

2016 Survey of Occupational Injuries & Illnesses New Jersey Highlights

- One in 33 New Jersey workers sustained an occupational injury or illness during calendar year 2016. The incidence rate¹ for all New Jersey workplaces (public and private sectors combined), as measured by BLS, was 3.0 injury or illness cases per 100 full-time workers. This rate has been generally declining since 2003 when a rate of 4.8 cases per 100 New Jersey workers was recorded.
- During calendar year 2016, 93,000 work-related injury and illness cases were recorded among all New Jersey workplaces. Forty percent (36,800) of these cases involved loss of work-time beyond the day of the incident.

Private Sector Highlights

- New Jersey's private sector incidence rate was 2.6 in 2016. New Jersey's private sector total cases incidence rate has been consistently lower than the national rate, which was 2.9 in 2016, 3.0 in 2015, and 3.2 in 2014.
- There were a total of 72,500 injuries and illnesses in New Jersey's private sector in 2016. Fifty-seven percent of total private sector cases resulted in days away from work, light duty, or both.
- The transportation and warehousing sector has recorded the highest injury and illness incidence rate almost every year since 2003 when survey data was first tabulated by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). The 2016 incidence rate for total cases was 4.9, 32 percent lower than the 7.2 cases recorded in 2007. (See attached table for industry breakouts). There were 7,400 injuries and illnesses within the transportation and warehousing sector.
- The high rate in the transportation and warehousing sector was driven by the couriers and messengers industry (NAICS 492) within the sector that registered even higher incidence rate of 7.0. The couriers and messengers industry accounted for 1,200 injuries and illnesses during calendar year 2016.
- The incidence rate for the health care and social assistance sector was 4.4 in 2016. The incidence rate for this sector has been the second highest of all private industry sectors in most years since 2005. The high rate in the Health care and social assistance sector was driven by two industries within the sector that registered even higher incidence rates. These industries are: Hospitals industry (NAICS 622), leading with a rate of 7.4, followed by Nursing and residential care facilities (NAICS 623) with an incidence rate of 6.8 cases per 100 full-time workers. These two industries, combined, accounted for 12,900 injuries and illnesses during calendar year 2016.
- The incidence rate for cases involving full days away from work beyond the day of the incident in the private sector was 1.0 cases per 100 workers in 2010. The national rate was 0.9 in 2016.
- Two large industry sectors in New Jersey showing declining lost-workday cases incidence rates over time include manufacturing: (1.7 in 2003 to 0.9 in 2016) and wholesale trade (2.0 in 2005 to 1.2 in 2016).

Public Sector Highlights

When comparing private and public sector injury and illness rates, caution must be exercised because of differences in the risks associated with particular industry and occupational categories. For example, many public sector workers perform high-risk activities, such as supplying police protection, guarding correctional institutions, providing paid and volunteer fire protection, as well as caring for patients in state psychiatric hospitals and residential care facilities. These high-risk activities do not generally occur in the private sector.

- New Jersey's public sector workers experienced 20,500 work-related injuries and illnesses in 2016. The incidence rate for New Jersey's public sector has been steadily declining and was 5.2 cases per 100 workers in 2016, and is 42% less than the rate of 8.9 in 2003. The lost-time cases rate within New Jersey's public sector also declined between 2015 and 2016. Cases involving days out of work occurred in the public sector at a rate of 2.4 per 100 full-time workers, down from a rate of 2.7 in 2015.
- The overall 2016 state government incidence rate was 4.0. This is the lowest incidence rate recorded for New Jersey's State Government sector since 1993, when public sector data was first collected as part of the BLS cooperative program.
- Within New Jersey's state government, 2,300 of the 4,000 cases in 2016 resulted in days away from work. The state government incidence rate for cases involving days away from work was 2.4 cases per 100 full-time workers in 2016.
- The total number of injury and illness cases in local government was 16,400, leading to an incidence rate of 5.7 in 2016. Both lost-time and light-duty cases rates within local government declined between 2015 and 2016. Lost time cases occurred at a rate of 2.7 in 2015 and decreased to 2.4 in 2016. The light-duty cases rate decreased from 0.9 in 2015 to 0.8 in 2016. New Jersey's local government sector includes county and municipal workers as well as volunteer and paid firefighters.
- The total cases incidence rate for the public administration industry sector within local government was 5.7 in 2016. The public administration industry incidence rate for total cases is lower than the rate in 2015 (6.1), and the rate for cases with days lost was also lower in 2016 (2.4) than the rate of 2.7 in 2015. This industry sector includes police protection, fire protection (paid and volunteer), county correctional institutions, and other municipal and county government operations. These services involve higher risk for work-related injuries and illnesses. Incidence rates for 2016 total cases were as follows:
 - Fire protection rate was 8.7 in 2016 (9.4 in 2015 and 8.2 in 2014, and significantly lower than prior year rates between 10 and 14).
 - County correctional institutions rate was 10.4 in 2016, down from 11.6 in 2015 and less than an industry high 14.6 in 2008.
 - Police protection rate was 8.0 in 2016, down from 9.2 in 2015, 2014, and 2013.

Background of the Survey

The Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses provides comprehensive statistics on work-related injuries and illnesses in New Jersey. The survey, conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) for the past 24 years, is designed to

produce data to be used as an essential tool for promoting efforts to make New Jersey's workplaces safer and healthier. The calendar year 2016 survey collected data from 9,132 public and private sector establishments in New Jersey. Additional information about the Survey and detailed New Jersey data tables can be found online at http://lwd.state.nj.us/labor/lpa/content/occsafheasvy_index.html

¹ Incidence rates represent the number of injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time workers, and were calculated as: $(N/EH) \times 200,000$, where N = number of injuries and illnesses, EH = total hours worked by all employees during the calendar year. 200,000 = base for 100 equivalent full-time workers (working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year.)