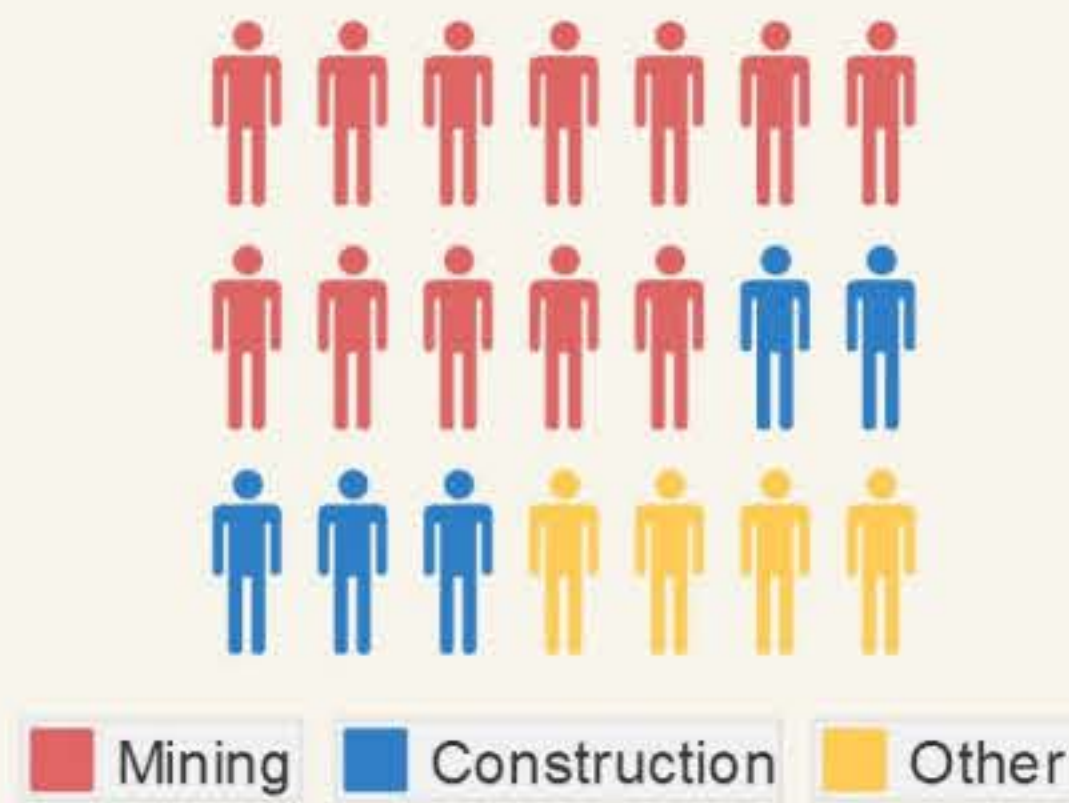


SILICOSIS

in New Mexico

New Mexico has historically high rates of silicosis because of mining. However, not all silicosis in the state is mine-related.

Deaths from or with silicosis by industry, 2000-2011



57% Mining 24% Construction 19% Other

Compared to the rest of the U.S.,
New Mexicans are



Twice as likely
to die from or
with silicosis

2.0*

95% CI 1.3 - 3.2

70% more likely
to be
hospitalized from
or with silicosis

1.7*

95% CI 1.4 - 2.0

*Per million residents age 15 years and older,
age-adjusted rates, 2000-2010

Silicosis

is a preventable occupational lung disease that is caused by breathing in dusts containing crystalline silica and can damage:



Lungs

Makes breathing
difficult



Heart

May lead to
heart failure



May cause cancer

There is no cure for
silicosis

Main Sources of Silica Exposure in New Mexico



Drilling rock
Transportation of mine material
Concrete mixing
Sandblasting
Cinder/concrete block manufacturing
Plastering
Stone cutting

Resources

NM Radiation Exposure Screening and Education Program (RESEP)
Screens former uranium industry workers by performing a respiratory questionnaire, chest x-ray with a B-reading, and pre-bronchodilator spirometry test. Those screened are advised medical follow-up and additional screen for benefits eligibility.
Phone: (505) 272-5880

NM OSHA Local Emphasis Program: Silica Exposures
Conducts annual inspections of establishments involving silica exposures.
Phone: (505) 476-8700 or (877) 610-6742

NM Occupational Health Surveillance Program (OHSP)
Tracks work-related illness and injuries to promote safe and healthy workplaces for all NM.
Phone: (888) 878-8992

