Data Details - Occupational Health

Work-Related Hospitalizations

Interpreting the Data

What these data tell us:

- These data can be used to identify trends and patterns in the occurrence of workplace injury/illness exposures among South Carolina residents (age ≥ 16) over time in each county.
- These data present incidence, which means the number of workplace injury/illness exposures that occurred during a specified time among residents of each county in the state.
- These data present rate, which means the number of workplace injury/illness exposures that occurred during a specified time among residents of each county in the state expressed per number of people employed or population.

What these data do not tell us:

- These data do not describe the prevalence of workplace injury/illness exposures, which means they do not tell us the total number of people who suffered from workplace injury/illness as some exposures go unreported.

Limitations of the Data

It does not include all workplace injury/illness exposure cases.

About these measurements

Measures included

South Carolina occupational health hospitalization data are presented in two ways:

- the number (frequency) of workplace injuries and diseases observed among

people (age $\geq$ 16) in a year
- the rate of workplace injuries among people (age $\geq$ 16) in a year

Frequency of measurement

SC hospitalization data is collected monthly by The SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office from all acute care hospitals in South Carolina and annual discharges and rates are reported.

Interpretation of rates

A workplace rate should be interpreted as the number of workplace injury/illness exposures diagnosed for every 100,000 employed in South Carolina. For example, a rate of 2.7 for work related burns in 2000 can be interpreted as: "Out of every 100,000 employed people in South Carolina in 2000, 2.7 employees were diagnosed with work related burns."

Calculation Methods

Counts of workplace injury/illness exposures are the number of each type of exposures that was diagnosed in a South Carolina hospital for the employed in that year.

Rates of injury/illness exposures are calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Number of workplace injury/illness exposures among the employed}}{\text{Total number of employed in a specific SC county}} \times 100,000$$

Work-Related Lead Exposure

Interpreting the Data

What these data tell us:

- These data can be used to identify trends and patterns in the occurrence of

workplace lead exposures among South Carolina residents (age ≥ 16) over time.

- These data present incidence which means the number of workplace lead exposures that occurred during a specified time among residents of the state.
- These data present rate which means the number of workplace lead exposures that occurred during a specified time among residents of the state expressed per population.

What these data do not tell us:

- These data do not describe the prevalence of workplace lead exposures which means they do not tell us the total number of people who suffered from workplace lead exposures as some exposures go unreported.

Limitations of the Data

It does not include all workplace lead exposure cases and data for some years are not available.

About these measurements

Measures included

South Carolina occupational health lead exposure data are presented in two ways:

- the number (frequency) of workplace lead exposure observed among people (age ≥ 16) in a year
- the rate of workplace lead exposure among people (age ≥ 16) in a year

Frequency of measurement

Data collection for workplace lead exposure cases is ongoing as people are diagnosed.

Interpretation of rates

A workplace rate should be interpreted as the number of workplace lead exposures diagnosed for every 100,000 employed in South Carolina. For example, a rate of 13.5 for work related lead exposure in 2010 can be interpreted as: "Out of every 100,000 employed people in South Carolina in 2010, 13.5 employees were diagnosed with work related lead exposure."

Calculation Methods

Counts of workplace lead exposures are the number of each type of exposures that was diagnosed in South Carolina for the employed in that year.

Rates of lead exposures are calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Number of lead exposures among the employed} \times 100{,}000}{\text{Total number of employed in a specific SC county}}$$