The primary sources examined were the following:

- OSHA-ROM
- NIOSH
- Safety and Health Extension
- West Virginia University Extension Service

**METHODS**

This poster reviews recent articles in the occupational health and safety literature that examine the extent of disability among construction workers—a follow-up study in the construction industry. A literature search was conducted on the terms “construction worker(s),” OR “construction industry,” OR “construction work.”

**STUDIES**

Table 1, Related Studies, includes and describes 7 related studies that either highlight a factor as a risk factor or cite a common diagnosis. Table 2, Studies of Disability Among Construction Workers, contains the number of studies that cite common factors, number of studies that highlight factor as significant, and number of studies that cite common diagnosis.

**OUTCOMES**

As a whole, these studies establish that construction workers experience a high rate of disability and death. Statistics indicate that 30% of workers are disabled due to musculoskeletal and cardiovascular disease. Several studies report poor physical health, with 19% of retired construction workers reporting back complaints. Workers in physically demanding fields in general may suffer greater problems with their vision, neck and shoulder, hips, knees, and ankle/feet joints.

**WORN OUT WORKER**

The poster concludes that the physical demands of the construction work environment accelerated the aging process. Of particular interest would be the possible role of environmental toxins, stress, and wear and tear on the body. This is due to the high physical demands of construction work and lack of support at work and longer duration of employment at work sites. Work-related factors such as static muscular loading and uncomfortable work positions may contribute to musculoskeletal disorders and accidents.

**PRIMARY STUDIES BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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