



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health



Center for Policy, Planning and Evaluation

For Release: January, 2015

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CHARACTERISTICS FOR INJURIES AND ILLNESSES REQUIRING DAYS AWAY FROM WORK IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY, WASHINGTON, DC 2013

Washington – The District of Columbia’s Annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses for 2013 showed that there were 2,930 work-related injury and illness cases reported in the private industry that required days away from work. Sprains, strains, and tears accounted for approximately 34 percent of these cases and was the leading type of injury or illness. Food preparation and serving related occupations had the most injury and illness days away from work cases and made up 430 or 15 percent of the cases; followed by Building and ground cleaning and maintenance occupations with 370 or 13 percent of the cases. (See Chart 1)

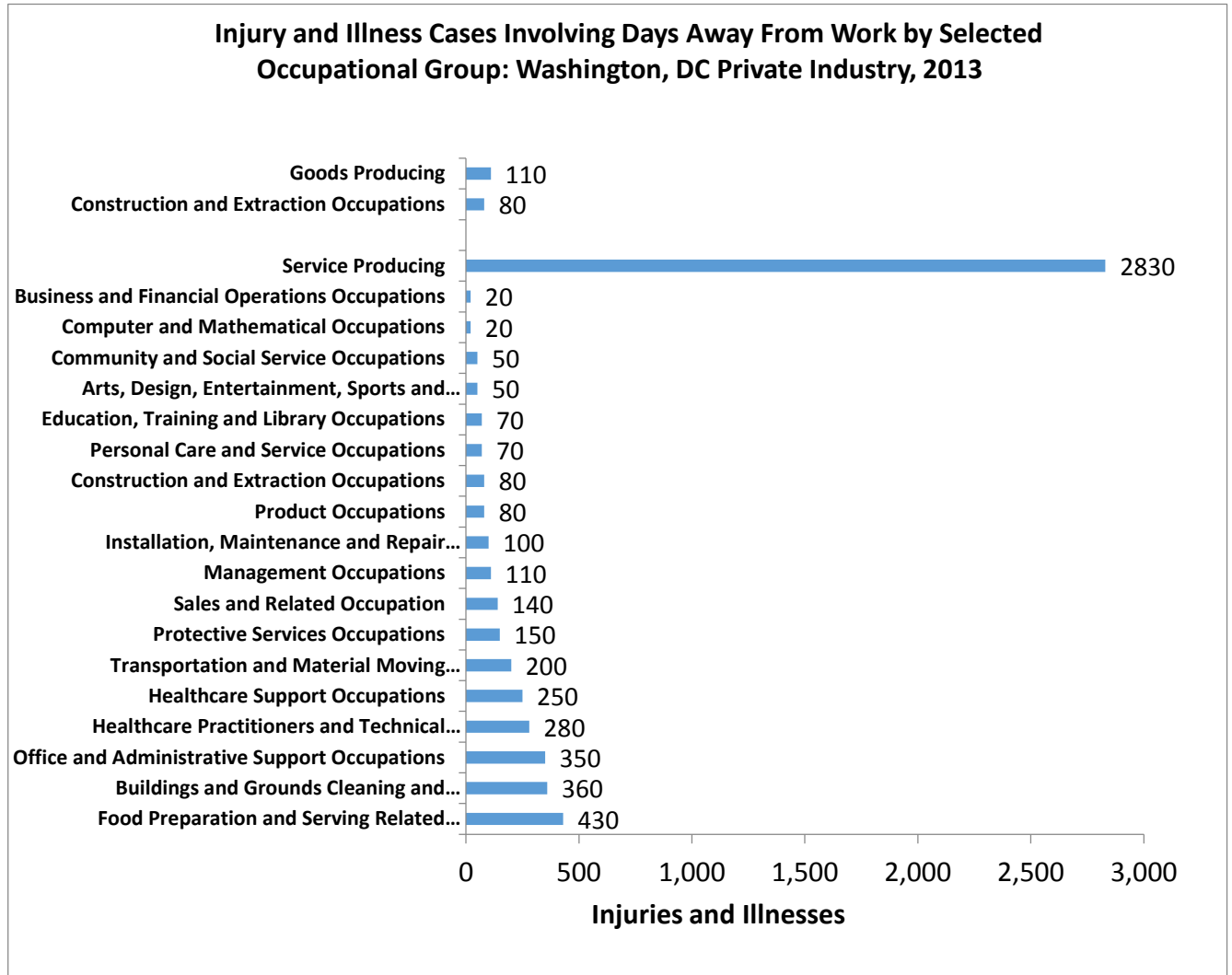
Case Characteristic Highlights

- The leading nature of the work-related injury or illness cases involving days away from work was sprains, strains, and tears (1,000 cases); other significant causes were cuts, lacerations and puncture (580 cases), chemical burns and corrosions (290 cases) and fractures (200 cases).
- The part of the body that was most frequently affected by injuries and illnesses was upper extremities (830 cases) which includes the shoulder, arm, wrist and hand which accounted for 28 percent of all days away from work cases. The lower extremities (750 cases) which includes the knee, ankle foot, toe and toenail accounted for 26 percent while the back accounted for 26 percent while the trunk (630) which includes the back accounted for 22 percent of all days away from work cases.
- Floors, walkways and ground surfaces (630 cases) accounted for 22 percent of all sources of injury and illnesses cases.
- Cases involving falls, slips and trips accounted for 33 percent or 960 cases, the majority of these cases were fall on the same level (680 cases). The next largest event category was cases which involved overexertion and bodily reaction which accounted for 29 percent or 850 cases, the majority of these were cases involving overexertion in lifting or lowering which accounted for 360 cases.

Demographic Highlights

- Fifty-six percent of the occupational injuries and illnesses that resulted in days away from work involved women (1,650 cases).
- Workers in the age range of 45-54 years accounted for 28 percent or 820 cases.
- Thirty-five percent of the occupational injuries and illnesses that resulted in days away from work involved Black workers (1,030 cases).
- Forty-eight 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 (1,420 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 30 percent or 760 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 650 cases.
- Tuesday (550 cases), Thursday (550 cases) and Wednesday (540 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 2013, 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.