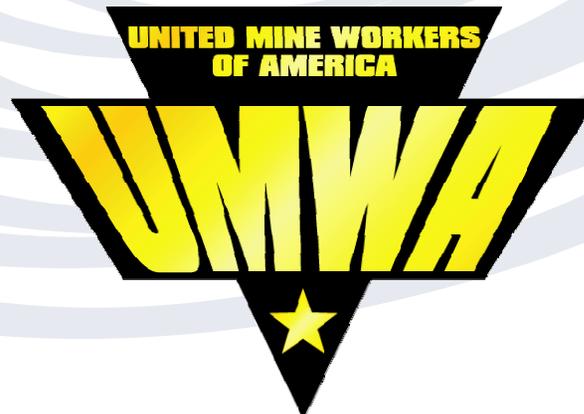




BCOA

Mining Hearing Loss Prevention Workshop

*Practical tools and techniques to
prevent noise-induced hearing
loss*





The Noise Experience in the U.S. Mining Industry – Where To From Here?

**John Langton
Deputy Administrator, CMS&H
Mine Safety and Health Administration**

**Mining Hearing Loss Prevention
Workshop**

Charleston Civic Center

Charleston, WV

June 21, 2005

Acknowledgements

- **The workshop organizers, NIOSH**
- **Coal Noise Partnership**
- **Our presenters and panelists**
- **The audience – your presence indicates that you have placed a value on protecting miners' health and hearing**

Mine Safety and Health Administration's “Health Standards for Occupational Noise Exposure” (30 CFR Part 62)

- **Effective for nearly 5 years**
- **Continues to challenge the mining industry**
- **Intended to:**
 - **Protect miners from occupational noise-induced hearing loss**
 - **Be flexible in compliance strategies by those being regulated**

Mine Safety and Health Administration's “Health Standards for Occupational Noise Exposure” (30 CFR Part 62)

- **Technology-forcing rule**
 - primacy of engineering and administrative controls
- **Retained the use of hearing protectors**
- **Monitoring and Audiometric testing as measures**
- **Only requires controls found to be feasible**
 - Determined on a case-by-case basis
- **Exposure standards are protective**

Mine Safety and Health Administration's "Health Standards for Occupational Noise Exposure" (30 CFR Part 62)

- **Enforcement**
 - **Consistency and uniformity**
 - **One MSHA Noise Committee**
 - **Second Day of this workshop is dedicated to enforcement training and consists of the same training and resources recently given to MSHA personnel.**

Progress and Benefits since Part 62

- **Controls being utilized and developed**
- **Reduced workers' compensation costs**
- **Innovations in equipment performance**
- **Improved working conditions**
 - **satisfied employees who do not suffer from hearing loss**

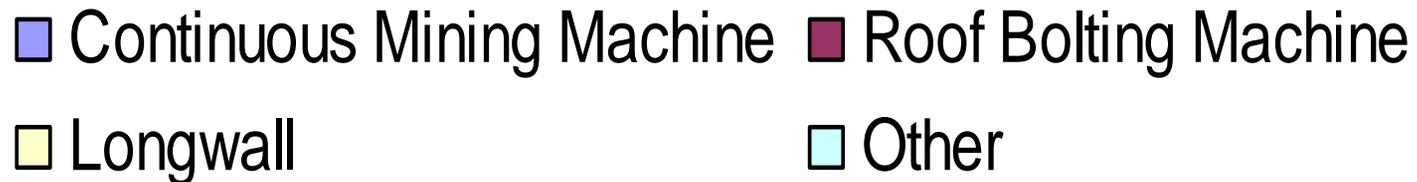
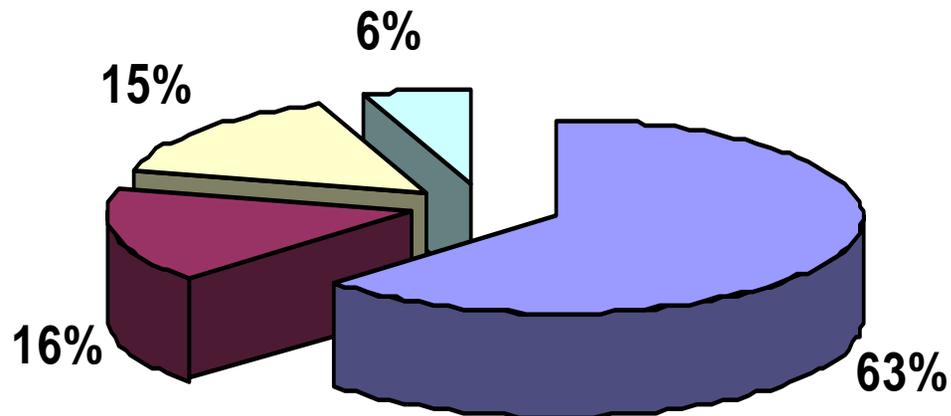


