

Young Workers at Risk



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Most teens work before they're 18.

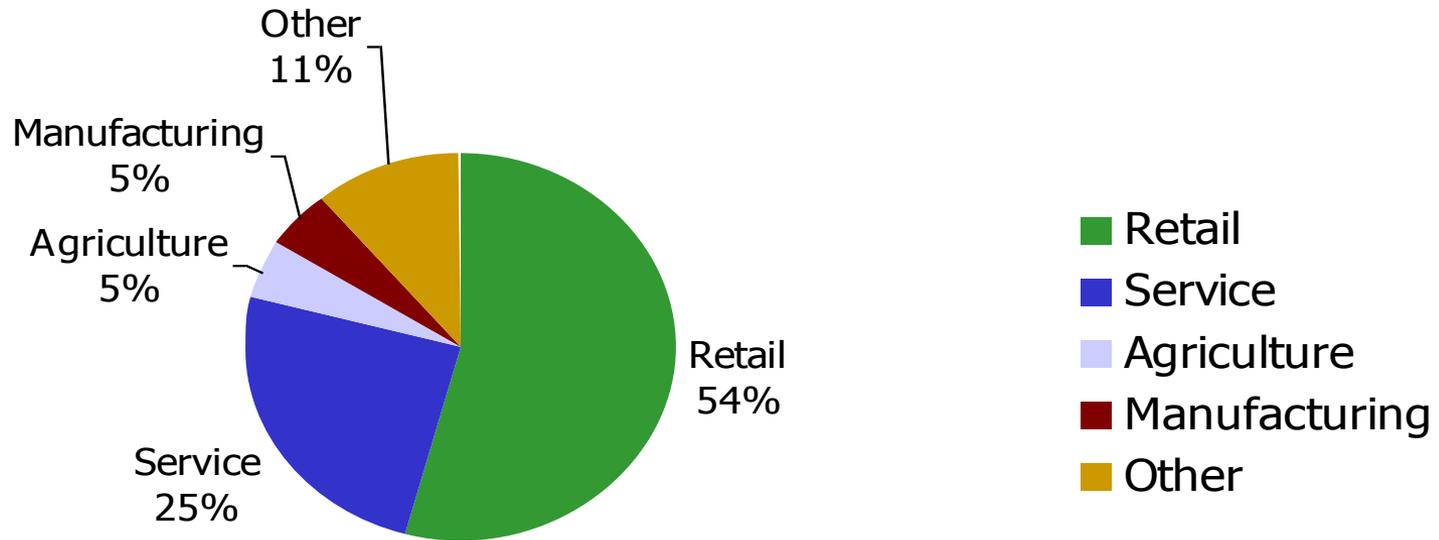
- 80% of teens report that they've held jobs before completing high school
- 15- to 17-year-olds with jobs work an average of 17 hours per week during school months and 23 hours per week during summer months



- At least 828,000 teens (16-19) in the California workforce in 2000.
- Plus how many in the underground economy?



Where do teens work?





Child labor laws protect working teens

- Prohibit non-farm labor under 14
- Limit hours of work
- Require work permits if under 18
- Prohibit the most hazardous kinds of work



Examples of prohibited work:

- Use of power tools
- Roofing
- Demolition
- Logging



Teens are injured at higher rates than adults:

- Every year 200,000 teens are injured on the job.
- 100,000 15- to 17-year-olds visit the emergency room for work-related injuries.
- 70 teens are killed on the job each year.

