

Letitia Davis, ScD, EdM

For over 30 years, Dr. Davis served as director of the Occupational Health Surveillance Program (OHSP) in the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. As director, she worked to develop the state's capacity to track work-related injuries and illnesses and to use surveillance findings to promote prevention to improve the safety and health of Massachusetts workers. She oversaw development of multiple occupational health surveillance systems including the Massachusetts Occupational Lead Registry, a comprehensive surveillance system for fatal occupational injuries, the Massachusetts Sharps Injury Surveillance System, a surveillance system for work-related asthma, a model surveillance system for work-related injuries to young workers, and case-based surveillance and follow-up of work-related amputations, burns and acute chemical poisonings. She has conducted numerous surveillance research studies exploring use of existing public health data sources to document work-related health problems and has a special interest in better understanding the needs of underserved worker populations. At OHSP, she was also responsible for the development of and implementation of prevention initiatives to address identified occupational health problems and served as advisor to the Department leadership on matters of occupational health policy. From 1998 through 2015 Dr. Davis was a lead consultant in occupational health to the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), working on the national level to promote integration of occupational health into public health practice in the states. She is a past member of the Board of Scientific Counselors of NIOSH and the Advisory Committee to the Directorate of Construction in OSHA. She has also served on a number of National Academy committees, including a recent panel on smart occupational health surveillance in the 21st century. Since her retirement from OHSP in June 2019, she continues to work, consulting on both local and international epidemiologic studies of work and health and advising worker advocacy organizations. She is currently active in CSTE's efforts to improve public health surveillance of COVID-19 in the workforce and protections for working people. Dr. Davis received her doctorate in Occupational Health from the Harvard School of Public Health in 1983.