

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

Center for Policy, Planning and Epidemiology



For Release: December, 2009
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**CHARACTERISTICS FOR INJURIES AND ILLNESSES
REQUIRING DAYS AWAY FROM WORK IN PRIVATE
INDUSTRY, WASHINGTON, DC 2008**

Washington – The District of Columbia’s Annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses for 2008 showed that there were 3,060 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 35 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 39 percent of the cases (1490 cases) ; followed by Professional and related occupations with 15 percent of the cases (440 cases).

Case Characteristic Highlights

- The leading nature of the work-related injury or illness cases involving days away from work was sprains and strains (1,070 cases); other significant causes were soreness and pain (660 cases) and bruises and contusions (430 cases).
- The part of the body that was most frequently affected by injuries and illnesses was the trunk (830 cases) including the back and shoulder which accounted for 27 percent of all days away from work cases. Lower extremities, including the knee, ankle, foot and toe accounted for 24 percent of all days away from work cases.
- Floor, ground surfaces accounted for 24 percent of all sources of injury and illness cases.
- Cases involving overexertion accounted for 870 cases, while cases involving contact with object, equipment accounted for 780 cases and falls on the same level accounted for 580 cases.

Demographic Highlights

- Sixty percent of the occupational injuries and illnesses that resulted in days away from work involved women (1,840 cases).
- Workers in the age range, 45-54 accounted for 32% or 990 cases.
- Employees with a length of service with their employer for more than five years accounted for 1,260 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 840 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 two to four hours made up 540 cases.
- Tuesday (540 cases) and Saturday (520) cases were the days of the week that accounted for the most injury and illnesses days away from work cases.

