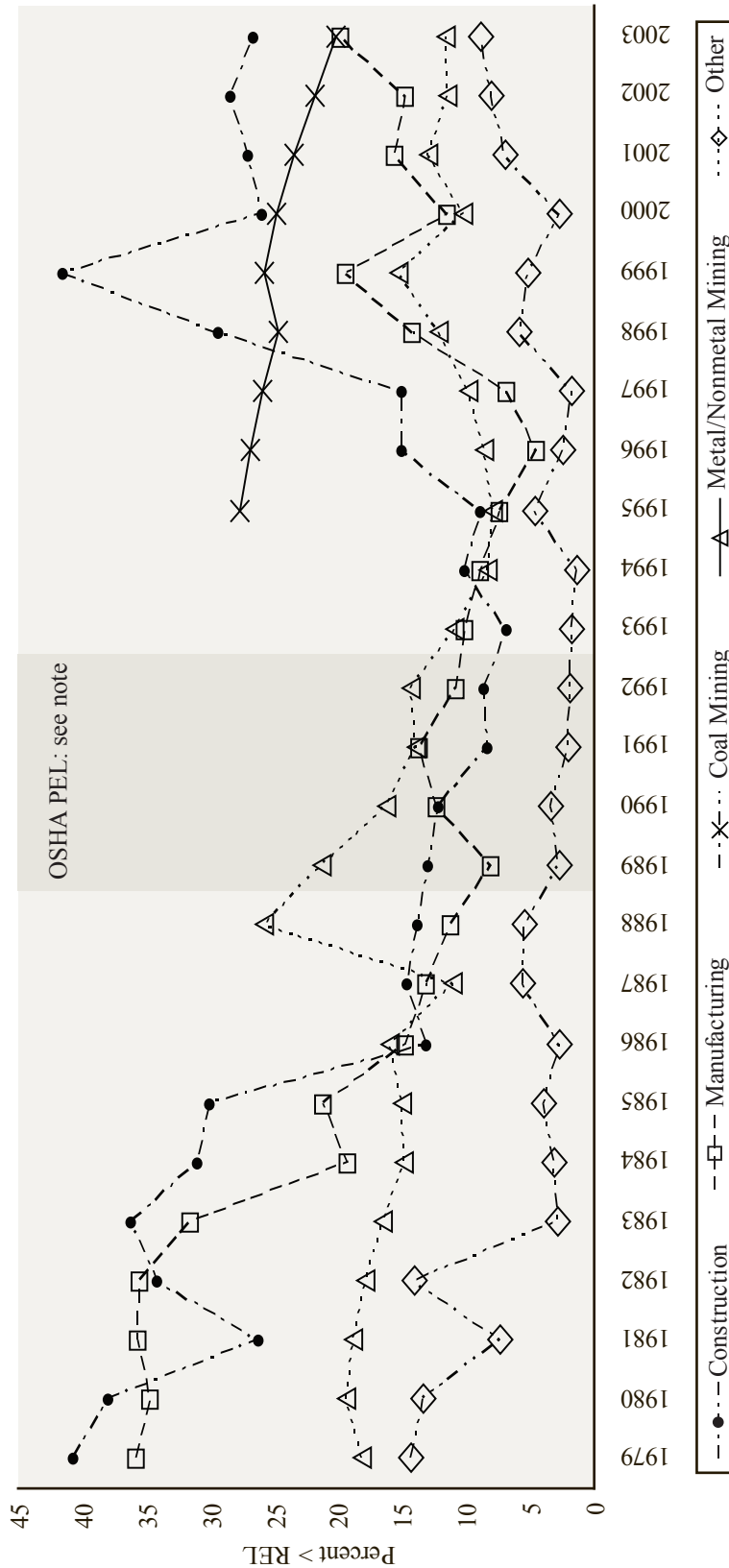


**Pneumoconiotic agents: Percent of exposures exceeding the NIOSH recommended exposure limits by major industry division, MSHA inspector and mine operator and OSHA samples, 1979–2003**



REL - recommended exposure limit  
 PEL - permissible exposure limit  
 MSHA - Mine Safety and Health Administration  
 OSHA - Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
 NOTE: From March 1, 1989 to March 22, 1993, the OSHA PELs in force differed from those employed before and after those dates. The NIOSH REL for respirable coal mine dust of 1.0 mg/m<sup>3</sup> was adopted in September 1995. The MSHA respirable coal mine quartz exposure data and the NIOSH REL for respirable quartz cannot be compared to each other because they are based on different sampling criteria. See appendices for source description, methods, and agents.  
 SOURCE: MSHA metal/nonmetal mine and coal mine inspector and mine operator dust and quartz data. OSHA Integrated Management Information System.