

Occupational Health and Injuries of the Employed Population

11.0 Introduction

Statistics on occupational injuries are essential for effective programming for prevention of occupational accidents and for their monitoring. Statistics on occupational injuries should therefore form part of a broad programme of statistics of occupational safety and health.

Objectives of these statistics:

- To identify the occupations and economic activities where occupational injuries occur, along with their extent, severity and in the way in which they occur, as a basis for planning preventive measures;
- To set priorities for preventive efforts
- To inform employers, organizations and employees of the risks associated with their work and workplaces, so that they can take an active part in their own safety.
- To provide a basis for policy making aimed at encouraging employers and organizations introduce accident prevention measures.

An occupational injury is any personal injury, disease or death resulting from an occupational accident; an occupational injury is therefore a distinct form an occupational disease, which is a disease contracted as a result of an exposure over a period of time to risk factors arising from work activity;

Days away from work; are cases requiring at least one day away from work with or without days of job transfer or restriction.

Job transfer or restriction cases; occur when as a result of a work-related injury or illness, an employer or health care professional keeps, or recommends keeping an employee from doing the routine functions of his or her job or from working a full workday that the employee would have scheduled to work before the injury or illness occurred.

The 2005 labor force survey collected data on occupational Health and Injuries of the employed population. The information collected includes:

- Illness/Injury in the 12 months prior to the survey
- Cause of illness/Injury
- Seriousness of most recent illness/Injury
- Occupation of the person surveyed
- Conditions at the place of work
- Health hazards relate to the place of work
- Use of protective clothing

11.1 Currently Employed Persons 15 Years and Above Reporting Illness

An occupational disease or illness is a disease contracted as a result of an exposure over a period of time to risk factors arising from work activity. The percentages of currently employed persons 15 years and above who reported illness are presented in Table 11.1. The results show that a total of 19.5 percent reported illness.

Table 11.1: Percentage Distribution of Currently Employed Persons 15 Years and above Reporting illness in the 12 months prior to the Survey, 2005

Sex	Not Stated		Fell ill		Did Not fall ill		Number of Employed Persons
Total	368,221	8.9	806,349	19.5	2,956,961	71.6	4,131,531
Male	181,542	8.2	440,778	19.9	1,591,515	71.9	2,213,835
Female	186,679	9.7	365,571	19.1	1,365,446	71.2	1,917,696

Table 11.2 shows the percentage distribution of reported illness was Allergies, 4.7 percent. For all the those that fell ill by type of ailment. Diarrhea was the illnesses reported, more men than women reported most frequently reported illness, 35 percent, illness. followed by fatigue, 24 percent. The least frequently

Table 11.2: Percentage Distribution of Currently Employed Persons 15 Years and above reporting illness in the 12 months prior to the Survey, 2005

Type of illness	Total		Male		Female	
Skin Problems	144,100	17.9	77,735	18.2	66,365	17.5
Lung Problems	147,232	18.3	76,206	17.8	71,025	18.8
Allergies	37,897	4.7	20,208	4.7	17,689	4.7
Diarrhea	282,758	35.1	151,530	35.4	131,228	34.7
Fatigue	194,362	24.1	102,222	23.9	92,141	24.3
Total Fell Ill	806,349	100.0	427,901	53.1	378,448	46.9

11.2 Currently Employed Persons 15 Years and above reported illness, the majority of the people that **Above Reporting Illness by Age** reported having suffered from it were in the age range 20 to 34 years. The results show that more The survey collected information on the age of the than 70 percent of the persons that reported skin persons that reported the respective illnesses. Table problems, Diarrhoea and fatigue were below the age 11.3 shows that more persons in younger age groups of 40 years. reported illness than the ones in older age group. For diarrhea which was the most commonly

Table 11.3: Percentage Distribution of Currently Employed Persons 15 years and Above Reporting illness in the 12 months Prior to the Survey by Age, 2005

Type of illness	Age of the persons reporting respective illnesses											Total
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
Skin problems	15.5	16.0	19.2	13.1	8.4	6.9	6.2	3.2	4.1	2.4	5.0	100
Lung problems	7.0	13.6	15.7	15.0	10.8	7.6	5.2	6.7	3.9	6.2	8.3	100
Allergies	12.6	16.5	13.2	14.5	10.5	6.7	5.3	4.4	5.3	2.2	8.8	100
Diarrhea	11.1	15.7	18.8	15.5	10.9	8.0	6.0	3.5	3.4	2.3	4.8	100
Fatigue	7.0	15.4	16.0	13.1	11.1	8.6	6.2	6.8	3.3	4.9	7.6	100
None	17.6	16.7	16.1	12.4	9.2	7.3	6.3	4.3	3.3	2.3	4.5	100

