

## Statistics on Safe Work Environment

(4<sup>th</sup> of a Series on Decent Work)



*The International Labor Organization (ILO) in its advocacy to promote the Decent Work Agenda describes decent work as “integral efforts to reduce poverty and is a key mechanism for achieving equitable, inclusive and sustainable development. Decent work involves opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, provides security in the workplace and social protection for workers and their families, and gives people the freedom to express their concerns, to organize and to participate in decisions that affect their lives”. (ILO, Country Profile, 2012, Preface)*

*The statistical measurement framework on decent work as approved by the ILO and as adopted by the Philippines, covers ten (10) substantive elements corresponding to the four (4) strategic pillars of the Decent Work Agenda, namely: (1) employment opportunities; (2) adequate earnings and productive work; (3) decent hours; (4) combining work, family and personal life; (5) work that should be abolished; (6) stability and security of work; (7) equal opportunity and treatment in employment; (8) **safe work environment**; (9) social security; and, (10) social dialogue, workers’ and employers’ representation. Another component is the economic and social context of decent work that helps determine what constitute decency in society as well as the extent to which the achievement of decent work enhances national economic, social and labor market performance. (ILO, Country Profile, 2012)*

*This issue of LABSTAT Updates presents statistics pertaining to safe work environment that specifically covers incidence rates of occupational injuries and diseases in establishments; number of days lost incurred by workers due to workplace injuries and diseases; extent of labor inspectorate involved in the enforcement of labor standards in establishments; and number of inspected establishments with violations on general labor standards and occupational safety and health standards.*

*The statistical tables and metadata used in this article can be downloaded at the OpenSTAT website of the PSA at [www.psa.gov.ph](http://www.psa.gov.ph).*

### Policy and legal framework on the need for safe work environment

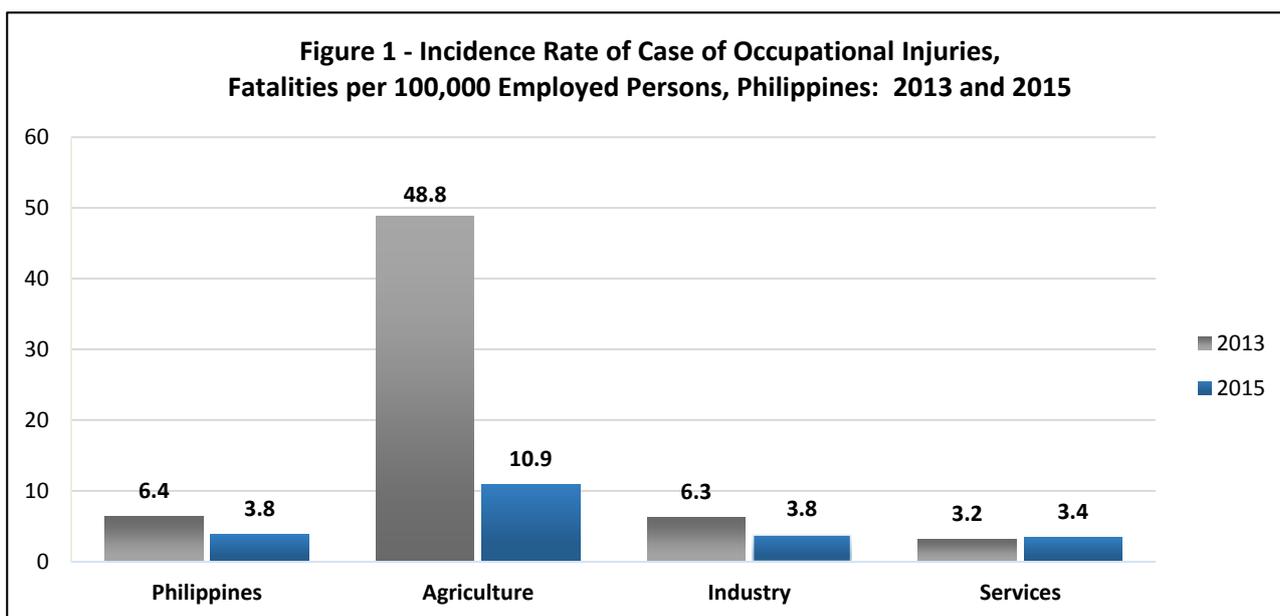
- Article 128 of the Labor Code of the Philippines was enacted to safeguard the implementation of labor standards among establishments. It grants the Secretary of Labor and Employment and its duly appointed personnel to have visitorial and enforcement powers that guarantees access to employers’ records and premises any time of the day or night whenever work is being undertaken therein.
- To further strengthen the enforcement of labor standards, enacted in 2017 is RA 11058 or an “Act of Strengthening the Compliance with Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Standards and Providing Penalties for Violations Thereof”, which stipulates that the State shall ensure a safe and healthful workplace for all Filipino workers by providing them full protection against all hazards in their work environment.
- With this strengthened OSH law, a stricter compliance of establishments to general labor standards and occupational safety and health standards in protecting its workers against injury, sickness or health is expected. Otherwise, a corresponding more severe penalty for any violation will likewise be imposed accordingly.

