

Masachusetts Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Report 2008

EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES

The education and health services industry employed the largest number of employees in the Massachusetts private-sector workforce and had the highest number of total recordable (TRC) cases and cases with days away from work (DAFW). This industry is the only industry in Massachusetts that employs more female employees than males. The education and health services industry did not see significant changes in most of its case types from 2007, however, it had significant increases in the total number of recordable illness-only cases. Common examples of occupations in this industry include: teachers and childcare workers, counselors, physicians, dentists, nurses, nursing aides and orderlies, medical laboratory technicians, personal and home care aides, paramedics, social workers, psychiatric aides and janitors and cleaners.

Key Education and Health Services Industry Findings

- The education and health services industry had a total recordable case (TRC) incidence rate of 5.6 incidents per 100 full time equivalent employees (FTEs). The DART rate was 2.9; the DAFW-only rate was 2.1; the DJTR-only rate was 0.8; and the ORC rate was 2.7 incidents per 100 FTEs.
- Educational services alone had a TRC rate of 3.8 incidents per 100 FTEs
- Health care and social assistance had a TRC of 6.0 incidents per 100 FTEs.
- The education and health services industry employed approximately 21.1% of the private-sector workforce and approximately 24.9% of the service-providing sector.
- Educational services employed roughly 20.9% (125,600 employees) of the industry's workforce; health care and social assistance consisted of 79.1% (474,600 employees).
- Overall, the industry reported 25,100 recordable cases in 2008; education services accounted for 13.5% or roughly 3,500 cases; the health care and social assistance sector accounted for 86.5% (21,700 cases).
- Approximately 52.2% (13,100) of all cases involved days away from work or job transfer or restriction (DART); 37.8% or approximately 9,500 cases involved days away from work only (DAFW); 14.3% (3,600) of cases involved job transfer or restriction-only (DJTR); and approximately 47.8% (12,000) of cases were recordable (ORC) but did not require missed, restricted or transferred work time.
- Injury-only cases represented approximately 23,000 cases, which is 91.6% of the total; illness-only cases represented approximately 2,100 cases or 8.4% of the total.



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Case and Demographic Findings

OCCUPATION: Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants accounted for 19.8% (1,870 cases); registered nurses (RN) accounted for 13.7% (1,300) of all DAFW cases; healthcare support workers (all other) accounted for 6.0% (570 cases); emergency medical technicians and paramedics accounted for 290 cases or 3.1% of the total.; maids and housekeeping cleaners accounted for roughly 3.0% (280 cases); personal and home care workers and child care workers accounted for 240 and 230 cases or 2.5% and 2.4%, respectively.

GENDER: Approximately 6,440 cases (68.1%) involved female employees; males accounted for 2,960 cases, or, 31.3% of the total.

AGE: The 35 to 44 age group had the highest number of DAFW cases with 2,560 cases, or, 27.1% of the total; the 45 to 54 age group accounted for 24.7% (2,340 cases) of all DAFW cases; the 25 to 34 age group accounted for 20.7% (1,960) of DAFW cases; the 55 to 64 age group accounted for 14.8% (1,400 cases); the 20 to 24 age group accounted for 7.6% (720 cases) of DAFW cases; the 65 and over age group accounted for 2.9% (270 cases); and the 16 to 19 age group accounted for 1.6% (150 cases).

NATURE: The most frequent nature of injury in the education and health services industry during 2008 was sprains, strains and tears which accounted for 5,540 cases or, 58.6% of all cases. Bruises and contusions accounted for 1,040 cases, or roughly 11% ; soreness and pain (except the back) accounted for 640 cases, or 6.8%; fractures accounted for 400 cases or 4.2%; and cuts and lacerations accounted for 360 cases (3.8%); concussions accounted for 170 cases or 1.8%.

