



# MMWR<sup>TM</sup>

## Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

Weekly

April 28, 2006 / Vol. 55 / No. 16

### Workers' Memorial Day — April 28, 2006

Workers' Memorial Day, April 28, was established to remember those workers who died or were injured on the job. On average, nearly 16 workers in the United States die each day from injuries sustained at work (1), and 134 die from work-related diseases (2). Daily, an estimated 11,700 private-sector workers have a nonfatal work-related injury or illness, and more than half will require job transfer, work restrictions, or time away from their jobs as a result (3). More than 9,000 workers are treated in emergency departments each day, and approximately 200 of these workers are hospitalized (4). In 2003, workers' compensation costs for employers totaled \$81 billion (5).

Workers' Memorial Day also will commemorate the 35th anniversary of the creation of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration within the U.S. Department of Labor. Additional information about workplace safety and health is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/homepage.html> or telephone, 800-356-4674.

#### References

1. Bureau of Labor Statistics. National census of fatal occupational injuries in 2004. Washington, DC: US Department of Labor; 2005. Available at <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/foi.pdf>.
2. Steenland K, Burnett C, Lulich N, Ward E, Hurrell J. Dying for work: the magnitude of US mortality from selected causes of death associated with occupation. *Am J Ind Med* 2003;43:461–82.
3. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Workplace injuries and illnesses in 2004. Washington, DC: US Department of Labor; 2005. Available at <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/osh.pdf>.
4. CDC. Nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses treated in hospital emergency departments—United States, 2003. *MMWR* 2006;55:449–52.
5. Sengupta I, Reno V, Burton JF Jr. Workers' compensation: benefits, coverage, and costs, 2003. Washington, DC: National Academy of Social Insurance; 2005. Available at [http://www.nasi.org/usr\\_doc/nasi\\_workers\\_comp\\_report.pdf](http://www.nasi.org/usr_doc/nasi_workers_comp_report.pdf).

### Nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Among Workers Treated in Hospital Emergency Departments — United States, 2003

CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) collects data on nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses through the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS), an emergency department (ED)-based surveillance system. This report summarizes data for 2003. The overall number and rate of occupational injuries and illnesses did not change substantially during the 5-year period since data were last reported in 1998 (1). In 2003, age-, sex-, and diagnosis-related patterns of injury and illness among workers treated in EDs (ED-treated injuries/illnesses) were similar to those reported in 1998. To achieve substantial decreases in these injuries and illnesses, prevention efforts must focus on effective, targeted workplace-safety interventions for diverse occupations.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) administers NEISS, a national stratified probability sample of U.S. hospitals with 24-hour EDs that tracks product-related injuries/illnesses that are not work related. In addition, CPSC collaborates with CDC to collect data for two

#### INSIDE

- 453 Fatalities Among Volunteer and Career Firefighters — United States, 1994–2004
- 456 Health Hazard Evaluation of Police Officers and Firefighters After Hurricane Katrina — New Orleans, Louisiana, October 17–28 and November 30–December 5, 2005
- 458 Progress Toward Interruption of Wild Poliovirus Transmission — Worldwide, January 2005–March 2006
- 462 Notices to Readers
- 463 QuickStats