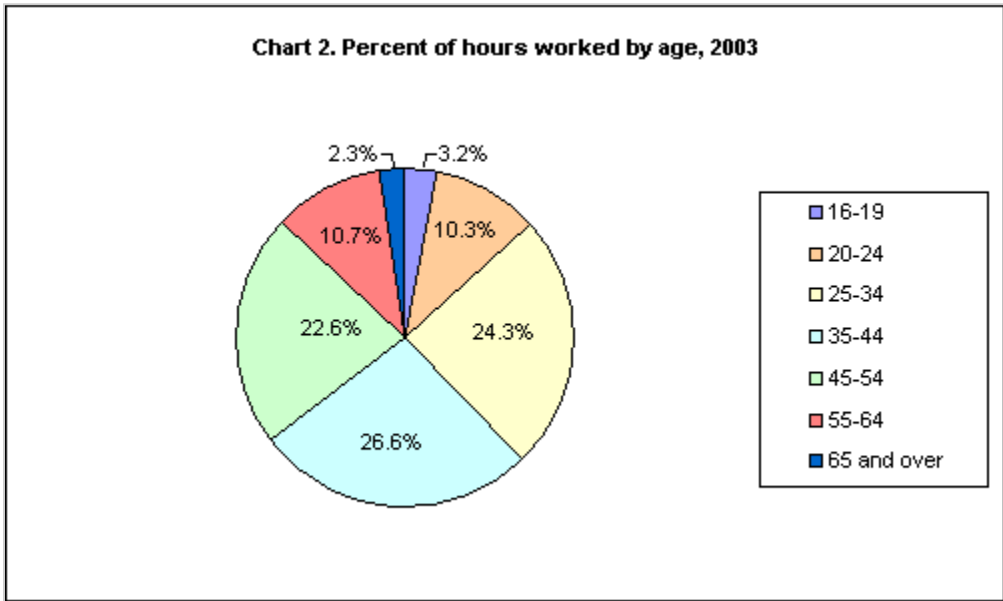
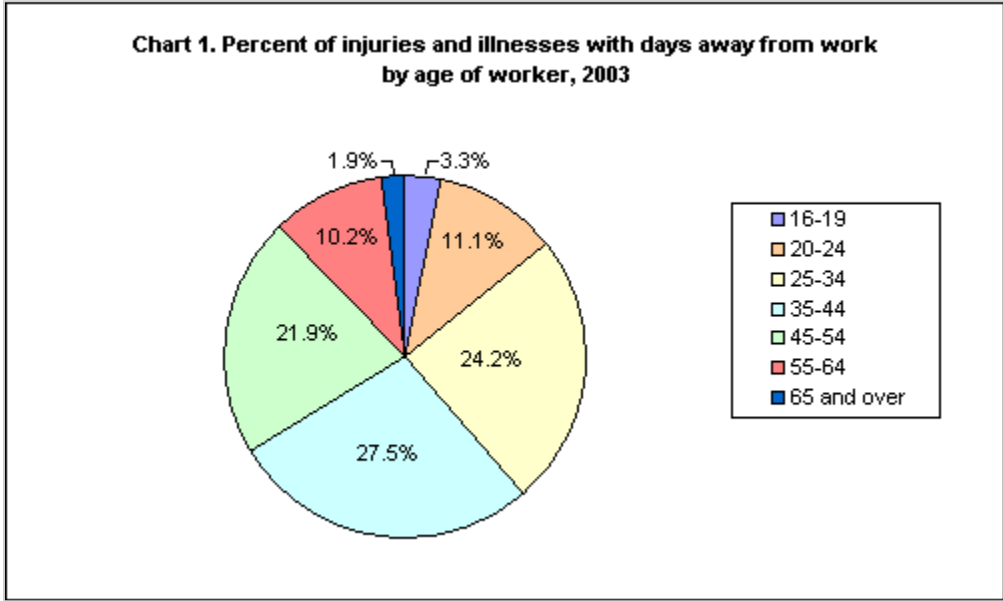