**A teen is injured
every six minutes
on the job.**

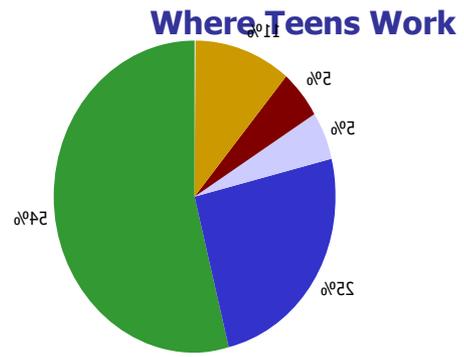
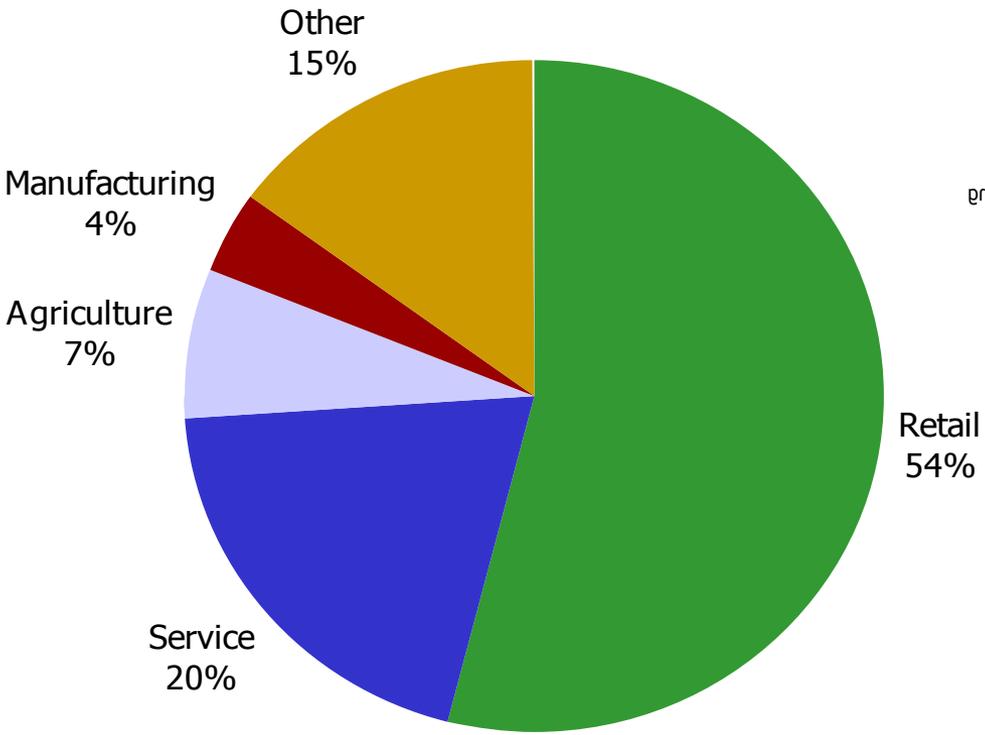
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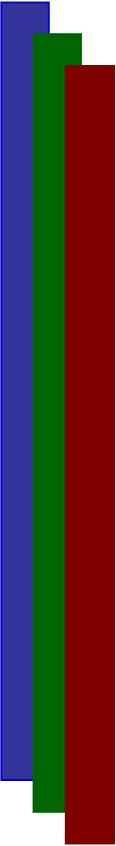
Disabling injuries:

- 15% to 44% of injured teens who receive workers' compensation have been found to suffer permanent disability



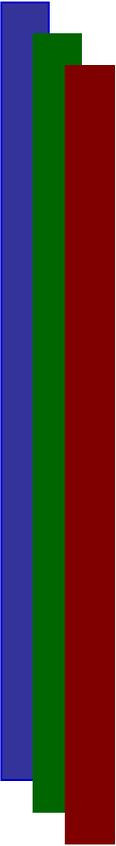
Where are teens injured?





Most common types of injuries sustained by teens:

- Cuts 34%
- Contusions 18%
- Sprains 16%
- Burns 12%
- Fractures 4%



Teens get injured doing common yet dangerous tasks:

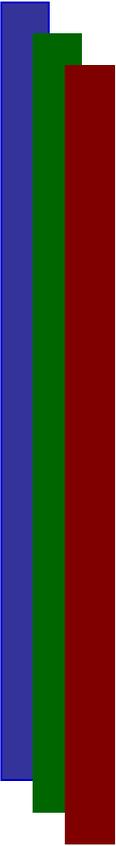
- Using cutting tools and/or non-powered hand tools
- Handling hot liquids and grease
- Working around cooking appliances
- Continuous manual lifting of heavy objects



(continued)

Teens get injured doing common yet dangerous tasks:

- Operating tractors or heavy machinery
- Driving or working around motor vehicles
- Working near electrical hazards while using ladders, poles, etc.
- Working late at night or alone

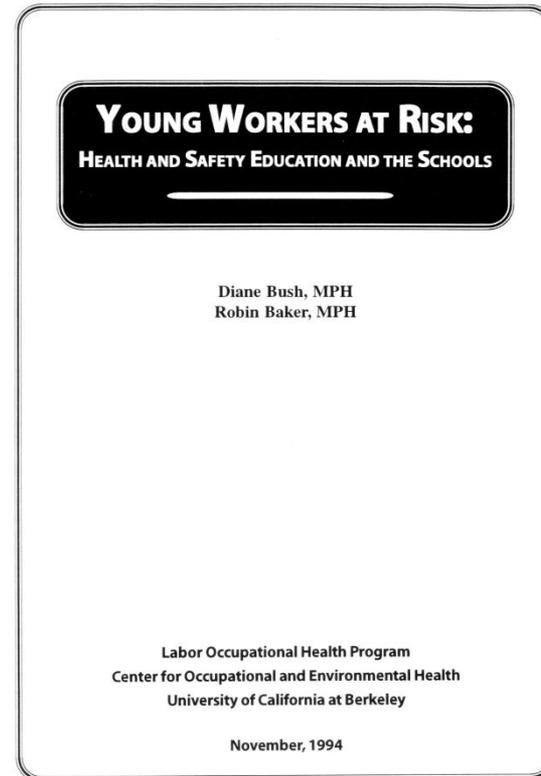


Why teens are at higher risk for injury than adults:

