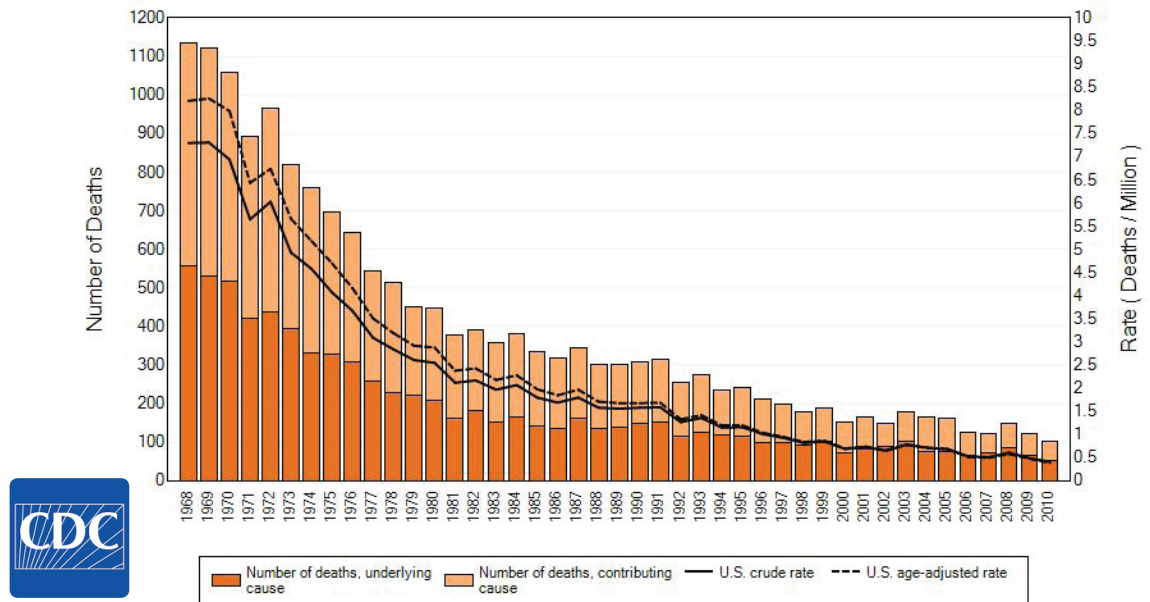


In August 2013, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced a new proposed rule for silica exposure during hydraulic fracturing operations. Not only does this proposed rule impose significant economic challenges, but OSHA's existing rules have already been effective at reducing worker exposure.

### Silica exposure has decreased across various industries. Did you know...

- “[F]rom 1968 to 2002, the number of silicosis deaths [in the U.S.] decreased from 1,157 to 148, corresponding to a **93 percent [decline].**”  
- Centers for Disease Control
- “A study by NIOSH researchers focused on more recent {U.S.} data from 1981 to 2004, and found a **70.5 percent decline** in annual age-adjusted silicosis mortality rates.”  
- George Washington University Regulatory Studies Center

Silicosis: Number of deaths, crude and age-adjusted death rates, U.S. residents age 15 and over, 1968-2010



“There is no historical evidence of any silicosis-related deaths for the fracking industry.” - U.S. Chamber of Commerce

### FACT

- “If finalized, this Proposed Rule would create profound detrimental economic consequences as companies – large and small – **struggle to implement control technologies** that are not commercially available, not effective, cannot be used in conjunction, and, in some cases, **do not exist.**”  
- American Petroleum Institute and Independent Petroleum Association of America
- “The best available science, to our understanding, shows that **the current OSHA PEL for quartz of 0.1 mg/m3 is appropriate to protect against silica-related disease**, provided it is adhered to strictly.”  
- Crystalline Silica Panel of the American Chemistry Council
- “The NAM believes the proposed reduction of the permissible exposure limit (PEL) to 50 ug/m3 with an action level of 25 ug/m3 is an unnecessary change that will be **unachievable for many employers**, and will be very costly for almost all affected employers.”  
- National Association of Manufacturers

In another example of the oil and gas industry's commitment to workplace safety, fatal work injuries in the private mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction sector were **15 percent lower in 2013** than they were in 2012.

SOURCE:  
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics