

Musculoskeletal Disorders

Contents

Summary	2
Back Disorders	2
Age and Gender	4
Country and Region	4
Workplace Size	4
Upper Limb Disorders (ULDs)	5
Industry and Occupation	6
Age and Gender	6
Country and Region	6
Workplace Size	6
Lower Limb Disorders	7
Other Sources of Musculoskeletal Disorders	9

Summary

Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSDs) in Great Britain (GB)

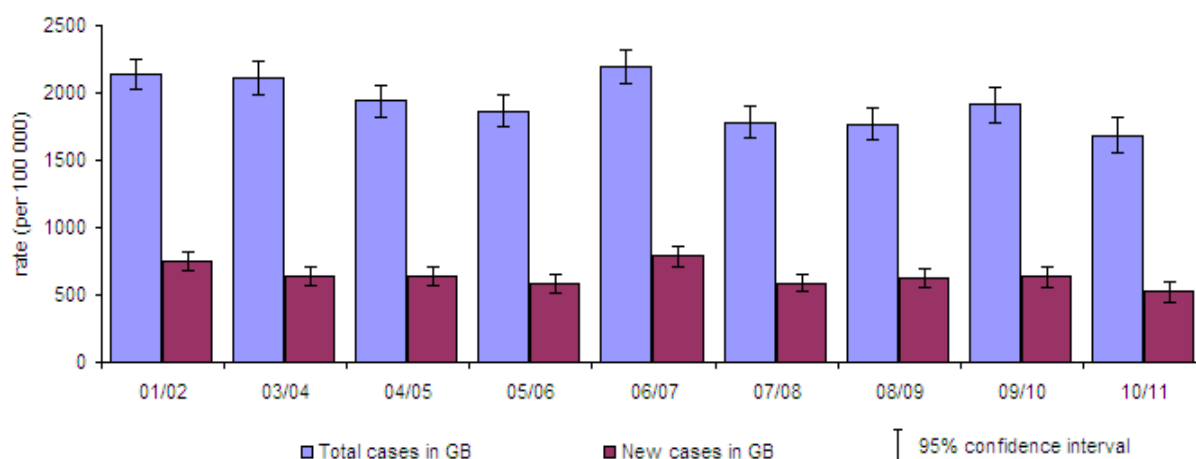
Summary

MSDs can affect muscles, joints and tendons in all parts of the body. Most work-related MSDs develop over time and can also result from fractures sustained in an accident.

The latest estimates from the Labour Force Survey show:

- There has been a downward trend in the total number of work-related MSDs over the last 10 years.
- The total number of MSDs in 2010/11 was 508 000 out of a total of 1 152 000 for all work-related illnesses.
- The number of new cases of MSDs in Great Britain in 2010/11 was 158 000, down from 190 000 in 2009/10.
- In the last three years the industries with the highest rates of MSDs were post and courier activities, specialised construction work and agriculture.
- Over the same period postal workers, building trades and skilled agriculture trades had higher rates of MSD compared to the average across all occupations.

Figure 1 Total number of cases (prevalence) and new cases (incidence) of work-related musculoskeletal disorders in GB 2001/02-2010/11



Back Disorders

Musculoskeletal disorders of the back and are a common work-related complaint reported through the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

- Since 2001/02 there has been a reduction in the estimated total number of work-related cases of back disorders (prevalence).
- In 2010/11 the estimated total number (prevalence) of cases of back disorders was 207 000, a decline from 295 000 in 2001/02.
- The prevalence of back disorders in 2010/11 is statistically significantly lower than in 2001/02
- The estimated number of new cases (incidence) in 2010/11 was 51 000 compared with 95 000 in 2001/02.
- The total number of new cases is statistically significantly lower in 2010/11 than in 2001/02.

The **industry** areas with the highest estimated rates of back disorders are in

- Construction, in particular the construction of buildings and specialised construction activities,
And
- Human health and social work activities, in particular hospital activities

Both these industries have statistically higher rates of back disorders than the average across all industries.

The **occupations** areas with the highest estimated rates of back disorders are in,

- Health and social welfare associate professionals.
- Skilled trade occupations, in particular construction and building trades
- Personal service occupations, in particular caring personal services.

These occupational groups have statistically significantly higher rates of back disorders than the average across all occupations.

