

DESCRIPTION

Workplaces are a significant source of injury and exposure to hazardous substances, which can lead to disability, illness and death.¹ Despite improvements in occupational safety and health over the last several decades, workers continue to suffer work-related deaths, injuries and illnesses.² Nationally, more than 4.1 million workers suffer a serious job-related injury or illness every year. In addition to pain and suffering, inadequate workers' compensation benefits, and insufficient medical insurance can result in lost employment and wages, debt, a loss of home ownership and bankruptcy.³ Since the passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) in 1970, rates of workplace injury and illness have fallen dramatically.⁴

HOW WE ARE DOING

In Minnesota, rates of workplace injury and illness dropped 31 percent between 2006 and 2016. The 2015 rate of 3.5 injuries per 100 was below the Healthy People 2020 goal of 3.8 injuries per 100 full-time workers but still above national average of 3.⁵ Workers' compensation indemnity claims are paid injury and illness claims that require more than three days of work disability or payment of permanent disability benefits. Indemnity claims account for approximately 23 percent of all paid workers' compensation claims. The number of claims decreased in Ramsey County. The number of claims decreased in Ramsey County from 4,779 in 2005 to 3,349 in 2016.⁶

BENCHMARK INDICATOR

Healthy People 2020¹: Reduce non-fatal work-related injuries.

U.S. target: 3.8 injuries per 100 full-time workers.

DISPARITIES

Racial and ethnic minorities, recent immigrants, younger and older workers, and workers with disabilities are at increased risk for work-related illness and injury.¹ Several factors contribute to this, including employment in high-hazard industries like transportation, construction and agriculture. Discrimination, low literacy, and lack of health insurance are also factors.⁷ Temporary help agency workers have double the injury rate of permanent workers. Temporary workers are often immigrants and minorities who don't receive adequate safety training. In Minnesota in 2014, 2 percent of workers were temporary, but injuries among them accounted for 4 percent of indemnity claims.⁵ In addition, men make up 91 percent of the work-related fatal injuries. Of these deaths, transportation incidences accounted for 51 percent.⁸

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Information to note

- Racial and ethnic minorities, recent immigrants, younger and older workers, and workers with disabilities are at increased risk for work-related illness and injury.
- Men make up 91 percent of workplace fatalities.

¹ Occupational Safety and Health. Healthy People 2020. <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/occupational-safety-and-health/objectives>. Accessed August 2018.

² Occupational injuries and deaths among younger workers—United States, 1998–2007. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2010. 59(15):449-55. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5915a2.htm>. Published April 23, 2010. Accessed August 2018.

³ Osha. Healthier workers. Safer workplaces. A stronger America. Injury and illness prevention programs, white paper. United States Department of Labor. <https://www.osha.gov/dsg/InjuryIllnessPreventionProgramsWhitePaper.html>. Published January 2012. Accessed August 2018.

⁴ Timeline of OSHA's 40-year history. United States Department of Labor. <https://www.osha.gov/osha40/timeline.html>. Accessed August 2018.

⁵ Survey shows Minnesota workplace injury rate sets another new all-time low. Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry. <http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-compliance-safety-lines-archive>. Published October 28, 2016. Accessed August 2018.

⁶ Workplace Safety- Research and Statistics. Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry. <http://www.dli.mn.gov/>. Accessed August 2018.

⁷ Occupational health disparities – inputs: occupational safety and health risks. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/ohd/risks.html>. Accessed August 2018.

⁸ Fatal Work Injuries in Minnesota – 2016. Bureau of Labor Statistics. https://www.bls.gov/regions/midwest/news-release/fatalworkinjuries_minnesota.htm. Accessed August 2018.

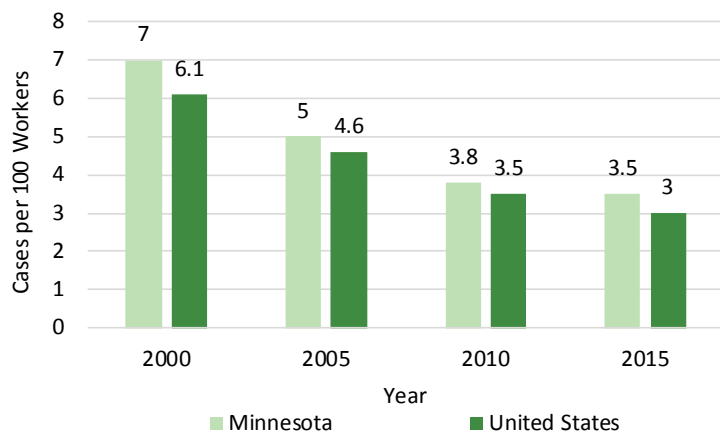
RISK FACTORS

Changes in working conditions, like longer hours, compressed work weeks, shift work, reduced job security, and temporary work, as well as lack of training about new materials, processes and equipment can pose risks to worker health.⁹ Some of the most dangerous situations are transporting or dealing with harmful substances, as most of the work-related fatal injuries that occur in Minnesota are due to transportation incidents, followed by exposure to harmful substances or environments.¹⁰

WHAT RAMSEY COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS DOING

Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health provides data monitoring and reporting for this topic in order to better understand the overall health and current conditions in the community. The information may help inform community partners, policy makers or county program leadership.

Work-Related Injury and Illness in the Private Sector



Source: Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry.¹¹

Fatal Occupational Injuries by Event or Exposure, Minnesota

Event or Exposure	2015 Number	2016 Number	Percent
Total	74	92	100
Violence and other injuries by persons or animals	7	10	11
Intentional injury by person	7	9	10
Homicides (Intentional injury by other person)	4	3	3
Suicides (Self-inflicted injury--intentional)	3	6	7
Transportation incidents	31	46	50
Pedestrian vehicular incident	4	4	4
Roadway incidents involving motorized land vehicle	19	29	32
Roadway collision with other vehicle	11	17	18
Roadway collision--moving in opposite directions, oncoming	2	8	9
Roadway collision--moving perpendicularly	6	4	4
Roadway collision with object other than vehicle	3	10	11
Vehicle struck object or animal on side of roadway	3	9	10
Nonroadway incident involving motorized land vehicles	5	7	8
Nonroadway noncollision incident	4	4	4
Jack-knifed or overturned, nonroadway	3	3	3
Falls, slips, trips	13	11	12
Falls on same level	3	3	3
Falls to lower level	10	8	9
Other fall to lower level	6	7	8
Other fall to lower level less than 6 feet	--	3	3
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	3	12	13
Exposure to other harmful substances	3	6	7
Nonmedical use of drugs or alcohol--unintentional overdose	--	4	4
Contact with objects and equipment	17	10	11
Struck by object or equipment	11	6	7
Struck by falling object or equipment--other than powered vehicle	5	5	5
Struck, caught, or crushed in collapsing structure, equipment, or material	1	3	3

Source: Fatal Work Injuries in Minnesota. Bureau of Labor and Statistics.¹²

⁹ Occupational injuries and deaths among younger workers—United States, 1998–2007. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2010. 59(15):449-55. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5915a2.htm>. Published April 23, 2010. Accessed August 2018.

¹⁰ Occupational health disparities – inputs: occupational safety and health risks. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/ohd/risks.html>. Accessed August 2018.

¹¹ Workplace Safety- Research and Statistics. Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry Web site. <http://www.dli.mn.gov/>. Accessed August 2018.

¹² Fatal Work Injuries in Minnesota. Bureau of Labor and Statistics. https://www.bls.gov/regions/midwest/news-release/fatalworkinjuries_minnesota.htm. Accessed August 2018.