- Specifically, the Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC) and the Bureau of Working Conditions (BWC) of the DOLE are mandated by law to formulate programs/interventions against work accidents and illnesses;

develop and prescribe adequate labor standards at the workplace; and exercise supervision over the DOLE regional offices in its enforcement activities and administration.

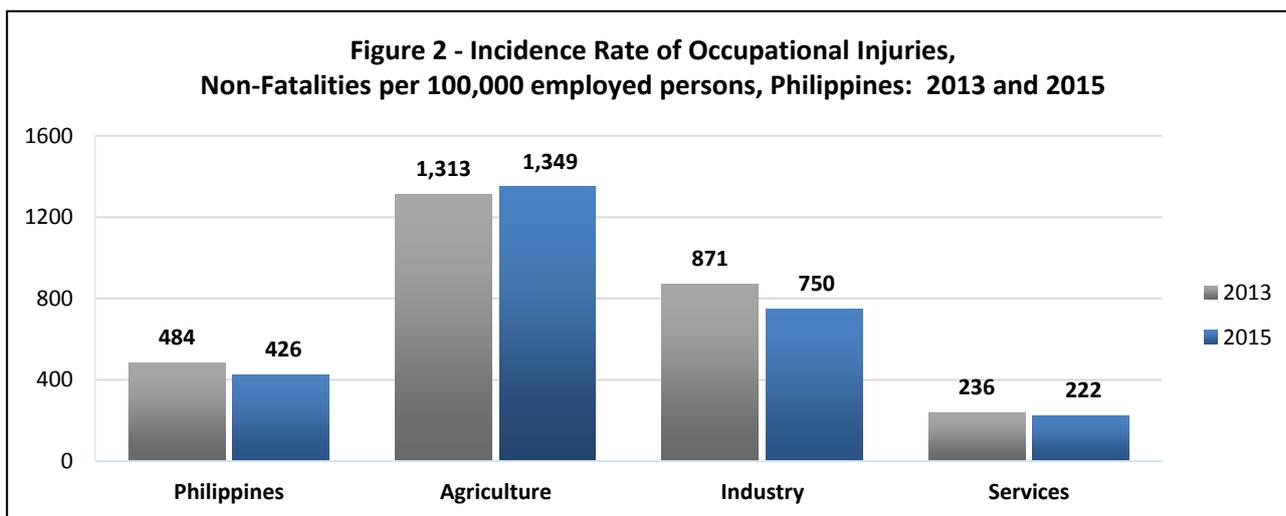
**Incidence rate of fatal occupational injuries decline by 2.6 percentage points**

- Occupational injury is defined as a result of a work-related event which happened in the course of an individual’s employment activities that may cause personal injury, illness or death. Incidence rate is a measure of safety performance in the workplace used to provide occupational injury statistics at the national level.
- Statistics showed that the incidence rate of fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 employed persons in 2015 was recorded at 3.8 percent. This means that there were around 4 cases of occupational injuries with workdays lost per 1,000 workers during the year. In comparison with the 2013 figures, the incidence rate declined by 2.6 percentage points from the 6.4 incidence rate reported in 2013. (Figure 1)
- Among sectors, agricultural establishments posted the highest incidence rate (10.9%) in 2015 followed by industry sector (3.8%) and services sector (3.4), respectively. For both agriculture and industry sectors, fatal incidence rates declined from 2013 to 2015. Agricultural establishments posted the highest decline in the incidence rate of fatal occupational injuries from 48.8 incidence rate in 2013 to 10.9 incidence rate in 2015. The industry sector declined from 6.3 percent in 2013 to 3.8 percent in 2015. On the other hand, fatal incidence rate for the services sector minimally increased to 3.4 percentage points in 2015.



