



ARE OUR WORKPLACES SAFE ?

(Second of a ten part series)



While technological improvements may have contributed to gains in productivity, changes in work methods and machines used may have also exposed the workforce to greater risks in the workplace. In the past, the safety and health of workers was given lesser importance than the provision of monetary or economic benefits. Although this perspective has been gradually changing through the years, much has still to be done to ensure that the workers enjoy a safe working environment.

Injury statistics are useful to policy and decision-makers in labor administration particularly in the enforcement of health and safety standards. Further, establishments can use the data in their accident prevention programs.

This report is based on the 1991 to 1996 results of the Occupational Injuries Survey (OIS) conducted by the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics. The OIS covers establishments employing at least 10 workers. This second issue focuses on work-related injuries in the agriculture, fishery and forestry sector.

ESTABLISHMENTS WITH INJURIES

In 1991-1996 there were 695 to 887 agricultural establishments employing at least 10 workers.

During this period, 1994 recorded the least proportion of establishments with work-related injuries to total

establishments at 27.8 percent (214 out of 770). For the rest of the years, workplaces with injuries ranged from 42.0 percent in 1993 to 56.9 percent in 1992 (Table 1).

On the other hand, workplaces with disabling injuries to total establishments were noted at 43.5 percent in 1991 and 52.6 percent in 1992. Thereafter, the proportions were relatively lower at 15.5 percent (1994) to 28.6 percent (1993).

In 1992, the proportion of establishments with disabling cases (with lost workdays) to establishments with injuries was at its highest at 92.4 percent. However, these proportions began to decline from 76.7 percent in 1991 to 44.3 percent in 1996 (Table 2).

TABLE 1. COMPARATIVE STATISTICS ON ESTABLISHMENTS WITH WORK-RELATED INJURIES IN AGRICULTURE, FISHERY AND FORESTRY, PHILIPPINES: 1991-1996

(Establishments employing 10 and over.)

Year	Total Establishments	% of Establishments with Work Related Injuries to Total	% of Establishments with Disabling Injuries to Total
1991	887	56.7	43.5
1992	696	56.9	52.6
1993	695	42.0	28.6
1994	770	27.8	15.5
1995	735	48.0	24.5
1996	765	45.8	20.3

Source of data: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, Occupational Injuries Survey.

Establishments also reported non-disabling cases during the period. While the proportions of establishments with disabling injuries were on the decline, the proportions of establishments with non-disabling cases increased from 55.9 percent in 1991 to 88.3 percent in 1996.

WORK-RELATED INJURIES

Work related injuries in 1992 numbering 30,010 almost tripled that of 1991 at 10,750. A year later, the case load dropped to less than one-third at 9,050. In 1994, the number of work-related injuries again declined to 4,730. However, the subsequent years saw an increase in work-related injuries at 11,780 in 1995 and 15,030 in 1996 (Table 3).

Nevertheless, most of the injuries were non-disabling, ranging from 55.1 percent (1995) to 73.3 percent in 1992. In 1993 and 1996, these proportions were around 41 percent.

At least 90.0 percent of injuries (either disabling or non-disabling) every year occurred in areas outside the National Capital Region except for 1994 when it accounted for only 58.1 percent of disabling injuries and 60.1 percent for non-disabling cases.

DISABLING INJURIES

A total of 4,260 work-related disabilities occurred in agricultural establishments in 1991. Five years later, the number was about twice as large at 8,700 (Table 4).

In 1992-1995, the annual levels stood between 5,290 to 8,010 cases except in 1994 when the caseload drastically dropped to 1,670.

➤ ***Size of Establishment***

Most of the disabling injuries occurred in establishments employing 200 or more workers. In 1996, these establishments accounted for 89.1 percent (7,750) of the total cases, up from the 72.1 percent (3,070) in 1991.

On the other hand, establishments with 100-199 workers had the least shares of disabling cases from 3.8 percent to 11.4 percent.

➤ ***Extent of Disability***

More than 95.0 percent of disabling cases during the 6-year period were temporary total disabilities. Only 0.2 to 3.9 percent were fatal injuries while 0.4 to 1.4 percent were permanent partial disabilities. Notably, 310 fatalities were recorded in 1992.

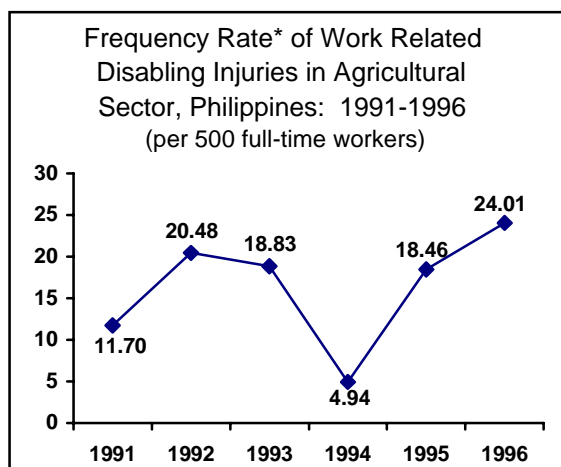
➤ ***Nature of Disability***

The most prevalent disabling injuries were cuts, lacerations, punctures and avulsions with yearly shares ranging from 54.7 percent to 69.3 percent (1,000 to 5,550 cases). Recorded distantly were contusions, bruises, hematoma, abrasions; strains, sprains, dislocations, fractures; foreign body in the eye and other eye injuries; and burns and scalds (thermal/chemical).

SAFETY PERFORMANCE

➤ Frequency Rate

In 1991, the frequency rate posted at 11.70 translated to one injury per 43 employed agriculture, fishery and forestry workers. Thereafter (except in 1994), these workers have become most susceptible to disabling injuries at their workplaces as frequency rate rose to 24.0 in 1996 (one injury for every 21 workers). Disabilities were least frequent in 1994 as one injury case was reported for every 101 workers.



