

Now Hear This...

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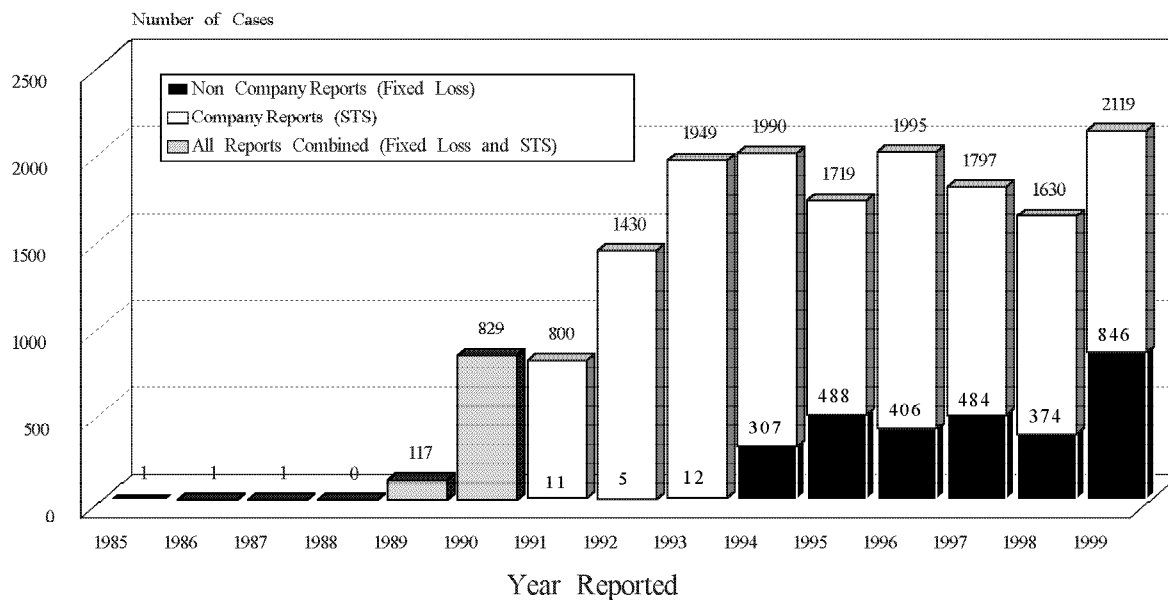
Summer 2000

Highlights from the 1999 Annual Report on Occupational Noise-Induced Hearing Loss in Michigan

In 1999, Michigan physicians and audiologists reported more than twice as many individuals with work-related noise-induced hearing loss than in 1998 (see figure below). We truly appreciate the Michigan otolaryngology and audiology community's commitment to protecting the hearing health of Michigan workers exposed to noise in their jobs. Remember, you can report a case by mailing in a report, calling 1-800-446-7805, sending a fax to 517-432-3606, or by sending an email to Rosenman@msu.edu.

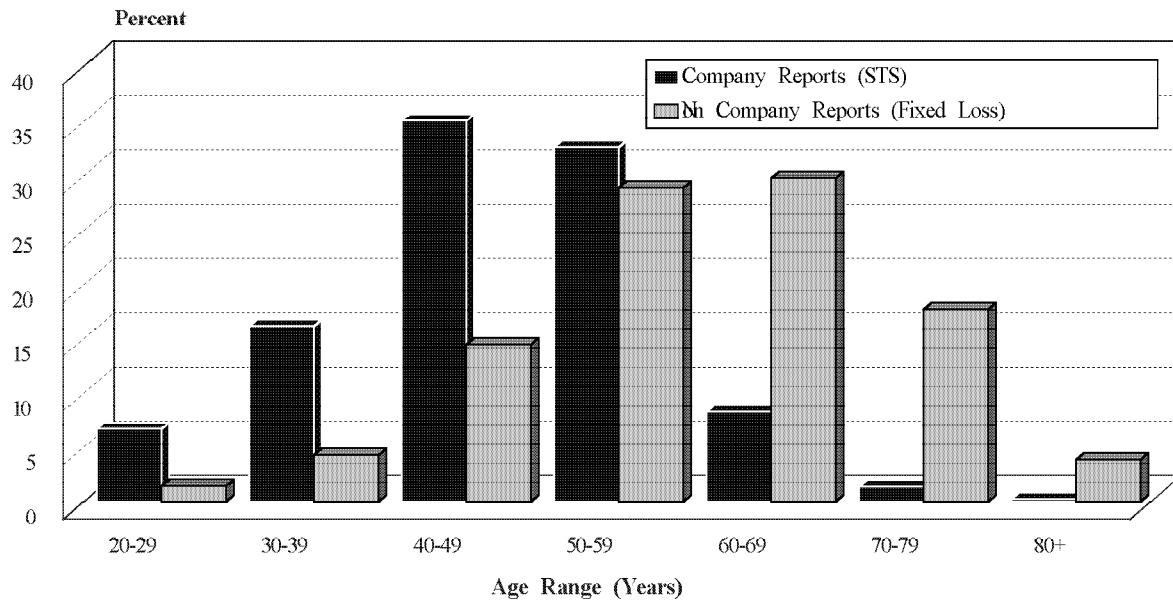
In addition to the 1999 Annual Report on Occupational Noise-Induced Hearing Loss in Michigan, four other annual reports were released this summer: Silicosis; Work-Related Asthma; Occupational Diseases; and Elevated Blood Lead Levels Among Adults. This edition of the Project SENSOR Newsletter, *Now Hear This*, contains a summary and selected tables from the Annual Report on Occupational NIHL. If you would like a copy of any of the reports, please visit our web site at: <http://www.chm.msu.edu/oem/index.htm>. Instructions on how to download the reports can be found at the web site. If you prefer, we will send you a printed copy. To request a printed copy of any of the reports, return the enclosed postage paid post card or call us at 1-800-446-7805.