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, Integrated Survey on Labor and Employment.

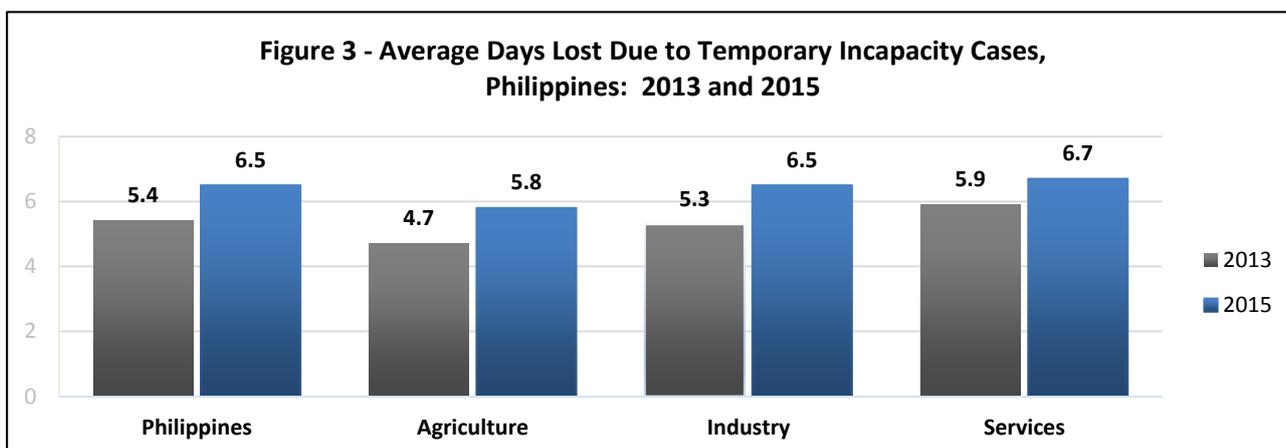
- Non-fatal incidence rate for occupational injuries per 100,000 employed persons had also declined in 2015. Specifically, 484 cases of non-fatal injuries per 1,000 workers was observed in 2013 to 426 cases in 2015.
- By sector, agriculture remained to have the highest incidence rate for non-fatal cases with 1,349, an increase of 36 cases from the 1,313 cases in 2013. The industry and services sector followed with 750 and 222 cases, respectively. (Figure 2)
- Both the industry and services sectors displayed declines in their respective non-fatal incidence rates. Industry sector with 121 cases from 871 in 2013 to 750 in 2015 while the services sector with a decline of 14 cases.



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, Integrated Survey on Labor and Employment.