11.3 Health Status of Currently Employed Persons 15 Years and above who reported Illness
All the persons who reported illness in the 12 months prior to the survey were asked how serious the illness was. That is, whether the illness caused them permanent disability, whether it prevented them from working permanently, whether they had to stop work temporarily or whether they even had to change jobs.

them had to stop work only temporarily but were able to go back to work, 65.8 percent. A similar trend is noticed among persons who reported Lung problems, skin problems and Allergies with the majority only stopping work temporarily. Relatively high percentages of persons that reported Allergies and skin problems had to change jobs, 45.7 and 42.0 percent respectively. For the persons that reported fatigue, the majority had to change jobs, 47.2 percent and 43.4 percent had to stop work temporarily.

Table 11.4 below shows that, of the persons that reported to have had diarrhoea, the majority of

Table 11.4: Percentage Distribution of Currently Employed Persons 15 years and Above by Health Status, 2005

Type of illness	Seriousness of illness				
	Permanently disabled	Prevented from work permanently	Stopped work temporarily	Changed jobs	Total
Skin problems	2.0	2.1	53.9	42.0	144,100
Lung problems	3.1	7.9	60.3	28.7	147,232
Allergies	0.0	2.7	51.5	45.7	37,897
Diarrhoea	1.9	3.4	65.8	28.9	282,758
Fatigue	3.2	6.2	43.4	47.2	194,362

11.4 Occupation of employment at the time of illness

The currently working persons aged 15 years and above who reported illness in the 12 months prior to the survey were asked what their actual occupation was at the time of illness. Table 11.5 below shows the percentage distribution of persons aged 15 years and above who reported illness in the 12 months prior to the survey by Occupation. The table shows that in almost all the occupations, the majority reported fatigue as the main problem.

Table 11.5: Percentage Distribution of Persons Aged 15 Years and above who Reported illness in the 12 months prior to the Survey by Occupation.

Occupation	Type of illness						Total
	Skin problems	Lung problems	Allergies	Diarrhoea	Fatigue	None	
Professional, technical and related	2.0	3.4	0.0	15.8	23.1	55.7	100
Clerical and related	2.1	13.6	0.0	6.5	23.9	53.9	100
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	4.8	12.4	0.1	2.4	43.2	37.1	100
Production and related	9.3	9.2	0.0	7.6	41.1	32.8	100
Administrative, managerial	5.6	3.3	0.0	4.4	47.5	39.2	100
Service	0.0	11.3	0.0	46.9	24.3	17.5	100
Sales	0.4	6.3	5.0	3.3	27.7	57.3	100
Not stated	15.2	14.7	0.0	12.7	20.2	37.2	100
Total							

11.5 Frequency of Illness of Currently than five times. Allergies also had a relatively high **Employed Persons who Reported Illness** percentage, 23 percent of persons reporting a frequency of more than five times. For Diarrhoea Most of the respondents indicated that the which was the most frequently reported illness, frequency of illness was once or twice for all the about 40 percent reported frequency of 3 or more illnesses. For the persons reporting Fatigue, about times. one third reported a frequency of illness of more

Table 11.6: Percentage Distribution of Persons reporting illness by Frequency of illness in the 12 months prior to the Survey.

Type of illness	Frequency of illness in the last 12 months			Total
	Once or twice	3 to 5 times	More than 5 times	
Skin problems	57	27	16	100
Lung problems	47	33	20	100
Allergies	49	28	23	100
Diarrhoea	58	28	14	100
Fatigue	42	29	29	100

11.6 Conditions at the Place of Work

Conditions at the place of work and the nature of work that one does may be a health hazard in some cases. Persons who reported illness were asked about the conditions at the place of work and the nature of work they do. Table 11.7 shows the conditions and nature of work persons did by the health status. The table shows that, more than 50

For persons in Service, about 46.9 percent reported diarrhea. Diarrhea was also common among persons offering professional, technical and related services,

Lung problems were common among persons

working in clerical and related services, 13.6 percent, Agriculture, and

Table 11.7: Percentage of Person who reported illness by the Conditions and Nature of Work they did

