2015 Nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses: Cases with days away from work

Case and Demographics
November 2016
Rate of injuries and illnesses with days away from work, by ownership, 2015

The incidence rate of nonfatal injuries and illnesses for all ownerships has decreased each year since 2011.


Number of injuries and illnesses with days away from work, by ownership, 2015

Chart1_data

The incidence rate of nonfatal injuries and illnesses for all ownerships has decreased each year since 2011.
The total number of occupational injuries and illnesses in private industry has remained essentially unchanged for the period 2011 through 2015.

Eleven occupations had nearly 20,000 or more cases across all ownerships. Laborers and freight, stock, & material movers accounted for 5 percent of total cases. Police and sheriff’s patrol officers had the highest rate of injury and illness among these occupations.

Incidence rate and number of injuries and illnesses for selected occupations with high incidence rates, all ownerships, 2015

These occupations are among the ones that had at least 0.1 percent of full-time equivalent employment throughout the United States in 2015.

Rates of injuries and illnesses for selected healthcare and protective service occupations, by ownership, 2015

These occupations are frequently employed in both the private and public sectors. Within the state government, the incidence rate of psychiatric aides in 2015 was three times greater than the incidence rate of police and sheriff’s patrol officers.

Male workers in local government had an incidence rate two-times greater than that of male workers in all ownerships (114 per 10,000 full-time workers).

Median days away from work is a key measure of severity of injuries and illnesses. Half of the cases involved more days and half involved fewer days than a specified median. Workers 65 and older required more recuperation time than workers in other age groups in 2015, however, their incidence rate was lower than the rates for all workers.

Injury and illness topology

A nursing aide strains her back from overexertion while lifting a patient.

Each injury or illness is described from four viewpoints.
The Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS) version 2.01 was utilized to code narrative.
Sprains, strains, or tears, accounted for over one-third of all injuries and illnesses in 2015. The number of sprains, strains, or tears cases in 2015 remained essentially unchanged from 2014 at 421,610 cases.
In 2015, fractures and multiple natures with fractures were the most severe types of injuries resulting in a median of 31 days away from work. Approximately one-third occurred to hands (13 median days away) and feet (32 median days away).
Of the 358,890 cases with injuries or illnesses to upper extremities, 143,900 involved the hands and 92,850 involved the shoulder.

There were 266,470 cases involving lower extremities of which 100,880 were to the knee(s).

Workers who injured their shoulder required the most time away from work to recuperate with a median of 23 days. Workers who injured their knee required a median of 16 days to recuperate before returning to work.

In 2015 there were 324,420 occupational injury or illness cases where a person, plant, animal or mineral was the source of injury. Of these cases, 34 percent (110,520) involved patients (in hospitals or nursing care facilities for example).

### Chart 13 data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Persons, plants, animals and minerals</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structures and surfaces</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Containers, furniture, and fixtures</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicles</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tools, instruments and equipment</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parts and materials</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other sources</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Workers who sustained injuries and illnesses involving ladders required 21 days of recuperation time. This was 13 days more than the total median days required for all workers.
Distribution of injuries and illnesses by event or exposure, all ownerships, 2015

- Overexertion and bodily reaction, 32.6%
- Falls, slips, trips, 26.8%
- Contact with object, equipment, 23.4%
- Violence and other injuries by persons or animals, 6.6%
- Transportation incidents, 5.5%
- All other events, 5.1%

The number cases resulting from falls, slips, trips decreased by 2.4 percent from 2014.

Overexertion and bodily reaction had the highest rate and a median days away from work of 12 days, four more than the median for all events or exposures.
The selected secondary sources identify the object, substances, equipment, and other factors that precipitated the event or exposure. In cases where secondary source was reported, ice, sleet, snow, and non-chemical liquids, such as water, contributed to 24 percent of total falls on the same level. A contributing factor (secondary source) was not specified in approximately half of the total falls on the same level cases.
Musculoskeletal disorders (MSD) accounted for 31 percent of cases in 2015 across all ownerships and occurred at a rate of 32.2 cases per 10,000 full-time workers. The incidence rate for MSDs in 2015 decreased from 2014 across all ownerships by 4.7 percent.
Incidence rate and number of injuries and illnesses due to musculoskeletal disorders by selected occupations, all ownerships, 2015

These ten occupations had at least 0.1 percent of total employment. Emergency medical technicians and paramedics had the highest rate of MSDs among these occupations with 187 cases per 10,000 full-time workers while laborers and freight, stock, and material movers had the highest number of MSD cases in 2015.