

Occupational Injury Patterns in Oregon Workers 24 Years and Younger, 2003-2012

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PRESENTATION FORMAT: 15 minute oral presentation

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Occupational Health professionals, worker advocates, adolescent advocates

ABSTRACT: Occupational injuries to young workers are a public health concern. In 2007, Oregon stakeholders organized the Oregon Young Employee Safety (O[yes]) which has been actively working to educate young workers, educators, employers, parents, and labor/trade associations through outreach, advocacy, and sharing of resources. Previous analysis of worker's compensation claim data for Oregon workers 24 years and younger from 2000-2007 described injury patterns and fostered statewide discussions and development of O[yes]. This research examines the characteristics of workers' compensation claims in Oregon young workers including the most recent years since O[yes] was formed. Disabling claims data were analyzed from 2003-2012. Rates of injury were calculated by age group, gender and year. Injury type and occupational sectors with the highest rate were explored. Results show clear differences by gender, and suggest more attention may be needed for workers as they reach the age of 18.

In conclusion, monitoring and improving occupational injury surveillance for young workers can focus injury prevention efforts for young workers. Targeting specific populations and sectors as well as engaging appropriate stakeholders could result in significant reductions in injuries to these vulnerable workers. Having a state coalition like O[yes] to bring regulators, educators, academia, labor and youth leaders together is an effective means to this end.

OBJECTIVE(S): Compare injury rates by age, gender, industry sector, and injury type.
Describe burden of injuries on young workers

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