

**NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE SURVEY
ANALYSIS OF MANAGEMENT INTERVIEW RESPONSES**

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FOREWORD

The National Occupational Exposure Survey (NOES) was a two and a half year field study conducted from 1981-1983.

The NOES, like its predecessor, the 1971-1974 National Occupational Hazard Survey (NOHS), was designed to provide data descriptive of health and safety conditions in the work environment of the United States. Specifically, the survey was intended to provide data on management policy and practice with regard to occupational safety and health and the extent and conditions of potential worker exposure to chemical, physical, and biological agents.

In the course of the survey, 4,490 facilities in 98 different geographical areas were surveyed. The survey was designed to be representative of facilities employing eight or more workers in the agricultural services, oil and gas exploration, construction, manufacturing, wholesale/retail trade, services, and health services industries. Specific details on the conduct and statistical design of the survey are available in Volumes I and II of the NOES series.

This volume in the projected NOES series of publications is devoted to analysis of management responses to the questionnaire administered during the survey. The data contained herein is intended to characterize management policy and practice in several areas relating to worker safety and health by both industry type and facility size. The data should be used carefully, recognizing the intent and guidelines of the survey as well as the statistical design features implicit to the conduct of this survey.

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INTRODUCTION

The National Occupational Hazard Survey (NOHS) Was conducted during 1972-1974 because of the recognized need for data on occupational health practices in industry and on worker exposure to chemical, physical, or biological agents in the various industries and occupations. While the data from this survey proved to be quite useful, it was obvious by the late 1970's that it had become dated, and did not reflect the substantial changes which had occurred since 1974.

Conduct of the National Occupational Exposure Survey (NOES) from 1981-1983 provided the necessary update of the data on occupational exposure to specific agents and industrial policies in occupational health.

The NOES sample consisted of 4,490 industrial facilities in 98 defined geographical areas. This sample was derived using a stratified multi-stage statistical procedure which considered geographical location, facility type (by Standard Industrial Classification) and facility-specific employment size. Agricultural production, mining, financial, and government activities were excluded from the survey. Volume II of the NOES series details the statistical base of the survey, including sampling, screening, verification, and data projection procedures.

Field work for the NOES was performed by teams of specially trained surveyors. All surveyors were college graduates, and had received 11 weeks of classroom training in industrial hygiene and safety, hazard recognition, survey procedures and guidelines in addition to in-field training prior to independent conduct of facility surveys. Field activity began in November 1981, and continued until May 1983. Volume I of the NOES series provides information on survey background, surveyor training, and the interpretations and guidelines used during the survey.

Each facility survey consisted of two major segments. The first segment involved the administration of a standardized questionnaire to facility management. This interview obtained such facility-specific data as the number of employees (male and female) and profiled management policy and practice with regard to medical services, industrial hygiene/safety programs, and general employee health related recordkeeping. The second segment consisted of a walk-through of the work areas of the facility. During this walk-through, the surveyor listed, by job title, the employees observed to be potentially exposed to workplace agents. In addition to listing the agents, the surveyor recorded the observed exposure controls and exposure durations for each agent as directed by survey guidelines.

This volume is devoted to presentation of the data gathered during administration of the management interview questionnaire, and provides analysis of industrial management responses to that questionnaire by industry and plant size. These analyses provide estimates of the numbers of employee and facilities in the U.S. operating under specific management policies in the areas of safety and health. Analysis of potential worker exposure to agents in the workplace will be presented in succeeding publications.