Chart I

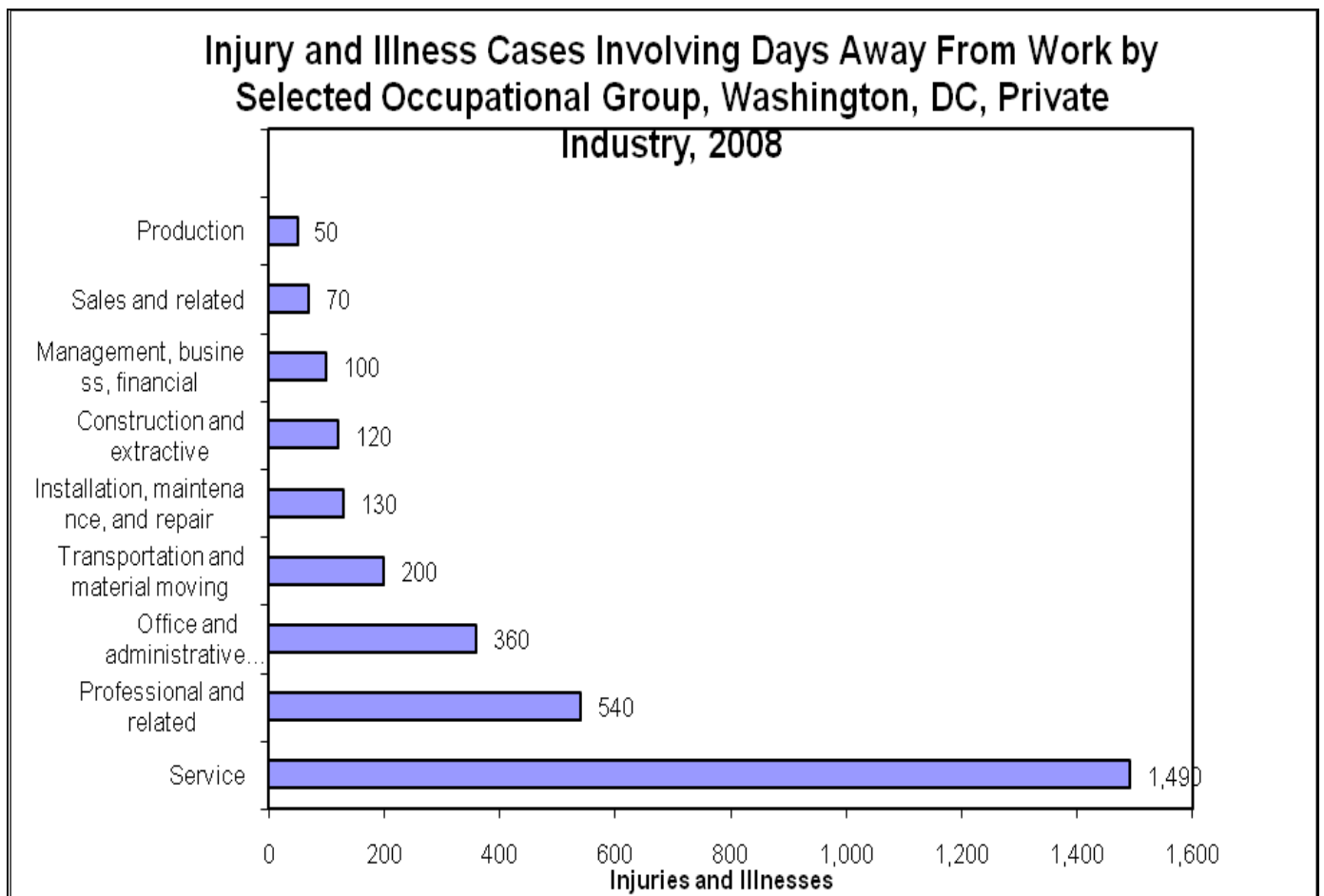
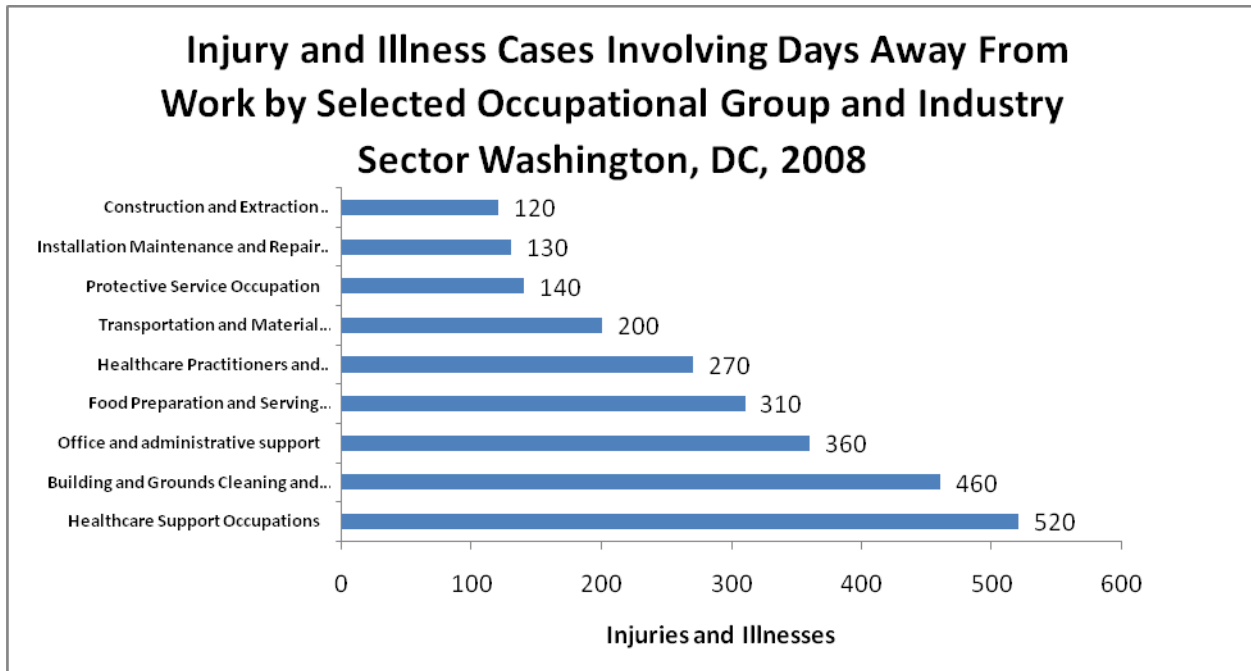


Chart II



Additional Statewide Information

For detailed statistical tables on case and demographic data from the Washington, DC Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses for 2008, 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. 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>.