

Health and Safety Statistics

At a glance

2014/15



What data do we have about workplace health and safety in Great Britain?

Ill health/disease

Estimates of the number of people with an illness which is caused or made worse by their work

Rates of work-related ill health for different groups of workers (eg by industry and occupation)

Estimated deaths due to work exposures

Find out more about work-related ill health

Go to the **Statistics** website

Safety

Number of people injured and rates of injury at work for different groups of workers

Number of dangerous occurrence reports from employers

Find out more about injuries

Go to the **Statistics** website

Enforcement

Number of companies prosecuted for breaches of health and safety legislation

Number of enforcement notices served by health and safety inspectors

Go to the

Enforcement statistics

Other topics

Cost to Britain of health and safety failings

Working days lost due to work-related ill health and injury

European comparisons of health and safety indicators

Go to the

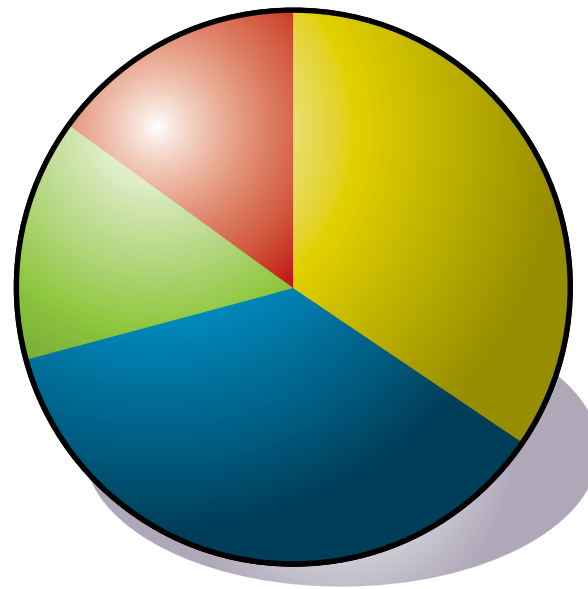
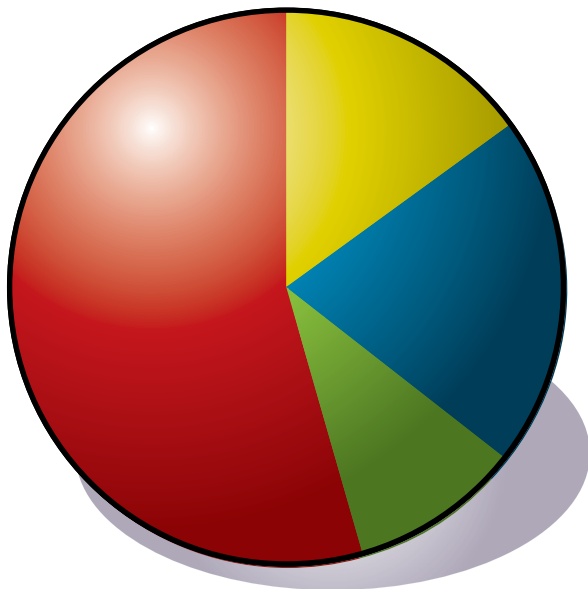
Statistics website topic list

Health and safety compared

Self-reported health and safety incidents (1.1 million cases)

Working days lost due to health and safety incidents (27.3 million days)

Note: Includes long standing ill health cases

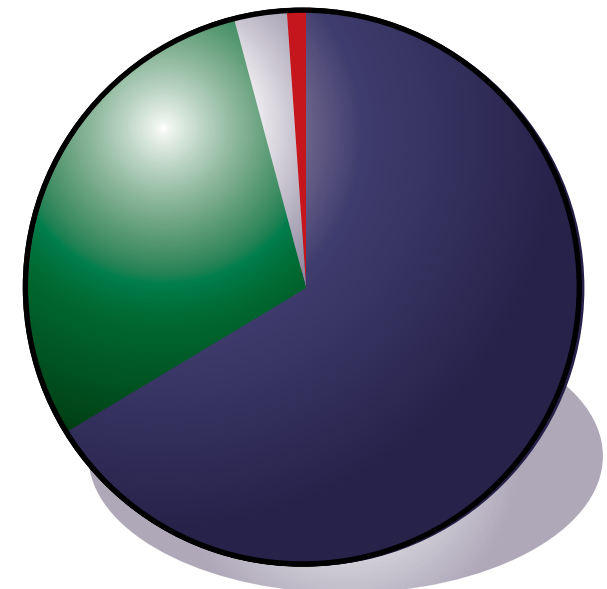


- Musculoskeletal
- Stress
- Other illness
- Injury

■ Ill health accounts for 46% of the health and safety incidents, 85% of the related sickness absence and around 99% of the work-related deaths each year

