Story 6 of 9 — Research

NIOSH: millions of US workers are isolated at work; robot density nearly doubled

منبع: خبرنامهٔ NIOSH، لینک · وضعیت صحت: تأییدشده · اکتبر ۲۰۲۶:
https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/enews/enewsv24n6.html



Figure 1 — news photograph for story 6 (generated from the improved pack prompt; stories 5–9 carry the aixhse.ir signature).

From the editors

Two trends are happening at once: work is getting lonelier, and work is getting more machine-like. NIOSH puts them side by side — millions of isolated workers, and robots nearly doubling in factories. Our question in this article is whether the two are merely simultaneous, or connected.

The news

NIOSH's October 2026 eNews highlighted two findings side by side. First, millions of US workers experience isolation at work: using 2023 data, an estimated 7 to 36 million were physically isolated and 2 to 10 million socially isolated. Second, robot density in US industry rose from 176 robots per 10,000 employees in 2015 to 307 in 2024. T

newsletter presents both as occupational-health questions, not as a single causal claim.

What do the numbers say?

Derived calculation: robot density rose by 131 units, from 176 to 307 — a 74.4% increase over 9 years, about 14.6 units a year. The isolation figures are 2023 data, not 2026, and their wide ranges (7–36 million; 2–10 million) signal measurement uncertainty, not an error in the story.

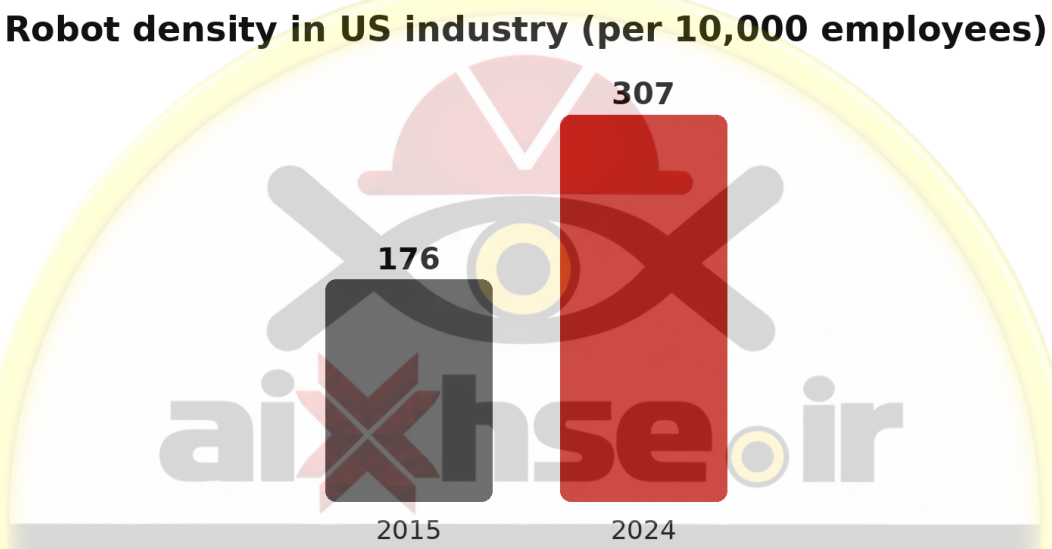


Figure 2 — chart/diagram for story 6, built from the story's own numbers.

Analysis

- Physical isolation and social isolation are different: one is being alone in space, the other is feeling alone in a team — and a worker can suffer either, or both.
- Automation changes the job, not just the output: when a robot takes repetitive, risky tasks, the human's remaining tasks can become more solitary supervision.
- Technology is neither enemy nor saviour by itself: the design of the job decides whether a robot frees time for contact or simply raises speed and loneliness.
- Health monitoring must ask about loneliness and workload, not only about PPE: a worker can wear every guard and still be unwell.
- The wide ranges in the isolation estimates should be quoted as ranges, never as a single precise number.

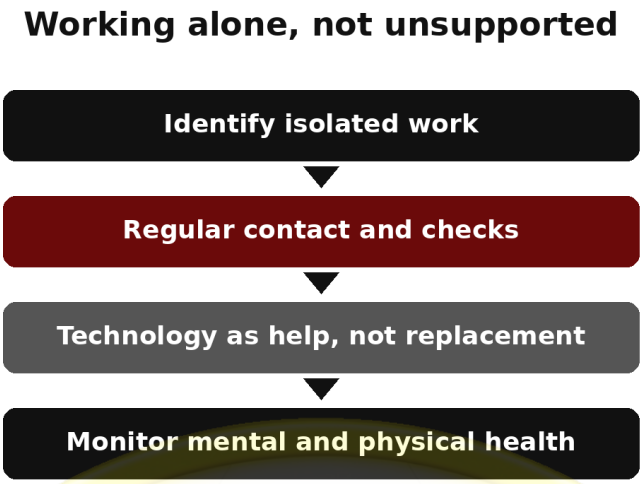


Figure 3 — flowchart for story 6.

What it means for Iran and aixhse.ir

The design of work is the deciding factor. If robots take repetitive and dangerous tasks and humans gain time for contact, supervision and judgement, both trends can turn in a good direction. If robots only raise speed and leave humans lonelier, productivity rises while health falls — a poor bargain. Our aixhse.ir occupational-health preparation tests exactly that balance.

Practical table

Step	Action
Identify isolated jobs	List posts with hours of no human contact.
Schedule contact	Use timed check-ins, not only “call if there is a problem”.
Treat tech as help	A robot is not a substitute for human contact.
Ask about mental health	In visits, ask about loneliness and workload, not only PPE.

Limits of the story

The isolation data are from 2023, and the ranges are wide. The newsletter does not prove robots caused isolation; the two trends are presented together, not as cause and effect.

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https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/enews/enewsv24n6.html · Explanation and republication: https://aixhse.ir

Calculation method: percentages and averages come from the story's own numbers with basic arithmetic; they are not new claims. Publisher: https://aixhse.ir