

# Occupational Health & Safety Surveillance

Promoting & Protecting the Health of Iowans

Division of Environmental Health

Phone: 1-800-972-2026

[www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/lead\\_poisoning\\_prevention.asp#occupational](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/lead_poisoning_prevention.asp#occupational)



What if your job involved daily close calls, dangerous situations, and potential death? You might think only James Bond has a job like that. However, many Iowans are injured or become ill each year from conditions on their jobs. In 2009, at least 78 workers died from traumatic injuries that occurred while they were at work in Iowa.

The Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance program tracks, analyzes, and reports work-related illness and injuries, work-related deaths, and cases of lead and pesticide poisoning. IDPH can give information to workers, employers, and other public health programs to promote and protect the health of Iowans in the future.

**Did you know?** In 2009, 46% of the 78 Iowa work-related deaths involved workers who were 55 years of age or older, compared to 31% for those 55 years of age or older across the entire U.S.

## Why is Occupational Health & Safety Surveillance important to promoting and protecting the health of Iowans?

- In 2009, the rate of reported work-related injury and illness in Iowa was 4.7 per 100 FTE (U.S. rate 3.6). 15,800 reported cases involved days away from work.
- Iowa had 694 adults (16 years of age or older) with at least one elevated blood lead level test (10 micrograms per deciliter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ ) or higher) in 2009. 185 adults had a blood lead level of 25  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  or higher. Most adult lead exposures in Iowa were related to work or hobby activities, including automotive radiator work, foundry work, battery manufacturing, stained glass installation and repair, indoor firing range exposures, and construction activities including renovation, rehab, and painting.
- From 2006 to 2008, over 39,000 Iowa adults reported that their current job caused their asthma or made it worse, but only 12% had talked about it with their medical provider.

## Which Iowa Public Health Goals are we working to achieve?

Protect against environmental hazards

Prevent epidemics & the spread of disease

Promote healthy behaviors

Prevent injuries

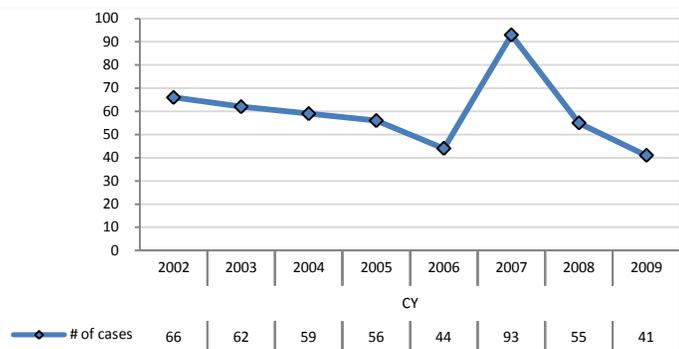
Strengthen the public health infrastructure

## What do we do?

- Carry out surveillance for 19 indicators of occupational safety and health and report the findings.
- Provide public health consultations for unusual cases of occupational injury and disease or when requested.
- Enable the work of the Iowa Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (IA-FACE) program, which investigates work-related deaths and develops fact sheets and recommendations that can help prevent similar fatalities. Track blood lead tests on adults 16 years or older and investigate levels that are 25  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  or higher for possible occupation, industry, or work-relatedness.
- Track reports of human pesticide exposures and create an annual report of pesticide poisoning cases
- Participate in public health program development to promote the inclusion of occupational health and safety issues.
- Work with other public health programs to provide data, recommendations, or resources relating to occupational health and safety issues.
- Provide information to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) pesticide registration program so safety labels can be strengthened and more protection can be provided for people who live and work in areas where pesticides are used.

## How do we measure our progress?

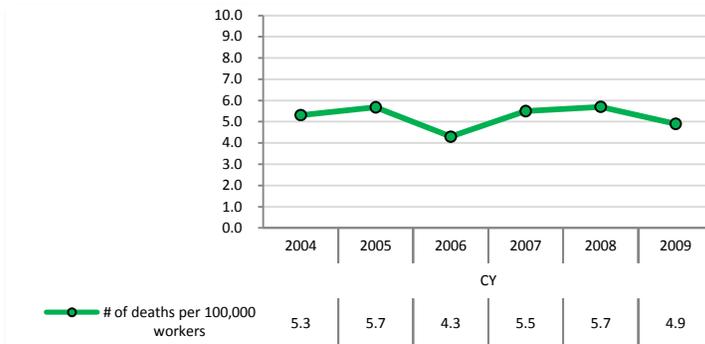
### 1 Annual number of pesticide associated illness and injury cases reported to poison control centers, for persons age 16 years or older - Iowa.



Data Source: NIOSH and the American Association of Poison Control Centers. Data are available annually.

**How are we doing?** Numbers of pesticide cases and the corresponding rates per employed persons continue to vary from year to year, somewhat due to reporting patterns. IDPH OHSSP Pesticide Surveillance is developing additional surveillance methods. Annual reports with in-depth information are available on the website.

### 2 Number of occupational fatalities per 100,000 employed Iowans ages 16 and older.



Data Source: Work-Related Fatal Injuries Program Data and U.S. Department of Labor. Preliminary data are available annually, with a 2-year delay for final data.

**How are we doing?** The rate of fatal workplace injuries decreased from 5.6 deaths per 100,000 workers (87 deaths) in 2000 to lower numbers in 2001-2003. The numbers increased again in 2008 to 5.7 per 100,000 workers (93 deaths). 2009 numbers dropped to 78 worker fatalities, with a rate of 4.9 per 100,000 workers, below the target rate of 5.0. Roadway transportation incidents accounted for 60% (47 of 78) of the work-related deaths in 2009.

## What can Iowans do to help?

1. All Iowans should be aware of the dangers of pesticides. Report all human pesticide exposures by calling the Iowa Statewide Poison Control Center at 1-800-972-2026. For more information, go to [www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/lead\\_poisoning\\_prevention.asp#pesticide](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/lead_poisoning_prevention.asp#pesticide).
2. Adults can be exposed to lead on the job or through hobbies. For more information, go to [www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/lead\\_poisoning\\_prevention.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/lead_poisoning_prevention.asp).
3. Iowa workplaces should adopt safety practices to prevent fatal injuries. For more information, go to [www.public-health.uiowa.edu/face/](http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/face/).

## Others working on similar issues

**Other IDPH bureaus, offices, or programs:** Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner, State Office of Rural Health, Bureau of Disability and Violence Prevention, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, Bureau of Family Health, Bureau of Lead Poisoning Prevention, Bureau of Environmental Health Services.

**Other organizations:** American Lung Association-IA, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), Iowa Workforce Development, Iowa State University, University of Iowa, U.S. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Funding sources

Federal funds: 0153-1708.

	FY2009 Actual	FY2010 Actual	FY2011 Estimate
Federal funds	\$289,361	\$338,016	\$291,873
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>\$289,361</b>	<b>\$338,016</b>	<b>\$291,873</b>
FTEs	1.06	1.78	1.70

**Note:** Funding information is intended to provide an overview of funding related to the program area. It does not include all federal and state requirements and/or restrictions for the use of funds. Contact the program area for more detailed budget information.