**Average days lost for temporary incapacity cases increased by 1 day in 2015**

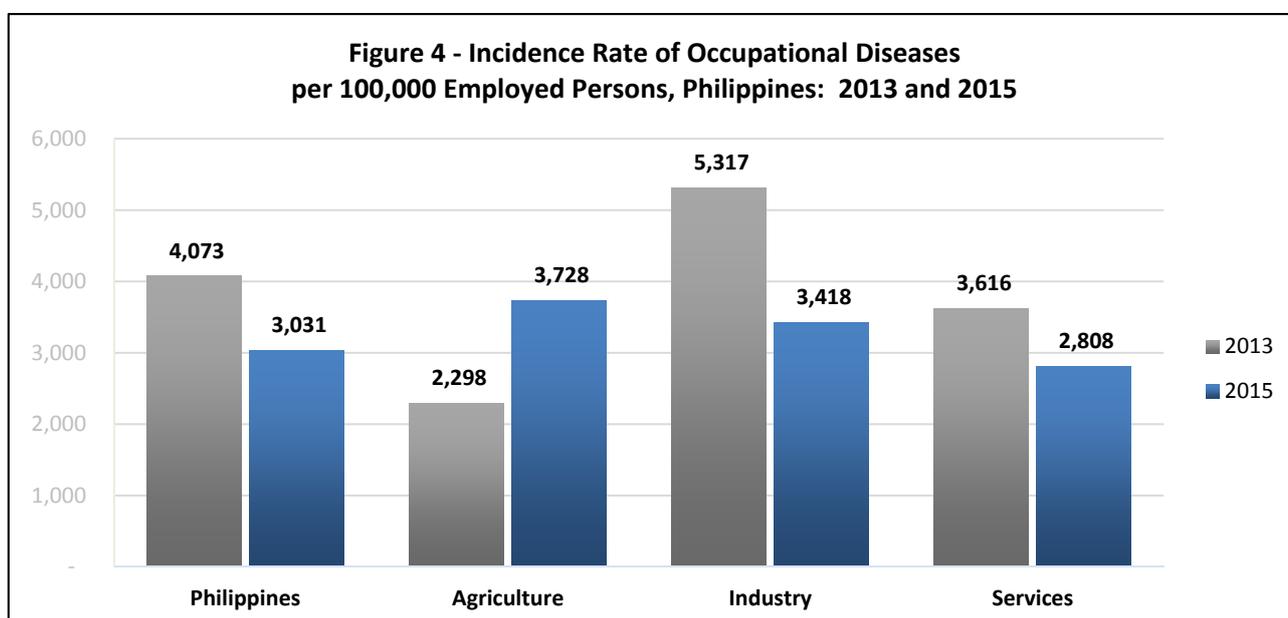
- There was an average of 6.5 days lost to workers due to temporary incapacity cases in 2015, an increase of 1.1 day compared to the recorded 5.4 average days lost in 2013. This pattern of increase is observed for all the sectors during the period under review. (Figure 3)
- Classified by sector, the average days lost due to temporary incapacity of workers in the agricultural sector rose to 5.8 days in 2015. Likewise, the average days lost for both the industry sector and services sector grew to 6.5 days and 6.7 days, respectively in 2015.



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, Integrated Survey on Labor and Employment.

**Incidence rate of occupational diseases decreased by 1,042**

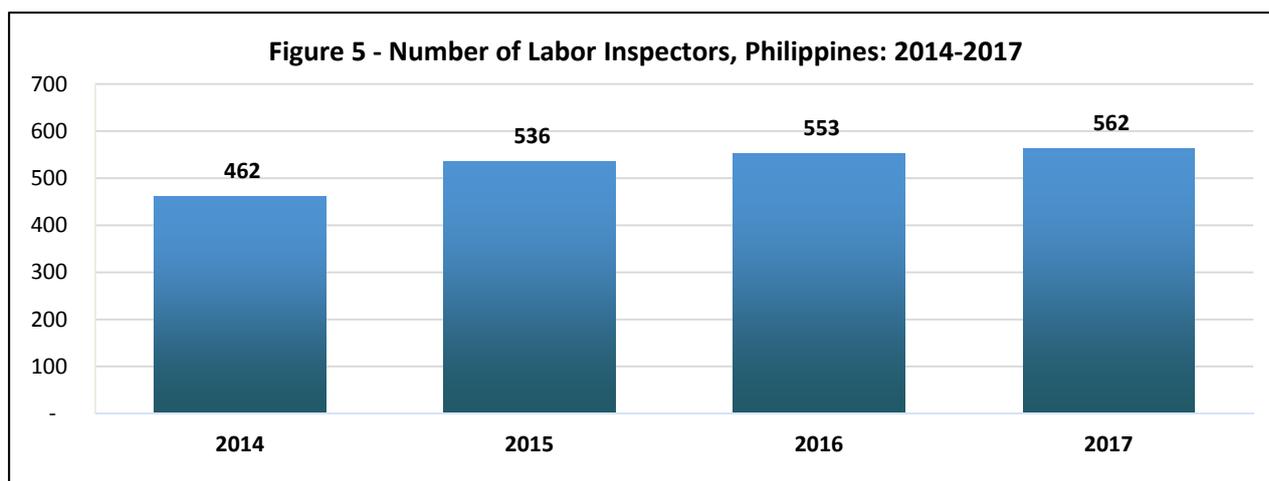
- An occupational disease is defined as any ailment contracted by a worker primarily as a result of an exposure to risk factors arising from work activity or work environment.
- Survey results showed that the incidence rate of occupational diseases per 100,000 employed persons decreased by 1,042 cases from the 4,073 cases posted in 2013 to the 3,031 cases in 2015. (Figure 4)
- Among different sectors, agriculture was the only that incurred an increase from the 2,298 cases in 2013 to 3,728 cases in 2015.
- On the other hand, both industry and services sector were able to mitigate occupational diseases with 3,418 and 2,808 cases in 2015, respectively.



