

Apr. 17, 2020

Coal industry wants cuts in taxes that fund black lung benefits

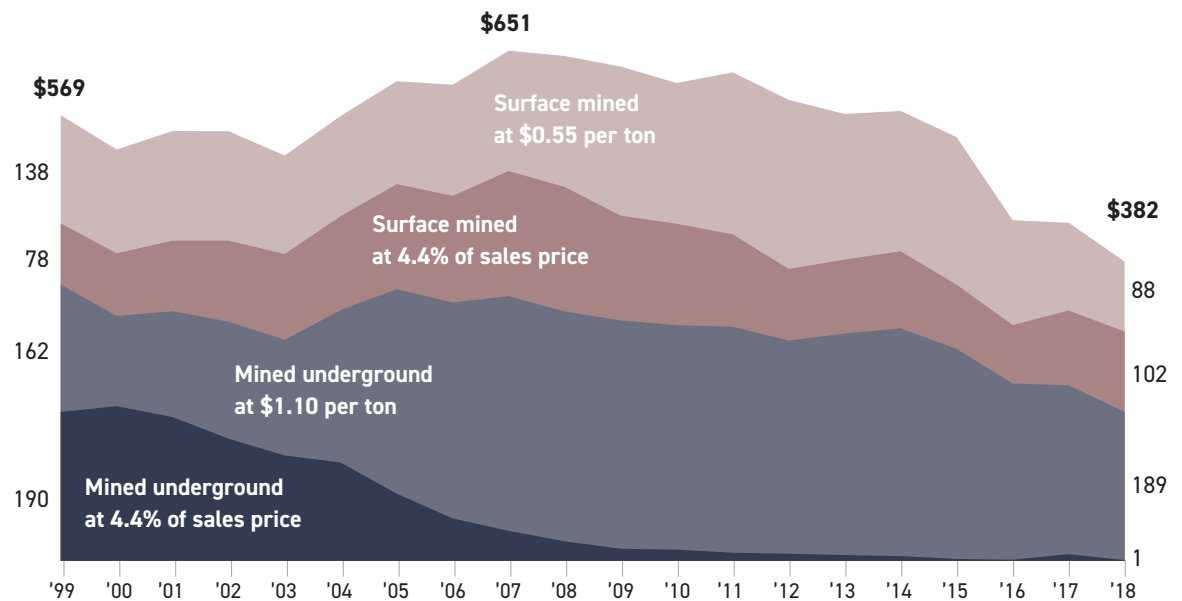
The flagging coal industry is pressuring lawmakers and the Trump administration for more than \$800 million in relief from taxes, royalty payments and mine site restoration fees. More than a quarter of requested relief would be a \$220 million cut to the Black Lung excise tax, but lobbyists offer assurances that even after such cuts, the program would be sufficiently funded.

In 2019, black lung claimants with no dependents received about \$660 per month in workers' compensation.

Coal workers' pneumoconiosis — or black lung disease — is a preventable occupational lung disease caused by inhaling coal mine dust, which can lead to premature death. Miners with pneumoconiosis are at high risk for complications from Covid-19.