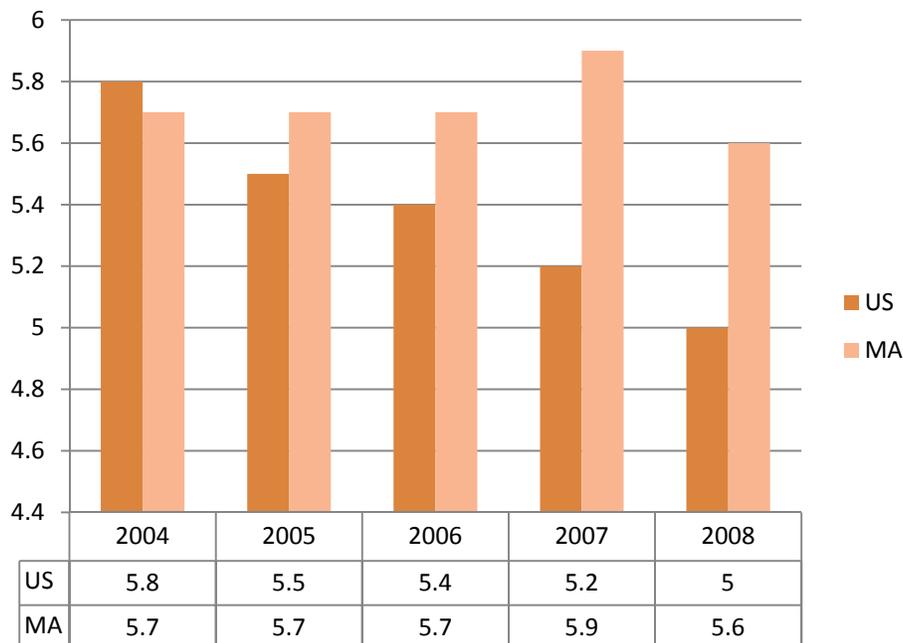
EVENT: The most common event causing DAFW was bodily reaction and exertion which accounted for 4,590 cases or 48.5% of the total; contact with objects or equipment accounted for 1,370 incidents or 14.5% of the total; assaults and violent acts accounted for 620 incidents or 6.6% of the total (the highest incident rate of this event type among all of the major industries); exposure to harmful substances or environments accounted for 360 cases or ,3.8% of the total; and transportation accidents accounted for 270 cases or 2.9%.

SOURCE: Persons, plants, animals or minerals was the most common source involving DAFW cases; it accounted for a total of 4,520 cases or 47.8%. Structures and surfaces accounted for 2,240 cases or 23.7% of all DAFW cases; containers accounted for 600 DAFW cases or 6.3% of the total; vehicles accounted for 490 cases or 5.2%; tools, instruments and equipment accounted for 370 cases or 3.9%; furniture and fixtures accounted for 350 cases or 3.7%; machinery accounted for 220 cases or 2.3%; and both parts and materials and chemical and chemical products accounted for 180 cases each or 1.9%.

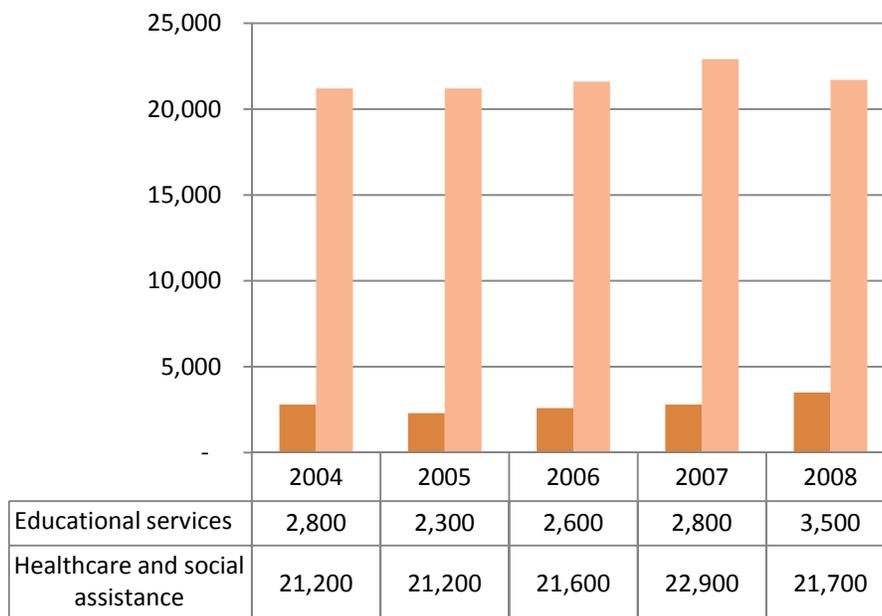
PART OF BODY: The part of body (region) most affected in DAFW cases was the trunk with 3,680 cases or 38.9% of the total DAFW cases; lower extremities (legs, ankles, feet, toes) accounted for 2,210 cases or 23.4%; upper extremities (arms, wrists, hands, fingers) accounted for 1,620 cases or 17.1%; multiple body parts accounted for 890 cases or 9.4%; the head region (including the face) accounted for 620 cases or 6.6%; body systems accounted for 110 cases or 1.2%.

