

YOUNG WORKER SAFETY

By the numbers



21 Million

16–24-year-olds make up 11% of the U.S. workforce.

Why Are Young Workers More Likely To Be Injured?

- Inexperience. Young workers may not be able to identify and avoid hazards that older workers would.
- Lack of training and supervision.
- Reluctance to speak up and advocate for themselves.



You can help

- Provide training about workplace hazards, equipment operation, and required safety gear.
- Give clear instructions and encourage young workers to ask questions or speak up if something seems unsafe.
- Build trust with young workers to open the lines of communication.

Visit lni.wa.gov/YoungWorkerSafety for complete rules and safety tips.

Upon request, language support and formats for persons with disabilities are available. Call 1-800-547-8367. TDD users, call 711. L&I is an equal opportunity employer.

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On-the-job injuries and illnesses for workers under 18

Agriculture

0.5%

Manufacturing

2.3%

Health Care and Social Assistance

24%

Retail

31%

Leisure and Hospitality

42%

2.3x

15–24-year-olds are more than twice as likely to be injured than those 25 and older.

244,000

Injured by slips, trips & falls.

49%

From sprains and strains. Other frequent injuries include cuts, burns, and contact with objects and equipment.



Division of Occupational Safety and Health
lni.wa.gov/YoungWorkerSafety | 1-800-423-7233



Washington State Department of
Labor & Industries