

Masachusetts Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Report 2008

PUBLIC SECTOR

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

For the first time in Massachusetts, the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses was conducted among the public sector. The reporting of occupational injuries within local government is still not mandatory but the participation that we received was sufficient enough to publish some results. Non-fatal occupational injuries and illnesses occurred at a higher rate for state and local government workers (4.1 cases per 100 full-time equivalent employees [FTEs]), than it did for private sector workers (3.6 cases per 100 FTEs). Within state and local government there are industry sectors that include: education and health services, public administration. All other sectors did not have enough data to produce results. Therefore, when referencing case and demographic data, it is represented as state government only, or local government only, except where indicated otherwise.

Key Public Sector Findings

- The total recordable case incidence rate (TRC) for both state and local government was 4.1 incidents per 100 FTEs. The DART rate was 2.4; the DAFW rate was 1.9; the DJTR rate was 0.4 and the ORC rate was 1.8 cases per 100 FTEs.
- State government only had a TRC rate of 2.6 cases per 100 FTEs
- Local government only had a TRC rate of 4.9 cases per 100 FTEs.
- The public sector employed roughly 363,000 employees, which was roughly 11.3% of the total Massachusetts workforce.
- State government accounted for approximately 105,200 employees or 29% of the public sector workforce.
- Local government accounted for approximately 257,700 employees or 71% of the public sector workforce.
- Approximately 12,600 recordable cases were reported in the public sector in 2008; this represents roughly 13.2% of the total number of recordable cases in Massachusetts.
- State government accounted for 2,500 recordable cases or 19.8% of the public sector's recordable cases; local government accounted for roughly 10,000 cases or 79.4%.
- Of the 12,600 total recordable cases, approximately 11,400 or 90.5% were non-fatal occupational injury-only cases.
- 9.5% (1,200 cases) of the 12,600 recordable cases were non-fatal occupational illness-only cases.
- Skin disorders accounted for approximately 400 cases of the total reported; all other illnesses accounted for 600. There was not enough data to publish figures on the remaining illness-types.
- State government accounted for 600 total illness-only cases; local government accounted for 700 total illness-only cases



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Deval L. Patrick, Governor
Timothy P. Murray, Lt. Governor
Joanne F. Goldstein, Secretary
Executive Office of Labor and
Workforce Development
George E. Noel, Director
Department of Labor
Laura M. Marlin, Commissioner
Division of Occupational Safety

Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

Division of Occupational Safety

19 Staniford Street, 2nd Floor

Boston, MA 02114

617-626-6975

www.mass.gov/dos

PUBLIC SECTOR (STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

Case and Demographic Findings – State Government

OCCUPATION: Protective services occupations (specifically correctional officers and jailers, 200 cases) accounted for 230 DAFW cases or 10.0%; construction trades workers (specifically construction laborers, 110 cases) accounted for 150 cases or 6.6%; community and social services occupations (specifically mental health counselors, 110 cases) accounted for 120 cases or 5.2%; nursing aides orderlies and attendants accounted for 110 cases 4.8%.

GENDER: Males accounted for 30.6% (700 cases) of all DAFW cases; females accounted for 15.3% (350 cases); the gender for the remainder of the cases was not reported.

AGE: The 45 to 54 age group accounted for 11.4% (260 cases) of the total number of DAFW cases; the 55 to 64 age group accounted for 10.5% (240 cases) of the total; the 25 to 34 age group accounted for 10.0% (230 cases) of the total; the 35 to 44 age group accounted for 7.9% (180 cases) of the total; and the 20 to 24 age group accounted for 2.2% (50 cases). There was not enough data to produce statistics on the 16 to 19, or 65 and over age groups.

NATURE: Sprains, strains, and tears accounted for 480 DAFW cases or roughly 21% of the total number of DAFW cases; bruises and contusions accounted for 110 cases or 4.8% of the total; soreness, pain, and hurt (except back) accounted for 60 cases or 2.6%; fractures accounted for 50 cases or 2.2% of the total; and cuts and lacerations accounted for 40 cases or 1.7% of the total. Non-classifiable injuries and illnesses represented 1,260 cases or 55.0% of the total.

