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NEWS RELEASE

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**ARKANSAS WORKPLACE INJURIES AND ILLNESSES
CASE AND DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FOR 2021-2022**

Little Rock - The Arkansas Department of Labor and Licensing has released the 2021-2022 non-fatal biennial case and demographic data in the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII).

Estimates involving workplace injury and illness cases with days away from work (DAFW) by detailed case characteristics and worker demographics for 2021 were not published last year. This year, we begin biennial publication for DAFW *and* days of job transfer or restriction (DJTR) for the period 2021-2022. This data will now be published every 2 years. This expansion provides a more complete picture of how workplace injuries and illnesses are managed. Estimates for detailed industry by case type will continue to be published annually.

Private industry sectors reported 20,990 injuries and illnesses involving cases with days away from work (DAFW) over the 2-year period 2021 and 2022.

- Of these cases, 10,190 or 48.5% were male, and 10,770 or 51.3% were female.
- The age group of 25 to 34 had 4,840 or 23.1% of the cases.
- 6,440 or 30.7% of all cases had a length of service with employer of more than 5 years.
- Race or ethnic origin - White only workers had 8,450 cases or 40.3%, Black only workers had 2,810 cases or 13.4%, Hispanic or Latino only workers had 2,220 cases or 10.6%, Other races or ethnic origins totaled 710 cases or 3.4%, while 6,820 or 32.5% did not report race or ethnic origin.
- The median days away from work was 10 days.
- Nursing assistants had 2,250 cases with DAFW. Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers had 1,440 cases with DAFW.
- Nature of injury or illness - Sprains, strains, and tears had 2,880 cases. Fractures had 1,540 cases. Soreness and pain had 1,270 cases.
- Part of body affected – There were 11,580 cases with body systems affected. There were 3,380 cases with upper extremities (shoulder, arm, wrist, hand) affected. There were

2,470 cases with lower extremities (knee, ankle, foot) affected. There were 1,760 cases with the trunk affected, with back injuries totaling 1,190 of these cases.

- Source of injury or illness – Floors, walkways, and ground surfaces totaled 1,960 cases. Vehicles had 1,240 cases. Parts and materials had 980 cases. Person, injured or ill worker also had 980 cases, with worker motion or position totaling 950 of these cases.
- Event or exposure – There were 11,870 DAFW cases with exposure to harmful substances or environments – the event or exposure category that includes cases of COVID-19. There were 3,000 cases with falls, slips, or trips. There were 2,710 cases of contact with object or equipment. There were 2,280 cases of overexertion and bodily reaction. There were 680 transportation incidents. There were 400 cases of violence and other injuries by persons or animal, and 30 cases with fires or explosions.

Private industry sectors reported 7,130 injuries and illnesses involving cases with days of job transfer or restriction (**DJTR**) for 2021 and 2022.

- Of these cases, 4,350 or 61% were male, and 2,780 or 39% were female.
- The age group of 25 to 34 had 1,805 or 25.9% of the cases.
- 2,190 or 30.7% of all cases had a length of service with employer of 1 to 5 years.
- Race or ethnic origin – White only workers had 2,920 cases or 41%, Black only workers had 570 cases or 8%, Hispanic or Latino only workers had 690 cases or 9.7%, Other races or ethnic origins totaled 90 cases or 1.3%, while 2,860 or 40.1% did not report race or ethnic origin not reported.
- The median days of job transfer or restriction was 14 days.
- Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, by hand had 770 cases with DJTR. Stockers and order fillers had 410 cases with DJTR.
- Nature of injury or illness – Sprains, strains, and tears had 2,810 cases. Soreness and pain had 1,160 cases. Bruises and contusions had 800 cases. Cuts, lacerations, and punctures had 670 cases.
- Part of body affected – There were 3,150 cases with upper extremities affected. There were 1,650 cases with lower extremities affected. There were 1,520 cases with the trunk affected, with back injuries totaling 1,240 of these cases.
- Source of injury or illness – Floors, walkways, and ground surfaces totaled 1,320 cases. Containers had 1,160 cases. Person, injured or ill worker had 1,000 cases, with worker motion or position totaling all 1,000 of these cases.
- Event or exposure – There were 2,560 cases of DJTR with overexertion and bodily reaction. There were 2,040 cases of contact with object or equipment. There were 1,860 cases with falls, slips, or trips. There were 290 cases with exposure to harmful substances or environments. There were 200 transportation incidents, and 160 cases of violence and other injuries by persons or animal.

Note: Because of rounding and data exclusion of non-classifiable responses, data may not sum to the totals.

Detailed tables and charts for cases with days away from work (DAFW), days with job transfer or restriction (DJTR), and days away from work, job transfer, or restriction (DART) for private and/or public sectors are available for 2021-2022 upon request.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact in SOII Results

Occupational injuries and illnesses collected in the SOII include cases of COVID-19 when a worker was infected as a result of performing their work-related duties and met other recordkeeping criteria. COVID-19 is considered a respiratory illness under criteria established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

BACKGROUND

This news release is the second of three releases this year covering occupational safety and health statistics in Arkansas. The Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) was administered by the Arkansas Department of Labor and Licensing, Division of Labor, OSH/CFOI Section, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The 2017 version of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS 2017) was used to group company data by industry. Arkansas employers are randomly selected for the survey each year.

For additional information, please go to www.bls.gov/iif (current and archived data for national and by individual state), www.labor.arkansas.gov, or www.bls.gov/iif/state-data.htm#AR.

Fatal occupational injuries for calendar year 2022 were not included in this study. A separate publication for the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) will be issued in January of 2024.