Type of illness	Conditions and Nature of work persons did										Total
	Dust Fumes Gas	Noisy environment	Extreme temperatures	Dangerous tools	Work under ground	Work at height	Insufficient lighting	Work with chemicals	Carry heavy load	Don't know	
Skin problems	36	21	6	19	0	1	0	2	13	2	100
Lung problems	30	22	9	15	0	0	0	1	20	3	100
Allergies	26	32	2	21	1	2	1	3	12	0	100
Diarrhoea	31	20	13	16	1	0	0	1	16	2	100
Fatigue	32	24	7	15	0	1	0	2	16	3	100

11.7 Cause of Illness

The cause of illness may also be referred to what the ILO terms as occupation accident. This may be risks workers may be exposed to risks such as chemicals, travel, transport or road traffic accidents in which workers are infected or injured and which arise out of or in the course of work, i.e. while engaged in an economic activity or at work, or carrying on the business of the employer. These will be unexpected and unplanned occurrences including acts of violence arising out of or in connection with work which results in one or more workers incurring a personal injury, disease or death. This information is very important as it provides basis for institutions to introduce preventive measures. Respondents who indicated that they had an illness in the 12 months prior to the survey were asked

whether this illness reported was caused due to the work they do or not. This information is supposed to give an indication of how some work people do may expose them to health risks. For the persons that reported lung problems, about 18 percent reported that the illness was caused because of work. For the ones who reported skin problems, 7.8 reported that it was caused due to work. About 50 percent of the person who reported fatigue said it was due to work. The table also shows large percentages of persons reporting that they did not know whether the illness was caused due to work or not. Not knowing whether the illness was caused due to work can also be a health risks as one may continue to do particular work without taking precaution and in the end have the illness recurring.

Table 11.8: Percentage of Person who Reported illness by Cause of illness, 2005

Type of illness	Cause of illness			Total
	Due to work	Not due to work	Don't know	
Skin problems	7.8	65.6	26.6	100
Lung problems	18.1	61.0	20.9	100
Allergies	4.7	67.0	28.3	100
Diarrhoea	2.9	69.8	27.3	100
Fatigue	50.1	36.2	13.7	100

11.8 Currently Employed Persons 15 Years and Above Reporting Injuries prior to the survey by health status. The table shows

that a total of 20.6 percent of the persons aged 15 The labour force survey asked respondents whether and above reported having had an injury in the 12 they got some injury in the 12 months prior to the months prior to the survey. survey. Table 11.9 shows the percentage distribution

Table 11.9: Percentage Distribution of Persons who Reported Injury in the 12 months prior to the Survey by Health Status, 2005.

Sex	Not Stated		Got Injured		Did Not get injured		Number of Employed
Total	381,042	9.2	850,051	20.6	2,900,438	70.2	4,131,531
Male	191,548	8.7	458,517	20.7	1,563,770	70.6	2,213,835
Female	189,494	9.9	391,534	20.4	1,336,668	69.7	1,917,696

Table 11.10 shows the percentage distribution of persons who reported injury in the 12 months prior to the survey by health status. The table shows that, back and muscle pains were the most commonly reported injuries with 61.6 percent. The least reported injury was hearing problems with about 2.9

percent. The sex distribution shows that higher percentages of males than females reported wound/deep cuts. The percentages reporting Sight and Hearing problems were slightly more common among females than males

Table 11.10: Percentage Distribution of Persons who Reported Injury in the 12 months prior to the Survey by Health Status, 2005.

Health Status	Total		Male		Female	
Back/Muscle Pain	523,258	61.6	276,804	61.6	246,455	61.6
Wounds/Deep Cuts	172,637	20.3	97,885	21.8	74,752	18.7
Sight Problems	120,857	14.2	61,154	13.6	59,703	14.9
Hearing Problems	33,299	3.9	13,886	3.1	19,413	4.8
Total Got Injured	850,051	100.0	449,677	100.0	400,374	100.0

11.9 Currently Employed Persons 15 Years and Above Reporting Injury by Age Group commonly reported injury, the majority (13.1 and 14.0 percent) were in the age group 25 to 34. The oldest age group also reported a relatively high Information on the age of the persons who reported percentage, 11.4 percent. For persons who reported injury was sought in the survey. Table 11.11 below wounds/deep cuts, the majority were in the age shows the percentage distribution of persons who groups between 15 and 29 years. reported injury by their age. For persons that reported back and muscle pain, which was the most

