

Workplace Health Statistics and Methodology Note

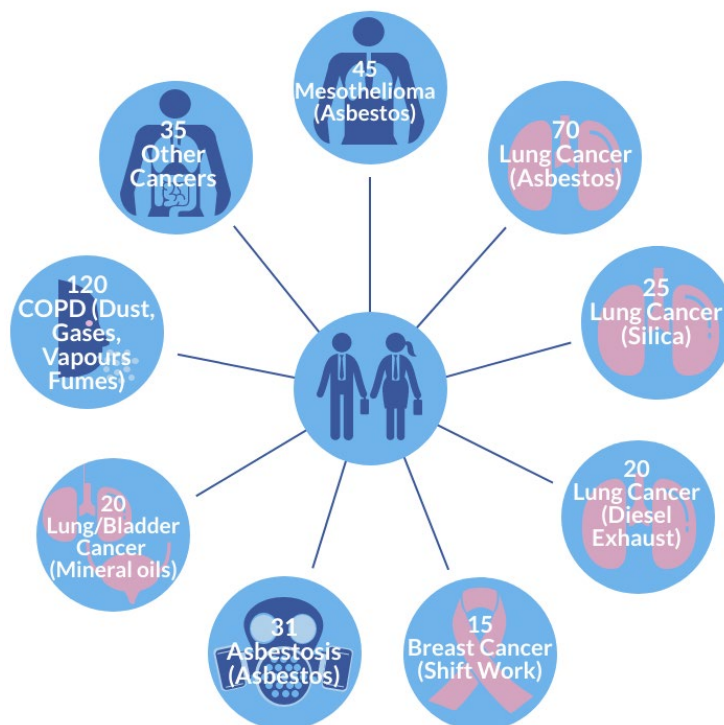
It should be noted that significant limitations remain with the various approaches used in the absence of robust Northern Ireland specific data, so these estimates should be treated with caution.

Estimated Annual Deaths due to Work-related diseases

Figure 1 estimates the annual number of deaths in NI attributable to work-related causes of illness. Most figures have been calculated using a pro-rata approach except for those figures relating to Mesothelioma and Asbestosis which are derived from Death certificate data provided by HSENI for 2021.

The approach taken to calculate the Northern Ireland figures, where there was no actual data available was to use a population pro-rata¹ of the 2022 occupational cancer statistics in Great Britain, which themselves use 2005 GB estimates along with newly available national cancer statistics (annual average deaths during 2017-2021 and cancer registrations during 2015-2019)². Estimates have been rounded up to the nearest 5 in every case, excluding Asbestos related deaths that are based on death certificates.

Estimated Annual Deaths Due to Work-related Diseases (Causal Agents in Brackets)



¹<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/timeseries/zsfg/lms>

² <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis/cancer.pdf>

Figure 1 Estimated Annual Deaths Due to Work-related Diseases

Cost of workplace injuries 2019 - 2020

The HSENI provided Analytical Services with information on the number of fatal injuries, major injuries as well as reported over 3-day injuries. Sample numbers from the NI Labour Force Survey (LFS) were deemed too small to provide a robust estimate of the incidence of minor injuries, reportable injuries and work-related ill-health. Therefore, Analytical Services applied the annual average 2019-20 rate of incidence per 10,000 employees established in the GB report to the total number of employees within Northern Ireland. This makes the assumption that employees in NI are no more or less likely to suffer work-related minor injuries and ill-health than elsewhere in the UK.

Again, as per previous methodology note, Analytical Services concluded that it would continue to be appropriate to base the NI estimates on the GB cost and wage data³. This is due to the fact that both NI and GB continue to experience many of the same cost profiles and that the GB report did not model for any regional variation in wages.

Using the available HSENI data for fatal injuries (which has been compiled using a three year average as per the GB methodology), and supplementing it with the derived data for minor injuries, reportable injuries and work-related ill-health and applying GB cost and wage data to all four categories produces the estimated costs to Northern Ireland for 2019-20 as outlined in Figure 2.

Cost of Workplace Injuries 2019-20

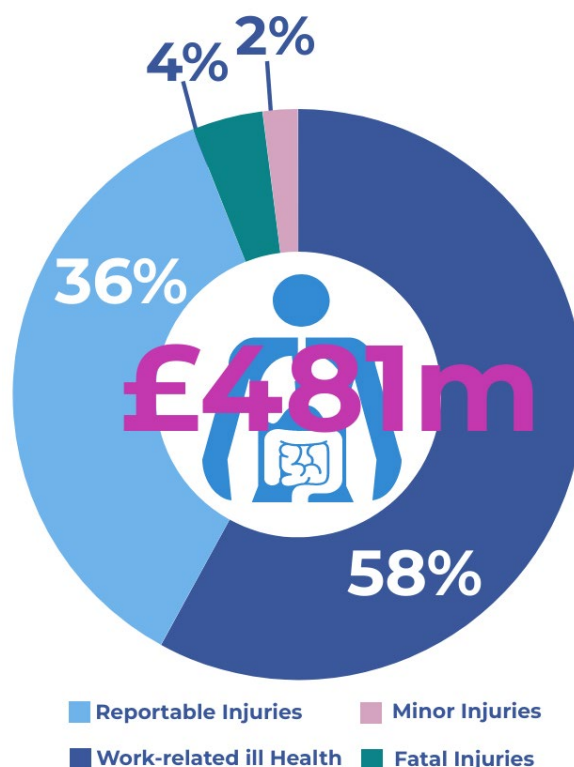


Figure 2 Cost of workplace injuries 2019 - 2020

³ <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/pdf/cost-to-britain.pdf>

The estimated cost of workplace injuries for 2019 – 2020 stands at £481 million from which 58% has been attributed to work related ill health.

Work-related Ill Health 2021-22

Figure 3 estimates the number of workers in NI suffering from work-related ill health (new or long-standing) in 2021-22. The estimates are based on self-reports from the Labour Force Survey⁴.

Type of Illness	Number
Musculoskeletal disorders	15,000
Stress, Depression or anxiety	8,000
Other illness	9,000
Total	32,000

Table 1 Work-related Ill Health 2021-22



Figure 3 Work-related ill health 2021-22

⁴ Source: Labour Force Survey, January-March 2016 - 2022