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EMPLOYER-REPORTED WORKPLACE INJURIES AND ILLNESSES – 2021

Private industry employers reported 2.6 million nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses in 2021, a decrease of 1.8 percent from 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. In 2021, the incidence rate of total recordable cases (TRC) in private industry was 2.7 cases per 100 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers, unchanged from 2020. These estimates are from the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII).

The decline in injury and illness cases was due to a drop in illness cases, with private industry employers reporting 365,200 nonfatal illnesses in 2021, down from 544,600 in 2020, a drop of 32.9 percent. This decrease was driven by a 37.1 percent decrease in employer reported respiratory illness cases in 2021 at 269,600, down from 428,700 in 2020. (See chart 2.) In 2019, there were 127,200 illness cases and 10,800 respiratory illness cases. Total reported injury cases increased by 6.3 percent to 2.2 million cases in 2021, up from 2.1 million cases in 2020. (See chart 1.)

The rate of injury cases increased in 2021, with private industry employers reporting a rate of 2.3 cases per 100 FTE workers compared to 2.2 cases in 2020. Over the same period, the rate of illness cases decreased from 55.9 cases per 10,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers to 37.7 cases. The decrease was driven by the drop in the respiratory illness rate, which fell from 44.0 cases per 10,000 FTE workers to 27.8 cases.

Chart 1. Total reported, injury, and illness case counts, private industry, 2019-21

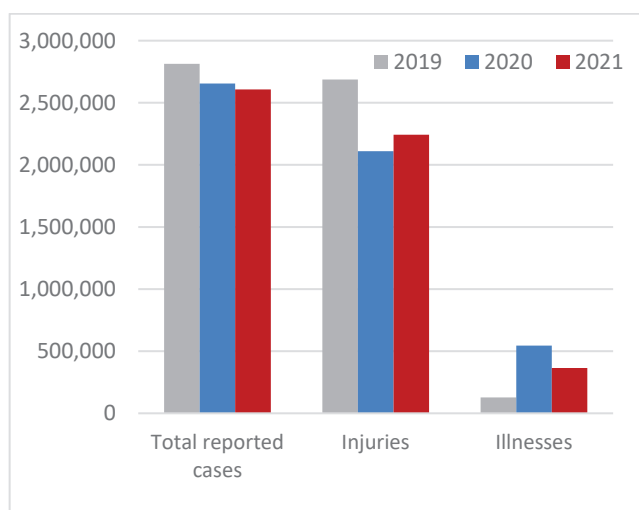
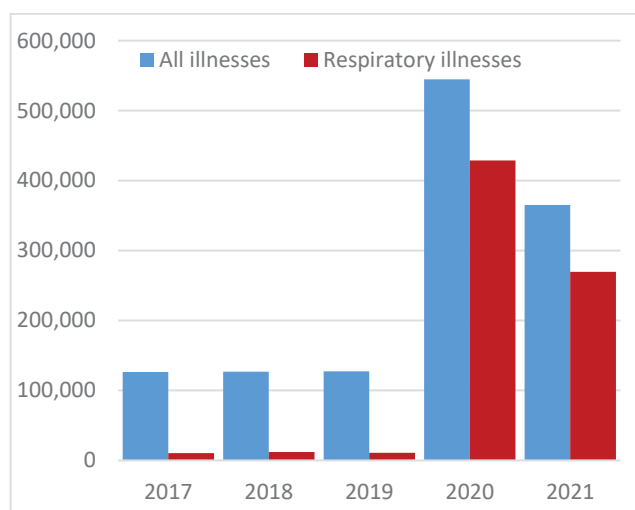


Chart 2. Counts of cases of all illnesses and respiratory illnesses, private industry, 2017-21



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact in SOII Results

Occupational injuries and illnesses collected in the 2021 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).