Table 11.11: Percentage Distribution of Persons who Reported Injury by Age Group, 2005

Type of injury	Age of the persons reporting respective injury											Total
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
Back/Muscle pain	4.6	9.6	13.1	14.0	10.1	9.5	9.6	6.5	6.4	5.4	11.4	100
Wound/Deep cuts	17.3	17.5	18.2	10.6	9.1	8.2	4.9	5.3	2.2	2.8	4.0	100
Sight problems	10.1	9.8	16.0	11.8	8.3	5.7	8.5	7.2	4.2	6.6	11.7	100
Hearing problems	9.1	24.8	7.4	8.4	8.4	2.9	9.4	3.9	6.6	6.2	12.9	100

11.10 Seriousness of Injuries Sustained in the course of Employment

The seriousness of an injury may cause incapacity for one to work. According to the ILO, this is the inability of the victim, due to an occupational injury, to perform the normal duties of work in the job or post occupied at the time of the occupational accidents.

The persons who reported to have been injured were asked how serious the injury they sustained was. Table 11.12 shows the percentage of persons

Table 11.12: Percentage Distributions of Persons Reporting illness in the 12 months prior to the Survey by Health Status and Type of Injury.

Type of injury	Seriousness of injury					Total
	Permanently disabled	Prevented from working permanently	Stopped work temporarily	Changed jobs	No Consequences	
Back/Muscle pain	2.0	1.5	53.7	0.4	42.4	100
Wound/Deep cuts	2.7	8.1	50.4	1.2	37.6	100
Sight problems	3.6	4.1	47.3	0.6	44.4	100
Hearing problems	7.5	1.9	30.9	0.0	59.7	100

11.11 Occupation of Employment at the Time of Injury

Table 11.12 above shows that Back/muscle injury were the most common injuries reported. This was followed by Wounds/deep cuts. The survey sought information on the occupation of the persons who

who reported injury by seriousness of the injury. The table shows that, back /muscle pain, which had the highest number of persons reporting, had 2 percent reporting to have been permanently disabled. The majority of the people who reported Back/muscle pain, Wound/deep cuts and Hearing problems as injuries suffered indicated that they only had to stop work temporarily. The percentages that reported not to have had any consequences were highest for the persons reporting hearing problems and sight problems.

reported injury. Table 11.13 shows that for the persons that reported back/muscle pain, the majority had occupation relating to agriculture, forestry and fisheries, 76.7. In Production and related occupations, 9.8 percent reported back/muscle

pains. A similar trend is noticed with the persons having agricultural, forestry and fisheries and 10.9 who reported wounds/deep cuts with 68.1 percent percent having production and related occupations.

Table 11.13: Percentage Distribution of the Persons Reporting Injury by their Occupation, 2006

Occupation	Type of injury				
	Back/Muscle pain	Wounds/Deep cuts	Sight problems	Hearing problems	None
Professional, technical and related	1.4	2.6	3.3	8.9	2.1
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	76.7	68.1	37.5	36.9	63.7
Production and related	9.8	10.9	30.9	11.0	11.8
Administrative, Managerial	6.5	8.3	20.9	36.6	16.3
Clerical and related	3.3	2.9	2.0	0.0	2.3
Service	0.3	2.0	3.1	0.0	0.0
Sales	2.0	2.9	2.3	6.6	3.8
Not stated	0.0	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100	100	100	100	100

11.12 Cause of Injury

The ILO defines mode of injury (in this case cause of injury) as; how the person was injured by a physical contact with as item or object which caused the injury or was psychologically affected by an event; if there are several injuries, the mode of the most serious injury should be recorded. Respondents who indicated that they had an injury in the 12 months prior to the survey were asked whether this injury reported was caused due to the work they do or not. This information indicates how some work people do may expose them to injuries of different types. This may be more crucial for some industries as

opposed to others. Table 11.14 shows the percentage of persons that reported injury by the causes. The table shows that the majority of the people that reported back or muscle pain indicated that the injury was caused by the work they did, 44.9 percent. Wounds or deep cuts also had high percentage of persons reporting work as the cause. Not knowing whether the injury one gets is caused due to work may be a health hazard as one may continue to work without taking precaution and in the end get injured.