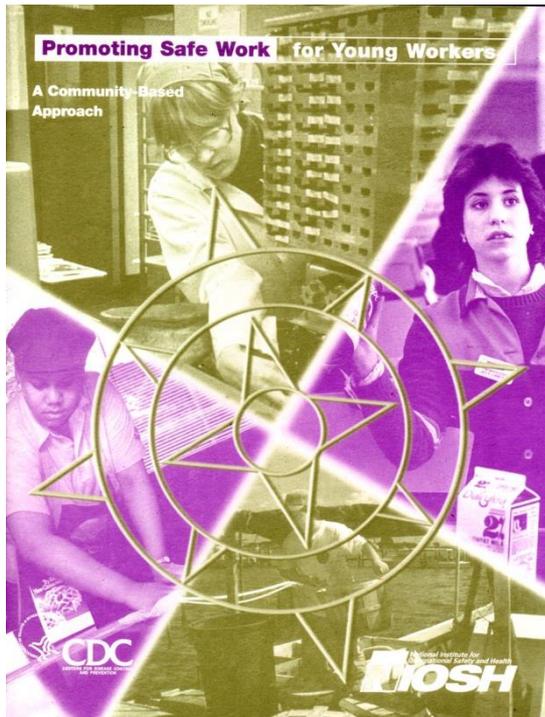
- Low-pay, high turnover jobs
- Lack of training and supervision
- Inexperience
- Want to be responsible and appear competent
- Physical development

What is being done in California?

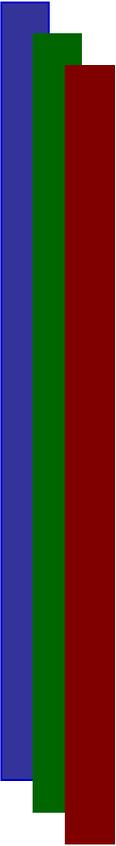
- Cal-OSHA funded a needs assessment report in 1994.



NIOSH funded Community-based research.



- Los Angeles, CA
- Oakland, CA
- Brockton, Mass.



California Commission on Health & Safety and Workers' Compensation funds:

California Study Group on Young Worker Health & Safety

Alameda County Office of Education
Calif. Apprenticeship Council
Calif. Association of Work Experience Educators
Calif. Center for Childhood Injury Prevention
Calif. Chamber of Commerce
Calif. Department of Education
Calif. Employment Development Department
Calif. Federation of Teachers
Calif. Parent Teacher Association
Calif. School Boards Association
United Food and Commercial Workers
Calif. Commission on Health & Safety and Workers' Comp.

Calif. Teachers Association
Cal/OSHA
Calif. Workforce Association
Div. of Apprenticeship Standards, DIR
Div. of Labor Standards Enforcement, DIR
Employment Law Center
Industry Education Council of California
Labor Occupational Health Program, UCB
Labor Occ. Safety & Health Program, UCLA
Occupational Health Branch, CDHS
U.S. Department of Labor

1998 Report & Recommendations:

- School-based Strategies
- Strengthening the Role of Work Permits
- Initiatives in the Workplace
- Strategies for Enforcement Agencies
- Raising Public Awareness
- Need for Further Research



AB1599 (Torlakson) establishes:

California Resource Network for Young Workers' Health & Safety

- Outreach and Training through Network Members
- Information and Referrals
- Website: youngworkers.org
- Public Awareness: Safe Jobs for Youth Month
- Funded through the Dept. of Industrial Relations



The National Young Worker Safety Resource Center serves:

- Staff from:
 - School to Career programs
 - Workforce Investment Boards
 - Jobs for America's Graduates
 - Transition-to-work programs for youth with disabilities
- Employers of Youth
- Representatives of other community organizations working with youth



What is needed:

- Education for:
 - Employers
 - Teens
 - Educators/Job Trainers
 - Parents
- Enforcement
- Improved Reporting
- Research



May – Safe Jobs for Youth Month

- Sponsor an activity as part of Safe Jobs for Youth Month
- Participate in the California Partnership
- Get information out to your constituents



Get information out to your constituents:

Facts for Employers



Safer Jobs for Teens

•Most teens are enthusiastic and eager to learn. They make my work a lot of fun. But teens can be injured on the job when they don't receive adequate safety training and supervision.®

—Scott Stier
Operations Manager, Oakdale Zoo

•Having young people at work gives us a chance to remind everybody that safety is important. We have really focused on our safety program. We haven't had any serious injuries this year, and we're saving over 25% in workers' comp costs.®

—Michelle Clark Chugh
The Youth Employment Partnership

Labor Occupational Health Program
University of California, Berkeley

2000

¿Eres un joven que trabaja en el campo?



**Protege tu salud
Conoce tus derechos**

Programa de salud laboral
Universidad de California en Berkeley

1998