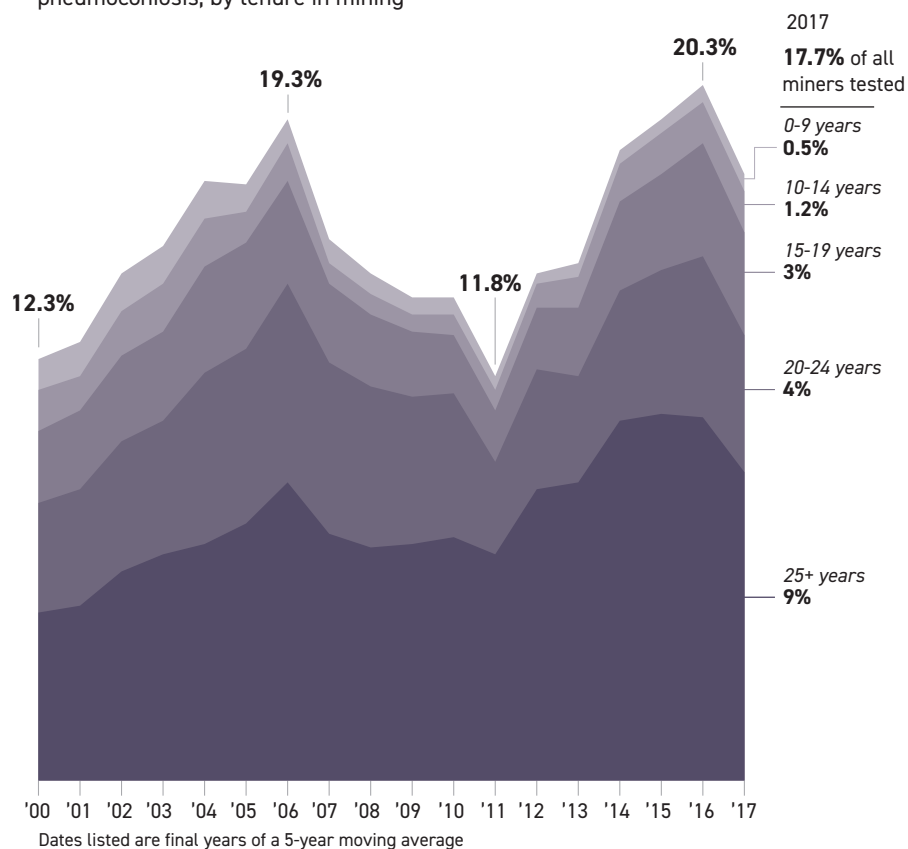
Black lung excise tax revenues decline along with coal industry

TAX REVENUE IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS



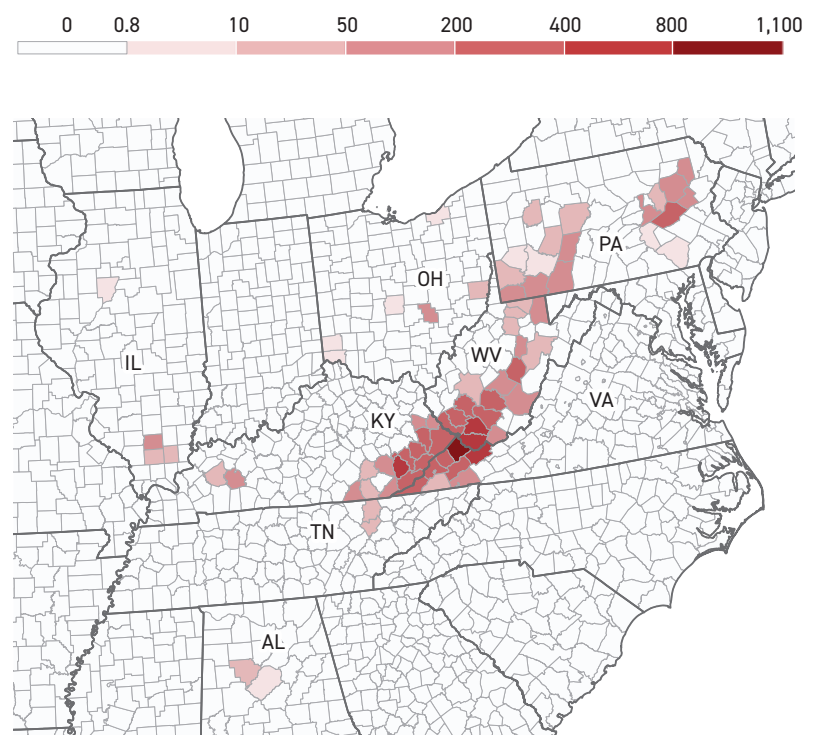
Black lung disease persists with coal miners

Percentage of examined underground miners with coal workers' pneumoconiosis, by tenure in mining



Appalachian states suffer the most black lung deaths

Age-adjusted death rates from coal workers' pneumoconiosis per million population, by county, age 15 and over, 2000-09



Sources: IRS; National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; Mine Safety and Health Administration; CDC; Occupational and Environmental Medicine, CRS, The Associated Press; reports by Alex Guillén, POLITICO Pro

By Patterson Clark, POLITICO Pro DataPoint