company. She was exposed to diesel exhaust. She was a life-long non-smoker. She was prescribed prednisone for her cough. (3) A female in her 40s who worked for a temporary agency was exposed to chemicals after assignment to the sterile processing unit at a hospital. She developed a cough. (4) A self-employed male in his 30s developed dyspnea and chest tightness from welding and sanding activities related to construction work. **Metal Fume Fever:** (1) A female in her 20s worked as a spot welder. She did not wear a mask. She was a non-smoker. **Irritative Bronchitis:** (1) A male in his 30s worked for a garbage collection company. He was exposed to smoke from a fire in the garbage the truck was hauling, as well as fumes from the fire extinguisher. **Chemical Pneumonitis:** (1) A female in her 50s mixed bleach and ammonia– based cleaner, which produced chlorine gas. She was a cigarette smoker. **COPD:** A retired male in his 80s developed COPD from his former work doing repairing and painting of vehicles. He did not wear a respirator. He was an ex-smoker.

TABLE 10
Reporting Source for OLDS Cases: 2016

REPORTING SOURCE	#	%
Poison Control Ctr	108	34
Hospital	89	28
Workers' Comp	37	12
Physician Report	11	3
Laboratory	2	1
Death Certificate	69	22
TOTAL	**316**	**100**

TABLE 11
Primary Industrial Exposure for OLDS Cases Reported in 2016

2002 North American Industry		#	%
11	Ag, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	3	1
21	Mining	3	1
22	Utilities	2	1
23	Construction	28	9
31-33	Manufacturing	93	29
44-45	Retail Trade	6	2
48-49	Transportation & Warehousing	7	2
51	Information	0	—
52	Finance & Insurance	1	<1
56	Administrative & Support & Waste Management & Remediation Services	7	2
61	Educational Services	5	2
62	Health Care & Social Assistance	12	4
71	Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	5	2
72	Accommodation & Food Services	9	3
81	Auto Repair, Dry Cleaning, etc	7	2
92	Public Administration	11	3
00	Unknown	117	37
TOTAL		**316**	**100**

Demographic Characteristics

Two hundred twenty-two (70%) of the persons with OLDS were men; the other 94 (30%) were women. The average age of the OLDS cases was 50, ranging from 16 to 100 years of age.

Smoking Status

Forty-six (51%) of the 91 OLDS cases with known smoking status were current or ever smokers and 45 (49%) individuals had never smoked cigarettes. There were 225 cases with unknown smoking status.

Type of Industry

Table 11 shows the primary type of industry where exposure occurred among the OLDS cases. The predominant industry where individuals were exposed was manufacturing with 93 cases (29%), followed by 28 cases (9%) in construction, 12 (4%) in health care and 11 (3%) in public administration.

MIOSHA Inspections-Industrial Hygiene Results

The 316 individuals with OLDS worked at 299 different facilities. There were no inspections for other lung diseases in 2016.

Discussion

The main characteristics of the individuals reported during Michigan's 28+ years of silicosis surveillance are that they are elderly men who mainly worked in foundries in three counties. The age distribution is similar to that reported in the 1950s.[8] The older age of the patient (average year of birth, 1924) is secondary to the chronic nature of the disease and the typical long exposure to silica required to develop the disease (average 27 years of exposure to silica). However, we continue to receive reports of individuals with short-term exposure, who began work in the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s and two in the 2000s. Overall, 97 (8.7%) of 1,114 silicosis cases with known duration worked for less than 10 years (data not shown). One hundred sixteen (10.4%) of the 1,116 individuals with known decade of hire began work in the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s or 2000s; 29 of them had worked for less than ten years. Individuals with silicosis who began working since the 1970s were more likely to have done sandblasting than those who began working with silica before 1970 (51% vs. 34%). Of the 31 people who first were exposed to silica since the 1980s, five worked in foundries, four worked in auto manufacturing, three did cement/masonry work, two were buffing and pol-

Discussion, continued

ishing metal, two worked in auto repair, two worked at a tool and die shop, one worked in mineral processing, one worked in a dental laboratory, one was a heavy equipment operator who did excavating, one was a painter, one was a painter/sandblaster, one worked as a miner in gold fields in the Southwest, one welded, one was in construction, one worked in a boiler fabrication shop, one worked for a small sandpaper manufacturing operation, one was an oiler in an iron ore mine, one worked at a bronze foundry, and one was a plumber.

African American men are over-represented (38%), reflecting previous hiring practices in foundries.[9] African American workers consistently had higher incidence rates of silicosis than their white counterparts in the counties where rates were compared between these groups (Table 4). Overall for the state, the average annual incidence of silicosis among African American workers was 6.8 per 100,000 versus 1.4 per 100,000 for white workers (a 4.9-fold greater incidence rate).

The individuals reported generally have advanced disease: 280 (23.5%) with progressive massive fibrosis and another 419 (35.2%) with advanced simple silicosis (category 2 or 3). Approximately two-thirds of the reported patients have reduced breathing tests, including both restrictive and obstructive changes. Obstructive changes, although more prevalent among individuals who had smoked cigarettes, were found in half of the individuals who never smoked cigarettes (Table 3). Twenty-one percent have had tuberculosis (TB) or a positive skin test indicating infection with the mycobacterium that causes TB. Despite the severity of their disease, 62% had not applied for Workers' Compensation.