EVENT: Bodily reaction and exertion accounted for 350 DAFW cases or 15.3% of the total; falls accounted for 290 cases or 12.7% of the total; assaults and violent acts accounted for 170 cases or 7.4% of the total; contact with objects and equipment accounted for 140 cases or 6.1%; approximately 1,260 cases were non-classifiable.

SOURCE: Person, plants, animals, and minerals were the source for approximately 480 DAFW cases or roughly 21.0% of the total; structures and surfaces accounted for 280 cases or 12.2% of the total; containers accounted for 60 cases or 2.6% of the total; and vehicles accounted for 50 DAFW cases or 2.2% of the total; 1,240 cases were non-classifiable.

PART OF BODY: The trunk region (back, shoulders, chest) was the part of body most affected in DAFW cases, with approximately 380 cases or 16.6% of the total amount; lower extremities (legs, ankles, feet, toes) accounted for 250 cases or 10.9%; multiple body parts accounted for 170 cases or 7.4%; upper extremities (arms, hands, fingers) accounted for 160 cases or roughly 7.0%; and the head region (including face) accounted for 60 cases or 2.6% of the total; 1,240 cases were non-classifiable.

PUBLIC SECTOR (STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

Case and Demographic Findings—Local Government

OCCUPATION: Firefighters accounted for 670 DAFW cases or 18.8% of the 3,570 cases total; police and sheriff's patrol officers accounted for 510 cases or 14.3% of the total; janitors and cleaners (except maids and housekeeping workers) accounted for 270 cases or 7.7% of the total; primary, secondary, and special education school teachers accounted for 260 cases or 7.3% of the total; and emergency medical technicians and paramedics accounted for 230 cases or 6.4%.

GENDER: Approximately 64.4% of all DAFW cases involved males; approximately 31.4% of all cases involved Females.

AGE: 1,270 cases (35.6%) involved the 35 to 44 age group; 780 cases (21.8%) involved the 45 to 54 age group; 760 cases (21.32%) involved the 25 to 34 age group; and 570 cases (16.0%) involved the 55 to 64 age group. There was not enough data to publish statistics on the 16 to 19, or 65 and over group.

NATURE: Sprains, strains, and tears accounted for 1,440 DAFW cases, which is 40.3% of the total; soreness, pain, and hurt (except back) accounted for 520 cases or 14.6%; cuts and lacerations accounted for 270 cases or 7.6%; tendonitis accounted for 120 cases or 3.4%; bruises and contusions accounted for 110 cases or 3.1%; and fractures accounted for 90 cases or 2.5%.

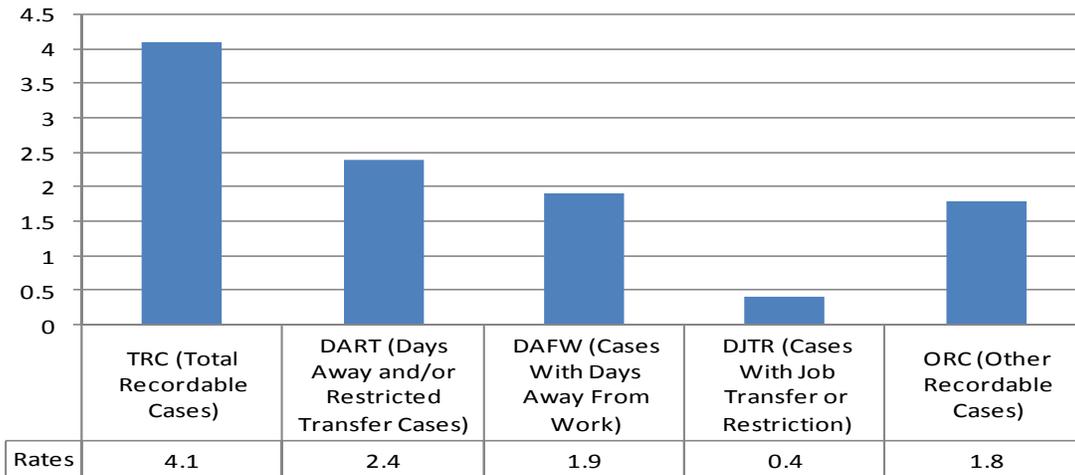
EVENT: Bodily reaction and exertion accounted for 1,240 DAFW cases in 2008, this represents roughly 34.7% of the total; falls accounted for 880 cases or 24.6%; contact with objects and equipment accounted for 550 cases or 15.4%; exposure to harmful substances or environments accounted for 340 cases or 9.5%; transportation accidents accounted for 160 cases or 4.5%; and assaults and violent acts accounted for 100 cases or 2.8%. Approximately 300 cases were non-classifiable.

