



# MESO IS STILL A DEADLY PROBLEM IN WISCONSIN

Certain workers are at higher risk for dying from mesothelioma

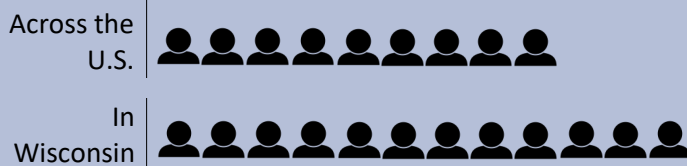
## What's meso?

Meso is mesothelioma, a deadly cancer in the lungs or other parts of the body that can happen 20–40 years after working with asbestos.

In our 2018 study, Division of Public Health staff looked at records for everyone in Wisconsin to find out who was most likely to get sick or die from meso.

## Who in Wisconsin is most likely to get sick or die from meso?

Out of every million people, the number who die from meso:



Most Wisconsinites who die from meso are 60 or older (88%) because meso takes many years to develop after working with asbestos.

Workers in **certain types of industries** were more likely to die from meso:

- Chemical manufacturing companies  
4X as likely
- Construction, utility, and fabricated metal companies  
3X as likely
- Paper manufacturing companies  
2X as likely

Workers in **certain types of jobs** were more likely to die from meso:

- Construction workers | 4X as likely
- Operations specialties managers | 2X as likely
- Metal and plastic workers | 2X as likely
- Engineers | 2X as likely
- Other installation, maintenance, and repair workers | 2X as likely
- Primary, secondary, and special education teachers | 2X as likely  
(Elementary and middle school teachers may be at higher risk)



# MESO ISN'T GOING AWAY

Follow these tips to protect yourself and your family



## Get training.

Talk to your supervisor about proper asbestos and personal protective equipment training.



## Wear and check your PPE.

Always wear your personal protective equipment around asbestos.



## Leave asbestos at work.

Don't take asbestos home to your family.

### Shower at work.

Shower at work to keep asbestos fibers from getting in your vehicle.

### Don't take work clothes and tools home.

Keep clothing and supplies at work so asbestos fibers don't make their way into your home.



## Stop smoking.

Smoking and asbestos both increase your risk of lung cancer. Quitting smoking is the best way to protect your health.



## Talk to your doctor.

If you've had problems like shortness of breath or trouble breathing, see your doctor.



## Learn more and get the help you need.

Visit [dhs.wisconsin.gov/occupational-health/workers.htm](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/occupational-health/workers.htm) to access resources about asbestos, meso, your rights, and special information for teachers. Call CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) to talk to a workplace safety and health expert.