



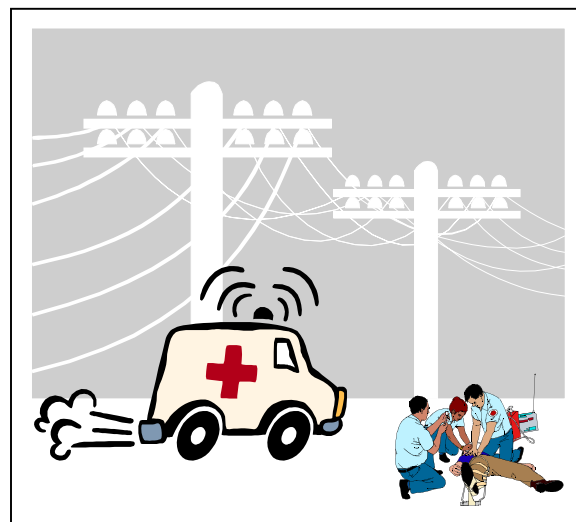
ARE OUR WORKPLACES SAFE ?

(Fifth of a ten part series)

While technological improvements may have contributed to gains in productivity, changes in work methods and machines used may have also exposed the workforce to greater risks in the workplace. In the past, the safety and health of workers was given lesser importance than the provision of monetary or economic benefits. Although this perspective has been gradually changing through the years, much has still to be done to ensure that the workers enjoy a safe working environment.

Injury statistics are useful to policy and decision-makers in labor administration particularly in the enforcement of health and safety standards. Further, establishments can use the data in their accident prevention programs.

This report is based on the 1991 to 1996 results of the Occupational Injuries Survey (OIS) conducted by the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics. The OIS covers establishments employing at least 10 workers. This fifth issue focuses on work-related injuries in electricity, gas and water.



ESTABLISHMENTS WITH INJURIES

Except in 1994, about 46-63 percent of more than 300 establishments in electricity, gas and

**TABLE 1. COMPARATIVE STATISTICS
ON ESTABLISHMENTS WITH WORK-RELATED
INJURIES IN ELECTRICITY, GAS AND WATER,
PHILIPPINES: 1991-1996**
(Establishments employing 10 and over.)

| Year | Total Establishments | % of Establishments with Work Related Injuries to Total | % of Establishments with Disabling Injuries to Total |
|------|----------------------|---|--|
| 1991 | 370 | 48.6 | 25.7 |
| 1992 | 324 | 49.1 | 37.3 |
| 1993 | 332 | 57.2 | 45.2 |
| 1994 | 356 | 36.2 | 11.0 |
| 1995 | 352 | 62.8 | 31.5 |
| 1996 | 374 | 46.5 | 28.6 |

Source of data: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, Occupational Injuries Survey.

water reported injuries in their workplaces. However, establishments with disabling injuries to establishments population recorded relatively lower proportions ranging from 25.7 – 45.2 percent in 1991-1993 and 11.0 – 31.5 percent in 1994-1996. (Table 1)

Of the total establishments with injuries during the period, more than half (50.2% - 78.9%) had disabling cases that resulted to lost workdays except in 1994 which reported a lower share of 30.2 percent. (Table 2)

Similarly, at least half of the establishments with injuries posted non-disabling cases. It should be noted that an establishment may have disabling and non-disabling injuries.

WORK-RELATED INJURIES

More work-related injuries were reported in 1991 (4,680) and 1992 (4,360) than in 1993-1996 (2,250-3,800). However, proportion-wise, disabling cases in 1991-1992 accounted only about 11 percent. While the volume of disabling cases in 1993-1996 was fairly the same as in previous years, higher proportions of disabling injuries at 13.2 percent to 23.1 percent were observed. (Table 3)

Majority of work-related injuries in 1991 and 1992 occurred in the National Capital Region (NCR) while 1993-1996 cases occurred mostly in areas outside NCR (ONCR). This pattern held true in non-disabling cases (without workday losses). These cases accounted for 76.9 percent to 89.0 percent of total reported work-related injuries.

Meanwhile, disabling cases in 1991-1996 mostly involved workers in the outlying regions.