Figure 2 Total number of new cases (incidence) of back disorders during 2001/02 - 2010/11

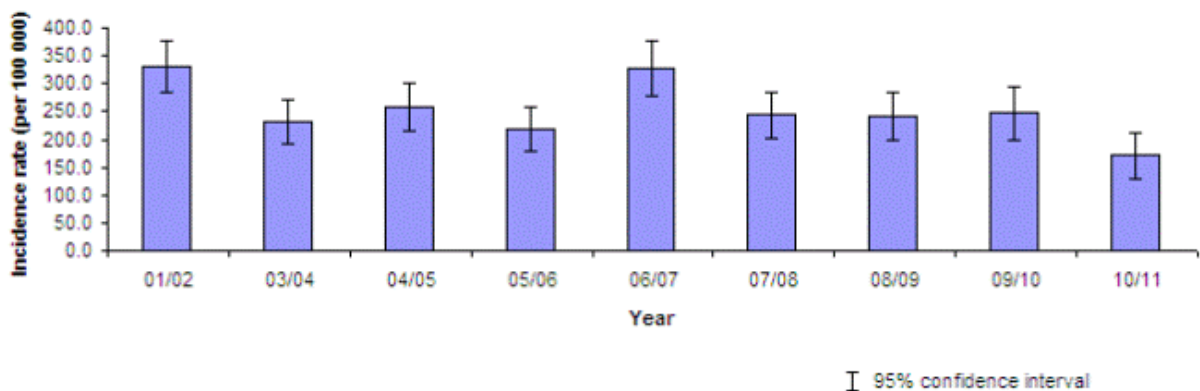
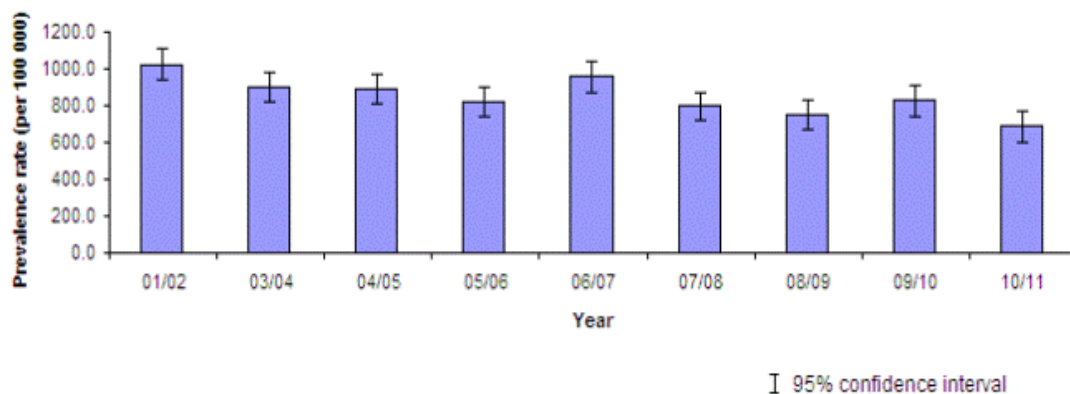


Figure 3 Total number of cases (prevalence) of back disorders during 2001/02 - 2010/11



For more information on Back disorders see

www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/swit3w12.xls

www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/swit6w12.xls

www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/backind2_3yr.xls

www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/backocc2_3yr.xls

Age and Gender

In 2010/11 the total number of cases (prevalence) of back disorders was 112 000 for males and 95 000 females. There is no significant difference between the gender-specific prevalence rates.

For both males and females, the age group 45-54 has statistically significantly higher rates of back disorders than the gender specific rates in 2010/11.

For further information on back disorders by age and gender please see

www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/backage1w12.xls

Country and Region

In 2010/11 the total case number (prevalence) for back disorders in England was estimated at 185 000 and in Scotland 14 000 (no figure available for Wales as sample numbers are too small to provide reliable estimates).

There was no statistically significant difference between the prevalence rates of back disorders across the regions of Great Britain.

For further information on back disorders by country and region see

www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/backgor1w12.xls

Workplace Size

The estimated rate for total number (prevalence) of cases of back disorders by workplace size in 2010/11 was 520 per 100 000 employed for small workplaces, 600 per 100 000 employed for medium workplaces and 630 per 100 000 employed for large workplaces.

There was no statistically significant difference in the estimated rate of total cases between workplace size groups in 2010/11

For more information on back disorders by workplace size see

www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/backsize2.xls

Upper Limb Disorders (ULDs)

Upper limb disorders include a large number of different work-related musculoskeletal complaints in the hand, wrist, arm, elbow, shoulder and neck.

- The total estimated number of cases of ULDs was 198 000, a statistically significant decline from 223 000 in 2001/02.
- The estimated number of new cases (incidence) was 75 000 in 2010/11, a slight decline from 86 000 in 2009/10 although this was not statistically significant.

