

Indicator #14: Percentage of Workers Employed in Industries at High Risk for Occupational Morbidity

Background and Public Health Significance

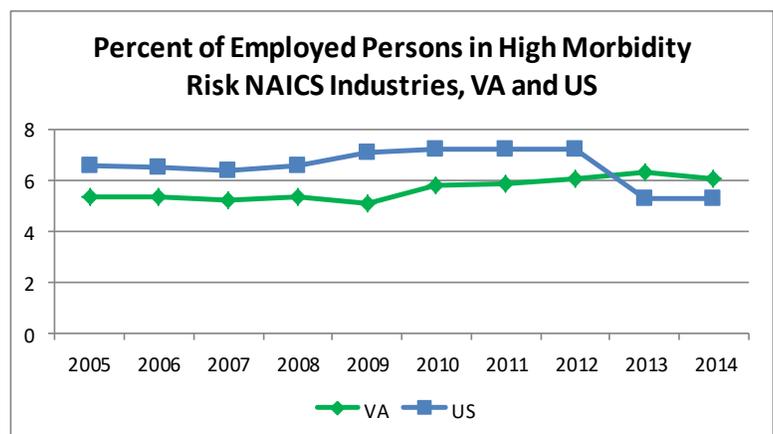
In 2014, there were almost 3 million work-related injuries and illnesses reported by employers in the private industry sector in the United States. Of those, 95.1% were recordable injuries and 4.8 % were recordable illnesses. Workers in certain industries sustain non-fatal injuries and illnesses at much higher rates than the overall workforce. The proportion of the workforce that is employed in these high-risk industries varies by state. This variation can help explain differences in injury and illness rates among states.

Data source: U.S. Census Bureau County Business Patterns (CBP)

Rationale:

Work-related injuries and illnesses are preventable, and control of occupational hazards is the most effective means of prevention. Concentrating on high-risk industries for non-fatal injuries and illnesses helps prioritize limited resources.

| | 14.1 Number of Employed Persons in High Morbidity Risk NAICS Industries | 14.2 Percentage of Employed Persons in High Morbidity Risk NAICS Industries |
|------|---|---|
| 2005 | 163,980 | 5.36 % |
| 2006 | 169,924 | 5.35 % |
| 2007 | 167,823 | 5.25 % |
| 2008 | 169,379 | 5.32 % |
| 2009 | 154,838 | 5.06 % |
| 2010 | 174,732 | 5.83 % |
| 2011 | 178,358 | 5.89 % |
| 2012 | 187,314 | 6.06 % |
| 2013 | 198,598 | 6.34 % |
| 2014 | 191,804 | 6.07 % |



NOTE: 2013 & 2014 rates may change when the updated 2015 Occupational Health Indicators: A Guide for Tracking Occupational Health Conditions and Their Determinants is released due to changes in high risk industries and occupations.

Limitations

It is possible that some new employees are not counted in the CBP mid-March survey. In addition, differences in regional industrial practices may cause the ranking of high-risk industries within a specific state to differ from those identified in national data. The industries for which data are available also vary among states, primarily due to the differences in industry concentration and sample size from one state to the next; as a result it is not recommended to compare numbers or rates between state or national data.

The SOII is a function of BLS using a probability sample and not a census of all employers. It is based on injury and illness data maintained by employers and is subject to sampling error. There is a potential for additional sampling error if an employer has more than 30 cases with days away from work as an employer is only required to report on 30 such cases. Excluded from the survey are the military, self employed individuals, farms with fewer than 11 employees, and Federal agencies. In some states, the survey does not cover the state and municipal employees. Therefore, the recommended measures of frequency are limited to the private sector workforce only. Some states do not participate in the Federal-State survey, and in some participating states, the sample sizes are insufficient to generate State-specific estimates. Numbers and rates may not be published/released by BLS due to the reliability of the estimates. Employers vary with respect to how much they may reduce their potential reporting burden by placing affected workers on restricted work activity, thereby avoiding the reporting of lost workday cases (which require reporting of additional details). In addition, the SOII only collects data for the incident year, and does not capture lost work-time that may carry over to a new calendar year. For example, a debilitating injury that occurs on the last day of the calendar year will have no lost work-time associated with it in the SOII. The CBP is based on mid-March payrolls of all employers in the United States, but does not cover farms, public administration, or the self-employed. Exact employment counts for a particular NAICS may not be provided within a State because of confidentiality issues.