

Indicator 15: Workers Employed in Occupations with High Risk for Occupational Morbidity

Significance

Workers in certain occupations sustain a high percentage of injuries and illnesses that result in days away from work. In 2003, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported an estimated 1.3 million injuries and illnesses that resulted in days away from work, a rate of 1.3 “days away from work cases” per 100 workers. Certain occupations have a higher risk of work-related injuries and illnesses. In 2003, approximately 12.6 million workers, (12.2% of the private sector employment) worked in these higher risk occupations and accounted for 41.3% of OSHA “days away from work” cases in the US. Based on 2003 data, 82 occupations had injury and illness rates that more than doubled the national “days away from work injury and illness rate” and are considered high-risk occupations for occupational morbidity.

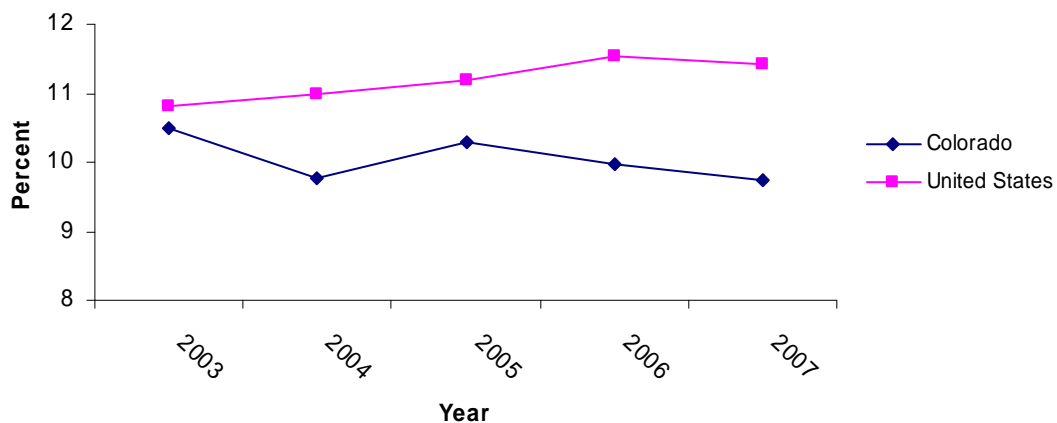
Work-related injuries and illnesses are preventable, and control of occupational hazards is the most effective means of prevention. Concentrating on occupations at high-risk for non-fatal injuries and illnesses will help prioritize limited resources.

Methods

The percent of workers employed in high-risk occupations are reported from 2003 to 2007 based on 2000 census codes for employed persons age 15 or older in Colorado and the United States. These data were collected from the BLS Current Population Survey using DataFerrett..

Results

Figure 15.1 Percent of workers employed in occupational with high risk for occupational morbidity, Colorado and the United States, 2003-2007



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey (CPS) (numerator and denominator)

Table 15.1 Percentage of Workers Employed in Occupations with High Risk for Occupational Morbidity, Colorado and the United States, 2003-2007		
Year	Colorado	United States
2003	10.5%	10.8%
2004	9.8%	11.0%
2005	10.3%	11.2%
2006	10.0%	11.5%
2007	9.7%	11.4%
Average	10.0%	11.2%
<i>Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey (CPS) (numerator and denominator)</i>		

Results

- Approximately 10% of the workforce in Colorado from 2003-2007 were employed in occupations with high risk for occupational morbidity. (Table 15.1 and Figure 15.1)
- Approximately 11% of the workforce in the United States from 2003-2007 were employed in occupations with high risk for occupational morbidity. (Table 15.1 and Figure 15.1)
- Based on this indicator between 2003 and 2007, a smaller percentage of workers were employed in high risk occupations for occupational morbidity in Colorado than in the United States. (Table 14.1 and Figure 14.1)

Data Sources

- Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey (CPS) (numerator and denominator)

Limitations

- The ranking of high-risk occupations may differ by state and/or industry.
- Estimates do not include the military, small farms and Federal agencies.

Recommendations

- Identify high risk occupations that are specific to Colorado that may help target occupational morbidity prevention efforts.