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Incidence rates¹ of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses (per 100 full time workers), education and health services, MA & US, 2004 - 2008

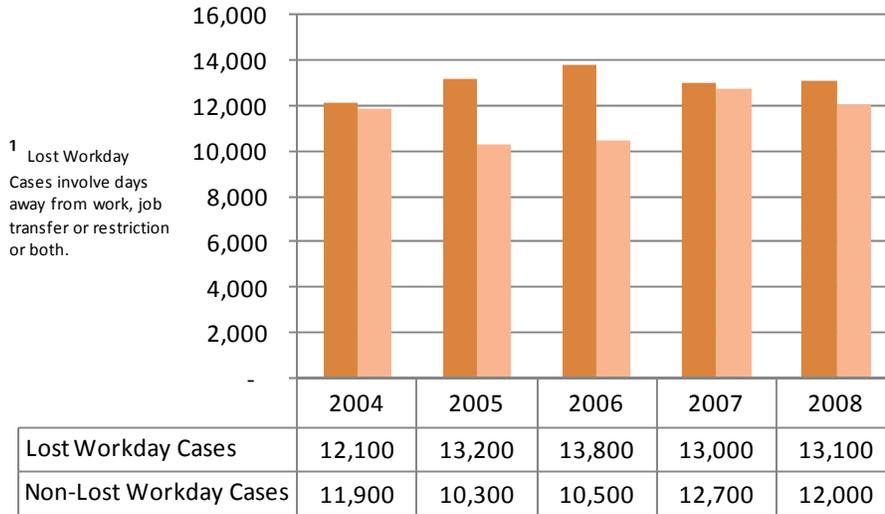


Numbers of nonfatal injuries and illnesses, education and health services, 2004 - 2008