The reports of Michigan silicotics having obstructive lung changes is consistent with published reports of increased chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) among silicotics, as well as among individuals without silicosis who have had silica exposure.[10] Individuals with silicosis are at risk of developing pulmonary hypertension, clinically significant bronchitis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.[11]

Hospitals are the primary reporting source of the patients identified through Michigan's surveillance system. Hospital discharge reporting is a more cost-effective method for identifying silica problem worksites than physician reporting, death certificates or Workers' Compensation data.[12] A comprehensive surveillance system for silicosis that combines all four reporting sources is as good, if not better, return for public health dollars invested as most other existing public health programs.[12]

Silicotics have an increased morbidity and mortality for malignant and non-malignant respiratory disease.[1,13] The increased risk for death is found both in patients who ever or never smoked cigarettes.[1] Individuals with silicosis also have an increased risk of developing connective tissue disease, particularly rheumatoid arthritis [14,15] as well as an increased risk of developing chronic renal disease, especially anti-neutrophilic cytoplasmic antibodies (ANCA) positive disease.[16,17,18]

The national employer-based surveillance system was not designed to count chronic diseases such as silicosis. We have previously estimated that there were 3,600 to 7,300 newly diagnosed cases of silicosis each year in the United States from 1987–1996.[2] Using the same methodology for the time period 1997–2003 we estimate there were 5,586–11,674 newly diagnosed cases of silicosis per year in the United States. Using an alternative approach with hospital discharge data we estimate there were 1,372–2,867 newly diagnosed cases of silicosis per year in the United States. Although the estimate based on death certificates is approximately four-fold greater than the one based on hospital discharge data, we believe that the true number of new cases of silicosis is closer to these larger estimates than using the actual number of death certificates that mention silicosis (~150 per year) or the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimate based on employer reporting, which in 1999 reported only 2,200 cases for all dust diseases of the lung, including asbestosis and coal worker's pneumoconiosis in addition to silicosis.

Industrial hygiene inspections reveal violations of the exposure standard for silica in 37% of the facilities where sampling was done. However, follow-up inspections of these same companies have shown a significant decrease in silica exposures. Companies not in compliance with the silica standard are requiring their workers to use powered air-purifying respirators or air-line respirators. However, because of an inadequate or absent medical surveillance program in 89% of the facilities, there is no way to monitor the adequacy of these controls in terms of health outcomes.

Discussion, continued

Silicosis remains an ongoing problem in Michigan with former foundry workers continuing to develop severe disease. Michigan workers continue to be at risk of developing silicosis because of continued use of silica among abrasive blasters and inadequate controls in the construction industry, at foundries currently in operation, as well as in emerging industries with silica exposure including hydraulic fracturing [19] and engineered stone countertop fabrication. [20] Even without the development of silicosis, silica exposure is a risk factor for the development of lung cancer, connective tissue disease, tuberculosis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).[10,13,21] These risks justify tighter workplace controls for silica even if the number of new cases of silicosis continues to decline.

Michigan OSHA has promulgated a new comprehensive standard for silica that includes a lower allowable level of silica in the air, worker education and medical surveillance. The standard is needed despite a decreasing trend of silicosis cases identified in Michigan, since this trend is more likely a product of more automated work practices with a smaller number of workers at risk than safer workplaces. The major decrease in cases of silicosis in Michigan can be attributed to the decrease in the number of foundry workers. There was a 75% decrease of foundry workers from 1973 to 1991 (Figure 6) and an 83% decrease in reported cases of silicosis from 1993 to 2011, factoring in a 20-year latency period for the development of silicosis. Additionally, the number of abrasive blasting companies using silica decreased 71% from 1995 to 2011 (2011 Annual Report—Tracking Silicosis and Other Work-Related Diseases in Michigan).

We are optimistic about the downward trend in reported silicosis cases but remain concerned about ongoing silica exposure and the increased risk of lung cancer, COPD, connective tissue disease, and kidney disease associated with silica exposure. The promulgated comprehensive silica standard will be helpful in the foundry industry as well as for newer exposures in highway reconstruction, engineered stone countertop fabrication and hydraulic fracturing; it is too soon to see any ill health effects of these newer silica exposure sources. The new silica regulations require medical examinations beginning June 23, 2017 in Construction regardless of measured air levels and in 2018 in General Industry if the silica air level is above the permissible exposure limit (PEL) and in 2020 if the silica level is at or above the PEL.

Asbestos-related disease, both malignant and non-malignant, is the single most commonly diagnosed occupational lung disease. Asbestos-related disease is tracked from a variety of reporting sources in Michigan, including hospital inpatient discharge data, the 3rd Judicial Circuit Court, B-Readers and other physicians, death certificates, and an annual survey of Michigan B-Readers.

Targeting smoking cessation programs to individuals who work or used to work with asbestos should be a high priority. Guidelines for lung cancer screening from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommend low-dose CT scans for adults 55 to 80 years of age who have a 30-pack-year cigarette smoking history and currently smoke or quit smoking less than 15 years prior. The guidelines do not mention asbestos exposure as a criteria. Given the known synergism between cigarettes and asbestos in increasing the risk of lung cancer for either exposure alone, supports screening individuals 50 to 80 with 20 years of asbestos exposure who ever smoked cigarettes regardless of whether they quit. For more information on the background for including asbestosis and asbestos exposure history in the determination for performing screening for lung cancer, see the PS News Summer 2015 newsletter (V26N3) at: www.oem.msu.edu. Similar data for silicosis and silica exposure is not available, but such screening should also be considered for these individuals.

The sixth year of OLDS surveillance resulted in the identification of a variety of respiratory illnesses from workplace exposures. Future surveillance of OLDS cases will continue to identify workplaces where MI-OSHA inspections are warranted. Other activities will focus on characterizing the nature and extent of the OLDS cases, and the identification of areas where education could benefit individuals who develop OLDS and to help prevent OLDS in others with similar workplaces and exposures.

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