Source: Integrated Survey on Labor and Employment, Philippine Statistics Authority.

**Number of DOLE labor inspectorate continually expands over time**

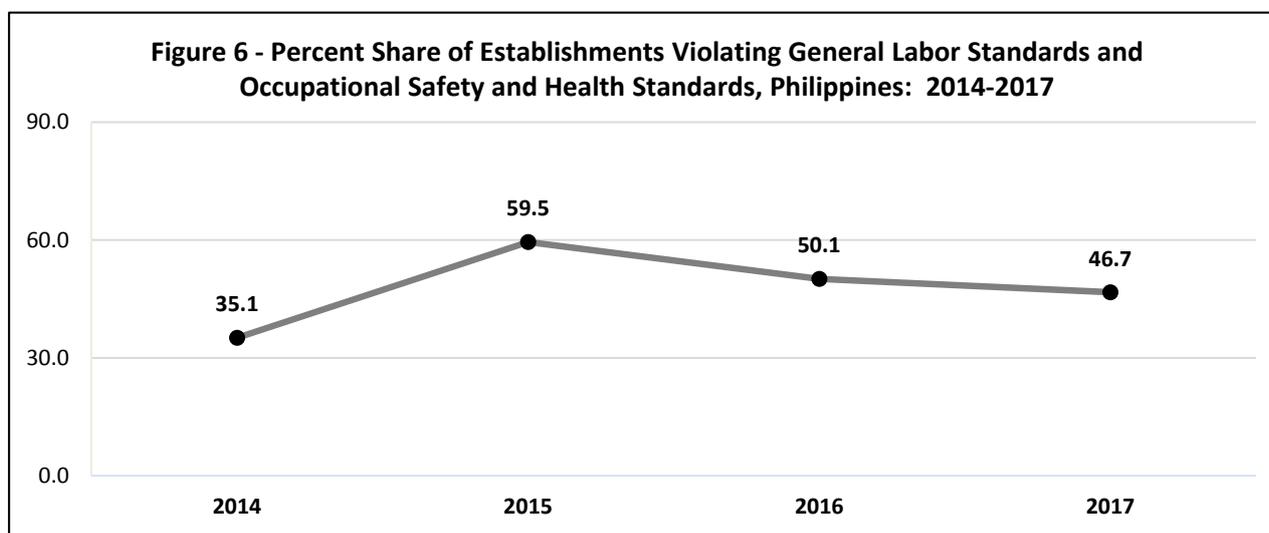
- Work-related accidents often lead to high economic cost and more importantly endangers the employees' welfare. However, these occupational accidents and injuries can be mitigated or even be prevented through strict and proper implementation of the required labor standards at the workplace.
- The *Labor Laws Compliance Officers (LLCOs)* of the DOLE are mandated under DOLE Department Order No. 131-B (2016) to be engaged in the enforcement, education of employers on their obligations, and offering technical assistance services to employers and workers that will increase their capacity to comply and monitor compliance with labor standards.
- Wider coverage of labor inspectors corresponds to a sterner implementation of labor standards. Thus, it is imperative to maintain a good number of labor inspectors that are being deployed to ensure proper labor standards enforcement. Positively, the number of LCCOs are continuously being increased from 462 in 2014 to 562 in 2017. (Figure 5)



Source: Department of Labor and Employment, Bureau of Working Conditions.

