

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Department of Health**

Center for Policy, Planning and Evaluation



**For Release: December, 2012**  
**Contact: Kimberley A. Turner, Ph.D.**  
**(202) 442-9010**  
[kimberley.turner@dc.gov](mailto:kimberley.turner@dc.gov)

**CHARACTERISTICS FOR INJURIES AND ILLNESSES REQUIRING DAYS AWAY FROM WORK IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY, WASHINGTON, DC 2011**

Washington – The District of Columbia’s Annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses for 2011 showed that there were 3,190 work-related injury and illness cases reported in the private industry that required days away from work. Sprains and strains accounted for approximately 33 percent of these cases and was the leading type of injury or illness. Service occupations had the most injury and illness days away from work cases and made up 3,100 or 97 percent of the cases; followed by educational and health services with 90 or 3 percent of the cases (See Chart 1).

**Case Characteristic Highlights**

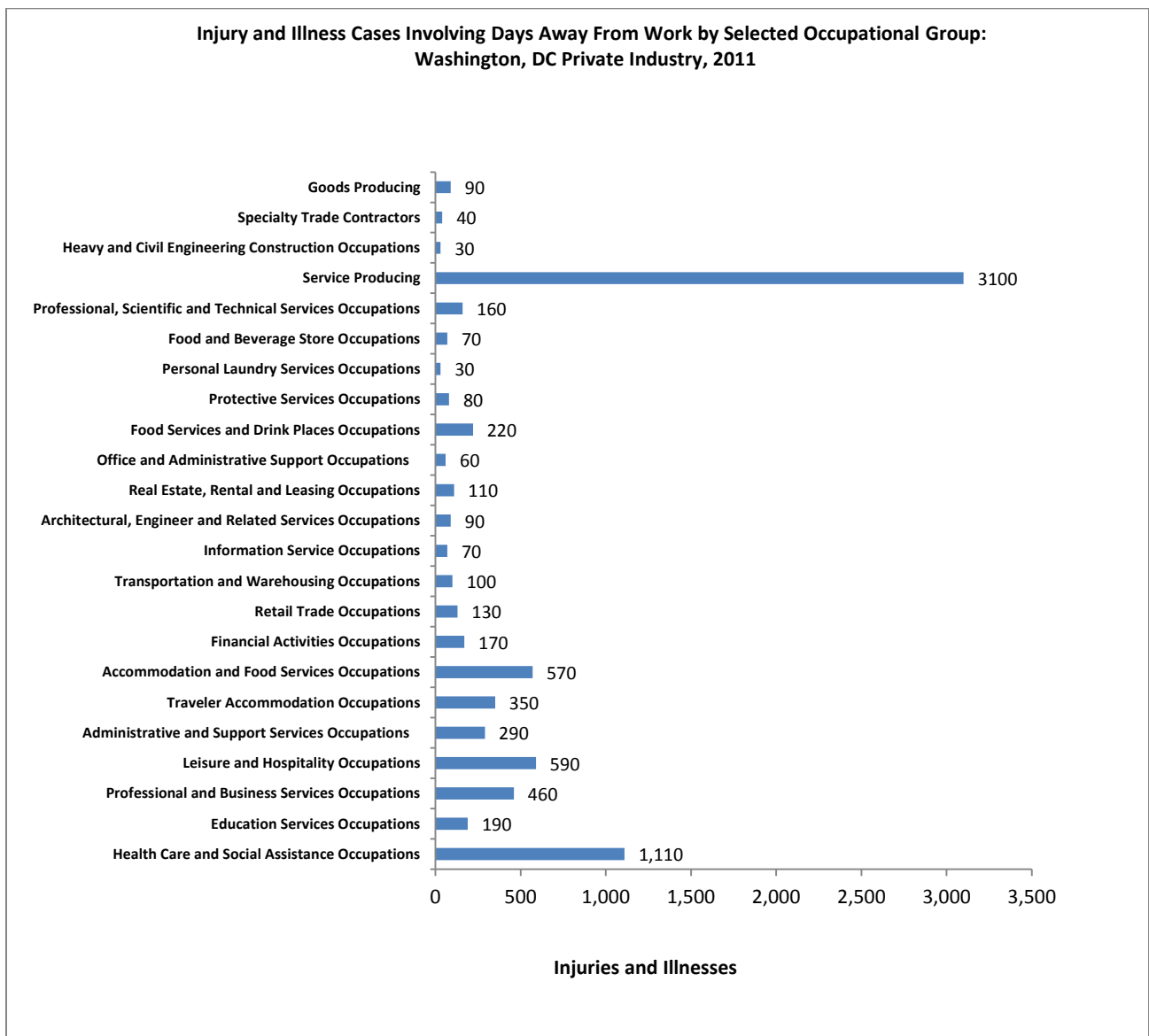
- The leading nature of the work-related injury or illness cases involving days away from work was sprains and strains (950 cases); other significant causes were soreness and pain (390), bruises and contusions (330) cases and cuts and lacerations (250 cases).
- The part of the body that was most frequently affected by injuries and illnesses was upper extremities (840), which includes the arm, hand, finger and fingernail which accounted for 26 percent of all days away from work cases. Lower extremities, including the leg, knee, foot and toe, accounted for 23 percent while the trunk including back lumbar region, spine and spinal cord accounted for 16 percent of all days away from work cases.
- Floor and ground surfaces accounted for 26 percent of all sources of injury and illness cases.
- Cases involving falls, slips, and trips accounted for 830 cases, the majority of these were cases involving falls on the same level which accounted for 560. The next largest event category was cases which involved contact with an object or equipment which accounted for 820, the majority of these were cases involving needlesticks without exposure to harmful substances which accounted for 510 cases.

**Demographic Highlights**

- Forty-six percent of the occupational injuries and illnesses that resulted in days away from work involved women (1,480 cases).
- Workers in the age range of 45-54 years accounted for 26 percent or 830 cases.
- Thirty-nine percent of the occupational injuries and illnesses that resulted in days away from work involved Black or African American workers (1,250).

- Employees with a length of service with their employer from one to five years or more accounted for 2,210 of the injuries and illnesses.
- Of the injuries and illnesses with days away from work that reported the time of incident, the hours from 8:01 AM to 12:00 PM accounted for 770 incidents.
- Of the injuries and illnesses with days away from work that reported hours on the job before the event occurred, employees on the job for two to six hours made up 960 cases.
- Thursday (670 cases) and Tuesday (580 cases) were the days of the week when most of the injuries and illnesses involving days away from work occurred.

**Chart I**



**Additional Statewide Information**

For detailed statistical tables on case and demographic data from the Washington, DC Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses for 2010, go to the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics website: <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshstate.htm#DC>. In addition, any information can be requested by contacting Dr. Kimberley A. Turner at: (202) 442-9010 or via e-mail at: [TurnerK@states.bls.gov](mailto:TurnerK@states.bls.gov).

### **Technical Notes**

The Washington, DC Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses was conducted by the D.C. Department of Health in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Beginning with 2009 data, the Occupational Safety Health Statistics program began classifying industry using the 2007 version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS 2007). Industry data from 2003 to 2008 were classified using the NAICS 2002. NAICS 2007 includes revisions across several sectors. The most significant revisions are in the information sector, particularly within telecommunications. For more information, go to <http://www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm>.

For technical information about and definitions for the CFOI program, please go to the BLS Handbook of Methods on the BLS web site here: [http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch9\\_a1.htm](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch9_a1.htm).