Work-related deaths by cause (around 13,000 deaths)

Note: includes diseases where sufficient data to reliably count or estimate current mortality



- Other illness
- Injury
- Cancer
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Types of work-related ill health

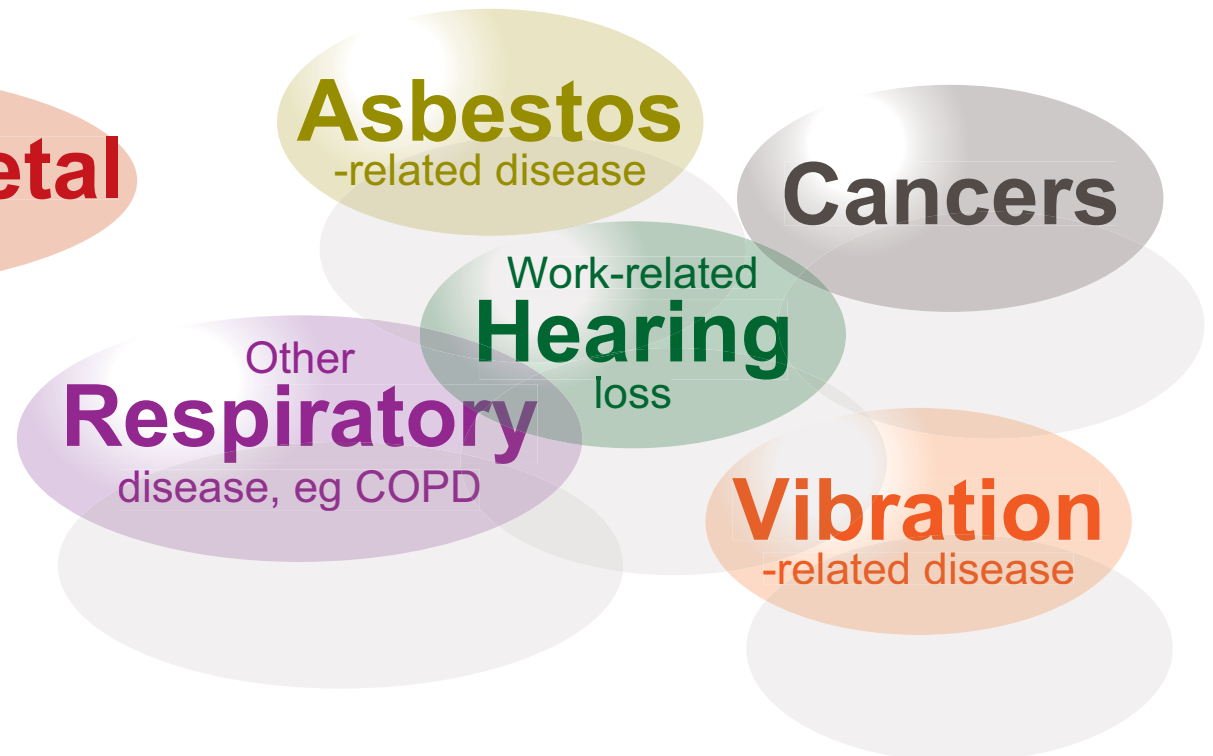
Common health conditions

which can be caused or made worse by work





Long-latency conditions

which can be caused by previous work activity and where symptoms can appear many years after exposure



What do we know about ...

-  Find out more about **Stress statistics**
-  Find out more about **Stress controls**

High rates
in large
workplaces
(>250 employees)

New cases:
234,000
Total cases:
440,000

9.9 million
working
days lost

High rates
in health and social care
professionals and
education professional
occupations



Work-related Stress?

High rates
in human health and
social care, education and
public administration
industries

High rates
for workers
aged
35 to 54

Higher
rates for
women than
men

What do we know about ...

-  Find out more about **MSD statistics**
-  Find out more about **MSD controls**

Manual handling is the main work activity causing back disorders

New cases: 169,000
Total cases: 553,000

9.5 million working days lost

High rates in building trades, nurses, personal care and skilled agriculture occupations

Work-related Musculoskeletal disorders?