SOURCE: Persons, plants, animals, and minerals accounted for 1,140 cases or 31.9% of DAFW cases; structures and surfaces accounted for 990 cases or 27.7%; tools, instruments, and equipment accounted for 220 cases or 6.2%; vehicles accounted for 170 cases or 4.8%; and chemicals and chemical products accounted for 150 cases or 4.2%.

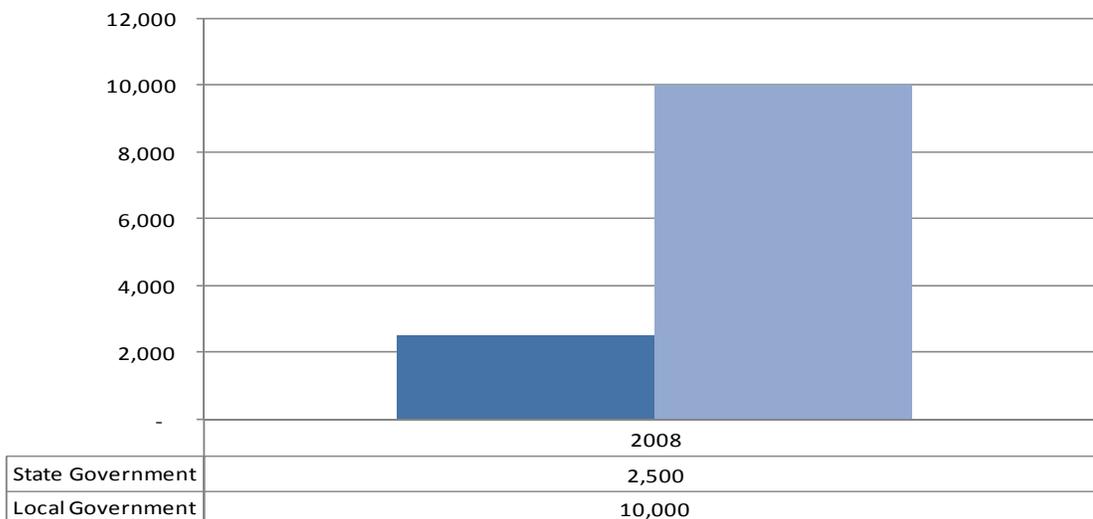
PART OF BODY: The trunk region (back, shoulders, chest) accounted for 830 cases or 23.2%; lower extremities accounted for 750 cases or 21.0%; multiple body parts accounted for 510 cases or 14.3%; upper extremities accounted for 660 cases or 18.5%; the head region (including face) accounted for 390 cases 10.9%; and body systems (major organs) accounted for 210 cases 5.9% of the total DAFW cases.

PUBLIC SECTOR (STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

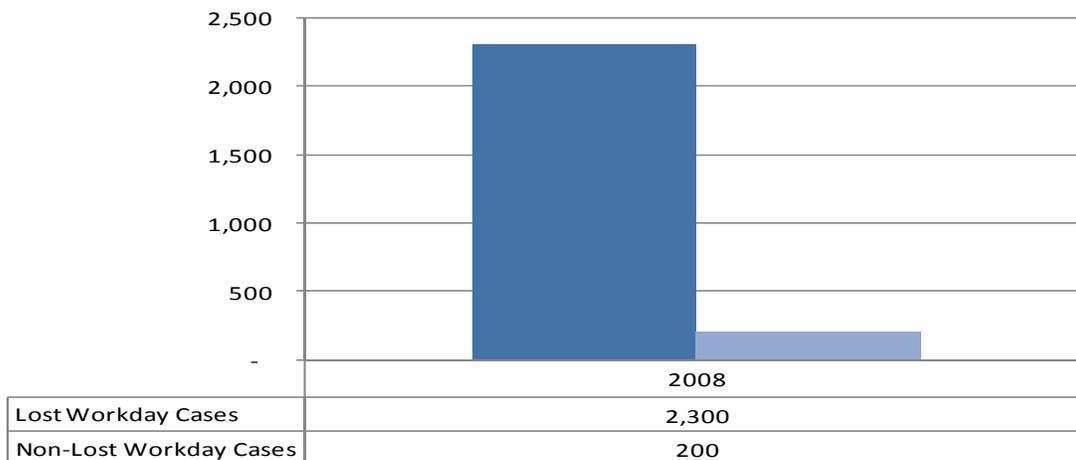
Incidence rates of nonfatal injuries and illnesses (per 100 full time workers), all state and local government, MA, 2008



