SILICOSIS
in New Mexico

New Mexico has historically high rates of silicosis because of mining. However, not all silicosis in the state is mine-related.

Deaths from or with silicosis by industry, 2000-2011

- 57% Mining
- 24% Construction
- 19% Other

Compared to the rest of the U.S., New Mexicans are

- Twice as likely to die from or with silicosis
  - 2.0*
  - 95% CI 1.3 - 3.2
- 70% more likely to be hospitalized from or with silicosis
  - 1.7*
  - 95% CI 1.4 - 2.0

*Per million residents age 15 years and older, age-adjusted rates, 2000-2010

Silicosis is a preventable occupational lung disease that is caused by breathing in dusts containing crystalline silica and can damage:

- Lungs
  - Makes breathing difficult
- Heart
  - May lead to heart failure
- May cause cancer
  - There is no cure for silicosis
Main Sources of Silica Exposure in New Mexico

Drilling rock
Transportation of mine material
Concrete mixing
Sandblasting
Cinder/concrete block manufacturing
Plastering
Stone cutting

Resources

NM Radiation Exposure Screening and Education Program (RESEP)
Screens former uranium industry workers by performing a respiratory questionnaire, chest x-ray with a B-reading, and pre-bronchodilator spirometry test. Those screened are advised medical follow-up and additional screen for benefits eligibility.
Phone: (505) 272-5880

NM OSHA Local Emphasis Program: Silica Exposures
Conducts annual inspections of establishments involving silica exposures.
Phone: (505) 476-8700 or (877) 610-6742

NM Occupational Health Surveillance Program (OHSP)
Tracks work-related illness and injuries to promote safe and healthy workplaces for all NM.
Phone: (888) 878-8992