

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health**

Center for Policy, Planning and Epidemiology



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**CHARACTERISTICS FOR INJURIES AND ILLNESSES
REQUIRING DAYS AWAY FROM WORK IN PRIVATE
INDUSTRY, WASHINGTON, DC 2007**

Washington – The District of Columbia’s Annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses for 2007 showed that there were 2,900 work-related injury and illness cases reported in the private industry that required days away from work. (See Chart 1) Sprains and strains accounted for 38 percent of these cases and was the leading type of injury or illness. Service occupations had the most injury and illness days away from work cases and made up 1,130 or 39 percent of the cases; followed by Professional and related occupations with 440 or 15 percent of the cases.

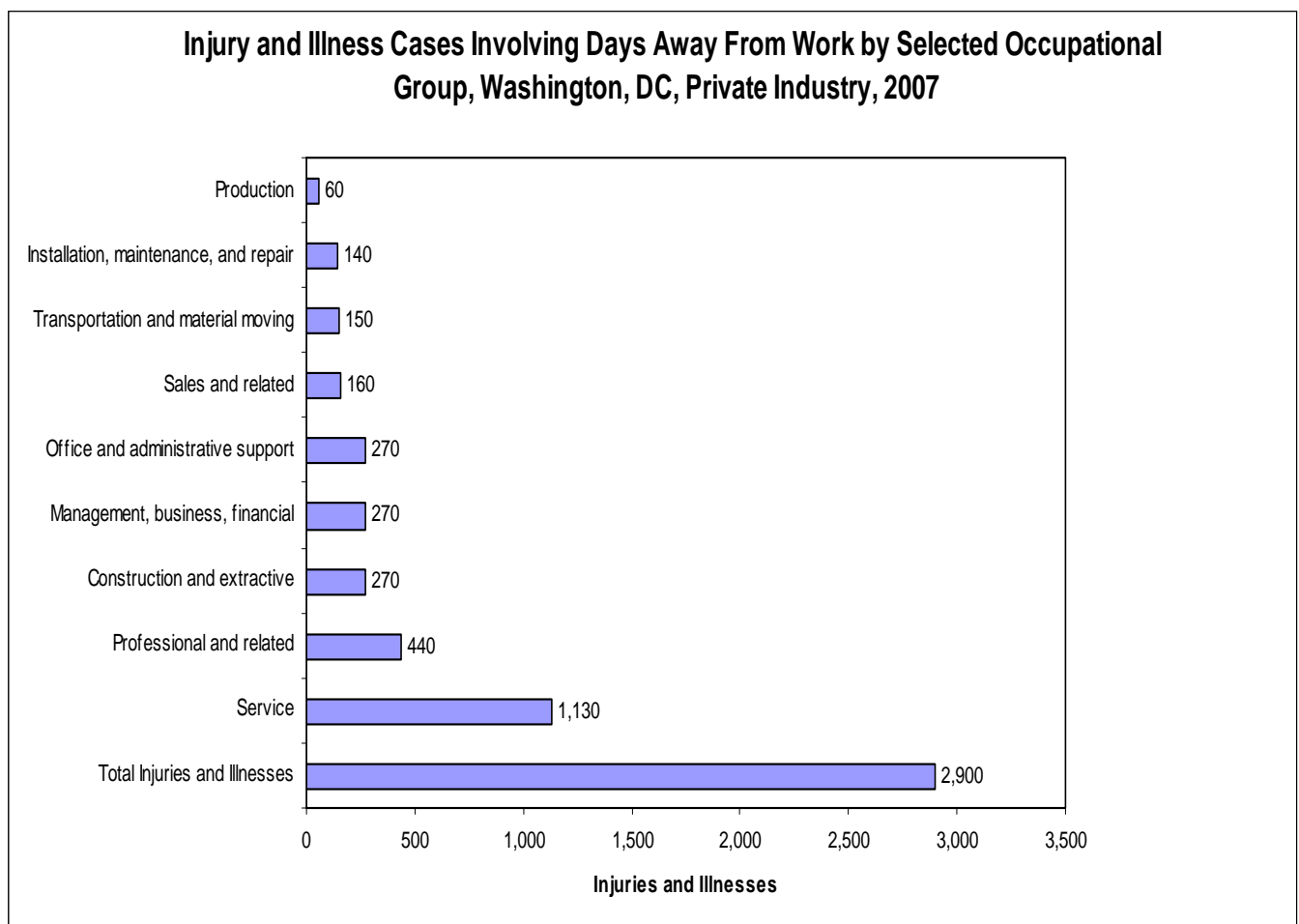
Case Characteristic Highlights

- The leading nature of the work-related injury or illness cases involving days away from work was sprains and strains (1,100 cases); other significant causes were bruises and contusions (420 cases) and soreness, pain (310 cases).
- The part of the body that was most frequently affected by injuries and illnesses was lower extremities (840 cases), including the knee, ankle, foot and toe which accounted for 29 percent of all days away from work cases. The back accounted for 16 percent of all incidents involving the trunk.
- Floor, ground surfaces accounted for 24 percent of all sources of injury and illness cases.
- Cases involving contact with object, equipment accounted for 890 cases, while cases involving overexertion in lifting accounted for 490 cases and falls on the same level accounted for 470 cases.

Demographic Highlights

- Fifty-four percent of the occupational injuries and illnesses that resulted in days away from work involved men (1,550 cases).
- Workers in the age range, 45-54 accounted for 33% or 970 cases.
- Employees with a length of service with their employer for more than five years made accounted for 1,150 of the injuries and illnesses.
- Of the injuries and illnesses with days away from work that reported the time of incident, the hours from 8:00 AM to 12:00 noon accounted for 930 incidents.
- Of the injuries and illnesses with days away from work that reported how long the employee had been on the job, employees on the job from six to eight hours made up 610 cases.
- Thursday (770 cases) was the day of the week that accounted for the most injury and illnesses days away from work cases.

Chart 1



Additional Statewide Information

For detailed statistical tables on case and demographic data from the Washington, DC Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses for 2007, go to the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics website: <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshstate.htm#DC>. In addition, any information can be requested by contacting Dr. Kimberley A. Turner at: (202) 442-5927 or via e-mail at: TurnerK@states.bls.gov.

Technical Notes

The Washington, DC Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses was conducted by the D.C. Department of Health in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses is designed to track and produce statistics relative to workplace injuries and illnesses. Injury and Illness incidence rates are compiled for employers so that they can compare their rate with the calculated statewide rate for their industry. Injury data on cases involving days away from work are collected from employers and include demographic information on the employee, i.e., age, ethnicity, gender, length of service and occupation as well as case characteristics, i.e., the nature, source, part of the body, and event. This data serves as a primary source of morbidity data relative to the work force. It provides the District of Columbia government, employers and policy makers with valuable data regarding the incidence and prevalence of work-related injuries and illnesses by industry and resulting loss of work days.

Additional background and methodological information regarding the BLS occupational safety and health program can be found in Chapter 9 of the BLS Handbook of Methods at <http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch9.pdf>.