

# CHART 36

Musculoskeletal disorders accounted for 375,540 cases, or 30 percent, of the injuries and illnesses with days away from work in 2005.

The U.S. Department of Labor defines a musculoskeletal disorder (MSD) as an injury or disorder of the muscles, nerves, tendons, joints, cartilage, or spinal discs. MSDs do not include disorders caused by slips, trips, falls, motor vehicle accidents, or similar accidents.

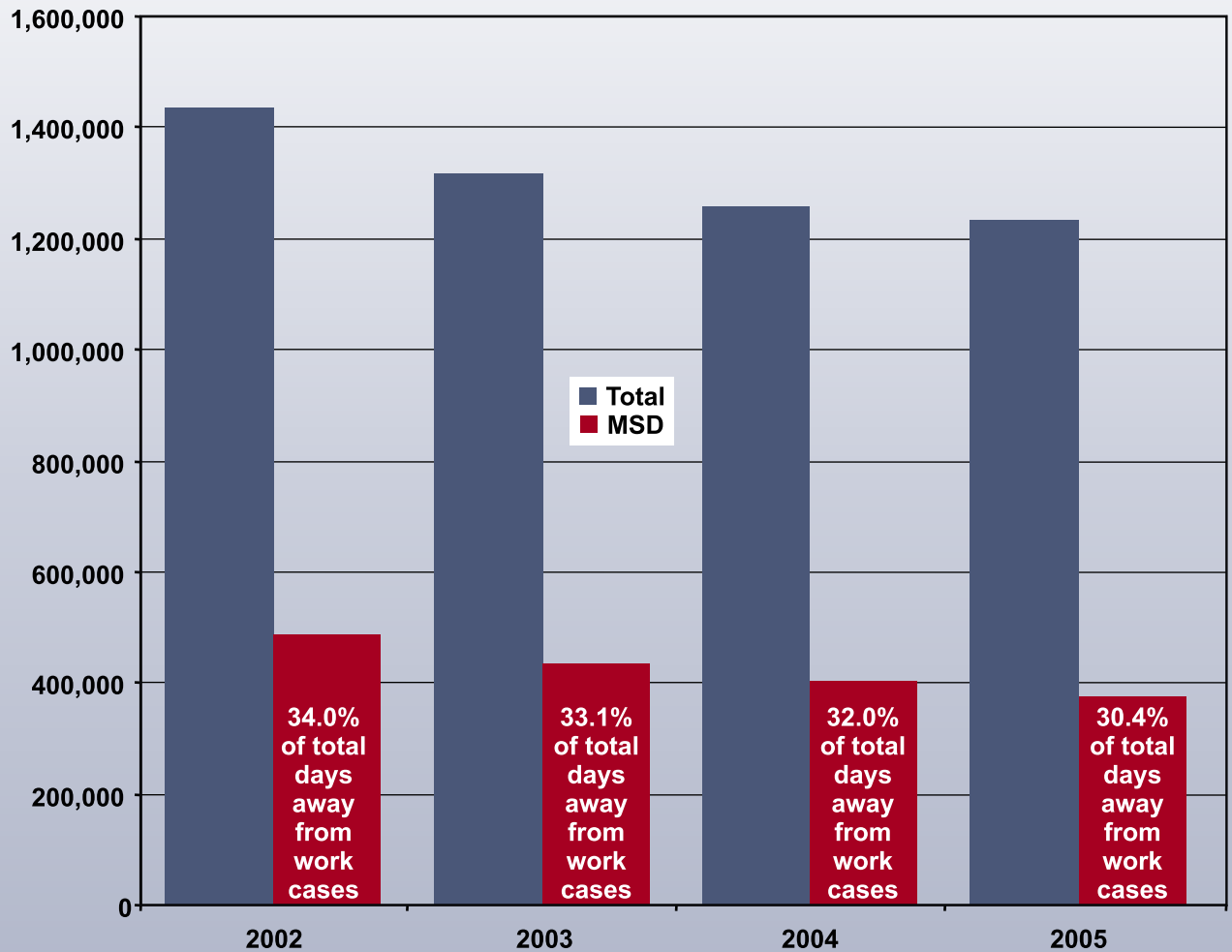
2005 had the fewest MSDs as a percentage of total cases since BLS started collecting data on MSDs. This percentage is lower than that for the past three years. In past years, MSDs have been roughly one-third of all injuries and illnesses.

The number of musculoskeletal disorder cases declined by 7 percent from 2004 to 2005, while the number of cases with total days away from work remained roughly the same.



# Musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs), 2002–05

Number of cases



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, November, 2006