



Injury Prevention for the Services Sector

Prioritizing industries for occupational injury prevention and research in the Services Sector in Washington State, 2002-2010

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Key Findings

- The 7 common injury types that accounted for 84% of compensable claims in the Services Sector during the study period were: Work Related Musculoskeletal Disorders (WMSDs); Fall to Lower Level; Fall on Same Level; Struck By/Against; Caught In/Under/Between; Motor Vehicle; and Overexertion.
- WMSDs accounted for approximately 41% of compensable claims in the Services Sector.
- Services to Buildings and Dwellings ranked highest for falls.
- The 5 industry groups that were highly ranked across all injury types, indicating that they warrant priority focus in injury prevention efforts, were:
 1. Services to Buildings and Dwellings
 2. Executive, Legislative, and Other General Government Support
 3. Waste Collection
 4. Employment Services
 5. Automotive Repair & Maintenance

Impact

Ranking industries by PI overall and by specific injury types is an effective way to prioritize and guide prevention efforts, inform policy, and set research agendas that reflect the particular needs of workers within the Services Sector.

Overview

The National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Services Sector includes diverse industries that differ in hazards and injury risk faced by workers. For example, workers at offices, banks, elementary schools, auto repair shops, restaurants, hotels, and in waste collection are all included in the Services Sector. Because the nature of the work varies across industries, targeting occupational safety efforts is difficult.

In the past, SHARP researchers have used a "Prevention Index" (PI) to prioritize industries for injury prevention. The PI ranks industries by claim count (how common injuries are) and claim incidence rate (worker risk for injury).

The objective of this study was to use the PI to rank industry groups within the Services Sector in WA by seven common injury types to identify industries that may benefit most from research and prevention efforts.

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Research for Safe Work

The SHARP Program at the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries partners with business and labor to develop sensible, effective solutions to identify and eliminate industry-wide hazards. Learn more at www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Research/

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