High rates in agriculture, postal and courier activities, construction and health care industries

High rates for workers aged over 45

Approximately 40% of disorders affect the back, and 40% affect the upper limbs

What do we know about ...

- Find out more about **cancer statistics**
- Find out more about **cancer controls**

Over 5,500 cases estimated each year from the construction industry

8,000 deaths and 13,500 new cases estimated per year

Three times more men than women die from occupational cancer

Most new cases are lung cancer, breast cancer or skin cancer

Work-related Cancer

● Primary source of data for work-related cancer **Cancer Burden Study**

Other causes of occupational cancer are shift work, solar radiation, mineral oils and silica

The leading cause of death is occupational exposure to asbestos

The most common forms of cancer leading to death are lung cancer and mesothelioma

What do we know about ...

- Find out more about **asbestos-related disease statistics**
- Find out more about **asbestos-related disease controls**

2,538 mesothelioma deaths in 2013:
2,123 in men,
415 in women

Around 5,000 deaths in total per year currently, and still increasing

Over 200 deaths caused by asbestosis in 2013

About as many lung cancer deaths from asbestos exposure as mesotheliomas each year

Asbestos-related disease?

Around 2,500 mesothelioma deaths per year projected for the rest of this decade

Current deaths are a result of past exposures, particularly in building-related jobs

Diseases take many years to develop following exposure to asbestos

What do we know about ...

 Find out more about **respiratory disease statistics**

 Find out more about **respiratory disease controls**

Diseases like COPD can take many years to develop after workplace exposures

Includes asthma, COPD, pneumoconiosis and silicosis - diseases that can be fatal

About 30,000 people who worked in the last year report they currently have breathing/lung problems caused or made worse by work



About 4,000 COPD deaths each year due to past exposure to gases, dusts and fumes at work

Work-related Respiratory disease?

No significant changes in annual new cases of occupational asthma over the last 5 years

132 occupational asthma cases seen by consultants in 2013

What do we know about ...

-  Find out more about **skin disease statistics**
-  Find out more about **skin disease controls**

Florists, hairdressers, cooks and beauticians have high rates of dermatitis

Severity of skin disease varies widely from minor irritation to severe cases of dermatitis, as well as skin cancers

Most common type is contact dermatitis caused by allergens or irritants

Working with wet hands and soaps/cleansing agents are the most common cause of dermatitis

Work-related Skin disease?

A reduction in new dermatitis cases in the latest 2 years

Over 1,050 occupational dermatitis cases seen by dermatologists in 2014

What do we know about ...

- Find out more about **NIHL statistics**
- Find out more about **control of noise risks**

Disease occurs predominantly in men

NIHL is a long latency disease that is difficult to estimate accurately

About 130 new claims are awarded Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit every year



Highest rates of NIHL occur in energy and extraction, construction and manufacturing industries

Work-related, noise induced Hearing loss (NIHL)?

Annually, around 15,000 workers have a NIHL

Total number of cases in Great Britain was estimated at around 500,000 in 1997/98

What do we know about ...

-  Find out more about **HAVS statistics**
-  Find out more about **control of vibration risks**

Disease occurs predominantly in men

Disease caused by use of hand-held power tools

Around 16,000 claims over last 12 years for Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit

Extractive, construction and manufacturing industries are most at risk

Hand-arm vibration disorders (HAVS)?