Numbers of nonfatal recordable injuries and illnesses, state and local government, 2008

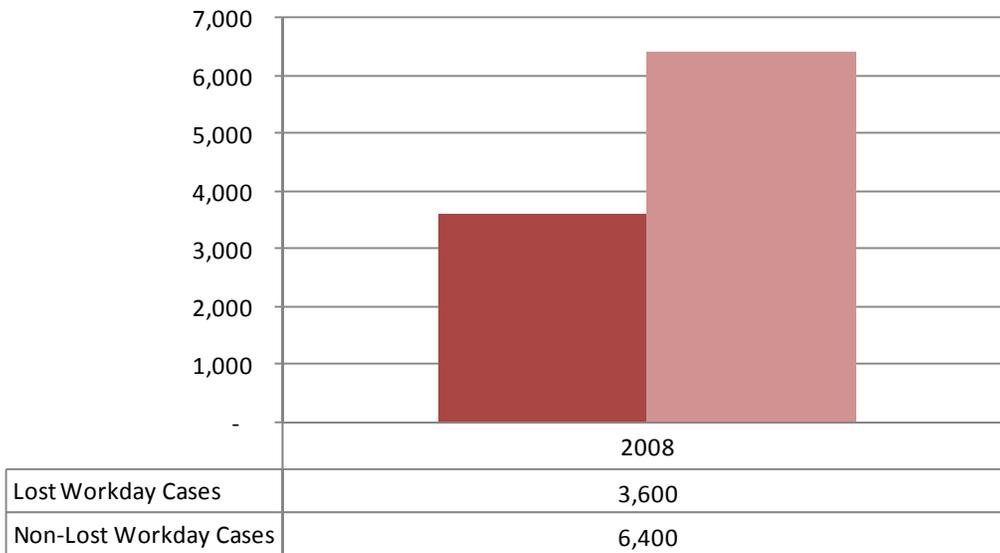


Number of lost workday vs. non-lost workday cases of nonfatal injuries and illnesses, state government, 2008