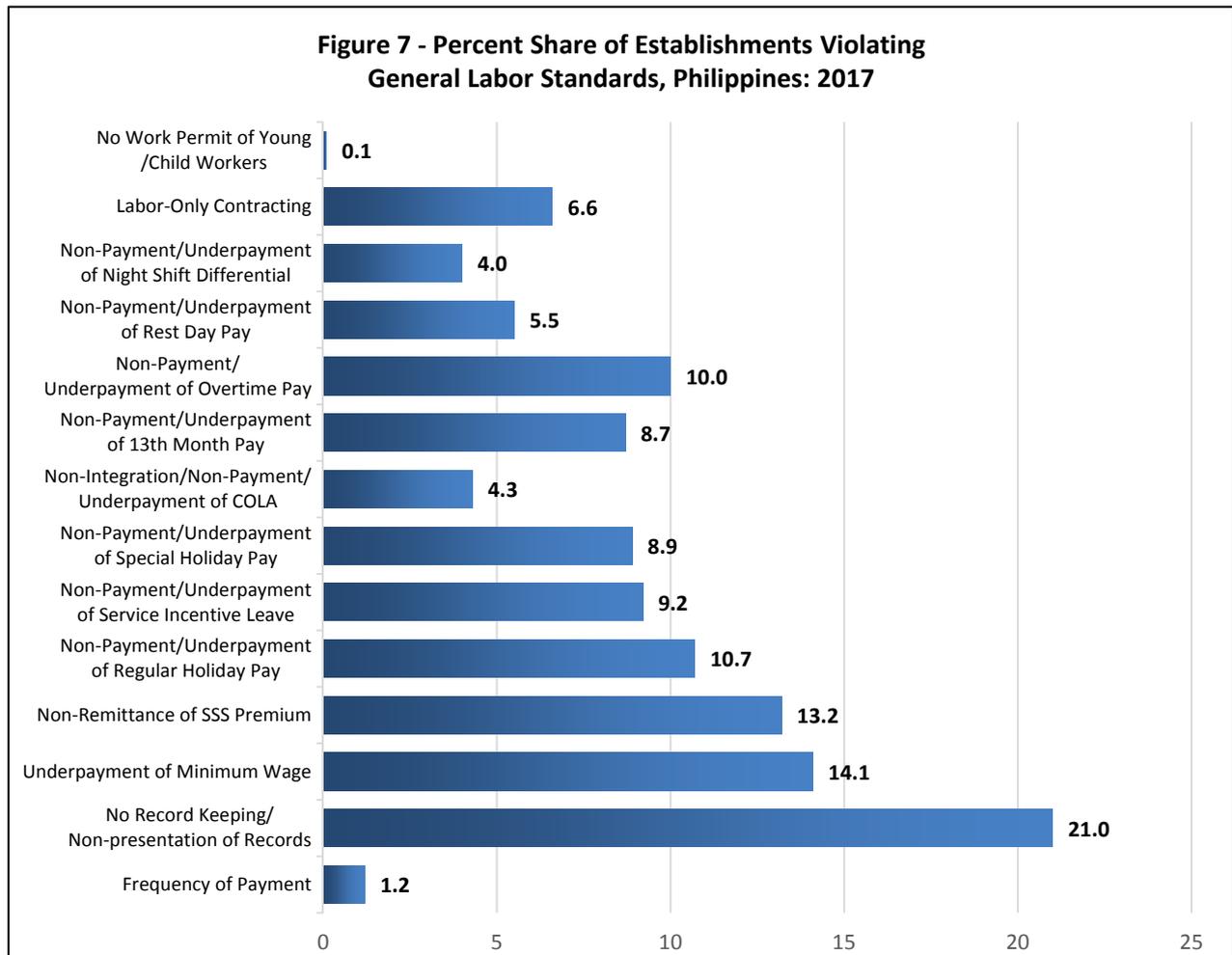
**Establishments with violations on labor standards and occupational safety and health standards decreased by 3.4 percent**

- Data on labor inspection showed a steep increase in the number of establishments with violations in either general labor standards or OSH standards in 2015. This was then followed by a gradual decline in the shares of establishments with violations from 2016 to 2017 posted at 50.1 percent and 46.7 percent, respectively. (Figure 6)

