

NIOSH Project

The CDC National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Field Research Branch is considering the development of a project that you may be interested in. Members who would like to learn more about this project or provide any relevant information are encouraged to contact Dr. Jennie Cox (qxi3@cdc.gov; 513-458-7140). See below for the overall concept of the project:

"The Field Research Branch at National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health is potentially interested in performing an investigation into the exposure of illicit drugs to forensic laboratory workers. The specific aims of the project would be to measure the unintentional occupational exposure to illicit drugs among public safety workers working in law enforcement forensic science laboratories, to evaluate the current practices and personal protection equipment utilized within law enforcement forensic science laboratories, and to recommend comprehensive methods, potential engineering controls and standard operating protocols in order to reduce and remove exposures to illicit drugs. To do this, this project will perform air, dermal, and surface sampling, as well as biomonitoring, for cocaine, fentanyl, heroin, and methamphetamine. Our focus will be on the evaluation on employees who routinely handled and/or analyzed suspected illicit drug evidence in controlled substances laboratories. Specifically, we will include forensic scientists, forensic technicians, and laboratory managers who supervised controlled substances laboratory employees."