

Profiles of Occupational Injuries and Diseases in Michigan

Work-related injuries and illnesses cost employers 1.5 billion dollars in workers' compensation claims in Michigan every year, and the indirect costs of these conditions may be as much as five times greater (7.5 billion dollars). Data are available on the magnitude of work-related injuries and illnesses in Michigan from a variety of sources. For the first time, these data have been compiled into a single document that is available on the web.

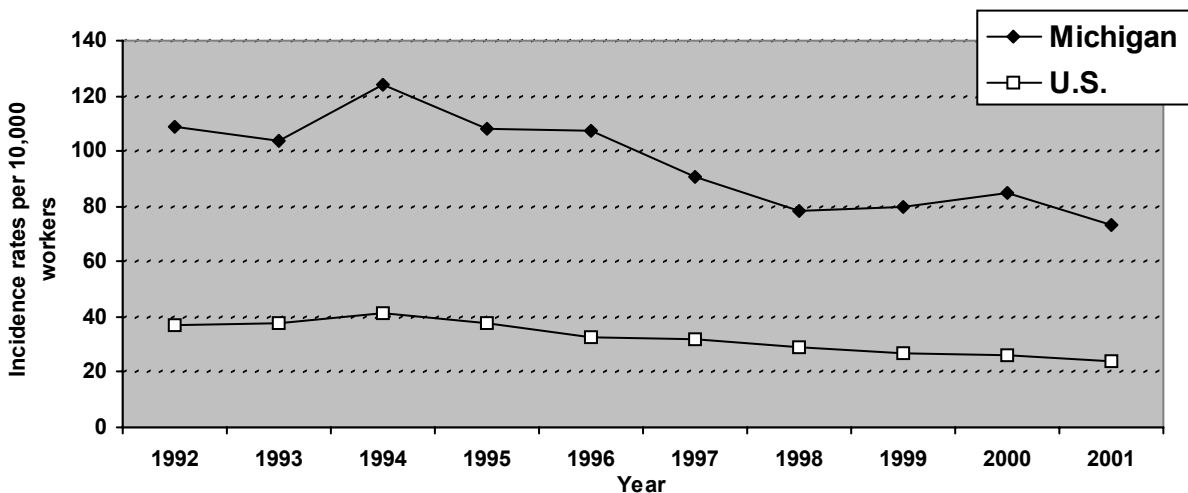
The recently completed *Profiles of Occupational Injuries and Diseases in Michigan* report, put together by the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) in collaboration with Michigan State University, presents statistics on the magnitude and trends in work-related injuries and illnesses and makes recommendations for actions that would contribute to reducing the burden of these conditions in the future. The report also identifies and evaluates the various federal and state data sources upon which these statistics are based.

Subjects (all work-related) addressed in the report include: fatal and non-fatal injuries, musculoskeletal disorders, asthma, lead poisoning, pneumoconiosis, communicable disease, pesticide poisoning, noise-induced hearing loss, cancer, and skin diseases.

Some notable findings include:

- Although Michigan's work-related fatality rate is less than the national rate, on average, one worker dies in Michigan nearly every two days of an acute, work-related injury.
- Michigan's non-fatal injury rate declined 32% between 1992 and 2001, although it continued to exceed the national rate throughout this timeframe.
- Seventy percent of interviewed adults in Michigan with elevated blood lead levels experienced symptoms at blood lead levels allowed by the current workplace safety regulations.
- Michigan is the only state in the U.S. with a system to track occupational noise-induced hearing loss. The Michigan work-related noise-induced hearing loss surveillance system, established in 1992, identified 20,731 cases through 2001.

Figure 1. Disorders associated with repeated trauma: incidence rates, Michigan and U.S., 1992-2001



- From 1992-2001, the incidence of disorders due to repeated trauma in the workplace in Michigan was more than double the incidence rate in the United States, although rates for the more severe cases associated with lost work time were the same in Michigan as for the national rates.

The *Profiles* report goes on to make specific recommendations based on the data presented, such as recommending establishment of mandatory reporting requirements for cadmium, mercury and arsenic blood/urine test results, and reassessment of health standards for isocyanates, lead, and metal working fluids. It also points out the need for further investigation into the reasons for Michigan's elevated injury rate and, specifically, the elevated rate for disorders due to repeated trauma. Some of the differences between Michigan's and the national rates maybe due to better reporting in Michigan and not a reflection of the actual difference in the occurrence of disease.

