Health and Safety Statistics

At a glance

2013/14
What data do we have about workplace health and safety in Great Britain?

**Ill health/disease**
- Estimates of the number of people with an illness which is caused or made worse by their work
- Rates of work-related ill health for different groups of workers (e.g., by industry and occupation)
- Estimated deaths due to work exposures

**Safety**
- Number of people injured and rates of injury at work for different groups of workers
- Number of dangerous occurrence reports from employers

**Enforcement**
- Number of companies prosecuted for breaches of health and safety legislation
- Number of enforcement notices served by health and safety inspectors

**Other topics**
- Cost to Britain of health and safety failings
- Working days lost due to work-related ill health and injury
- European comparisons of health and safety indicators

*Find out more about work-related ill health*
*Go to the Statistics website*

*Find out more about injuries*
*Go to the Statistics website*

*Go to the Enforcement statistics*

*Go to the Statistics website topic list*
Health and safety compared

Self-reported health and safety incidents (1.2 million cases)
Working days lost due to health and safety incidents (28.2 million days)

Work-related deaths by cause (around 13 000 deaths)

Note: Includes long standing ill health cases
Note: includes diseases where sufficient data to reliably count or estimate current mortality

- Musculoskeletal
- Stress
- Other illness
- Injury

- Other illness
- Injury
- Cancer
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Ill health accounts for 46% of the health and safety incidents, 83% of the related sickness absence and around 99% of the work-related deaths each year
Types of work-related ill health

**Common health** conditions which can be caused or made worse by work

- Work-related Stress
- Work-related Musculoskeletal disorders
- Work-related Skin disease
- Work-related Asthma

**Long-latency** conditions which can be caused by previous work activity and where symptoms can appear many years after exposure

- Asbestos-related disease
- Cancers
- Work-related Hearing loss
- Other Respiratory disease, e.g. COPD
- Vibration-related disease
What do we know about work-related stress?

- High rates in large workplaces (>250 employees)
- High rates in health and social care professionals, nurses and education professional occupations
- High rates in human health and social care, education and public administration industries
- High rates for middle aged workers (ages 45 to 54)
- Higher rates for women than men
- New cases: 244,000
  Total cases: 487,000
- 11.3 million working days lost

Find out more about stress statistics
Find out more about stress controls
What do we know about ...

**Work-related Musculoskeletal disorders?**

- High rates in building trades, nurses, personal care and skilled agriculture occupations
- Manual handling is the main work activity causing back disorders
- High rates in construction, postal and courier activities, agriculture and health care industries
- High rates for workers aged over 45
- Approximately 40% of disorders affect the back, and 40% affect the upper limbs
- New cases: 184,000
  Total cases: 526,000
- 8.3 million working days lost

Find out more about **MSD statistics**
Find out more about **MSD controls**
What do we know about Occupational Cancer:

- Over 5500 cases estimated each year from the construction industry.
- Most new cases are lung cancer, breast cancer or skin cancer.
- Other causes of occupational cancer are shift work, solar radiation, mineral oils and silica.
- Three times more men than women die from occupational cancer.
- The leading cause of death is occupational exposure to asbestos.
- The most common forms of cancer leading to death are lung cancer and mesothelioma.

Primary source of data for occupational cancer: Cancer Burden Study.

Find out more about cancer statistics.
Find out more about cancer controls.
What do we know about ... 

Asbestos-related disease?

- About as many lung cancer deaths from asbestos exposure as mesotheliomas each year
- Annual mesothelioma deaths are expected to peak towards the end of this decade
- Current deaths are a result of past exposures, particularly in building-related jobs
- Diseases take many years to develop following exposure to asbestos
- Over 400 deaths from asbestosis in 2012
- 2535 mesothelioma deaths in 2012: 2126 in men, 409 in women

Find out more about asbestos-related disease controls
Find out more about asbestos-related disease statistics
What do we know about ...

