

REDUCTION: NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
Department of Health and Human Services

The Budget proposes to fund important research conducted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), while proposing to eliminate activities that have less of a direct public health impact. The Budget proposes to consolidate the activities and research of NIOSH within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to improve coordination of research across the Federal Government. Within NIH, NIOSH would continue to support the highest priority occupational safety and health research.

Funding Summary
 (In millions of dollars)

	2017 Enacted	2019 Request	2019 Change from 2017
Budget Authority.....	335	200	-135

Justification

NIOSH was created within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 1970 to ensure safe and healthful working conditions for Americans, including mine safety research. NIOSH is primarily a research agency focused on occupation safety and health, with approximately two-thirds of its activities funding intramural research. The Budget prioritizes core public health activities and proposes to reduce programs that have less of a direct public health impact, such as some of NIOSH's activities. The Budget proposes to eliminate the Education and Research Centers (ERCs) and other activities where NIOSH does not have enforcement action, or where the private sector or other Federal partners could more effectively conduct these activities. The ERCs were created in the 1970s to develop occupational health and safety training programs in academic institutions. Almost 50 years later, the majority of schools of public health include coursework, and many academic institutions have developed specializations in these areas. The Budget would stop direct Federal funding to support academic salaries, stipends, and tuition and fee reimbursements for occupational health professionals at universities. Some activities conducted by NIOSH could be more effectively conducted by the private sector. For example, NIOSH collects and quantifies human body size and the shape of various occupational groups to develop equipment designs for worker protection. The private sector also conducts similar research in the development of ergonomic equipment.

The Budget's NIOSH proposal reflects the President's effort to reorganize the Government to improve efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability. As part of that, the Budget would consolidate the highest priority occupational safety and health research, and activities of NIOSH, within NIH to improve coordination of research across the Federal Government. As the Nation's leading health research agency, NIH would continue the most important research of NIOSH, including research on mining safety, personal protective technology, and NIOSH's role as mandated under Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act. **The World Trade Center Health Program, currently administered by NIOSH, would continue to be administered by the CDC.**