Figure 4 Total number of cases (prevalence) of upper limb disorders during 2001/02 - 2010/11

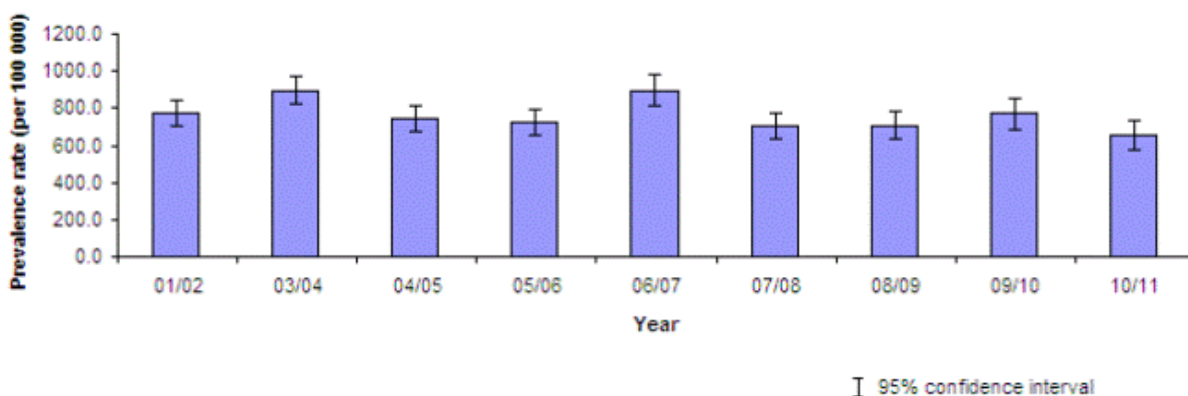
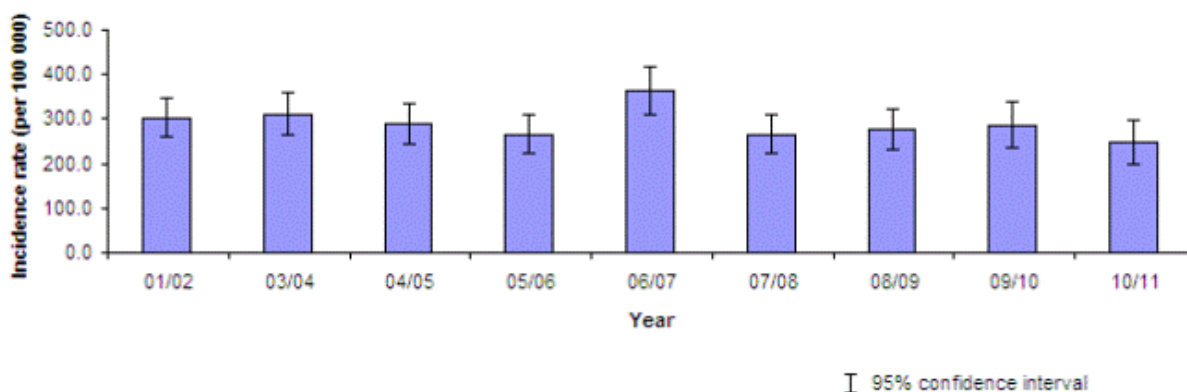


Figure 5 Total number of new cases (incidence) of upper limb disorders during 2001/02 - 2010/11



Industry and Occupation

The industry area with the highest estimated rates of Upper Limb Disorders in the last three years was in the area of human health and social work activities in particular hospital activities.

These were statistically significantly higher than average across all industries in the period 2008/09 - 2010/11.

The occupations areas with the highest estimated rates of Upper Limb Disorders in the last three years were,

- Health and social welfare associate professionals
- Skilled construction and building trades and,
- Process, plant and machinery operatives

These were statistically significantly higher than across all occupations in the period 2008/09 - 2010/11.

For further information on upper limb disorders by industry and occupation see

www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/ulnind2_3yr.xls

www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/ulnocc2_3yr.xls

Age and Gender

The total number of cases of ULDs in 2010/11 for males was 97 000 and females 101 000.

Across all persons the 16-34 age group has a statistically significantly lower rate of total cases than each of the other age groups.

For further information on upper limb disorders by age and gender see

www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/ulnage1w12.xls

Country and Region

Within the constituent countries of Great Britain no figures are available for Scotland and Wales (sample too small to provide reliable estimates.)

Across England, there were no statistically significant differences in the estimated rates of total (prevalence) cases by government office region.

For further information on upper limb disorders by country and region see

www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/ulngor1w12.xls

Workplace Size

In 2010/11 the estimated total number of cases (prevalence) by workplace size was for small workplaces was 82 000, for medium workplaces 33 000 and for large workplaces 47 000.

The rates per 100 000 people employed was 510 per 100 000 for small workplaces, 540 per 100 000 for medium workplaces and 700 per 100 000 for large workplaces.

There were no statistically significant differences in prevalence rates across workplace size for ULDs.

For more information on Upper Limb disorders by workplace size see

www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/swit3w12.xls

www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/swit6w12.xls

Lower Limb Disorders

Lower limb disorders are the least commonly reported musculoskeletal disorders and often tend to be associated with musculoskeletal conditions in other areas of the body.