Case and Demographic Data in the SOII

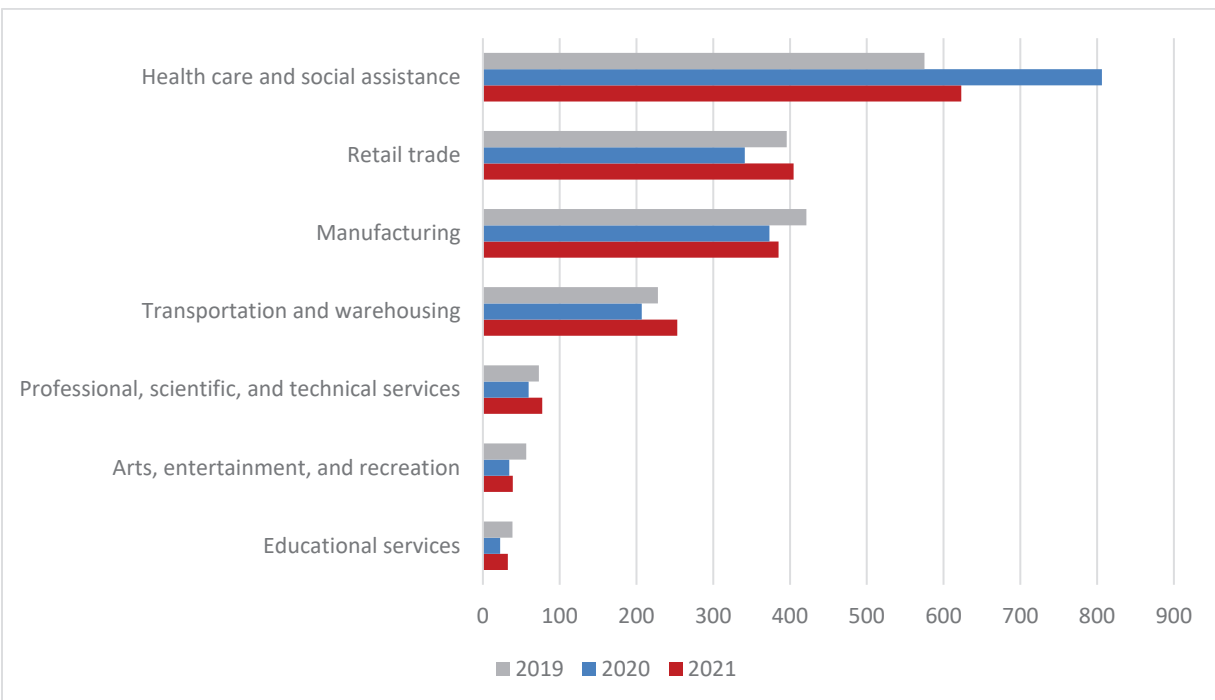
Estimates involving days away from work (DAFW) by detailed case characteristics and worker demographics for 2021 are not published in this release. In the Fall of 2023, SOII will begin biennial publication for DAFW and days of job transfer or restriction (DJTR) for the period 2021-2022. Estimates for detailed industry by case type are unchanged.

There were 1,062,700 nonfatal injuries and illnesses that caused a private industry worker to miss at least one day of work in 2021, 9.7 percent lower than in 2020. The rate of cases that caused a worker to miss at least one day of work also decreased in 2021, from 1.2 cases per 100 FTE workers in 2020 to 1.1 cases in 2021.

Injuries and illnesses by sector

Total recordable injury and illness cases increased in six private industry sectors in 2021. Retail trade and transportation and warehousing had the largest increases in cases. Retail trade increased from 341,100 cases in 2020 to 404,700 cases in 2021. Transportation and warehousing increased from 206,900 cases in 2020 to 253,100 cases in 2021. Health care and social assistance was the only private industry sector that had a decrease in the total number of cases in 2021, decreasing 183,200 cases to 623,000 in 2021. (See chart 3.) This was driven by a 163,600 decrease in the number of respiratory illness cases in 2021, decreasing to 145,300 respiratory illness cases in this sector. In 2019, there were 3,500 respiratory illness cases in the private industry health care and social assistance sector.

