



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health



Center for Policy, Planning and Evaluation

For Release: January, 2014

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CHARACTERISTICS FOR INJURIES AND ILLNESSES REQUIRING DAYS AWAY FROM WORK IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY, WASHINGTON, DC 2012

Washington – The District of Columbia’s Annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses for 2012 showed that there were 2,770 work-related injury and illness cases reported in the private industry that required days away from work. Sprains and strains accounted for approximately 35 percent of these cases and was the leading type of injury or illness. Education and health services occupations had the most injury and illness days away from work cases and made up 1,030 or 37 percent of the cases; followed by leisure and hospitality with 550 or 20 percent of the cases. (See Chart 1)

Case Characteristic Highlights

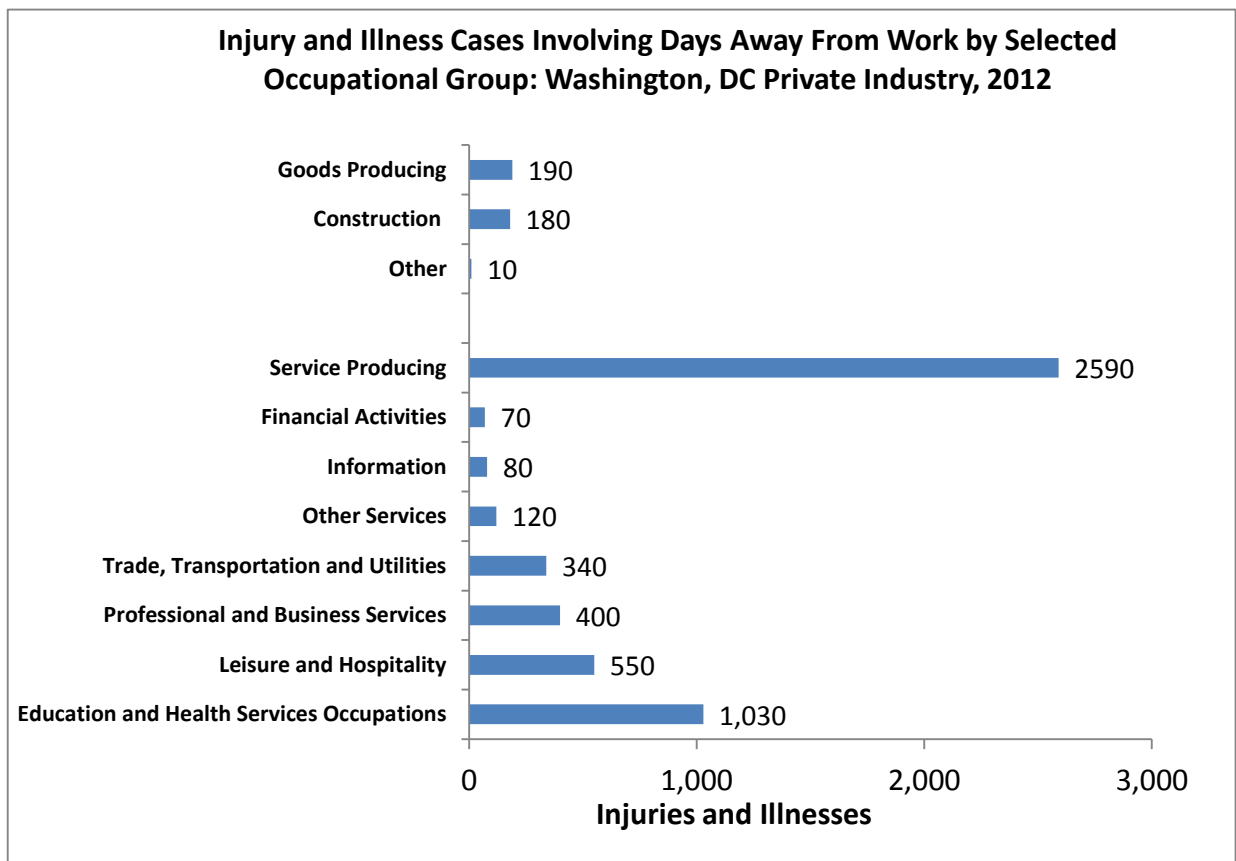
- The leading nature of the work-related injury or illness cases involving days away from work was sprains and strains (980 cases); other significant causes were soreness and pain (510 cases), cuts and lacerations (320 cases) and bruises and contusions (280 cases).
- The part of the body that was most frequently affected by injuries and illnesses was upper extremities (880 cases) which includes the shoulder, arm, wrist and hand which accounted for 32 percent of all days away from work cases. The trunk (710 cases) which includes the back accounted for 26 percent while lower extremities, including the knee, ankle foot, toe and toenail accounted for 22 percent of all days away from work cases.
- Floor and ground surfaces (560 cases) accounted for 20 percent of all sources of injury and illnesses cases.
- Cases involving overexertion and bodily reaction accounted for 29 percent or 800 cases, the majority of these cases were overexertion in lifting or lowering (300 cases). The next largest event category was cases which involved falls, slips and trips which accounted for 28 percent or 780 cases, the majority of these were cases involving falls on the same level which accounted for 500 cases.

Demographic Highlights

- Fifty-five percent of the occupational injuries and illnesses that resulted in days away from work involved women (1,510 cases).

- Workers in the age range of 45-54 years accounted for 27 percent or 750 cases.
- Forty-two percent of the occupational injuries and illnesses that resulted in days away from work involved Black or African American workers (1,150 cases).
- Forty-one percent of the occupational injuries and illnesses that resulted in days away from work involved employees with more than five years of service with employer (1,140 cases).
- Of the injuries and illnesses with days away from work that reported the time of incident, the hours from 8:01 AM to 12:00 PM accounted for 28 percent or 770 cases that resulted in days away from work.
- Of the injuries and illnesses with days away from work that reported hours on the job before the event occurred, employees on the job for two to four hours made up 540 cases.
- Wednesday (520 cases), Thursday (500 cases) and Monday (470 cases) were the days of the week when most of the injuries and illnesses involving days away from work occurred.

Chart I



Additional Statewide Information

For detailed statistical tables on case and demographic data from the Washington, DC Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses for 2012, 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) 442-9010 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. Beginning with 2009 data, the Occupational Safety Health Statistics program began classifying industry using the 2007 version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS 2007). Industry data from 2003 to 2008 were classified using the NAICS 2002. NAICS 2007 includes revisions across several sectors. The most significant revisions are in the information sector, particularly within telecommunications. For more information, go to <http://www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm>.

For technical information about and definitions for the CFOI program, please go to the BLS Handbook of Methods on the BLS web site here: http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch9_a1.htm.