- In 2010/11 the estimated total number of cases (prevalence) of LLDs was 103 000, a rise from 97 000 in 2001/02. The difference is not statistically significant.
- The estimated number of new cases (incidence) in 2010/11 was 31 000. This was not statistically different from an estimate of 34 000 in 2001/02.

Figure 6 Total number of cases (prevalence) of lower limb disorders during 2001/02 - 2010/11

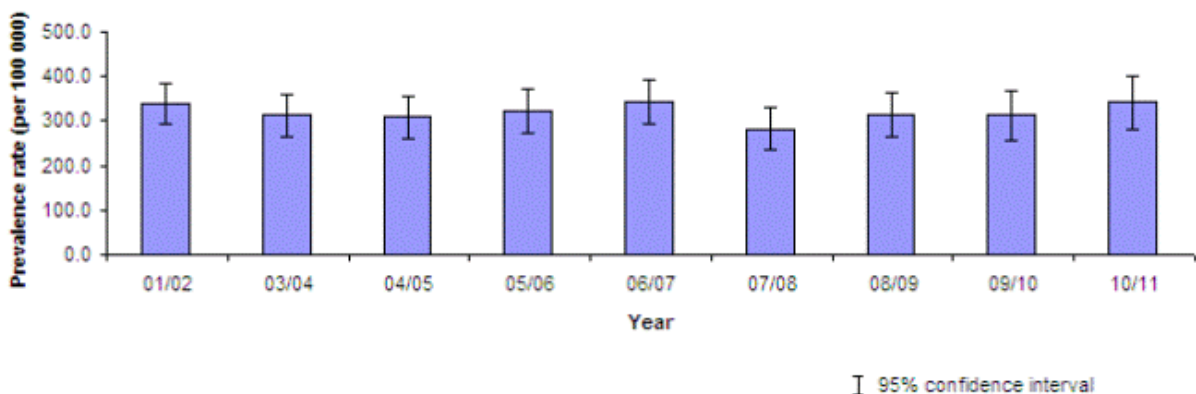
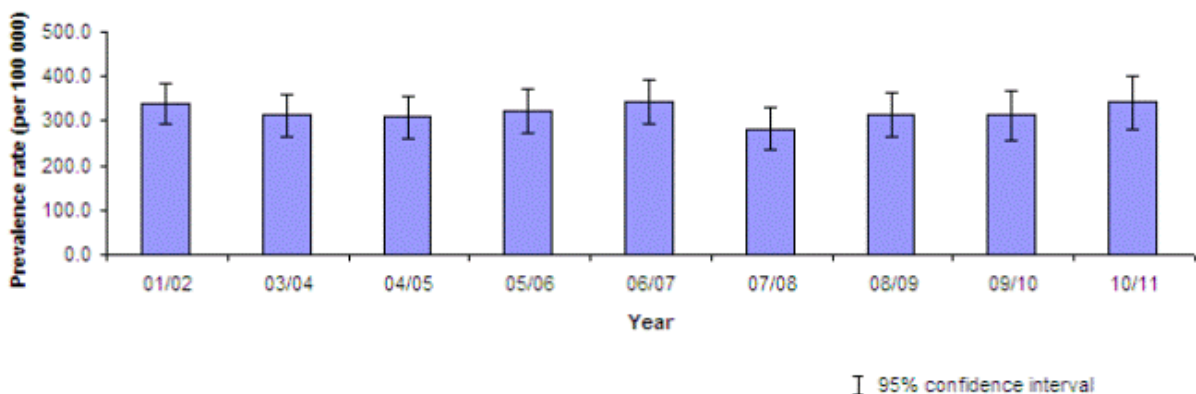


Figure 7 Total number of new cases (incidence) of lower limb disorders during 2001/02 - 2010/11



For more information on lower limb disorders see

www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/swit3w12.xls

www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/swit6w12.xls

Other Sources of Musculoskeletal Disorders

We gather data on musculoskeletal from general practitioners through The Health and Occupational Research Network – General Practitioners (THOR- GP).

This collects information on aspects of musculoskeletal disorders from General Practitioners across Great Britain it aims to identify some aspects of the causes of the onset of MSDs.

See www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/thorgp01.xls for further details

Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB)

We gather data from the Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB) schemes which compensate workers who have developed a serious musculoskeletal disorder that stops them from continuing in work.

The statistics produced from IIDB are subject to change over time in particular when newly authorised conditions have been designated as compensatable under this scheme.

In such circumstances we would expect a large increase in the numbers of individuals compensated for a particular condition in the years immediately following authorisation with a subsequent decline as the scheme processes the population affected.

In 2009 the IIDB authorised that “Osteoarthritis of the knee” (Prescribed disease A14) would become a compensatable condition.

As such there has been a significant increase in the number of cases of MSDs compensatable under the scheme.

See www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/iidb02.xls for further details.