



ARE OUR WORKPLACES SAFE ?

(Tenth 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 tenth issue focuses on work-related injuries in community, social and personal services sector.

ESTABLISHMENTS WITH INJURIES

Community, social and personal services establishments with at least 10 or more workers numbered more than 10,000 in 1991-1996.

From 1991-1994, 20-25 percent of establishments had work-related injuries each year. In the next two years, however, workplaces with injuries were close to one-third of overall establishments. (Table 1)

TABLE 1. COMPARATIVE STATISTICS ON ESTABLISHMENTS WITH WORK-RELATED INJURIES IN COMMUNITY, SOCIAL AND PERSONAL SERVICES, 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	10,574	22.3	7.0
1992	10,558	23.9	14.2
1993	10,454	24.9	14.0
1994	10,643	20.1	6.8
1995	10,484	33.2	9.6
1996	10,736	30.3	8.0

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



Meanwhile, the proportions of workplaces with disabling injuries (with workday losses) to establishment population ranged from 6.8 percent to 14.2 percent during the six-year review period.

On the other hand, establishments with disabling cases relative to those with injuries proportioned from 26.5 percent to 59.5 percent. At the least, about sixty percent of establishments with injuries also experienced non-disabling injuries (without lost workdays) yearly. (Table 2)

WORK-RELATED INJURIES

The year 1991 reported the biggest number of work injuries at 85,950. Since then, substantially decreased caseloads numbered from 33,640 to 48,480 injuries. Nevertheless, 1991 had the least share of disabling cases at 5.7 percent (4,900 cases) as compared to 7.8 percent to 19.6 percent in 1992-1996. (Table 3)

At least half of workplace injuries occurred in the National Capital Region (NCR) each year. In 1992, however, outside NCR with 66.5 percent of total injuries surpassed NCR's 33.5 percent.

DISABLING INJURIES

During the 6-year period, disabilities were observed at lowest 3,100 in 1995 but at highest 7,540 in 1992. (Table 4)

➤ ***Size of Establishment***

Majority of disabilities annually recorded at 48.4 percent to 79.7 percent affected establishments employing 10-99 workers. Those with 200 or more workers followed with shares at 16.8 percent to 39.0 percent. Least shares of 3.3 percent to 12.6 percent occurred in establishments with 100-199 employees.

➤ ***Extent of Disability***

The largest portion of disabling injuries at more than ninety percent each year were temporary total disabilities. Permanent total (PTD) and partial (PPD) disabilities accounted for minimal cases. Fatalities also were few at 20 (0.4%) to 80 (2.6%).

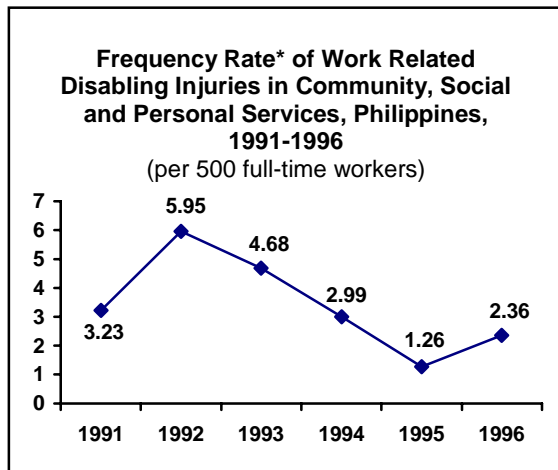
➤ ***Nature of Disability***

Cuts, lacerations, punctures, avulsions were the most prevalent disabling injuries with yearly shares ranging from 33.4 percent to 46.5 percent. Considerable injuries were also noted on contusions, bruises, hematoma, abrasions (9.7%-26.7%); strains, sprains, dislocations, fractures (16.8% - 26.0%).

SAFETY PERFORMANCE

➤ Frequency Rate

As compared to the frequency rate of disabilities at 1.26 or one injury per 397 workers in 1995, 1996 had more frequent disabling injuries with a rate of 2.36 or one injury per 212 workers. However, this was lower than 3.23 or one injury for every 155 employed persons five years ago.