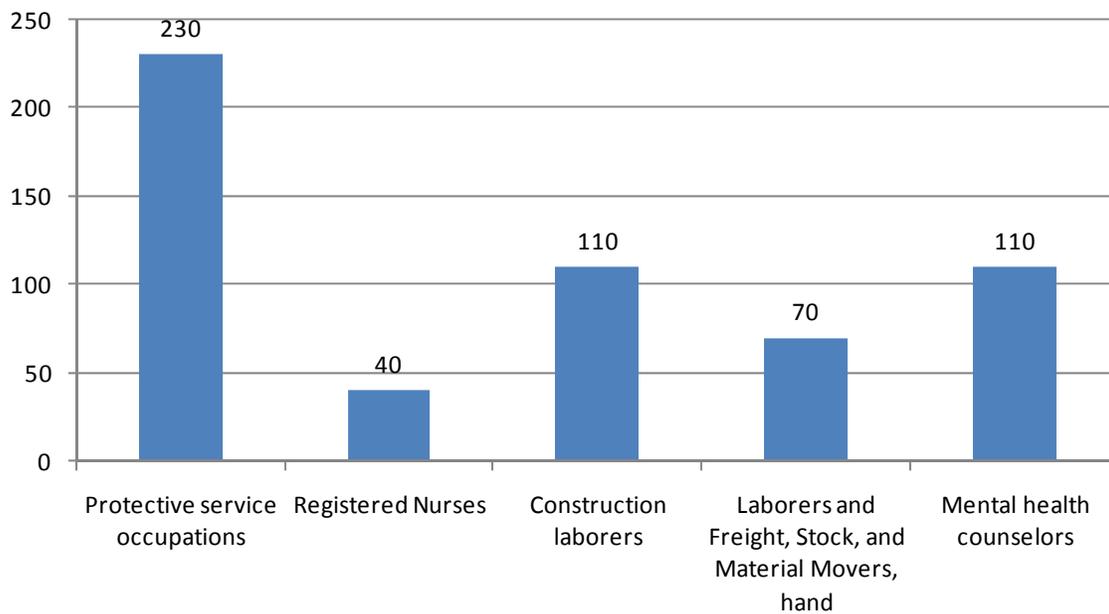


PUBLIC SECTOR (STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

Number of lost workday vs. non-lost workday cases of nonfatal injuries and illnesses, local government, 2008

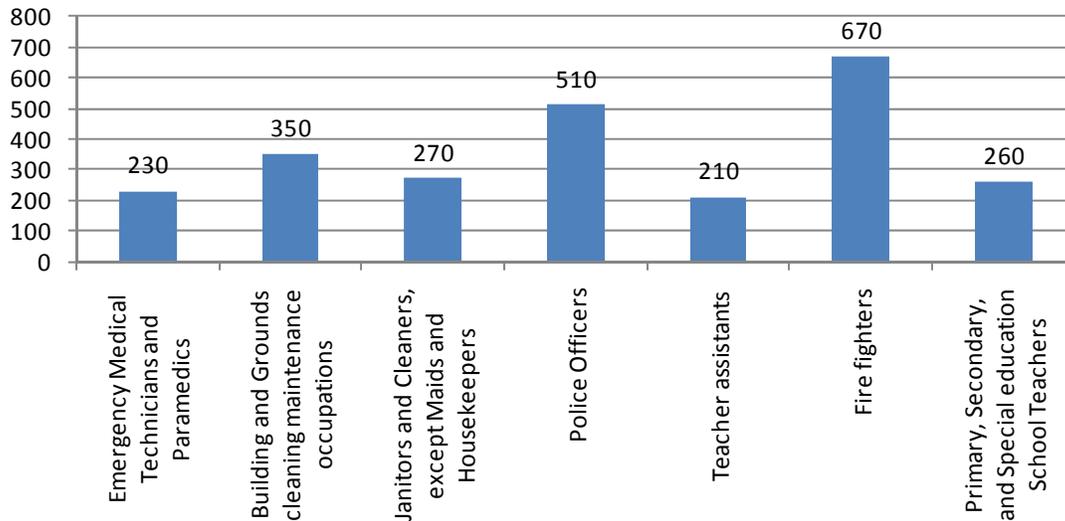


Selected occupations with the highest number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses with days away from work, state government, 2008

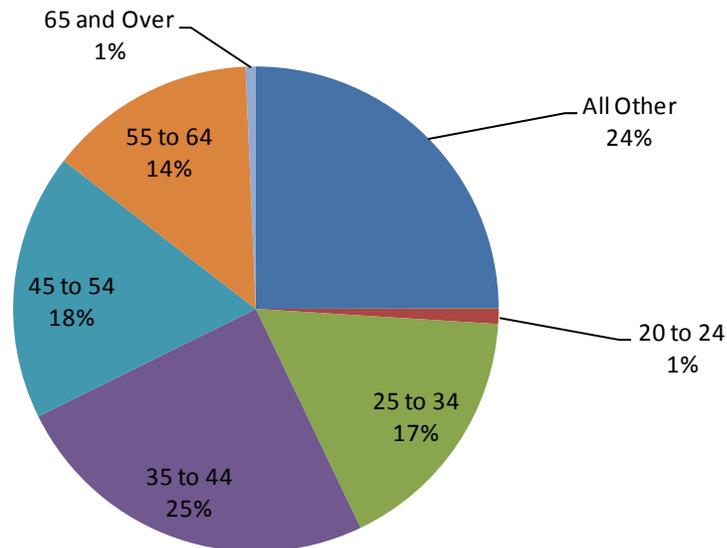


PUBLIC SECTOR (STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

Selected occupations with the highest number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses with days away from work, local government, 2008

