

Times are Tough: Protect Construction Workers from Opioid Risks

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The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic overlapped with the deadliest months of the opioid overdose epidemic, challenging all of us and our mental health.

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Nearly **250** U.S. lives were lost to drug overdoses every day in 2020. **50%** of Americans report the COVID-19 pandemic is negatively impacting their mental health. Prescription opioid use is **3 times** higher among construction workers with MSDs. **75%** of overdose deaths in 2020 were caused by opioids.

Invest in workplace safety to reduce injuries, provide health care and paid sick leave so your workers get support and treatment so they can stay healthy – and stay in the workforce.

For help visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/opioids/default.html>

¹CDC [2021] Products-Vital Statistics Rapid Release—Provisional Drug Overdose Data. Centers for Disease Control: Atlanta. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>
²NIEH [2021]. Opioids and the workplace: prevention and response. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/2021/05/2021-05-13-the-covid-19-pandemic-is-fueling-the-opioid-crisis/>
³Dong XS et al. [2020]. Musculoskeletal disorders and prescription opioid use among U.S. construction workers. J Occup Environ Med. 62(11):973–979. <https://doi.org/10.1097/JOM.0000000000002017>
Dong XS et al. [2019]. Overdose fatalities at workplaces and opioid use in the construction industry. CPWR Quarterly Data Report: Fourth Quarter. www.cpwr.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Quarter4-QDR-2019.pdf