* 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: 3.23 injuries per 500 workers
or
1 injury per 155 workers (i.e. 500/3.23)

➤ Severity Rate

This industry incurred, on the average, less than one lost workday per worker due to workplace injuries as severity rates were low from 0.10 to 0.16 lost workday per worker during the six-year review period.



* 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: 181 lost workdays per 500 workers
or
0.4 lost workdays per worker (i.e. 181/500)

Incidence and seriousness of disabilities in this sector were relatively low as gleaned from its frequency and severity rates. Apparently, workplace safety practices were being observed in this industry.

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**TABLE 2. ESTABLISHMENTS REPORTING
WORK-RELATED INJURIES IN COMMUNITY, SOCIAL
AND PERSONAL SERVICES, PHILIPPINES: 1991-1996**

Indicator	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Total Establishments	10,574	10,558	10,454	10,643	10,484	10,736
Establishments with Work-Related Injuries ¹	2,360	2,520	2,604	2,141	3,484	3,248
Establishments with Disabling Injuries	817	1,499	1,464	719	1,008	861
Establishments with Non-Disabling Injuries	1,767	1,508	1,717	1,895	3,136	2,977

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 COMMUNITY, SOCIAL AND PERSONAL SERVICES,
PHILIPPINES: 1991-1996**

Indicator	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Total Work-Related Injuries	85,950	38,560	33,640	44,550	39,380	48,480
National Capital Region (NCR)	72,860	12,920	18,720	28,480	19,740	25,750
Outside NCR	13,090	25,650	14,920	16,070	19,640	22,730
Disabling Injuries	4,900	7,540	5,800	5,660	3,100	3,770
National Capital Region (NCR)	1,150	4,040	3,120	4,500	1,600	1,910
Outside NCR	3,750	3,500	2,670	1,150	1,500	1,860
Non-Disabling Injuries	81,050	31,020	27,840	38,890	36,270	44,710
National Capital Region (NCR)	71,710	8,880	15,600	23,980	18,140	23,840
Outside NCR	9,340	22,150	12,240	14,920	18,130	20,870

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

**TABLE 4. SUMMARY STATISTICS ON DISABLING INJURIES
IN COMMUNITY, SOCIAL AND PERSONAL
SERVICES, PHILIPPINES: 1991-1996**

Indicator	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
TOTAL DISABLING INJURIES	4,900	7,540	5,800	5,660	3,100	3,770
By Establishment Size						
10-99 workers	2,840	4,790	4,260	4,510	1,500	2,100
100-199 workers	540	460	190	190	390	410
200 or more workers	1,520	2,290	1,350	950	1,210	1,260
By Extent						
Fatal	30	0	40	20	80	20
Permanent Total Disability	10	0	20	10	20	0
Permanent Partial Disability	170	20	30	70	140	90
Temporary Total Disability	4,700	7,520	5,710	5,560	2,860	3,670
By Nature						
Cuts, lacerations, punctures, avulsions	1,730	3,290	2,110	1,990	1,440	1,260
Contusions, bruises, hematoma, abrasions	1,140	1,670	560	1,510	400	740
Strains, sprains, dislocations, fractures	1,120	1,270	1,510	1,090	600	660
Burns and scalds (thermal/chemical)	300	800	920	770	340	490
Crushing, spinal, cranial injuries	30	40	80	30	50	110
Amputations, loss of body parts	100	180	50	40	110	20
Foreign body in the eye and other eye injuries	300	80	390	170	90	460
Electrocution, electric shock	10	30	320	a	20	30
Asphyxiation, poisoning	130	0	100	0	a	0
Other injuries	30	180	70	40	40	10
By Area						
National Capital Region (NCR)	1,150	4,040	3,120	4,500	1,600	1,910
Outside NCR	3,750	3,500	2,670	1,150	1,500	1,860

a Less than five (5) cases.

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