



The Link Between Occupation and Cancer

Breaking Down the Inequities in Risk and Prevention

Occupational hazards are a serious concern for individuals in many different industries. Whether it's exposure to harmful chemicals, prolonged exposure to loud noises, or physical strain from repetitive motions, there are a variety of risks associated with different occupations. **One particularly concerning hazard is the increased risk of cancer that certain jobs pose.**

Color's Cancer Screening and Prevention Programs improve access to critical cancer screenings, helping to detect cancer early when it's easier to treat. Our programs are designed to bring your workforce up to recommended guidelines for screening and prevention and provide the most direct post-screening and cancer diagnostic support available.



Get in touch with our team at learnmore@color.com or go to color.com/cancer

REFERENCES

1. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3791490/>
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3. US National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
4. American Cancer Society
5. <https://academic.oup.com/ije/advance-article/doi/10.1093/ije/dyac235/6957061>
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Lung cancer is one of the most common types of cancer linked to occupational exposure with estimates indicating that **up to 20% of all lung cancer cases are caused by environmental factors.**¹



Over 10% of lung cancer cases in men and nearly 5% of cases in women **worldwide** are **linked to occupational exposures.**²



Workers in industries such as **construction, manufacturing, mining, and transportation** are **at higher risk.**



The **most common** occupational **carcinogens** linked to lung cancer **include** radon, **asbestos**, diesel engine exhaust, and secondhand smoke.



Workers who are exposed to asbestos are at least five times **more likely to develop lung cancer** than those who are not exposed.³

It is estimated that occupational exposure to carcinogens is responsible for **>10,000 lung cancer deaths** each year in the United States.⁴

The link between occupation and **prostate cancer** is still being studied, but evidence suggests that **certain occupations** may **increase the risk** of developing the disease.



Studies have found that **men who work in farming, agriculture, and the military** may **have a higher risk** of prostate cancer.



Exposure to certain **chemicals** and **pesticides** used in these industries, as well as the **stress** and **physical demands** of military service, have been suggested as potential factors.



Emerging research shows that **night shift work**—or any shift that isn't a standard 9-5—is also associated with an **increased risk** of prostate cancer.



The longer someone works a night shift, the higher the relative risk.⁵



Outdoor workers have a 60% higher risk of developing melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer, compared to indoor workers.⁷



~90% of nonmelanoma skin cancers and **65% of melanomas** are **attributable to exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation.**⁸