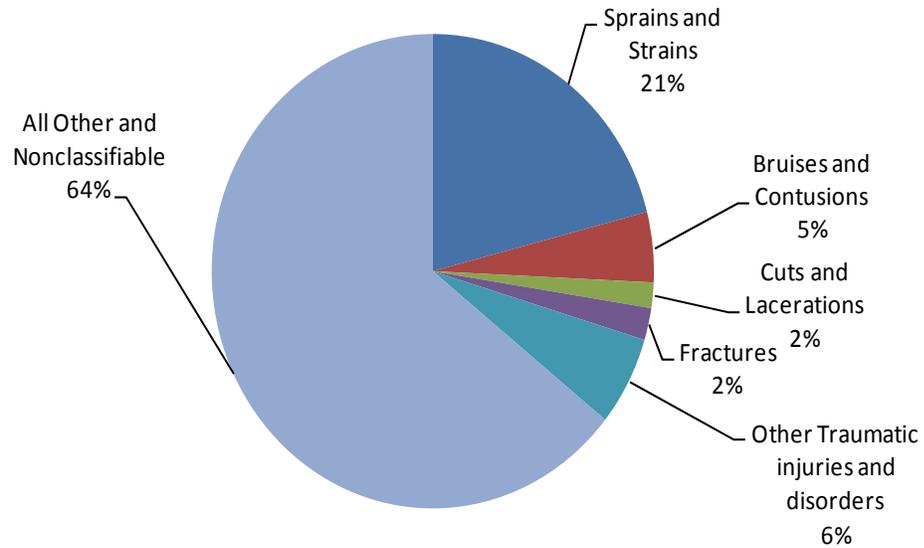


Percent distribution of nonfatal injuries and illnesses involving days away from work by age of worker, state and local government, 2008

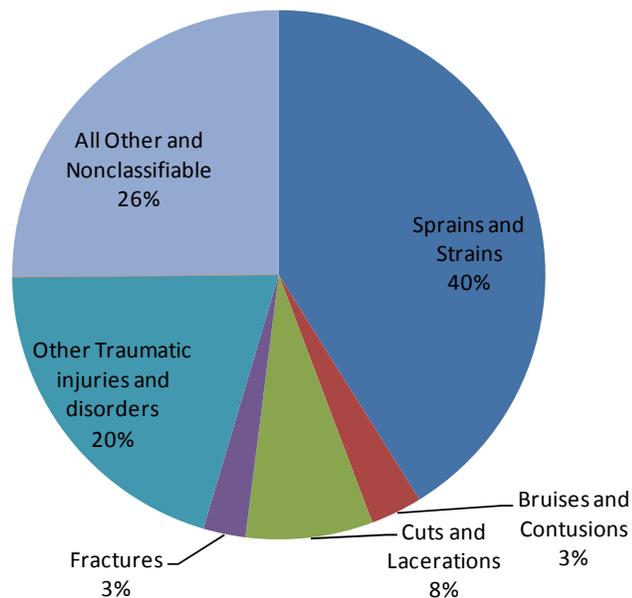


PUBLIC SECTOR (STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

Percent distribution of nonfatal injuries and illnesses involving days away from work by nature of injury or illness, state government, 2008

