

Introduction

Health and safety hazards at work cause illness, injury, and death. From 1990 through 2005, more than 1,650 workers were killed on the job in New Jersey – and this statistic does not include the many thousands more who died a slow death from occupational disease. In 2005, 137,000 work-related injuries and illnesses were reported in New Jersey – and we know these numbers would be much higher if there was better reporting by employers. This toll on workers and their families should not be accepted, especially since most of these injuries and illnesses are preventable.

Fortunately, workers and their unions can act to prevent unsafe and unhealthy working conditions. This guide is a tool for such action.

WHAT IS THE TOLL IN NEW JERSEY?

- 1,571 men and 101 women killed at work from 1990 through 2005.
- 137,000 work-related injuries and illnesses reported in 2005.
 - 99,600 injuries in the private sector.
 - 4,800 illnesses in the private sector.
 - 8,500 injuries and illnesses in state government.
 - 24,100 injuries and illnesses in local government.
- 17,479 musculoskeletal disorders in 2002.
 - 13,225 sprains, strains, and tears.
 - 1,606 back injuries.
 - 4,254 other.
- 11,047 work-related hospitalizations in 2003.
- 1,294 cases of lung damage from dust reported from 1979 to 2005.

PUBLICATIONS WITH MORE INFORMATION



New Jersey Dept of Health and Senior Services, *Occupational Health Service Annual Report – Fiscal Year 2006*

www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/odisweb/documents/annual_report_fy06.pdf

Putting Data to Work: Occupational Health Indicators from thirteen pilot states for 2000, CSTE and NIOSH, 2005

www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/survweb/documents/indicators.pdf

WEBSITES WITH MORE INFORMATION



AFL-CIO Workers Memorial Day

www.afcio.org/issues/safety/memorial/

Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses;

New Jersey Survey Findings

www.wnjp.in.net/OneStopCareerCenter/LaborMarketInformation/Imi20/index.html