Statistical Overview of Repetitive Motion Injuries in California

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Oakland, California
The six leading causes of claims for workers’ compensation filed in California in 1999 with >$5,000 paid
(Source: Workers’ Compensation Insurance Rating Bureau of California)
Annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses

- Conducted in California by the Division of Labor Statistics and Research (DLSR) in the Department of Industrial Relations under contract to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in the U.S. Department of Labor.

- Currently in California based on a sample of 16,000 employers with approximately 2.7 million employees

- Uses data from Log 200 (now Log 300) submitted upon request to DLSR by selected employers

- Includes data from small and low hazard establishments normally not required to maintain the Log
The seven leading causes of nonfatal injuries and illnesses with days away from work

California private industry, 2000

(Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Annual Survey)

- Transportation accidents
- Exposure to harmful substances or environments
- Repetitive motion
- Falls
- Bodily reaction (motion)
- Overexertion
- Contact with objects and equipment

201,000 total cases
Incidence per 10,000 full-time employees: Cases with days away from work due to repetitive motion


(Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Annual Survey)
Incidence per 10,000 full-time employees: Cases with days away from work due to repetitive motion


(Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Annual Survey)
Incidence per 10,000 full-time employees:
Cases with days away from work due to repetitive motion

*California selected industries - private sector 1992-2000*
(Source: BLS Annual Survey)

![Graph showing incidence rates from 1992 to 2000 for manufacturing and services sectors in California.](image)
Incidence per 10,000 full-time employees:
Cases with days away from work due to repetitive motion

*California selected industries - private sector 1992-2000*
(Source: BLS Annual Survey)
Incidence per 10,000 full-time employees:
Cases with days away from work due to repetitive motion.

*California Public Sector 1992-2000*

(Source: BLS Annual Survey)
Median Days Away From Work - Repetitive Motion and All Cases with Days Away from Work

(Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Annual Survey)
Lost Workday Case Incidence Rates (per 100 employees) and the Changing Composition of Lost Workday Cases - *U.S. Private Sector* (Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Labor “2000 OSH Summary Estimates Supplemental Charts December 18, 2001”)

**Chart 3. Lost workday case incidence rates, injuries and illnesses, 1981-2000**

- **Lost workday cases**
- **Cases with days away from work**
- **Cases with days of restricted work activity only**

Incidence rates per 100 full-time workers.
Summary

- In 2000, repetitive motion accounted for approximately 5% of nonfatal injuries and illnesses with days away from work.

- In California, median days away from work for repetitive motion cases is approximately five times higher than the average for all cases with days away from work.

- From 1996 to 2000, California incidence rate trended up approximately 20%.

- From 1996 to 2000, U.S. national incidence rate trended down approximately 15%.

- California trend appears to be due primarily to increases in cases in manufacturing and service sectors - despite the continued change in the composition of lost workday cases.