

The effects of occupation on health, and of health on productivity, are of great significance. Identification of occupationally related disease is often difficult and mechanisms for reporting their incidence and prevalence are inadequate. New chemicals are being introduced into American industry at a prodigious rate and the chemical industry is growing at a rate about three times that of industry generally. The increasing industrial use of chemicals and radioactive substances and the proliferation of new industrial processes are multiplying the number of workers exposed to situations dangerous to health and have increased the complexity of such exposures. Workers can be overwhelmed swiftly by lethal exposure to micro-organisms, chemicals, radiation, physical stress, trauma, and other factors associated with the work environment. On the other hand, many of the effects of such exposures are especially pernicious because they are not readily detected, revealing themselves usually only after long exposure and frequently simulating diseases of nonoccupational origin. Consequently, protection of workers' health from damage arising from their work requires extensive research, calling upon a broad range of scientific disciplines, close cooperation between government, industry and labor, and dissemination of technical information.

## 2. Operation

The program is wholly a Federal operation but has a working relationship with States and local governments which is carried out through the regional offices of the Public Health Service. The following is a schematic diagram of the program's operational procedures.