DISABLING INJURIES

Electricity, gas and water establishments reported disabling injuries from a low of 360 cases in 1994 to a high of 540 incidences in 1996. (Table 4)

➤ ***Size of Establishment***

A sizeable share of disabling injuries occurred in establishments with 200 or more workers and in establishments with 100-199 workers. Their combined shares represented 63.5 percent to 92.4 percent of disabilities in 1991 to 1993 and 1995-1996. In 1994, however, establishments with 200 and over

workers singly accounted for the substantial proportion of disabling cases at 88.9 percent (320).

Establishments employing 10-99 workers had the least shares of disabilities (5.6% to 18.5%) except in 1993 when their share went up to 34.6 percent.

➤ ***Extent of Disability***

The six-year account of work-related disabilities were mainly temporary total disability cases – 330 to 500 (83.3% - 95.8%). Permanent partial disabilities numbered 10 to 50 cases (1.9% - 10.4%) while 10 – 30 cases (1.9% - 5.8%) were fatalities.

➤ ***Nature of Disability***

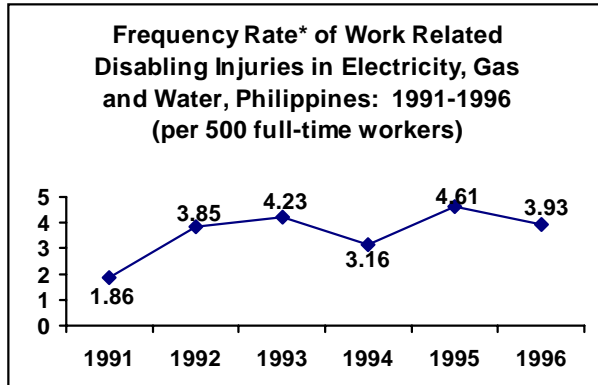
Annual disabilities were largely due to cuts, lacerations, punctures, avulsions with 90-160 cases (24.1% to 34.6%). Other substantial caseloads were on contussions, bruises, hematoma, abrasions with 90-120 cases (20.4% to 25.0%) and strains, sprains dislocations, fractures with 70-160 cases (17.3% to 29.6%).

SAFETY PERFORMANCE

➤ ***Frequency Rate***

Frequency rate of disabling injuries at 1.86 in 1991 resulted to one injury for every 269 workers. However, safety performance seemed to decline the following year as frequency rate more than doubled to 3.85. This implied that one out of every 130 employed persons had a disabling injury. The situation slightly worsened in 1995 as frequency rate peaked to 4.61 (one

disabling case for every 108 workers). Disability incidences, however, slightly tapered off in 1996 at 3.93 (one injury for every 127 workers.)



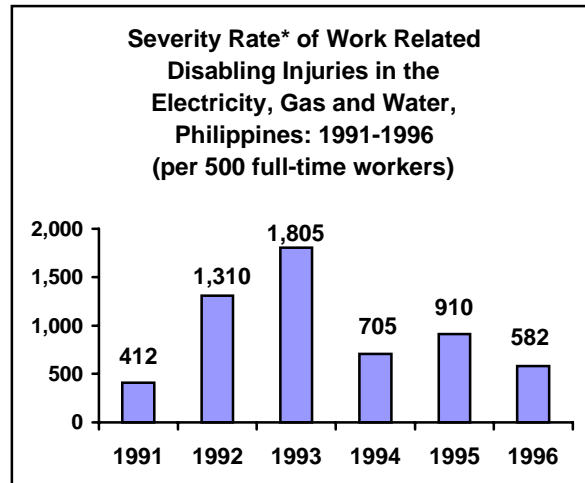
* Frequency Rate (FR) is the number of disabling injuries per 500 full-time workers each working 2,000 hours per year. It can be translated as follows:

CY 1991: 1.86 injuries per 500 workers
or
1 injury per 269 workers (i.e. 500/1.86)

➤ **Severity Rate**

A worker lost barely one (0.8) working day due to a disabling injury in 1991. However, more severe work-related disabilities were observed in 1992 (2.6 workdays lost per worker) and 1993 (3.6 lost workdays per worker).

Then, in the next three years, better work climate apparently prevailed as less serious workplace disabilities recorded one (1.4) lost workday per worker in 1994, two (1.8) lost workdays per worker in 1995 and one (1.2) lost workday per worker in 1996.



* Severity Rate (SR) is the number of lost workdays due to disabling injuries per 500 full-time workers. It can be translated as follows:

CY 1991: 412 lost workdays per 500 workers
or
0.8 lost workdays per worker (i.e. 412/500)

While about half of establishments in electricity, gas and water reported injuries in their workplaces, these incidences were observed to be mostly non-disabling, occurring less frequently and of shorter duration.