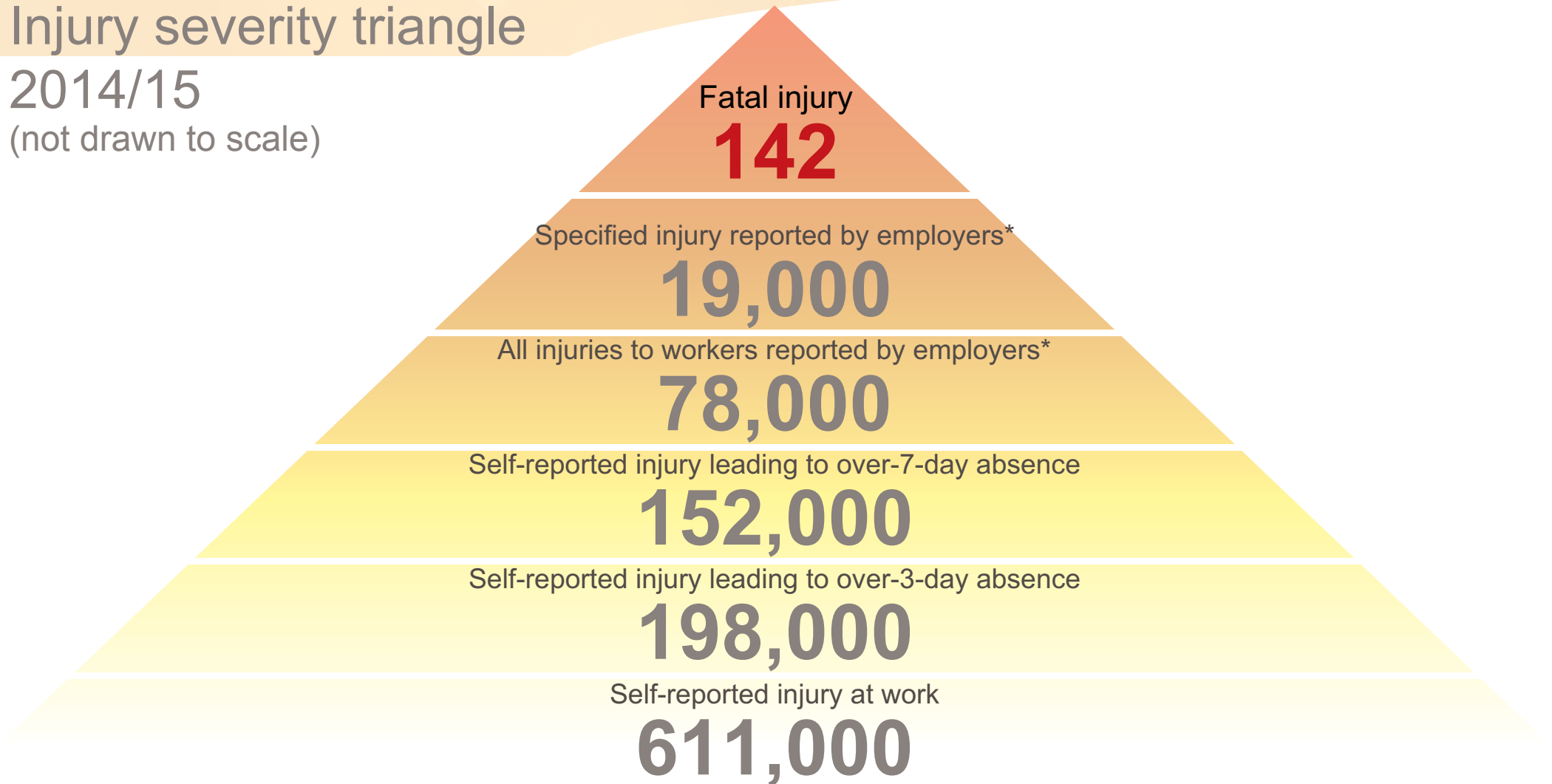
New claims for both vibration white finger and carpal tunnel syndrome have been declining over the past decade

1998 study suggested prevalence of HAVS was almost 300,000 cases

Injury severity triangle

2014/15

(not drawn to scale)



* RIDDOR reporting requirements have changed in recent years (move to over-7-day absences from April 2012 and specified injuries from October 2013)

What do we know about ...

- Find out more about **workplace injury statistics**
- Find out more about controls: **slips and trips falls from height manual handling**

Most frequent causes of injury are manual handling, slips and trips and falls from height

Estimated 152,000 self-reported over-7-day injuries

78,000 non-fatal injuries to workers reported by employers

High rates in manual occupations

Workplace injury?

High rates in sewerage and waste supply, agriculture, construction and transport

Higher rates for less experienced workers

Higher rates for men than for women

What do we know about ...

 Find out more about **costs to Britain**

Costs have fallen with signs of levelling off in recent years

Total £14.3 billion per year resulting from current or recent working conditions (2013/14 estimate in 2013 prices)

Figures exclude costs of cancer - work is underway to estimate these*

Largest single cost is non-financial value given to the impact on quality and loss of life

Economic Costs of injuries and ill health?

Borne by individuals (around 60% of total) employers and Government (around 20% each)

Greater costs from ill health (around two thirds) than from injuries (including fatalities)

* HSE will be publishing a separate estimate of costs of work-related cancer towards the end of 2015

Where to go next

See the latest [annual statistics report](#)

See our suite of [statistics tables](#)

Go to the [A to Z](#) topic index

Go to the [statistics homepage](#)

Find out more about our [data sources](#) and National Statistics policies

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