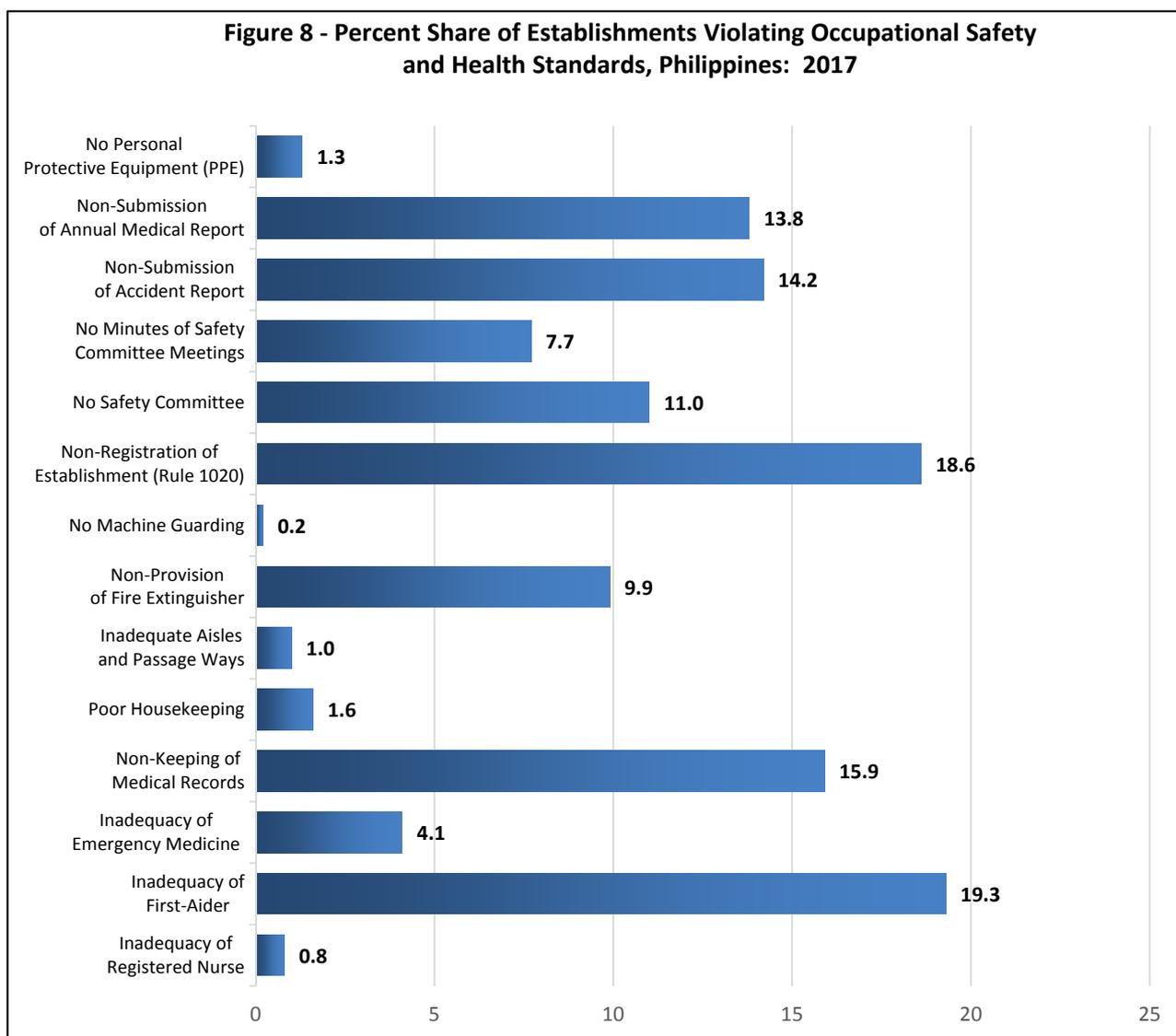


Source: Department of Labor and Employment, Bureau of Working Conditions.

- By type of violation, the most common violation incurred by establishments under general labor standards in 2017 was no record keeping/non-presentation of records accounting for 21.0 percent of total establishments with violations on the required labor standards. (Figure 7)
- This was followed by wage-related violations such as underpayment of minimum wage (14.1%); non-remittance of Social Security System (SSS) Premium (13.2%); non-payment/underpayment of regular holiday pay (10.7%); and non-payment/underpayment of overtime pay (10.0 %).



- With regard to violations on occupational safety and health standards, the most widespread violation among inspected establishments in 2017 was inadequacy of first-aiders at 19.3 percent. (Figure 8)
- This was followed by non-registration of establishment (Rule 1020) at 18.6 percent; non-keeping of medical records (15.9%); non-submission of accident report (14.2%); non-submission of annual medical report (13.8%); and no safety committee (11.0%).



Source: Department of Labor and Employment, Bureau of Working Conditions.

**FOR INQUIRIES**

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 Regarding other statistics, contact **KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION** at 462-6600 local 834  
 Or visit our website at <http://www.psa.gov.ph>