



Getting the Facts to Promote Young Worker Safety in Connecticut



An estimated 80% of all teens are employed at some point during their high school years. Work is an important and beneficial experience for many teens. When part of a structured work-based learning experience, work outside of school can add relevancy to students' classroom learning and help in future decision-making regarding further education and careers. However, young workers face many of the same occupational hazards as adult workers, especially when they are allowed to perform tasks that should be restricted to more experienced employees.



National Data

- ◆ 70 teens die from work-related injuries every year in the United States¹.
- ◆ The leading causes of work-related deaths among teens are motor vehicle injuries, job-related homicides, and injuries associated with machinery/equipment¹.
- ◆ Teen workers are injured at higher rates than adult workers despite the fact that they typically work fewer hours than adults and are prohibited from high-risk occupations².
- ◆ 200,000 teens under the age of 18 years are injured on the job each year, according to National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) estimates.
- ◆ 70,000 teens are injured seriously enough at work each year to receive treatment in hospital emergency departments².
- ◆ It's estimated that only 1/3 of teens injured on the job seek medical treatment¹.



Connecticut Data

- ◆ Over 144,000 Connecticut teens are working outside of school at some point during each year³.
- ◆ Between 1997 and 2001, there were 1,418 workers' compensation reports of injury among young workers ages 14-17 years in Connecticut⁴.
- ◆ This number is most likely a conservative estimate of the true extent of the problem, since many injuries to young workers are not reported, and many other young workers are paid "under the table."
- ◆ 95% of the reported injuries were to 16 and 17 year olds⁴.
- ◆ 60% of the injuries involved male workers⁴.
- ◆ Twice as many injuries were reported in restaurants as in any other type of workplace⁴.



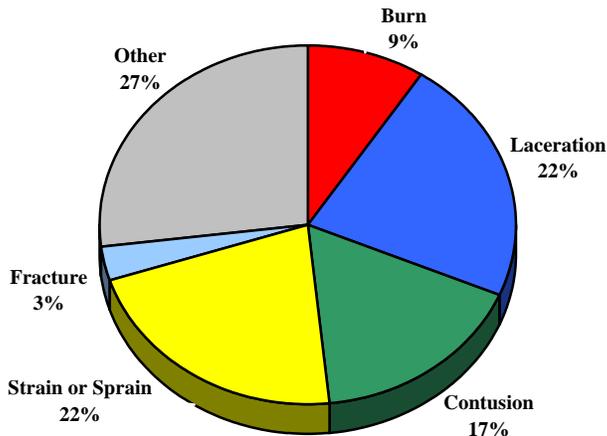
¹ Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

² Source: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

³ Source: US Census

⁴ Source: CT Department of Public Health analysis of CT Workers' Compensation Data.

Connecticut Workers' Compensation Data

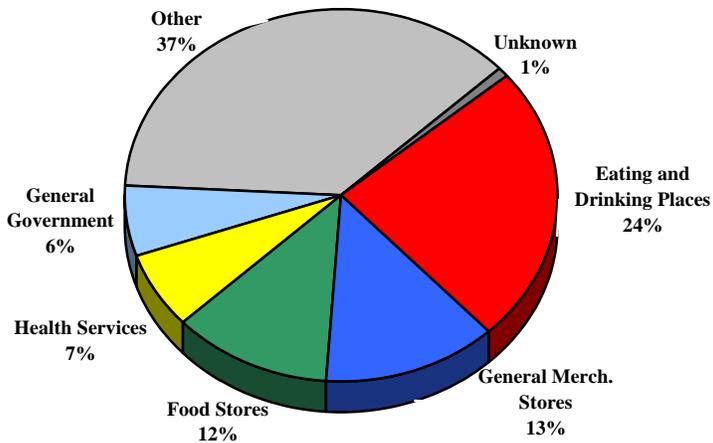


Distribution of Reported Known Injury Types among Young Workers, Connecticut, 1997-2001

The most commonly reported job-related injuries for Connecticut teens are:

- Lacerations
- Sprains or Strains
- Contusions
- Burns

*Other includes injury types that represents less than 3% of the cases report during this time frame.



Distribution of Reported Injuries to Young Workers by Selected Industry Types, CT, 1997-2001

The most frequently reported worksites for teen injuries include:

- Eating and Drinking Places
- General Merchandise Stores
- Food Stores
- Health Services
- General Government

*Other includes industry types that represent less than 6% of the cases reported during this time frame.

About the Connecticut Young Worker Safety Team

The CT Young Worker Safety Team is a collaboration among state, federal, local and regional agencies. Our members include the CT State Departments of Education, Labor and Public Health, the US Department of Labor, Capitol Workforce Partners, Capitol Region Educational Council, and the City of Middletown Health Department. The goal of this collaborative effort is to improve the health and safety of teens in the workplace through awareness, education, training and advocacy.



How Can You Prevent Young Worker Injuries

Effective injury prevention requires coordinated efforts among groups with an interest in the health and safety of youth. The Connecticut Young Worker Safety Team works to increase awareness among teens, parents, educators, youth program operators and youth serving organizations, employers, health care providers, and the general public.

Team Activities and Resources

- **Connecticut Work Safe!** - An interactive young worker safety curriculum designed to introduce teens to job safety issues is available in a “train-the-trainer” format. The Connecticut Work Safe curriculum covers the following topics:

- Common health and safety hazards
- Control measures
- State and federal labor laws
- Sources of information and help



- Statistical and informational presentations on young worker safety
- Technical assistance on young worker safety issues
- Information on Connecticut and Federal child labor laws
- Related educational materials



For more information on the CT Young Worker Safety Team contact: Marian Storch at 860-509-7791, Judith Andrews at 860-713-6766 or Deborah Pease at 860-509-7771.



Connecticut Young Worker Contacts and Resources

Connecticut Department of Labor

OSHA - 860-263-6900

(State/municipal worksite enforcement and consultation for state, municipal and private worksites)

Wage and Workplace Standards Division - 860-263-6791

(Connecticut laws regulating hours/occupations/industries teens can work, enforcement of state child labor laws)



Connecticut State Department of Education

Bureau of Early Childhood, Career and Adult Education, Division of

Teaching and Learning Program Services, Career and Technical Education Unit - 860-713-6766

Connecticut Department of Public Health

Occupational Health Program - 860-509-7744

Injury Prevention Program - 860-509-7791

US Department of Labor

OSHA (private employers)

Hartford Office - 860-240-3152

Bridgeport Office - 203-579-5581

OSHA Referral Line - 1-800-321-OSHA



Wage and Hour Division - 860-240-4160

(Federal labor laws regulating hours/occupations/industries teens can work, enforcement of federal child labor laws)

Additional Resources Related to Young Worker Health & Safety

US Department of Labor, OSHA

Teen Workers Website: <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/teenworkers/index.html>

US Department of Labor, Wage and Hour

Youth Rules! Website: <http://www.youthrules.dol.gov>

CT Department of Labor: <http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us>

CT State Department of Education:

Work Based Learning: www.state.ct.us/sde/deps/Career/WB/index.htm

School to Career: www.state.ct.us/sde/deps/Career/STC/index.htm



CT Department of Public Health

Occupational Health E-News: <http://www.dph.state.ct.us/BCH/eeoh/enews.htm>

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

Young Worker Safety Publications: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/youth/>

NIOSH Alert: Preventing Deaths, Injuries and Illness of Young Workers

Promoting Safe Work for Young Workers

Are You a Working Teen? What You Should Know about Safety and Health on the Job

University of California Labor Occupational Health Program

Young Worker Health and Safety website: <http://www.youngworkers.org>