**Work-related Respiratory disease?**

- **Diseases like COPD** can take many years to develop after workplace exposures.
- **About 4000 COPD deaths each year due to past exposure to gases, dusts and fumes at work**.
- **No change in annual new cases of occupational asthma over the last 5 years**.
- **177 occupational asthma cases seen by consultants in 2013**.
- **Includes asthma, COPD, pneumoconiosis and silicosis - diseases that can be fatal**.
- **About 30 000 people who worked in the last year report they currently have breathing/lung problems caused or made worse by work**.

Find out more about [respiratory disease statistics](#) and [respiratory disease controls](#).
What do we know about ...

Work-related Skin disease?

- Florists, hairdressers, cooks and beauticians have high rates of dermatitis.
- Working with wet hands and soaps/cleaners are the most common cause of dermatitis.
- A reduction in new dermatitis cases and all skin disease over last 10 years.
- Over 950 occupational dermatitis cases seen by dermatologists in 2013.
- Severity of skin disease varies widely from minor irritation to severe cases of dermatitis, as well as skin cancers.
- Most common type is contact dermatitis caused by allergens or irritants.

Find out more about skin disease statistics
Find out more about skin disease controls
What do we know about ... Work-related, noise induced Hearing loss (NIHL)?

- Disease occurs predominantly in men.
- Highest rates of NIHL occur in energy and extraction, construction and manufacturing industries.
- NIHL is a long latency disease that is difficult to estimate accurately.
- About 18,000 new cases estimated annually.
- About 150 new claims are awarded Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit every year.
- Total number of cases in Great Britain was estimated at around 500,000 in 1997/98.

Find out more about NIHL statistics.
Hand-arm vibration disorders (HAVs)?

- Disease occurs predominantly in men
- Foundry workers, construction and manufacturing most at risk
- New claims for both vibration white finger and carpal tunnel syndrome have been declining over the past decade
- Around 1000 new claims for Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit each year
- Disease caused by use of hand-held power tools
- 1998 study suggested prevalence of HAVs was almost 300,000 cases

Find out more about HAVs statistics
Find out more about control of vibration risks
Injury severity triangle
2013/14
(not drawn to scale)

- Fatal injury: 133
- Major/specified injury reported by employers: 20,000
- All injuries to workers reported by employers*: 80,000
- Self-reported injury leading to over-7-day absence: 148,000
- Self-reported injury leading to over-3-day absence: 203,000
- Self-reported injury at work: 629,000

* RIDDOR reporting requirements have changed over the past two years (move to over-7-day absences from April 2012 and specified injuries in October 2013)
What do we know about workplace injury?

- Highest rates in manual occupations
- Highest rates in sewerage and waste supply, agriculture, construction and transport
- Higher rates for less experienced workers
- Higher rates for men than for women
- Most frequent causes of injury are manual handling, slips and trips and falls from height
- Estimated 148,000 self-reported over-7-day injuries
- 80,000 non-fatal injuries reported by employers

Find out more about workplace injury statistics
Find out more about controls: slips and trips, falls from height, manual handling
What do we know about ... Economic Costs of injuries and ill health?

- Costs have fallen with signs of levelling off in recent years.
- Largest single cost is non-financial value given to pain, grief and suffering.
- Borne by individuals (around 60% of total) employers and Government (around 20% each).
- Greater costs from ill health (around 60%) than from injuries (including fatalities).
- Total £14.2 billion per year resulting from current or recent working conditions (2012/13 estimate in 2012 prices).
- Figures exclude costs of cancer - work is underway to estimate these.

Find out more about costs to Britain.
Where to go next

See the latest **annual statistics report**

See our suite of **statistics tables**

Try our **HandS-On** tool to view and manipulate your own tables

Go to the **A to Z** topic index

Go to the **statistics homepage**

Find out more about our **data sources** and **National Statistics policies**

HSE Chief Statistician: Alan Spence
Contact: alan.spence@hse.gsi.gov.uk

_Last updated:_ October 2014
_Next update:_ October 2015