

Occupation and Industry are important factors for determining many possible health risks. Collecting data on these factors is essential for effective interventions.

CURRENT OCCUPATION: The most recent job that the person has been doing.

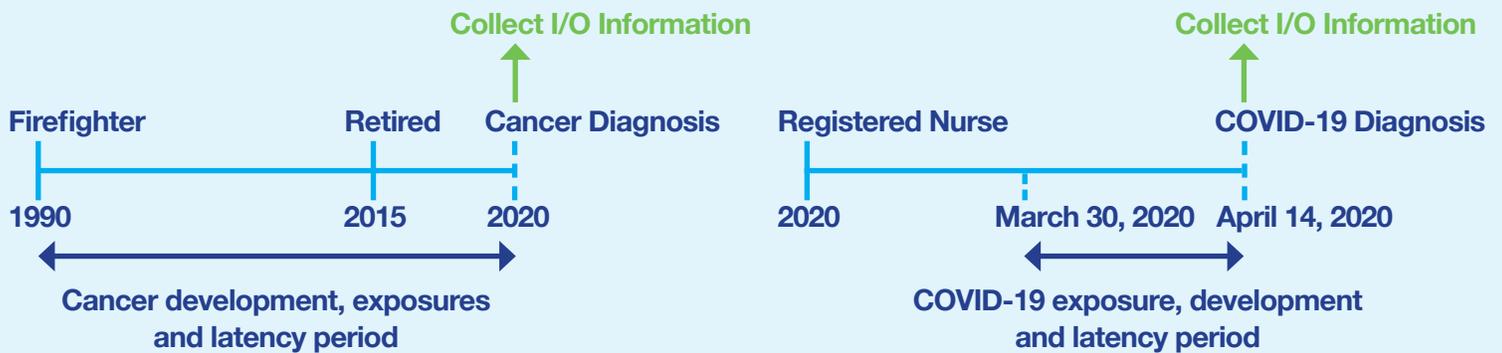
CURRENT INDUSTRY: The kind of business or industry the person currently works in. This is different than the employer's name.



For example, a man works 20 hours a week in a restaurant:

OCCUPATION = WAITER
INDUSTRY = RESTAURANT

It is important to collect Occupation and Industry that a person had during the RELEVANT time period for developing the disease. For example, 14 days for COVID-19 versus up to 20 years ago for cancer. When “retired” or “disabled”, occupation would be the previous job or other activities (volunteer or paid) that may have contributed to their exposure. If none other, occupation is “retired” or if never worked, then occupation is “never worked”.



USUAL OCCUPATION - The job that the person had been doing for the longest amount of time. It is not necessarily the current job, the highest paid job, nor the job considered the most prestigious, but the one that accounted for the greatest number of working years.

For example:



5 YEARS as a server at a fast-food restaurant



25 YEARS as a secretary for a car dealership



10 YEARS as a care assistant at a retirement home

USUAL OCCUPATION = SECRETARY Though she had three long-term jobs, her job as a secretary at the car dealership was the longest held (25 years)

Some people may work more than one job at a time. Ideally, you want to collect information on each of their jobs, including any volunteer work, and the related industry(s).

For more information on collecting Industry and Occupation, and instructions for Special Cases (Homemaker, Child, Student, Military, Never worked), refer to the NC Cancer Collection and Reporting Manual (CCARM) and A Cancer Registrar's Guide to Collecting Industry and Occupation, [cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2011-173/](https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2011-173/).

Source: Adapted from National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (2021). Things to consider when collecting industry and occupation data and CDC's training on Collecting Occupation and Industry: <https://youtu.be/kXDWJxKAG3A>