MIOSHA already uses some of the data presented in the *Profiles* report to develop and evaluate their strategic plan for targeting specific high-risk groups for interventions. The report's findings highlight the importance of utilizing the preventive resources MIOSHA has to offer.

To view the full *Profiles* report, go to www.michigan.gov/mdch-toxics. For more information or to request a printed copy, contact Martha Stanbury at MDCH's Division of Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology at 1-800-MI-TOXIC (1-800-648-6942).

Toxic Substances Information Directory

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) has developed a new easy-to-use, quick reference document for resources on environmental or occupational health topics, *The Toxic Substances Information Directory*. The directory lists both Michigan and federal information sources on a variety of environmental and occupational health topics, such as asthma, asbestos, indoor air quality, ergonomics, lead and bloodborne diseases. The directory is not meant to be comprehensive, but is intended to direct one to organizations and/or resources that may provide more information. Available as a PDF file on the Web, it can be used by medical professionals to guide the public to available resources and it can be accessed directly by the public. To access the directory, go to www.michigan.gov/mdch-toxics. For more information or to request a printed copy contact Martha Stanbury at 1-800-MI-TOXIC (1-800-648-6942).

The **Toxic Substances Information Directory** was developed in order to provide an easy-to-use, quick reference document for public health professionals when looking for information on an environmental or occupational health topic. It can be used by local health departments to guide the public or by the public directly since this document is available on the Internet.

The first six sections of the directory provide general information on state and federal agencies; universities and non-governmental organizations; library resources; resources for chemical testing, and reporting requirements. The remaining sections are topic specific. Generally, within each section Michigan governmental agencies are listed first, followed by federal agencies and then other organizations. A web address has been provided for each, along with a brief description and contact information. This directory is intended to direct one to organizations and/or resources that may provide more information; it is not meant to be comprehensive.

The directory is in PDF format. Click [here](#) to download a free copy of the latest version of Acrobat Reader.

You should be able to click on the web links listed in each section of the directory and go directly to the corresponding web page. However, if this does not work, you can use Acrobat Reader's Text Select Tool or the Column Select Tool to highlight, copy and paste the web address directly into your web browser. Keep in mind that if the web address is too long to fit on one line in the pdf file, you may need to copy and paste each line of text separately.

Email us with problems, corrections and feedback! We welcome your comments and suggestions.

**If you have a poisoning emergency, call
1-800-222-1222
for your local poison control center**

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Last updated 12/12/03

Electronic Reporting

A number of health care providers are now reporting *Known or Suspected Disease* reports electronically using the web site at: www.chm.msu.edu/oem. Clinics, health care provider offices or individuals that regularly report using the web site are assigned a personal identification number. The ID number adds another level of security and reduces the amount of data entry as the ID number replaces the contact information in the 'Report Submitted By' section at the bottom of the form.

If you have an interest in submitting reports electronically, email or call Amy Sims at ODReport@ht.msu.edu, 1-800-446-7805.

Known or Suspected Occupational Disease Report
(Information will be held confidential as prescribed in Act.)

EMPLOYEE AFFECTED

Last Name:	First Name:	Middle Name:
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Age: <input type="text"/>	Gender: Male	Race: Don't Know
Street: <input type="text"/>		
City: <input type="text"/>	State: Michigan	Zip: <input type="text"/>
Home Phone Number: <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/>	Social Security Number: <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/>	

CURRENT EMPLOYER

Current Employer Name: <input type="text"/>	Worksite County: <input type="text"/>	
Worksite Address: <input type="text"/>		
City: <input type="text"/>	State: Michigan	Zip: <input type="text"/>
Business Phone: <input type="text"/>		

**Michigan State University
College of Human Medicine
117 West Fee Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824-1316
Phone (517) 353-1955**

Address service requested.

In this issue:
Occupational/Environmental Medicine Resources

***P**
S Remember to report all cases of occupational disease!

Printed on recycled paper.

**Michigan Law Requires
the Reporting of
Known or Suspected
Occupational Diseases**
Reporting can be done by:
FAX (517) 432-3606
Telephone 1-800-446-7805
E-Mail ODRREPORT@ht.msu.edu
Web www.chm.msu.edu/oem
Mail Michigan Occupational Safety & Health Administration (MIOSHA) Management and Technical Services Division P.O. Box 30649 Lansing, MI 48909-8149
Reporting forms can be obtained by calling (517) 322-1817 or 1-800-446-7805

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The Project SENSOR News is published quarterly by Michigan State University-College of Human Medicine with funding from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and is available at no cost. Suggestions and comments are welcome.
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