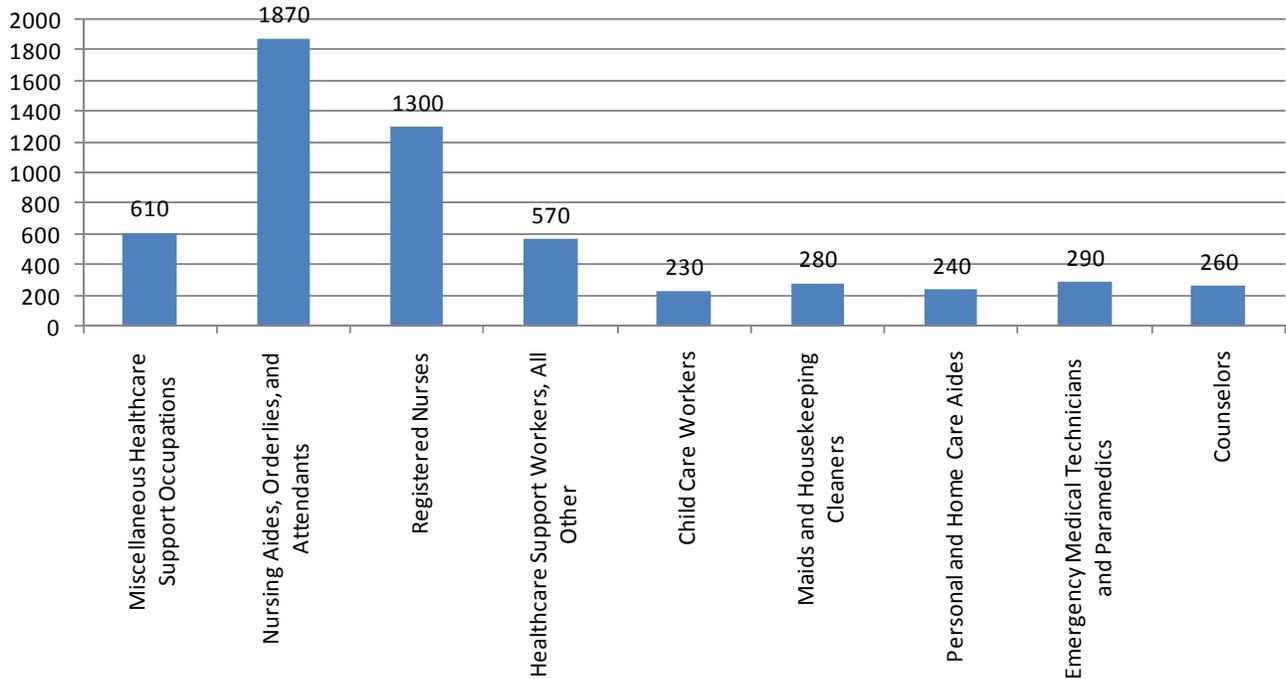


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Number of lost workday¹ vs. non-lost workday cases of nonfatal injuries and illnesses, education and health services, 2004 - 2008

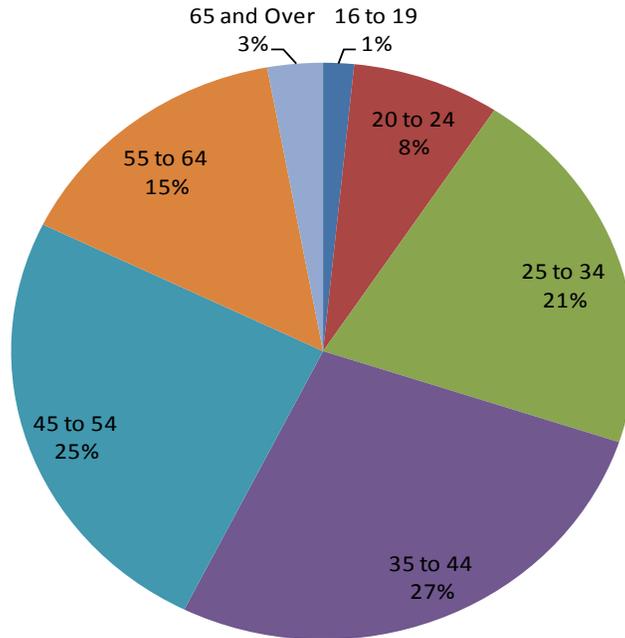


Selected occupations with the highest number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses with days away from work, education and health services, 2008

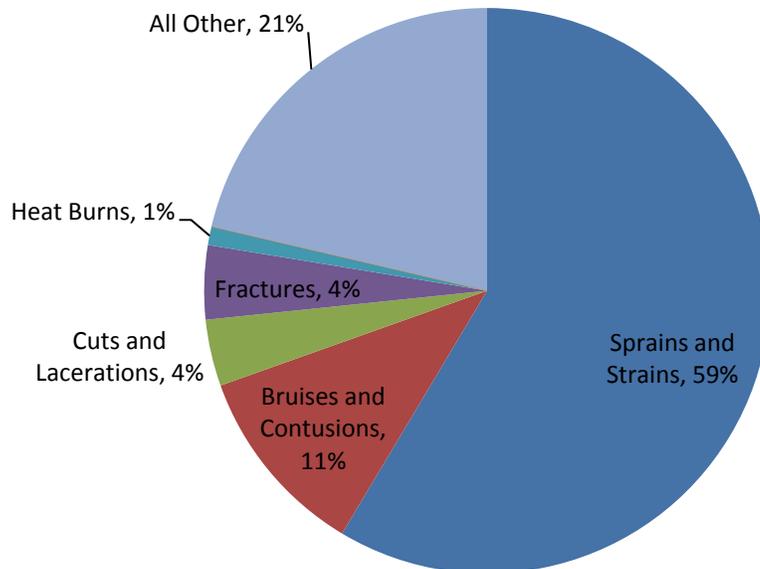


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Percent distribution of nonfatal injuries and illnesses involving days away from work by age of worker, education and health services, 2008