Table 11.14: Percentage of Person who Reported Injury by Cause of Injury, 2005

Type of injury	Cause of injury			Total
	Due to work	Not due to work	Don't know	
Back/Muscle pain	44.9	41.9	13.2	100
Wound/Deep cuts	35.5	55.4	9.1	100
Sight problems	13.9	64.4	21.7	100
Hearing problems	11.8	61.9	26.4	100

11.13 Frequency of Injuries Sustained during the course of Employment

The frequency of injury especially at a place of work is an indicator of how risky one's job may be. Table below shows the percentage of persons who reported injury by the frequency of injury. The table

shows that for back/muscle pains, sight and hearing problems, the majority of the persons reported that the frequency of their injury was once or twice a year. For the wounds and cuts, the majority of the persons reported the frequency of 3 to 5 times.

11.15

Table 11.15: Percentage of Persons Reporting Injury by the Frequency of Injury, 2005

Type of injury	Frequency of injury (per year)			Total
	Once or twice	3 to 5 times	More than 5 times	
Back/Muscle pain	46.0	31.9	22.1	100
Wound/Deep cuts	42.5	44.4	13.1	100
Sight problems	38.4	30.9	30.7	100
Hearing problems	47.5	19.2	33.3	100

11.14 Injury by Sector of Employment

The industry where a person works may have a bearing on the risks they face to injury. Some industries may have more risks than other e.g. industries where a lot of machinery is used may be

more risky. Information on the industry where persons who reported injury worked was sought from the respondents. Table 11.16 shows the percentage distribution of person who reported injury by industry. The table shows that most of the persons who reported injury were in the Agriculture,

forestry and fisheries industry. This is true for all the was followed by the Trade, wholesale and retail types of injury, with more than 75 percent being in distribution with more than 5 percent reporting the Agriculture industry. The Agricultural industry back/muscle pain, wounds and sight problems.

Table 11.16: Percentage Distribution of Persons who Reported Injury by Industry, 2005

Industry	Type of injury				
	Back/Muscle pain	Wounds/Deep cuts	Sight problems	Hearing problems	None
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	82.1	77.7	75.4	83.6	70.2
Mining and quarrying	1.0	1.2	1.4	0.8	1.4
Manufacturing	3.1	4.0	3.7	3.4	4.1
Electricity, gas and water	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.8	0.4
Construction	1.4	1.3	1.8	1.3	1.2
Trade, wholesale and retail distribution	6.1	8.5	6.9	4.1	10.9
Hotels and restaurants	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.9
Transport and communication	1.9	1.5	0.9	1.0	2.2
Finance, insurance and real estate	0.2	0.6	1.6	1.2	1.1
Community, social and personal services	3.8	4.6	7.0	3.2	7.6
Total	100	100	100	100	100

11.15 Seriousness of Injuries Sustained

Most injuries related to work could be avoided if organizations can put in place some preventive measures. These injuries have in some cases caused persons to loose their jobs and in some cases people have become disabled. Information on the seriousness of the injury was sought from the survey. Table 11.17 shows the percentage distribution of persons in the survey who reported injury by seriousness of the injury.

The table shows that about 10 percent of persons in the construction industry who reported injury ended

up being permanently disabled. The finance, insurance and real estate industry also had 11.7 persons reporting permanent disability. The table shows that very high percentages of the persons reporting injury only stopped work temporarily especially in the Agriculture and the hotels and restaurants. The table also shows that there was no consequence for the majority of the persons reporting injury in Electricity and gas, Mining and quarrying and in the Community, social and personal industry.

Table 11.17: Percentage Distribution of Person who Reported Injury by Seriousness of Injury, 2005

Industry	Seriousness of injury					Total
	Permanently disabled	Prevented from working permanently	Stopped work temporarily	Changed jobs	No consequences	
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	1.9	2.2	55.0	0.5	40.3	100
Mining and quarrying	2.9	3.1	26.1	0.0	67.8	100
Manufacturing	4.0	3.5	40.2	0.8	51.5	100
Electricity, gas and water	22.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	77.4	100
Construction	10.5	2.8	37.0	0.0	49.6	100
Trade, wholesale and retail distribution	3.0	4.2	41.8	0.6	50.3	100
Hotels and restaurants	0.0	0.0	62.6	0.0	37.4	100
Transport and communication	0.0	5.8	38.5	1.0	54.7	100
Finance, insurance and real estate	11.7	17.9	11.3	0.0	59.2	100
Community, social and personal services	1.7	5.8	30.0	0.7	61.8	100