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**TABLE 2. ESTABLISHMENTS REPORTING
WORK-RELATED INJURIES IN ELECTRICITY, GAS AND WATER,
PHILIPPINES: 1991-1996**

| Indicator | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <i>Total Establishments</i> | 370 | 324 | 332 | 356 | 352 | 374 |
| <i>Establishments with Work-Related Injuries</i> ¹ | 180 | 159 | 190 | 129 | 221 | 174 |
| <i>Establishments with Disabling Injuries</i> | 95 | 121 | 150 | 39 | 111 | 107 |
| <i>Establishments with Non-Disabling Injuries</i> | 132 | 79 | 103 | 115 | 175 | 144 |

¹ Establishments with disabling (with lost workdays) and non-disabling injuries will not add up to total as an establishment may have both kinds of injuries.

Source of data: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, Occupational Injuries Survey.

**TABLE 3. WORK-RELATED INJURIES BY AREA IN ELECTRICITY,
GAS AND WATER, PHILIPPINES: 1991-1996**

| Indicator | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <i>Total Work-Related Injuries</i> | 4,680 | 4,360 | 2,250 | 2,460 | 3,630 | 3,800 |
| National Capital Region (NCR) | 3,010 | 2,820 | 290 | 260 | 200 | 220 |
| Outside NCR | 1,660 | 1,540 | 1,960 | 2,200 | 3,430 | 3,570 |
| <i>Disabling Injuries</i> | 530 | 480 | 520 | 360 | 480 | 540 |
| National Capital Region (NCR) | 110 | 90 | 20 | 50 | a | 40 |
| Outside NCR | 430 | 390 | 500 | 310 | 480 | 500 |
| <i>Non-Disabling Injuries</i> | 4,150 | 3,880 | 1,730 | 2,100 | 3,150 | 3,260 |
| National Capital Region (NCR) | 2,910 | 2,730 | 270 | 210 | 200 | 190 |
| Outside NCR | 1,240 | 1,150 | 1,460 | 1,890 | 2,950 | 3,070 |

a Less than 5 cases.

Source of data: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, Occupational Injuries Survey.

**TABLE 4. SUMMARY STATISTICS ON DISABLING INJURIES
IN ELECTRICITY, GAS AND WATER,
PHILIPPINES: 1991-1996**

| Indicator | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| TOTAL DISABLING INJURIES | 530 | 480 | 520 | 360 | 480 | 540 |
| By Establishment Size | | | | | | |
| 10-99 workers | 50 | 70 | 180 | 20 | 60 | 100 |
| 100-199 workers | 200 | 240 | 160 | 10 | 210 | 170 |
| 200 or more workers | 290 | 170 | 170 | 320 | 210 | 270 |
| By Extent | | | | | | |
| Fatal | 10 | 20 | 30 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Permanent Total Disability | a | a | a | a | 10 | a |
| Permanent Partial Disability | 10 | 50 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 30 |
| Temporary Total Disability | 500 | 400 | 460 | 330 | 460 | 500 |
| By Nature | | | | | | |
| Cuts, lacerations, punctures, avulsions | 160 | 150 | 180 | 90 | 120 | 130 |
| Contusions, bruises, hematoma, abrasions | 110 | 100 | 110 | 90 | 120 | 110 |
| Strains, sprains, dislocations, fractures | 100 | 120 | 90 | 70 | 130 | 160 |
| Burns and scalds (thermal/chemical) | 40 | 20 | 20 | 50 | 30 | 20 |
| Crushing, spinal, cranial injuries | 20 | 40 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 20 |
| Amputations, loss of body parts | 10 | a | 10 | a | 10 | a |
| Foreign body in the eye and other eye injuries | 10 | a | 20 | 30 | 20 | 40 |
| Electrocution, electric shock | 40 | 30 | 30 | 20 | 30 | 40 |
| Asphyxiation, poisoning | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other injuries | 40 | 20 | 40 | a | 10 | 30 |
| By Area | | | | | | |
| National Capital Region (NCR) | 110 | 90 | 20 | 50 | a | 40 |
| Outside NCR | 430 | 390 | 500 | 310 | 480 | 500 |

a/ Less than five (5) cases.

Source of data: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, Occupational Injuries Survey.