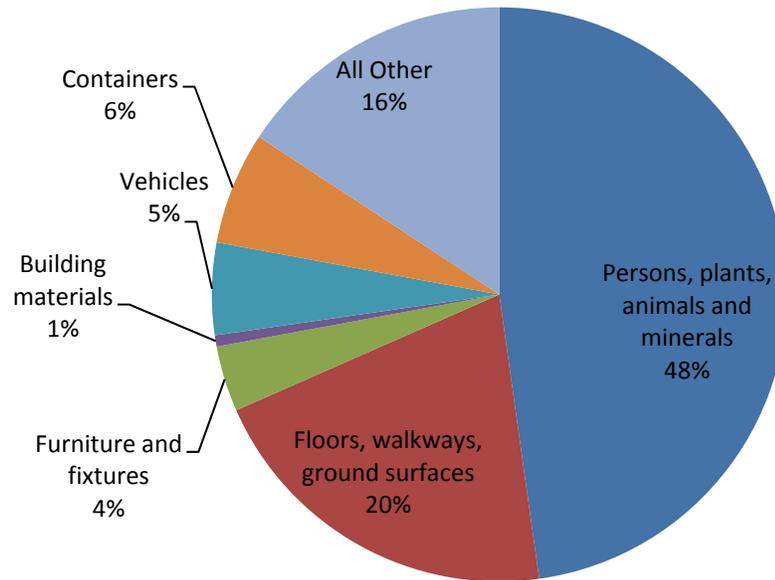


Percent distribution of nonfatal injuries and illnesses involving days away from work by nature of injury or illness, education & health services, 2008

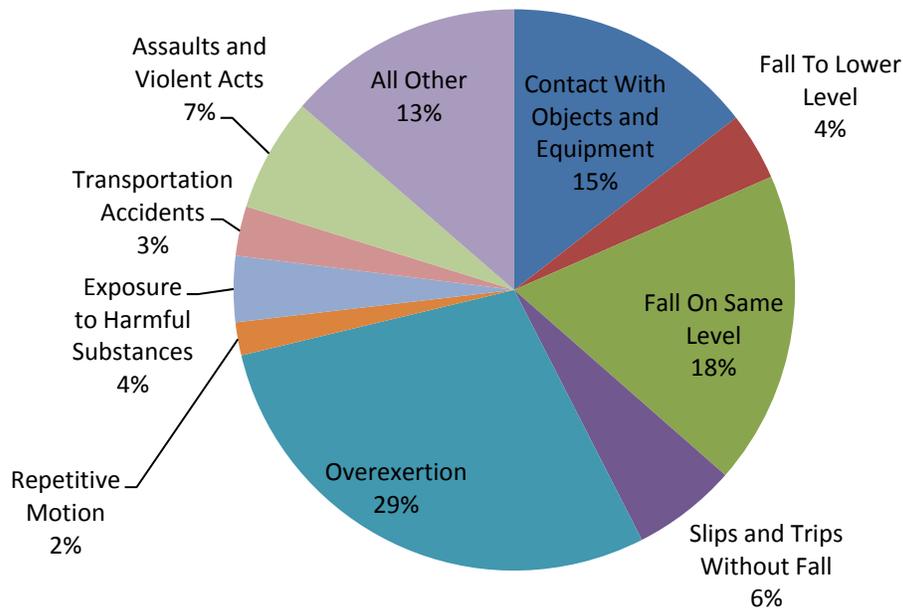


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Percent distribution of nonfatal injuries and illnesses involving days away from work by source, all private industries, education and health services, 2008



Percent distribution of nonfatal injuries and illnesses involving days away from work by event or exposure, education and health services, 2008



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Percent distribution of nonfatal injuries and illnesses involving days away from work by part of body, all private industries, education, 2008