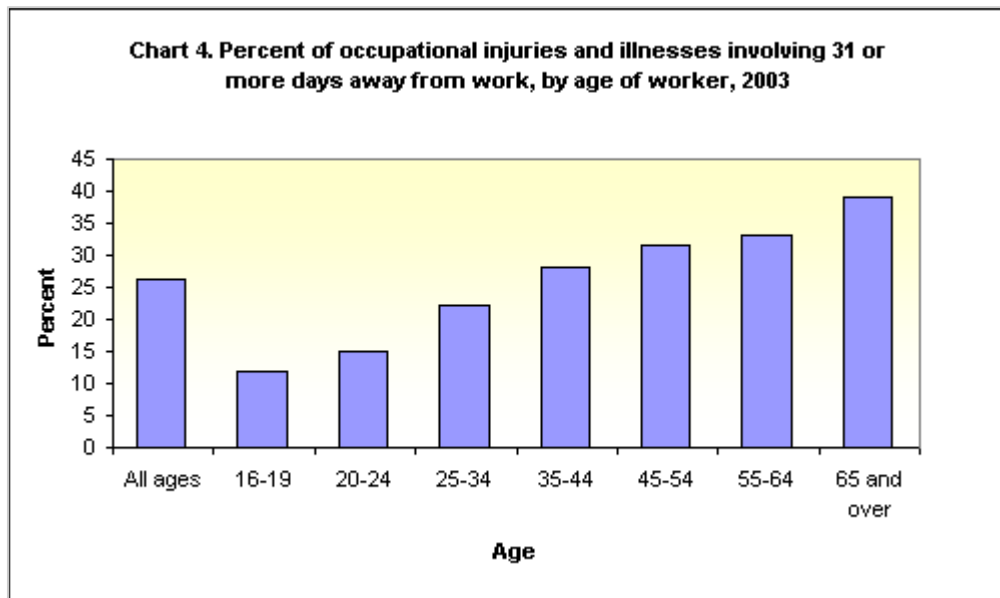
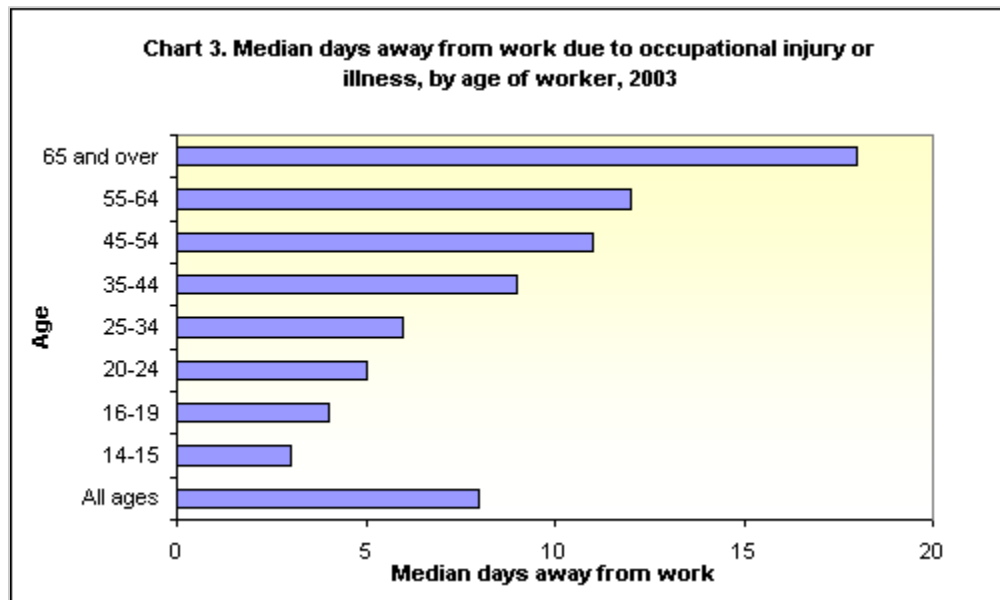
# Older Workers and Severity of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Involving Days Away from Work

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Originally Posted: July 26, 2005





- Injuries and illnesses among those aged 65 and older made up 1.9 percent of total days-away-from-work cases in private industry in 2003, while such employees worked 2.3 percent of all hours in the same period. (Days-away-from-work cases require recuperation away from work beyond the day of the incident.) Those aged 55 to 64 accounted for 10.2 percent of days-away-from-work injuries and illnesses and 10.7 percent of hours worked. (See charts 1 and 2.)
- In contrast to their lower incidence, lost-time injuries and illnesses among those aged 65 and older tended to be more severe than those among younger workers. Injured workers aged 65 and older were away from work a median of 18 days in 2003, compared with a median of 8 days for all workers and 12 days for workers aged 55 to 64. (See chart 3.)
- In addition, nearly 40 percent of the days-away-from-work injuries and illnesses among those aged 65 and older involved 31 or more days off the job. The proportion of all workers with days-away-from-work injuries involving 31 or more days off was about 26 percent, and among those aged 55 to 64, it was about 33 percent. (See chart 4.)

**NOTE:** For more information on these data, see the news release [Lost-Worktime Injuries and Illnesses: Characteristics and Resulting Days Away From Work, 2003](#), USDL 05-521 (U.S. Department of Labor), March 30, 2005; available on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/osh/case/osnr0022.pdf>.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses](#). Hours worked data are from the [Current Population Survey](#).

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**Data for Chart 1. Percent of injuries and illnesses with days away from work by age of worker, 2003**

Age	Percent of injuries and illnesses
16-19	3.3%
20-24	11.1%
25-34	24.2%
35-44	27.5%
45-54	21.9%
55-64	10.2%
65 and over	1.9%

**Data for Chart 2. Percent of hours worked by age, 2003**

Age	Percent of hours worked
16-19	3.2%
20-24	10.3%
25-34	24.3%
35-44	26.6%
45-54	22.6%
55-64	10.7%
65 and over	2.3%

**Data for Chart 3. Median days away from work due to occupational injury or illness, by age of worker, 2003**

Age	Median days
All ages	8
14-15	3
16-19	4
20-24	5
25-34	6
35-44	9
45-54	11
55-64	12
65 and over	18

**Data for Chart 4. Percent of occupational injuries and illnesses involving 31 or more days away from work, by age of worker, 2003**

Age	Percent of cases with 31 or more days
All ages	26.2

Age	Percent of cases with 31 or more days
16-19	12
20-24	15.1
25-34	22.2
35-44	28.1
45-54	31.6
55-64	33.2
65 and over	39.1

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