

FILE NAME: Eagle-Picher (EP)

DATE: 1933

DOC#: EP043

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Excerpt from Gov Report for Year Ending
in June 1929

Comm
784

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

ROY D. CHAPIN, Secretary

BUREAU OF MINES

SCOTT TURNER, Director

Technical Paper 552

SILICOSIS AND TUBERCULOSIS
AMONG MINERS OF THE TRI-STATE
DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA, KANSAS
AND MISSOURI.—II

For the Year Ended June 30, 1929

BY

F. V. MERIWETHER, R. R. SAYERS
and A. J. LANZA

This report presents the results of work done by
the United States Bureau of Mines at the Picher (Okla.) clinic in
cooperation with the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. and
the Tri-State Zinc & Lead Ore Producers Association



COMMERCE

784
552

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1933

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. - - - Price 5 cents

CONTENTS

	Page		Page
Introduction.....	1	Physical examinations—Con.	
Prevalence of silicosis and tuber- culosis.....	2	Blood pressure.....	19
Development of silicosis and tuberculosis in those employed.....	3	Pulse rate.....	19
Etiology of silicosis—analysis of examination records.....	4	Respiration.....	20
Age.....	5	Chest.....	20
Personal history.....	6	X-ray findings.....	22
Past history of diseases.....	6	Essentially negative.....	22
Relation of diseases and de- fects to silicosis.....	7	First-stage silicosis.....	23
Occupational history.....	8	Second-stage silicosis.....	24
Subjective symptoms of silicosis.....	16	Third-stage silicosis.....	24
Physical examinations.....	18	Silicosis plus tuberculosis.....	24
General appearance.....	18	Tuberculosis.....	24
Height.....	18	Laboratory findings.....	25
Weight.....	19	Sputum.....	25
Temperature.....	19	Blood.....	25
		Prognosis in silicosis.....	26
		Prevention of silicosis.....	27
		Treatment of silicosis.....	27

SILICOSIS AND TUBERCULOSIS AMONG MINERS OF THE TRI-STATE DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA, KANSAS, AND MISSOURI.—II

By **F. V. MERIWETHER,¹ R. R. SATERS,² and A. J. LANE,³**

INTRODUCTION

This report is the second of a proposed series dealing with data obtained from physical examinations of men employed in the lead and zinc mines of the Picher field (in Oklahoma and Kansas) of the Tri-State district. The work was conducted by the United States Bureau of Mines at the Picher (Okla.) clinic in cooperation with the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. and the Tri-State Zinc & Lead Ore Producers Association.

Examinations made under a similar agreement during the year ended June 30, 1928, and described in Bureau of Mines Technical Paper 545, had revealed diseases and physical defects that appear to have some relation to working efficiency and indicate correlation of certain infectious diseases with silicosis. The present report, covering the period from July 1, 1928, to June 30, 1929, deals with the relation of certain infectious diseases to silicosis, the production rate of silicosis, and the progress in controlling silicosis and tuberculosis in the Picher district.

The examinations disclosed that many of the men at work and applying for work had one or more diseases or physical defects. Many had serious and in some instances contagious diseases. In all, 44.03 per cent had one or more diseases or defects considered serious enough to bear directly upon their work, compensation risk, or life expectancy. The decrease in the number of cases of pyorrhea, unclean teeth, septic tonsils, high blood pressure, varicocele, varicose veins, ankylosed joints, mutilation, hernia, rheumatism, etc., indicates that an effort has been made to improve the physical condition of the men, although other diseases, such as heart disease, nephritis, and diabetes, which are even more serious from the point of life expectancy, remain the same or increase. During the year both the clinic and officials of the mining companies urged the men to have their teeth treated, their eyes examined and fitted with glasses if needed, and any diseases and defects treated if treatment would be beneficial.

In 1929, 9,149 persons were examined—8,853 men and 296 women and children; 8,475 of the men were classed and given work cards, and 378 were examined by request of physicians or charitable organizations. Of the 8,853 men examined 5,114 were employed in the

¹ Work on manuscript completed September, 1932.

² Surgeon, U. S. Bureau of Mines; surgeon, U. S. Public Health Service.

³ Former surgeon, U. S. Bureau of Mines; surgeon, U. S. Public Health Service.

⁴ Assistant medical director, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.