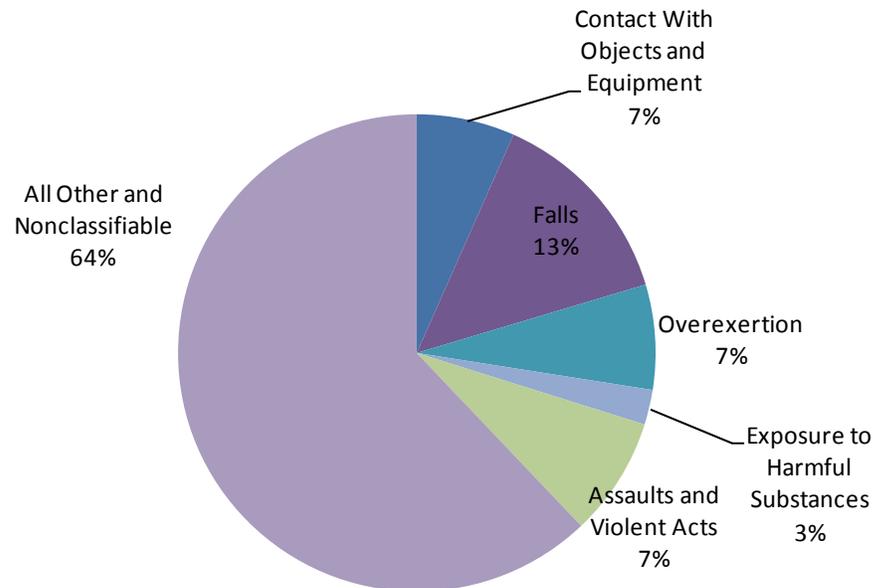


Percent distribution of nonfatal injuries and illnesses involving days away from work by nature of injury or illness, local government, 2008

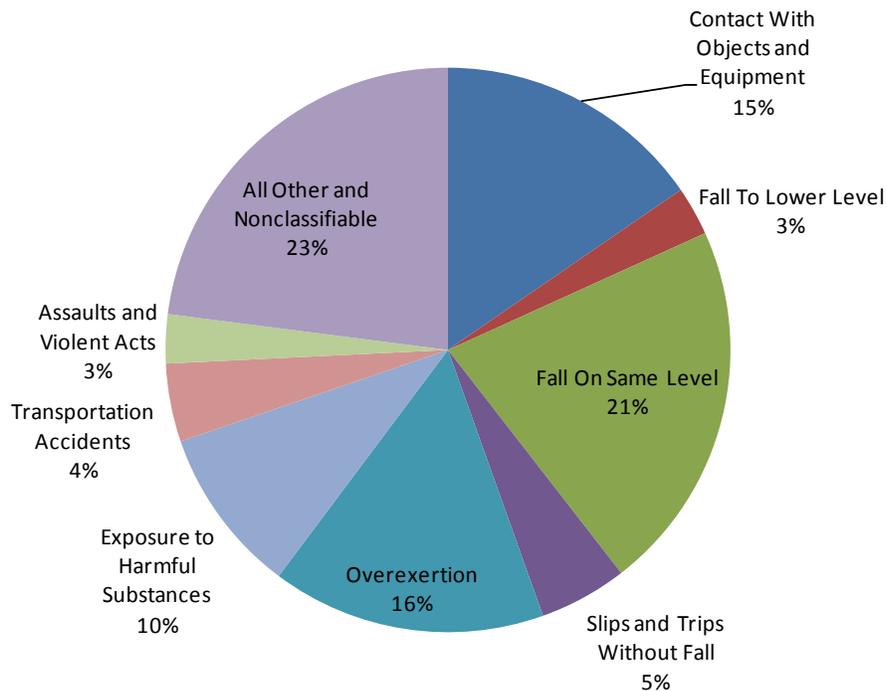


PUBLIC SECTOR (STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

Percent distribution of nonfatal injuries and illnesses involving days away from work by event or exposure, state government, 2008

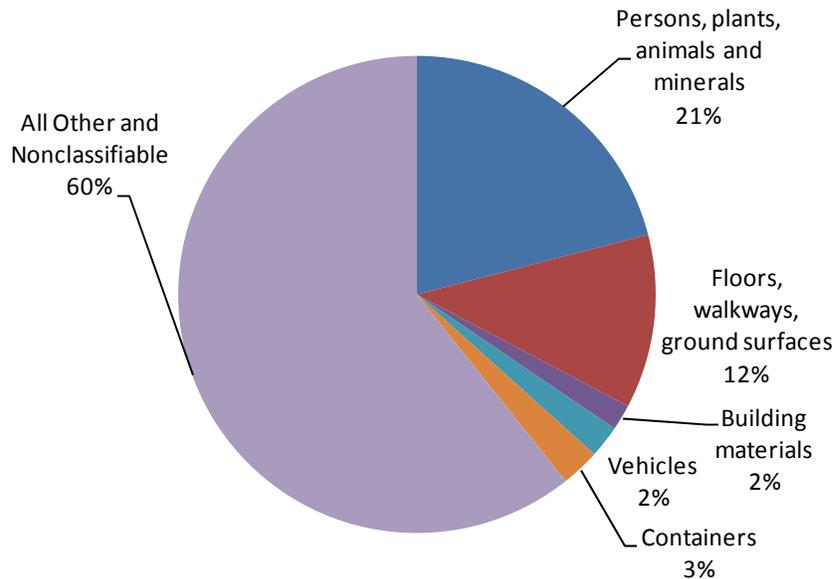


Percent distribution of nonfatal injuries and illnesses involving days away from work by event or exposure, local government, 2008