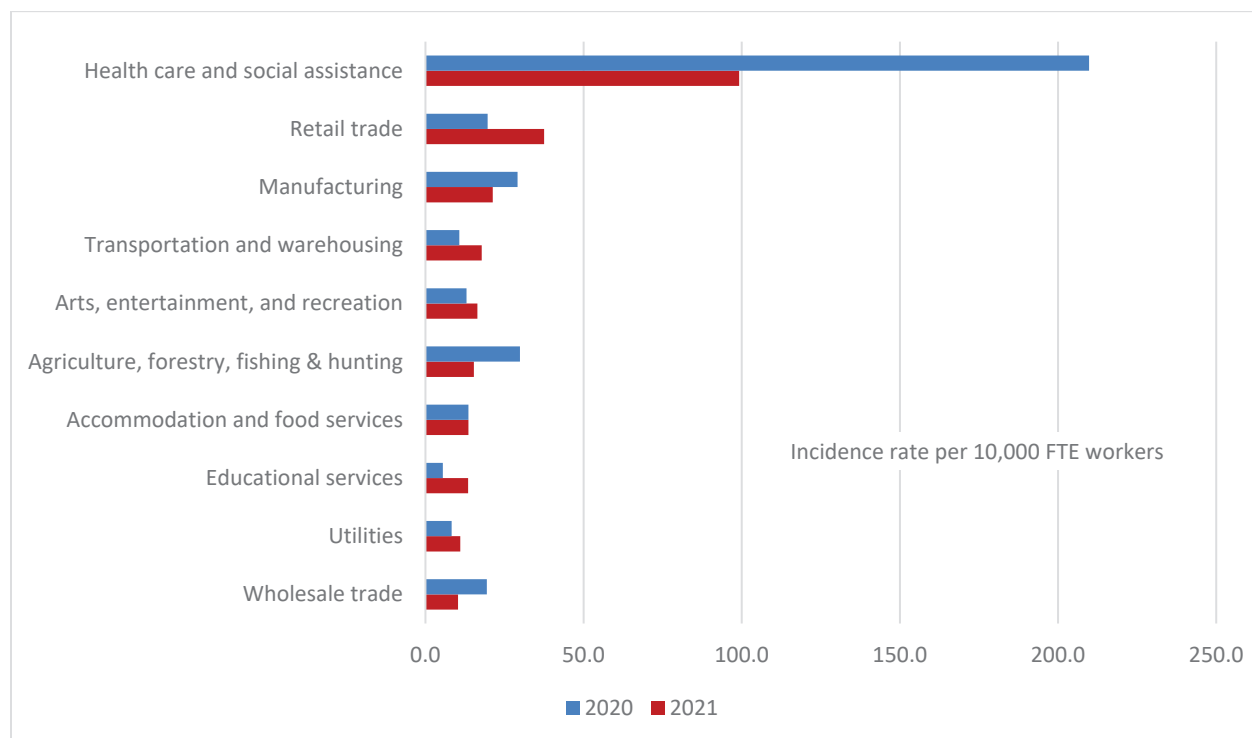
Chart 3. Total injuries and illnesses in selected industry sectors, thousands, private industry, 2019-21



Despite having a decrease in cases, the health care and social assistance sector had the highest rate of respiratory illnesses in 2021 with 99.2 cases per 10,000 FTE workers. This rate, however, is 52.7 percent lower than in 2020 when the rate was 209.8 cases per 10,000 FTE workers. Retail trade had the next highest rate of respiratory illnesses at 37.5 cases per 10,000 FTE workers, a 91.0 percent increase from 2020 when the incidence rate was 19.6 cases. (See chart 4.) These two sectors accounted for 69.5 percent of the 269,600 total respiratory illness cases.

The incidence rate of respiratory illnesses in the private educational services sector increased from 5.5 cases per 10,000 FTE workers in 2020 to 13.5 cases in 2021, a 144.9 percent increase.