“Opportunities”

**Challenges from the current
enforcement data**

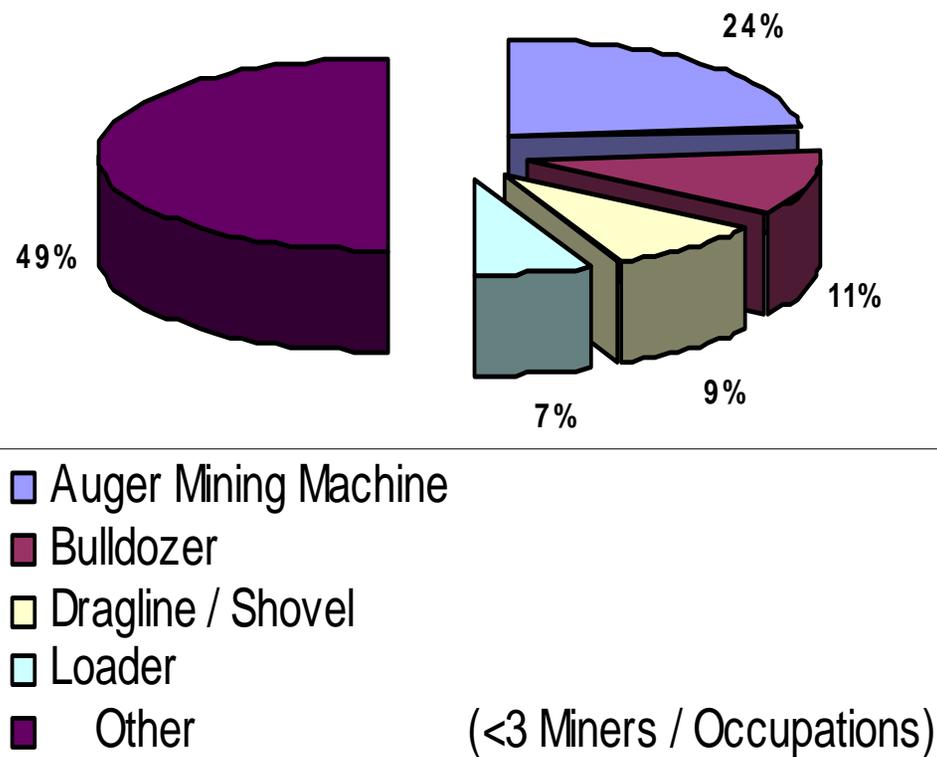
Noise

Exposure Source Miners with Noise Overexposure Under Active Citation (Underground 62.130)



Noise

Exposure Source Miners with Noise Overexposure Under Active Citation (Surface 62.130)



Data Taken From Noise Database Feb 3, 2005

So where do we go from here?

- **Working together**
- **Identify and develop new noise control technology and solutions**
 - Focus research efforts
 - Leverage limited resources
- **Communicate and share information**
- **Become Leaders**
 - By example
 - Remove the barriers to positive change

So where do we go from here?

- **Empower everyone in our organizations to contribute to the solutions**
- **Dispel the notion that investment in noise controls is detrimental to the operator's bottom-line**
- **All will benefit from the advances in technology**

So where do we go from here?

**There is no better
time to achieve
our goals.....**



**If we do not push
the envelope,**



**in quieting our
mining equipment,**



**creating the next
generation of
quieter mining
equipment,**



**and protecting the
hearing of our
current and new
miners,**



WHO WILL?????



**WE WILL,
TODAY.**

United States Department of Labor

MSHA

Mine Safety and Health Administration

Thank You!!

We are an organization dedicated to sending EACH miner home safe and healthy at the end of every shift.

