

## BLS Survey Shows Decline in 2004 of Workplace Injuries/Illnesses and Lost-Worktime

The results of the Bureau of Labor Statistic (BLS) survey are very encouraging regarding the continued decline of workplace injuries and illness in 2004. Safety programs of companies are paying off.

A total of 4.3 million nonfatal injures and illnesses were reported in private industry workplaces during 2004, down from 4.4 million in 2003. These cases occurred at a rate of 4.8 cases per 100 full-time workers—a decline from the 2003 rate of 5.0 cases. A total of 1.3 million injuries and illnesses in private industry required recuperation away from work beyond the day of the incident in 2004. This was a decline of 4.3% from 2003. The median days away from work also declined to 7 days for all cases, down from 8 days in 2003. As in past years, more than 4 out of 10 of the injuries/illnesses were sprains or strains, most as a result of overexertion or falls on the same level.

Following are highlights of the 2004 findings:

- Goods-producing industries had an injury and illness rate of 6.5 cases per 100 full-time workers, while service-providing industries had a rate of 4.2 cases. Both rates declined by 0.2 cases from 2003.
- Within the service-providing industry sectors, incidence rates ranged from 0.9 cases in the finance and insurance sector to 7.3 cases in transportation and warehousing. Only the utilities sector experienced a significant increase, rising from 4.4 cases in 2003 to 5.2 in 2004.
- Of the 4.3 million nonfatal injuries/illnesses in 2004, 4.0 million were injuries. Of these, 1.3 million (32%) occurred in goods-producing industries, while 2.7 million (68%) occurred in service-proving industries.

The manufacturing, health care, and retail trade had the largest share of injury cases at a combined 52%.

- Men accounted for 65.9% of total cases, which is higher than their employment share(55.2%) and their share of the hours worked (58.9%) among all private wages and salary workers.
- Workers with less than one year of service with their employer had 33.4% of the total injuries and illnesses with days away from work, well more than their share of employment, which was 25%.
- Cases involving repetitive motion injuries and cases involving slipping or tripping both decreased by more than 10% in 2004.
- The body part most affected by work incidents was the trunk, including shoulder and back, which accounted for 35.5% of all cases. The back accounted for 63% of all trunk incidents. Injuries to the shoulder resulted in the longest absences from work (a median of 17 days), followed by injuries to the knee (a median of 15 days), and injuries to the wrist (a median of 14 days).
- Among major disabling injuries and illnesses, median day away from work were highest for carpal tunnel syndrome (28 days, down from 32 in 2003), and fractures (28 days, down from 30 days in 2003). Amputations were next with 25 median days away from work, down from 30 days in 2003.

The 2004 survey, including tables, may be accessed via the Bureau of Labor Statistic website at [www.bls.gov/news.release/osh2.toc.htm](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/osh2.toc.htm). For technical information call the Bureau of Labor Statistics at (202) 691-6170

# Quality Versus Cost

HealthFirst Medical Group would like to thank all the companies that utilize our clinics for your loyalty. We know that you are constantly marketed by other clinics who may offer you discounts and even free services. We would just say beware, what seems unbelievable usually is. "The common law of business balance prohibits paying a little and getting a lot...it can't be done." (John Ruskin)

HealthFirst works very hard to make sure we provide the greatest value at competitive rates without ever compromising on quality. In 2005 HealthFirst did an analysis of all the injuries that were seen at our clinics. Combining injuries from first aid cases to the most serious cases, the average cost of an injury at HealthFirst was about \$600. The average injury had less than 2.5 rechecks. We try to keep injuries as first aids whenever possible to limit the number of recordable injuries. Most patients are released to modified duty so there is no loss time injury to report. If a company does not have modified duty available, we offer an in house modified duty program for injured workers. These are all cost saving measure HealthFirst provides for your company.

## Changes in Company Information?

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

# Customer Referral Program

What is the best way for a company to increase their business? It has been proven that word of mouth marketing is a powerful tool. If you are a satisfied customer you are likely to tell others of your positive experience. We want to reward you for helping us to market your business.

HealthFirst Medical is pleased to introduce a new satisfied customer referral program. If your are pleased with the services that you receive at HealthFirst Medical and know of any other business that may be looking for a new clinic, just refer them to HealthFirst. When they agree to use our clinic and have their first usage, your company will receive a \$100 certificate to use against your bill. This is our way of saying thank you for referring us new business.

# Reserve Flu Shots Now

Flu season seems like a long way off, but it will be here before we know it. HealthFirst has ordered 3300 shots that will start to become available in October. Since, the flu vaccine is release gradually it necessitates the need to schedule the shots over a two to three month period. The cost of this years vaccine has increased which will be passed on. Call Yolanda Amador at 562-949-9328 for inquires and to reserve shots for your employees.



*MEDICAL GROUP, Inc.*

13440 E. Imperial Hwy.  
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670