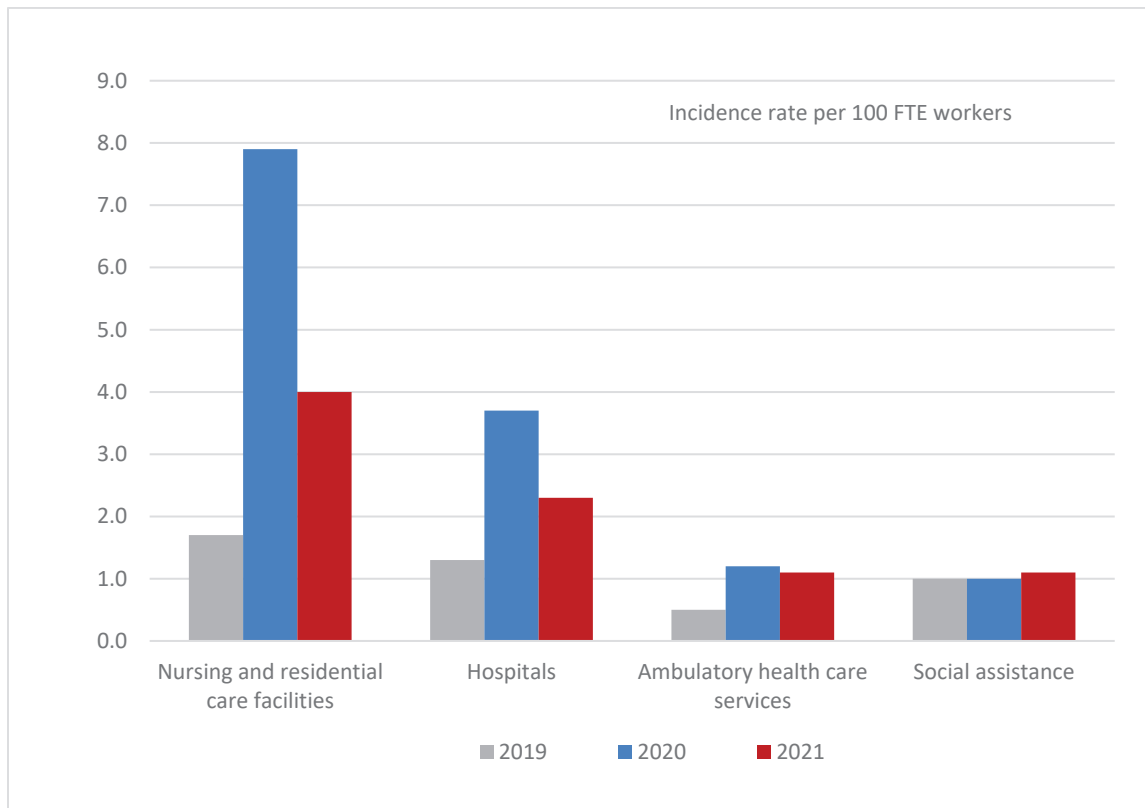
Chart 4. Respiratory illness incidence rates in selected private industries, 2020-21



Health care and social assistance

Among health care and social assistance industries, three industries had decreases in DAFW rates in 2021: hospitals at 2.3 cases per 100 FTE workers in 2021 (down from 3.7 cases in 2020), nursing and residential care facilities at 4.0 cases (down from 7.9 cases), and ambulatory health care services at 1.1 cases (down from 1.2 cases). In 2021, the DAFW rate for social assistance was essentially unchanged. (See chart 5.)

Chart 5. Incidence rates for cases resulting in days away from work in health care and social assistance industries, private industry, 2019-21



Additional highlights

- The incidence rate of cases in the private retail trade sector increased from 3.1 in 2020 to 3.6 cases per 100 FTE workers in 2021, an increase of 15.6 percent.
- The DAFW rate in private industry food manufacturing decreased from 2.5 cases per 100 FTE workers in 2020 to 2.1 cases in 2021, a decrease of 15.1 percent.
- In 2021, private industry DAFW cases in the transportation and warehousing sector increased 23.0 percent to 122,700 cases from 99,800 cases in 2020.
- The number of DJTR cases in the private construction sector increased 10.4 percent in 2021 to 35,200 cases.
- The private leisure and hospitality supersector had 235,300 total recordable cases in 2021, which occurred at a rate of 2.9 cases per 100 FTE workers. This rate is higher than in 2020 (2.7 cases per 100 FTE workers).
- Other recordable cases in the private industry wholesale trade sector increased 12.1 percent in 2021 to 40,400 cases.

