

Occupational Medicine & Health Challenges in Kazakhstan

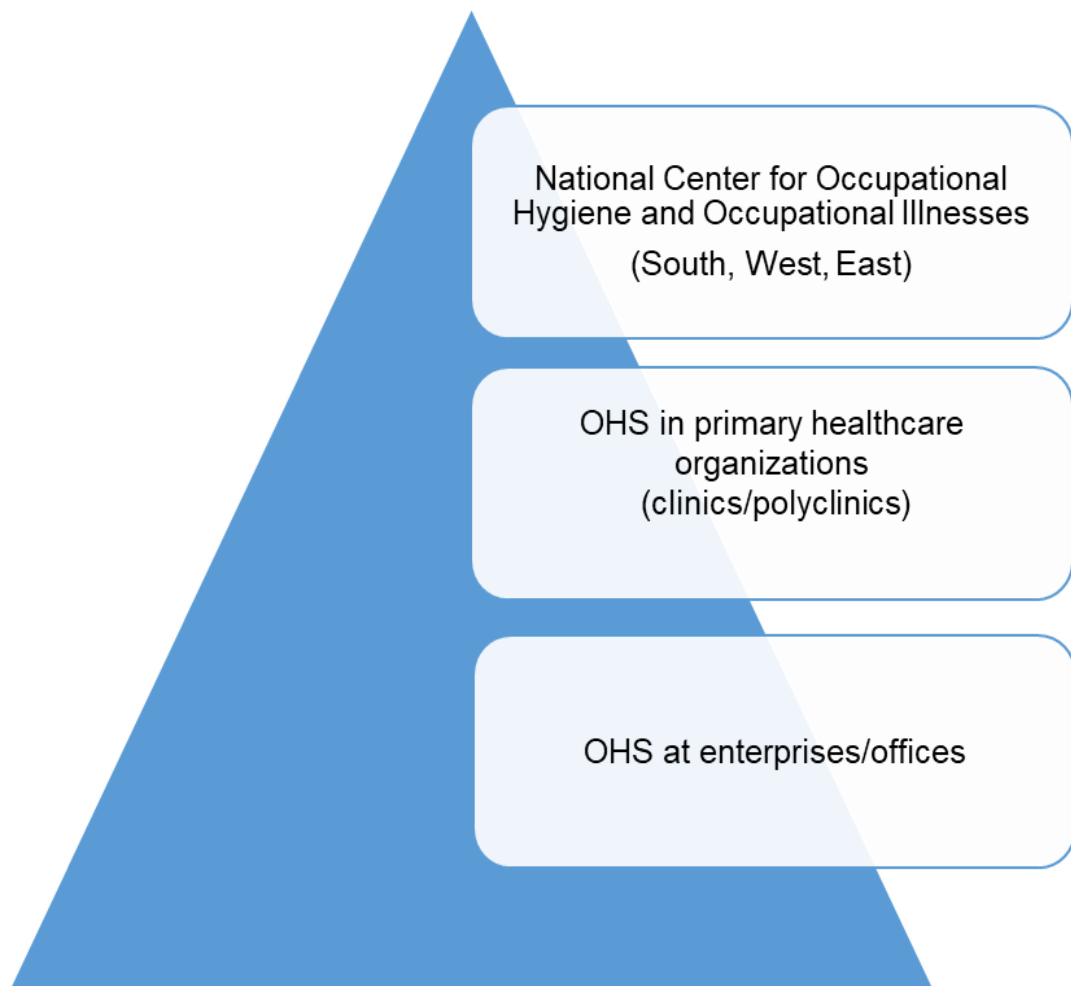


Nurlan Baimenshin MD, MPH

Health Manager

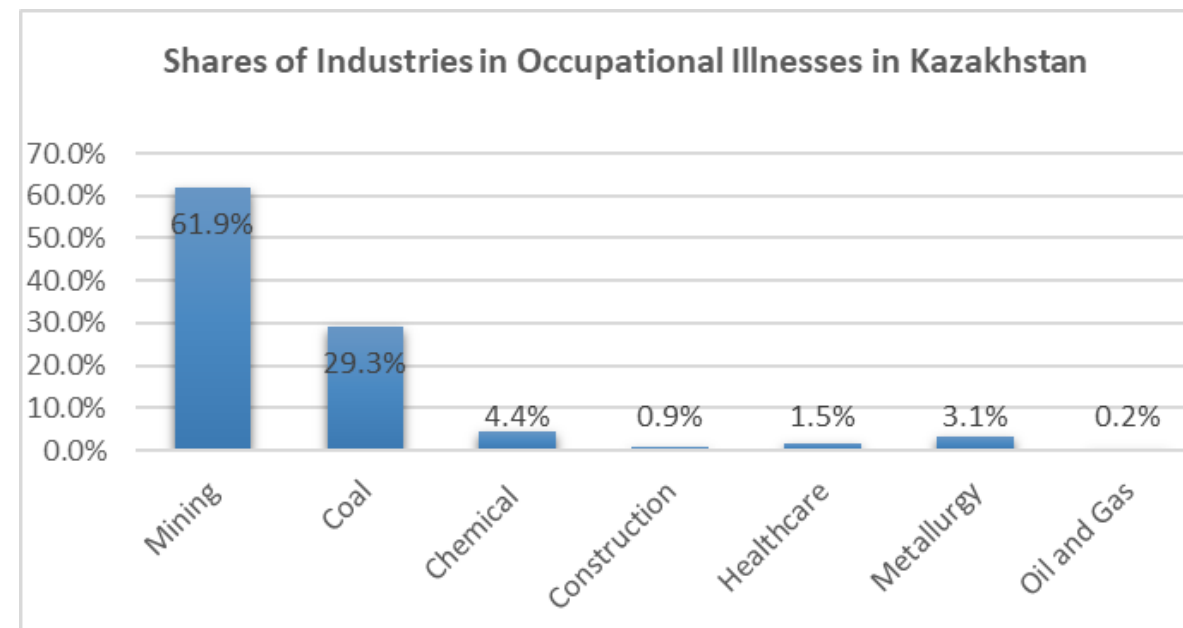
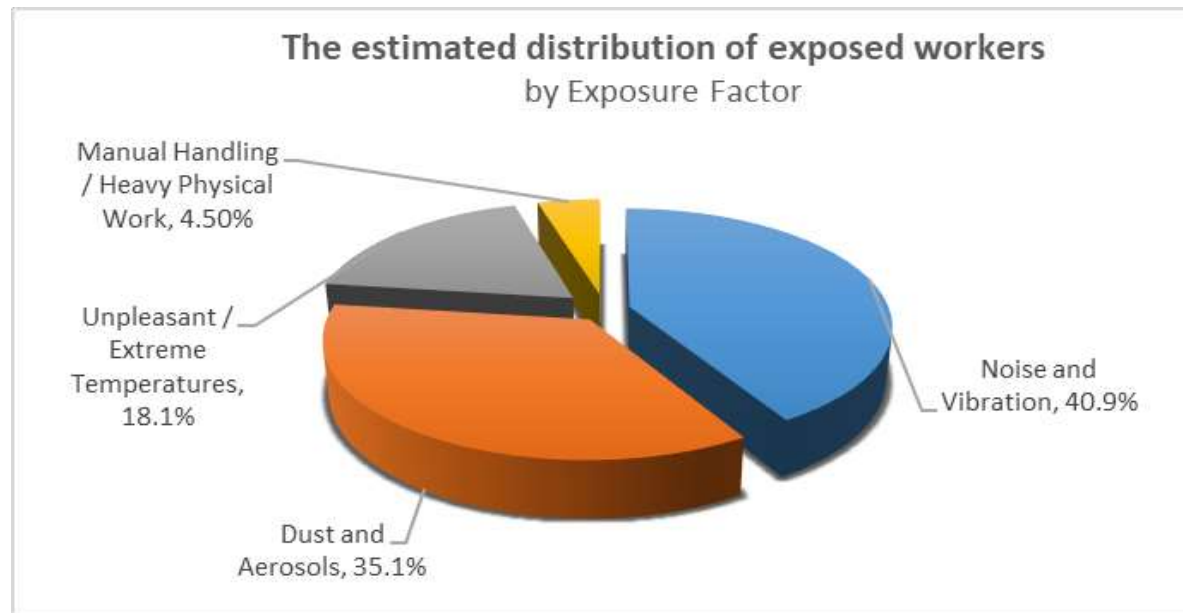
North Caspian Operating Consortium

Occupational Health Services in Kazakhstan



Incidents of occupational illnesses are significantly underreported (the frequency of OI is 25 less than in Denmark, 23.4 times less than in USA, and 2,5 times less than in Germany)

Source: National Center for Occupational Illnesses available at <https://inbusiness.kz/ru/news/chastota-professionalnyh-zabolevanij-v-kazahstane-v-23-4-raza-nizhe-chem-v-ssha>



The Challenges

1. Occupational Health Legislation and Regulations

- Highly-regulated and prescriptive environment
- Outdated and fall short of effectively managing health risk

2. Occupational Medicine Training and Education

- Occ Medicine and Ind Hygiene does not exist as per internationally recognized practices
- Specialty training in RoK takes on average 6 months compared to 6 years internationally
- No training available for Industrial Hygiene as per internationally recognized practices
- English language barrier

3. Compliance Driven OH&IH practices as Opposed to Evidence- and Risk-based

- Occ Medicine Service is not integrated with workplaces
- Site/Plant inspection-based model
- Reliance on static / area measurements
- Electromagnetic fields

4. Occupational Health Research

- Limited OH research, poor research infrastructure and lack of specialists
- Master's and PhD programs are not available
- Collaboration with international organizations



The Opportunities

- International cooperation and collaboration
- Adoption of best international practices and standards
- Leveraging international expertise, research and capabilities
- Regional and global integration