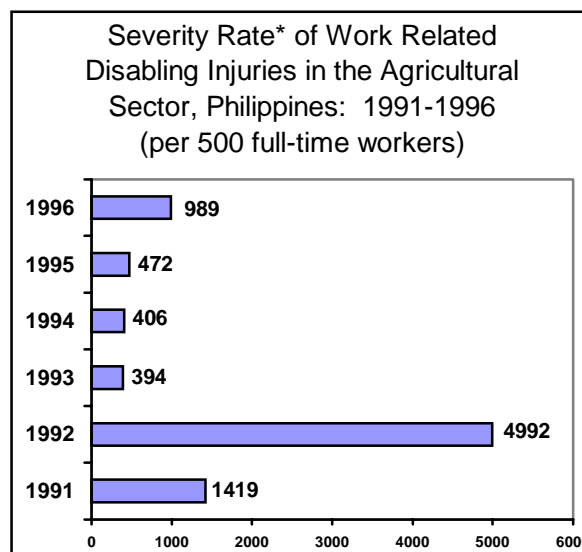
* Frequency Rate (FR) is the number of disabling injuries per 500 full-time workers each working 2,000 hours per year. It can be translated as follows:

CY 1991: 11.70 injuries per 500 workers
or
1 injury per 43 workers (i.e. $500/11.70$)

➤ Severity Rate

Disabling injuries in the sector resulted to around three (3) lost workdays per worker in 1991. In 1992 it jumped to a high 4,992 lost workdays or

ten (10) workdays lost per worker. It was during this year when 310 fatalities were reported (For purposes of computation of workdays lost, a fatality is credited with 6,000 days.) From 1993 to 1995, cases were less severe at barely one working day lost per worker. It slightly increased to two (2) lost workdays per worker in 1996.



* Severity Rate (SR) is the number of lost workdays due to disabling injuries per 500 full-time workers. It can be translated as follows:
CY 1991: 1,419 lost workdays per 500 workers
or
2.8 lost workdays per worker (i.e. $1,419/500$)

The agriculture, fishery and forestry sector accounts for relatively few establishments in the formal sector. Nevertheless, the findings of the survey revealed that safety performance is a critical issue that the sector has to address.

FOR INQUIRIES:

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**TABLE 2. ESTABLISHMENTS REPORTING
WORK-RELATED INJURIES IN AGRICULTURE,
FISHERY AND FORESTRY, PHILIPPINES: 1991-1996**

Indicator	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Total Establishments	887	696	695	770	735	765
Establishments with Work-Related Injuries ¹	503	396	292	214	353	350
Establishments with Disabling Injuries	386	366	199	119	180	155
Establishments with Non-Disabling Injuries	281	210	208	192	298	309

¹ Establishments with disabling (with lost workdays) and non-disabling injuries will not add up to total as an establishment may have both kinds of injuries.

Source of data: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, Occupational Injuries Survey.

**TABLE 3. WORK-RELATED INJURIES BY AREA IN AGRICULTURE,
FISHERY AND FORESTRY, PHILIPPINES: 1991-1996**

Indicator	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Total Work-Related Injuries	10,750	30,010	9,050	4,730	11,780	15,030
National Capital Region (NCR)	290	260	250	1,920	650	310
Outside NCR	10,470	29,750	8,800	2,810	11,130	14,720
Disabling Injuries	4,260	8,010	5,270	1,670	5,290	8,700
National Capital Region (NCR)	120	180	20	700	120	60
Outside NCR	4,140	7,830	5,250	970	5,170	8,640
Non-Disabling Injuries	6,490	22,000	3,780	3,060	6,490	6,330
National Capital Region (NCR)	170	80	320	1,220	530	250
Outside NCR	6,320	21,920	3,550	1,840	5,960	6,080

Source of data: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, Occupational Injuries Survey.

**TABLE 4. SUMMARY STATISTICS ON DISABLING INJURIES
IN AGRICULTURE, FISHERY AND FORESTRY,
PHILIPPINES: 1991-1996**

Indicator	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
TOTAL DISABLING INJURIES	4,260	8,010	5,270	1,670	5,290	8,700
By Establishment Size						
10-99 workers	920	3,170	170	270	490	390
100-199 workers	270	870	620	190	200	570
200 or more workers	3,070	3,970	4,480	1,210	4,600	7,750
By Extent						
Fatal	50	310	10	10	10	40
Permanent Total Disability	30	0	0	10	a	10
Permanent Partial Disability	60	90	20	20	30	80
Temporary Total Disability	4,130	7,610	5,240	1,630	5,240	8,580
By Nature						
Cuts, lacerations, punctures, avulsions	2,410	5,550	3,440	1,000	3,260	4,760
Contusions, bruises, hematoma, abrasions	690	940	790	280	810	1,400
Strains, sprains, dislocations, fractures	540	710	530	180	470	940
Burns and scalds (thermal/chemical)	200	180	130	30	110	170
Crushing, spinal, cranial injuries	40	30	30	10	50	120
Amputations, loss of body parts	60	a	a	a	100	10
Foreign body in the eye and other eye injuries	240	100	280	60	130	600
Electrocution, electric shock	20	40	a	a	a	10
Asphyxiation, poisoning	0	30	40	0	20	30
Other injuries	70	430	40	100	330	690
By Area						
National Capital Region (NCR)	120	180	20	700	120	60
Outside NCR	4,140	7,830	5,250	970	5,170	8,640

a/ Less than five (5) cases.

Source of data: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, Occupational Injuries Survey.