Additional Information

This news release is the first of two releases from BLS covering occupational safety and health statistics for the 2021 calendar year. The SOII presents estimates of counts and incidence rates of employer reported nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses by industry and type of case. A second release on December 16, 2022, will provide results from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) of all fatal work injuries occurring in the U.S. during the calendar year.

Nonfatal occupational injury and illness estimates by industry and case type are available at www.bls.gov/web/osh.suppl.toc.htm.

Incidence rates and counts by industry and case type published by the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) are rounded. However, estimates, percent changes, and significant changes are determined using unrounded data, www.bls.gov/iif/factsheets/effects-of-rounding-on-estimates.htm.

Incidence rates per 10,000 workers can be converted to rates per 100 workers by moving the decimal point left, two places, and rounding the resulting rate to the nearest tenth. Data users are cautioned to account for different levels of precision when analyzing estimates presented in this release.

BLS has generated estimates of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses for many industries as defined in the 2017 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) manual. For additional information on nonfatal injury and illness estimates, see www.bls.gov/iif/overview/soii-overview.htm and www.bls.gov/opub/hom/soii/concepts.htm#north-american-industry-classification-system-naics.

The Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses relies on OSHA recordkeeping requirements, which mandate employers record certain work-related injuries and illnesses on their OSHA 300 log, including the recording of cases of COVID-19, see www.osha.gov/coronavirus/standards.

All comparison statements made in this news release are statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level. Additional background and methodological information regarding the BLS occupational safety and health statistics program is in the BLS Handbook of Methods at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/soii/home.htm. Additional data from the SOII are available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/iif, from BLS staff at (202) 691-6170, or by email at IIFSTAFF@bls.gov.

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

TABLE 1. Counts of total nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses, injuries, illnesses, and respiratory illnesses, private industry, 2017-21 (thousands)

Year	Total cases ⁽¹⁾	Injuries	Illnesses	Respiratory illnesses
2017	2,811.5	2,685.1	126.4	10.4
2018	2,834.5	2,707.8	126.8	12.1
2019	2,814.0	2,686.8	127.2	10.8
2020	2,654.7	2,110.1	544.6	428.7
2021	2,607.9	2,242.7	365.2	269.6

Footnotes:

(1) Excludes farms with fewer than 11 employees.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, in cooperation with participating state agencies.

TABLE 2. Incidence rates of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses by selected industry and case types, private industry, 2019-21

Industry ⁽¹⁾	Total recordable cases ⁽²⁾			Cases with days away from work ^{(2),(3)}		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
Private industry ⁽⁴⁾	2.8	2.7	2.7	0.9	1.2	1.1
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting ⁽⁴⁾	5.2	4.6	4.6	1.7	1.9	1.8
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction ⁽⁵⁾	1.2	1.2	1.3	0.5	0.6	0.6
Utilities	2.2	1.5	1.7	0.7	0.6	0.7
Construction	2.8	2.5	2.5	1.1	1.1	1.1
Manufacturing	3.3	3.1	3.3	0.9	1.1	1.2
Wholesale trade	2.7	2.4	2.5	1.0	1.0	1.0
Retail trade	3.4	3.1	3.6	1.0	1.1	1.4
Transportation and warehousing ⁽⁶⁾	4.4	4.0	4.6	2.0	1.9	2.2
Information	1.2	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.4
Finance and insurance	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2
Real estate and rental and leasing	2.3	2.1	2.0	0.7	0.9	0.8
Professional, scientific, and technical services	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.2	0.2	0.3
Management of companies and enterprises	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.2
Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services	—	2.0	1.9	—	0.9	0.9
Educational services	2.0	1.1	1.7	0.6	0.4	0.6
Health care and social assistance	3.8	5.5	4.3	1.0	3.0	1.9
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	4.0	3.0	3.7	1.1	1.0	1.2
Accommodation and food services	3.2	2.6	2.7	0.9	0.8	0.9
Other services (except public administration)	2.0	1.8	1.6	0.7	0.9	0.7

Footnotes:

(1) Data are coded using the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). For more information on the version of NAICS used in this year, see our Handbook of Methods concepts page: <https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/soii/concepts.htm>.