All Company and Non-Company Patients with Noise-Induced Hearing Loss Reported to the Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services: 1985-1999



Many of the reports from non-company health care providers are for elderly patients who no longer work. We are very interested in receiving these reports because many times they identify workplaces without hearing conservation programs.

All Company and Non-Company Patients with Noise-Induced Hearing Loss Reported in 1999: Age Range* by Reporting Source



The Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration has announced they will be reviewing the hearing conservation standard for the construction industry. Construction companies are not required to have a comprehensive hearing conservation program for their employees like that which the manufacturing and service industries are required to have. This is reflected in the data shown below that construction workers such as those who use jackhammers or power saws are not being provided audiometric testing.

All Interviewed Patients with a Fixed Loss: Decade Last Worked and Status of Regular Hearing Testing at Most Recent Company Exposed to Noise, by Industry Type: Michigan 1992-1999

Industry	Decade Last Exposed to Noise and Percent Receiving Hearing Testing						
	1940s	1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000
Agriculture	0	0	50	0	14	10	0
Construction	--	0	0	12	14	16	20
Manufacturing	25	18	19	36	57	70	77
Service	--	--	0	0	13	38	67

Identification of patients with fixed hearing loss even when they are retired has identified companies that should have hearing conservation programs, but either lack a hearing conservation program or have a deficient program. The last column of the table below identifies the number of workers from the inspected workplaces who have benefitted because a health care provider has reported a patient with a work-related noise-induced hearing loss.

Eighty-one Companies Inspected Where the Patient Reported They Had Not Received Audiometric Testing: Michigan 1992-1999

Industry	Total Number of Inspections		HCP*		Citation Issued Re:HCP		Total # Employees Exposed to Noise
	#	%	#	%			
Construction	1	1.2	**		Deficient	--	--
					None	1	562
Manufacturing	59	72.8	37	62.7	Deficient	17	2,393
					None	11	1,416
Transportation	2	2.5	0	--			
Trade	7	8.6	1	14.3	Deficient	--	
					None	3	14
Services	8	9.9	5	62.5	Deficient	--	
					None	3	40
Government	4	4.9	3	75.0	Deficient	2	700***
					None	--	

* Hearing Conservation Program.

**Construction has separate regulations that require a less comprehensive program.

***Number of employees was unknown for one company.

If you would like help setting up an efficient, low-effort system to report known or suspected cases of work-related noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL), please call us at 1-800-446-7805. We can arrange for Connie Spak to meet with you to evaluate how a system can best be developed to report cases of work-related NIHL.



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Michigan Law Requires the Reporting of Known or Suspected Occupational NIHL

Reporting can be done by:

FAX (517) 432-3606

Telephone 1-800-446-7805

E-Mail Rosenman@msu.edu

Mail MDCIS Occ. Health Division
PO Box 30649
Lansing, MI 48909-8149

Suggested Criteria for Reporting Occupational NIHL

1. A history of significant exposure to noise at work; AND
2. A STS of 10dB or more in either ear at an average of 2000, 3000 & 4000 Hz.
OR
3. A fixed loss.*

*Suggested definitions: a 25dB or greater loss in either ear at an average of: 500, 1000 & 2000 Hz; or 1000, 2000 & 3000 Hz; or 3000, 4000 & 6000 Hz; or a 15dB or greater loss in either ear at an average of 3000 & 4000 Hz.

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