

Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses

Introduction

- The Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) is a federal/state program that gathers information on rates and frequencies of non-fatal occupational injuries and illnesses. It obtains this information through reports provided by employers in both private and public sector industries. The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and state agencies across the nation jointly conduct the survey.
- The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) conducts SOII in Ohio under a cooperative agreement with the BLS.
- BWC conducts SOII annually. It gathers information from a randomly selected representative sample of total establishments at the state and national levels. Establishments selected must provide data from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recordkeeping log summaries (OSHA 300A or equivalent documents) and detailed case characteristics information on cases with one or more days away from work (OSHA 301 or its equivalent).
- Private employers are **federally mandated** – Public Law 91-596 requires every selected private sector company to complete the survey. Establishments that are normally exempt from OSHA record keeping must respond to the survey when selected.
- Public employers are not mandated to participate in SOII but responses to the survey as a public employer provides valuable information toward preventing injuries and maintaining optimal productivity of public employees statewide and nationally. Most information needed to respond to the SOII survey is included in the mandated Public Employment Risk Reduction Program recordkeeping requirements and submission.
- **Confidentiality** –The survey is for statistical reasons only. All identifiable information provided within the survey is strictly confidential. Federal law prohibits BLS from sharing such information without prior consent.
- SOII provides information annually on the number and rate of non-fatal injuries and illnesses occurring in workplaces. It also reports case characteristic and demographic information on serious cases of injury or illness that require one or more days away from work.
- **Non-fatal injuries only** – SOII does not gather information on fatalities. But BLS and the CFI program located within the Ohio Department of Health collect this information.

Purpose of the SOII

- SOII is the primary and most comprehensive measure of work-related injuries and illnesses in the nation. As a result, it serves as a reliable tool to identify and correct hazards in the workplace.
- National and state policy makers use the survey as an indicator of the occupational safety and health conditions across industries and occupations.
- OSHA uses the statistics to help determine where to introduce additional measures to improve safety programs. It also uses them to measure the effectiveness of established legislation and policies dedicated to reducing work-related injuries and illnesses.
- Employers, employees and safety professionals use the estimates to design and evaluate safety programs.

Successfully reporting your data

- Be certain about which specific establishment/work location/department BLS is requesting you to report.
- Keep an accurate OSHA log (or its equivalent). BLS notifies establishments a year in advance of their inclusion in the survey. It is important to have a good recordkeeping program so that responding does not necessitate gathering records.
- Attend recordkeeping training for a clearer understanding of OSHA rules and laws. BWC's education and training services offers a recordkeeping course. For more information, call 614-995-8622.
- The survey requires information on average number of employees for the year and total hours worked by all employees.
- The survey requires case details in instances where an employee missed one or more days of work due to injuries and/or illnesses sustained at work. It also requires case details in certain industries on cases with job transfer or restrictions. This information is contained on your OSHA 301 log or its equivalent. Be sure to know your industries requirements for reporting.
- If you have any questions or are unsure of what information to provide, please contact the research and statistics department at 1-866-569-7806 or 614-995-8608.

Various methods of reporting

- You may submit your survey response through an online system. However, you may also report by email, phone, fax and mail. BLS designed the survey to be easy to complete and to require minimal time investment. If you need assistance, call our office.

Creating a safe workplace, maintaining safety standards and preventing occupational injuries and illnesses are projects that require collaboration of all stakeholders to achieve positive results. Your participation in this program assists us in our pursuit of ensuring safe workplaces for all employees in Ohio.

Comprehensive state and national data on non-fatal workplace injuries is available at www.bwc.ohio.gov.

Contact Information

Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation/Bureau of Labor Statistics
Division of Safety and Hygiene/Research and Statistics Program
Toll-free: 866-569-7806
Local: 614-995-8608
Fax: 614-728-6460