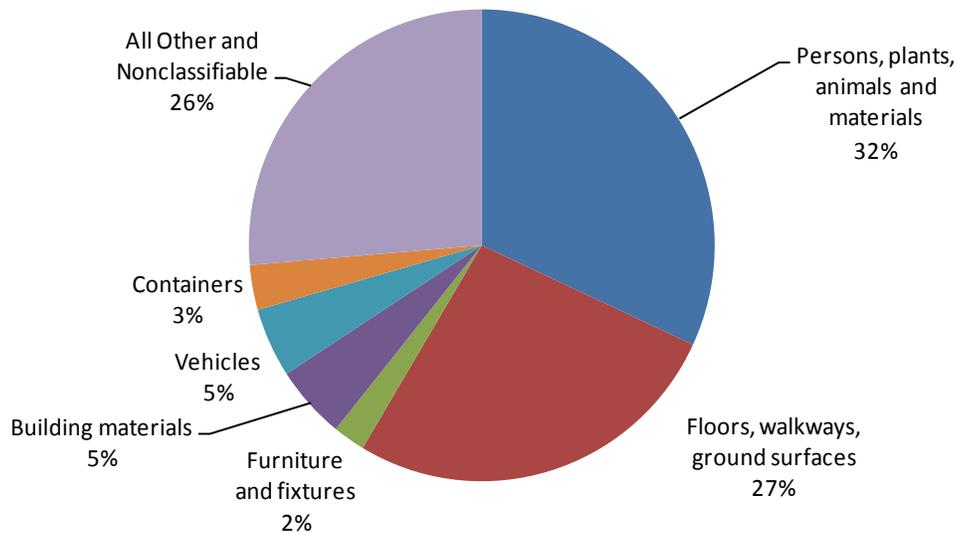


PUBLIC SECTOR (STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

Percent distribution of nonfatal injuries and illnesses involving days away from work by source, state government, 2008

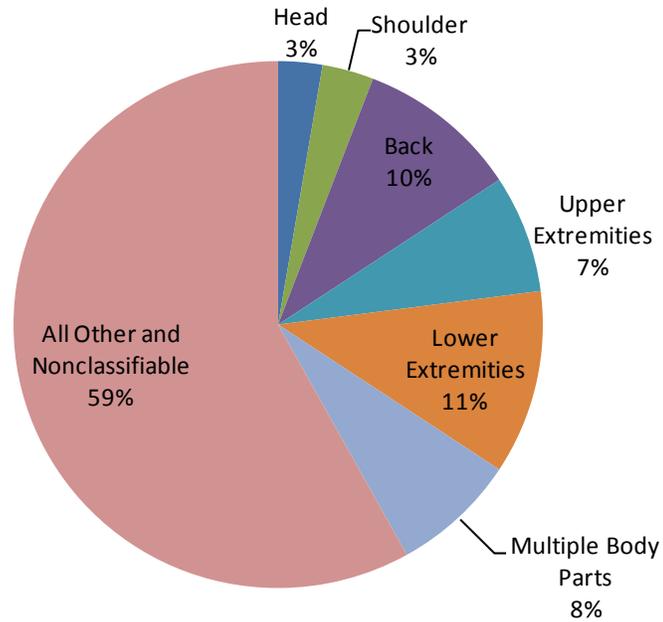


Percent distribution of nonfatal injuries and illnesses involving days away from work by source, local government, 2008



PUBLIC SECTOR (STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

Percent distribution of nonfatal injuries and illnesses involving days away from work by part of body, state government, 2008



Percent distribution of nonfatal injuries and illnesses involving days away from work by part of body, local government, 2008