(2) The incidence rates represent the number of injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time workers and were calculated as: $(N/EH) \times 200,000$, where N = number of injuries and illnesses; EH = total hours worked by all employees during the calendar year; 200,000 = base for 100 equivalent full-time workers (working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year).

(3) Days-away-from-work cases include those that result in days away from work with or without job transfer or restriction.

(4) Excludes farms with fewer than 11 employees.

(5) Data for Mining (Sector 21 in the North American Industry Classification System) include establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in oil and gas extraction and related support activities. Data for mining operators in coal, metal, and nonmetal mining are provided to BLS by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor. Independent mining contractors are excluded from the coal, metal, and nonmetal mining industries. These data do not reflect changes the Occupational Safety and Health Administration made to its recordkeeping requirements effective January 1, 2002; therefore, estimates for these industries are not comparable to estimates of other industries.

(6) Data for employers in rail transportation are provided to BLS by the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.

Note: Dash indicates data do not meet publication guidelines, data may be too small to be displayed.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, in cooperation with participating state agencies.

TABLE 3. Number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses by selected industry and case types, private industry, 2019-21 (thousands)

Industry ⁽¹⁾	Total recordable cases			Cases with days away from work ⁽²⁾		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
Private industry ⁽³⁾	2,814.0	2,654.7	2,607.9	888.2	1,176.3	1,062.7
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting ⁽³⁾	50.9	45.9	43.5	17.0	18.8	17.1
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction ⁽⁴⁾	9.4	7.5	6.7	4.2	4.0	3.4
Utilities	12.0	8.4	9.0	3.7	3.4	3.9
Construction	200.1	174.1	169.2	79.7	74.5	72.8
Manufacturing	421.4	373.3	385.1	116.1	135.9	137.0
Wholesale trade	153.6	132.2	130.9	55.5	56.5	54.0
Retail trade	395.7	341.1	404.7	120.2	125.6	156.0
Transportation and warehousing ⁽⁵⁾	227.9	206.9	253.1	103.6	99.8	122.7
Information	31.6	19.6	18.8	13.0	10.2	9.3
Finance and insurance	26.1	17.4	21.9	7.5	7.8	9.8
Real estate and rental and leasing	46.2	41.8	38.8	14.9	17.1	15.0
Professional, scientific, and technical services	72.8	59.5	77.2	17.2	16.9	22.2
Management of companies and enterprises	16.9	14.9	13.1	4.7	4.8	5.5
Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services	–	103.4	97.1	–	46.9	45.6
Educational services	38.6	22.5	32.5	12.1	7.7	10.6
Health care and social assistance	575.2	806.2	623.0	151.4	447.9	276.6
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	56.4	34.3	39.0	15.3	11.5	13.0
Accommodation and food services	288.7	191.0	196.3	82.9	60.9	67.9
Other services (except public administration)	64.6	54.7	48.3	21.8	26.2	20.4

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Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, in cooperation with participating state agencies.

TABLE 4. Numbers and incidence rates for cases resulting in days away from work of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses in selected private health care and social assistance industries, 2019-21

Industry ⁽¹⁾	Rate ⁽²⁾			Number		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
Health care and social assistance	1.0	3.0	1.9	151,410	447,890	276,600
Nursing and residential care facilities	1.7	7.9	4.0	44,020	205,780	96,400
Hospitals	1.3	3.7	2.3	52,140	148,360	90,000
Ambulatory health care services	0.5	1.2	1.1	32,050	70,110	64,400
Social assistance	1.0	1.0	1.1	23,210	23,630	25,900

Footnotes:

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