

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Massachusetts Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Report 2010

The construction industry has traditionally been the industry in Massachusetts with the highest incidence rate from year to year. However, since 2008 there has been a significant decrease in the number of total recordable incidents, or more specifically, the total number of recordable injuries-only cases. This trend has continued in the 2010 data, with a decrease in incidence of total recordable cases and most markedly, with decreases in nonfatal occupational injury-only cases. It is important to note that, while data were collected in 2009, they were not statistically significant and key findings could not be produced. Therefore, the 2010 data will be compared to the 2008 collection figures. Common occupations in the construction industry include: construction laborers, carpenters, brick and stone masons, roofers, house painters, electricians, street and bridge workers, welders and cutters, and plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters.

Key Construction Industry Findings

- The total recordable case (TRC) incidence rate was 3.9 incidents per 100 full-time equivalent employees (FTEs); in 2008 the TRC rate was 4.8.
- The days away or restricted or transferred duty (DART) rate was 2.3 cases per 100 FTEs; the days away from work only rate (DAFW) was 2.0 cases; the days with job transfer or restriction only rate (DJTR) was 0.3; and the other recordable case rate (ORC) was 1.6 cases per 100 FTEs.
- The construction industry was responsible for a total of 3,600 recordable cases, which is 5.2% of the total number of injuries in the private sector, down from 7.4% in 2008. Of all goods-producing incidents, 28.6% of them were in this industry, down from 37.2% in 2008.
- This industry employed roughly 110,000 employees or 4.0 % of the private sector workforce, and 29.6% of the goods-producing industry.
- Of the 3,600 recordable cases: approximately 1,900 (or 52.8% of the total, formerly 52.5% in 2008) required DAFW; 200 (5.6%, previously 6.6% in 2008) required DJTR, and 1,500 (41.7%, 41.0% in 2008) were ORC. The drop in DART cases and slight rise in ORC from 2008 suggests success in increased safety measures in this industry with the goal of eliminating, or at least decreasing the impact of, work related injuries and illnesses.
- Approximately 3,500 (97.2%) of all recordable cases were injury-only incidents.
- Approximately 100 (2.8%) of cases were illness-only incidents.



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Case and Demographic Findings Based on 1,900 cases with days away from work

OCCUPATION: The occupations with the highest number of DAFW cases were: construction laborers (470 cases); carpenters represented the second most affected occupation (260 cases). Painters, construction, and maintenance workers were third at risk with 210 cases. Telecommunications equipment installers and repairers (except line installers) accounted for 160 cases.

GENDER: Of the 1,900 DAFW cases, 90.5% (1,720 workers) were male and 9.5% (180) were female. This is a notable difference from the breakdown in 2008 with 96% (3,080 workers) men and 3% (100 workers) women.

AGE: The 25 to 34 age group accounted for the highest number of DAFW cases with 660 cases (34.7%); the 35 to 44 age group accounted for 530 cases (27.9%); the 45 to 54 age group accounted for 380 cases (20%); the 20 to 24 age group accounted for 130 cases (6.8%); the 55 to 64 age group accounted for 100 cases (5.3%); the 65 and over age group and the 16 to 19 age group each accounted for 20 cases (1.1% each).

NATURE: Sprains, strains, and tears accounted for 1,010 cases (53.2%) of the total 1,900 DAFW cases. Bruises and contusions accounted for 140 DAFW injuries (7.4%) and cuts and lacerations also accounted for 140 cases (7.4%). Fractures made up 130 cases (6.8%).

EVENT: Struck by object category and the overexertion category both accounted for 370 DAFW cases each (19.5%). Falls accounted for 310 cases (16.3%). Repetitive motion cases made up 190 (10%) of all DAFW cases.

SOURCE: Worker motion or position accounted for 320 (16.8%) of the 1,900 DAFW cases. Parts and materials caused 300 (15.8%) of the injuries that resulted in DAFW. Containers were the third leading sources of injury, resulting in 270 cases (14.2%). The floor and ground surfaces were the sources of 250 cases (13.2%). Finally, tools, instruments, and equipment caused 220 (11.6%) of the DAFW cases in this industry.

PART OF BODY: 640 cases (33.7%) affected the trunk region (shoulder, chest and back); 600 cases (31.6%) affected the upper extremities (arms, wrists, hands, fingers); 470 cases (24.7%) affected the lower extremities (legs, ankles, feet, toes); and 80 cases (4.2%) affected the head region (including the face).

Data source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, in cooperation with participating State agencies, 2011.



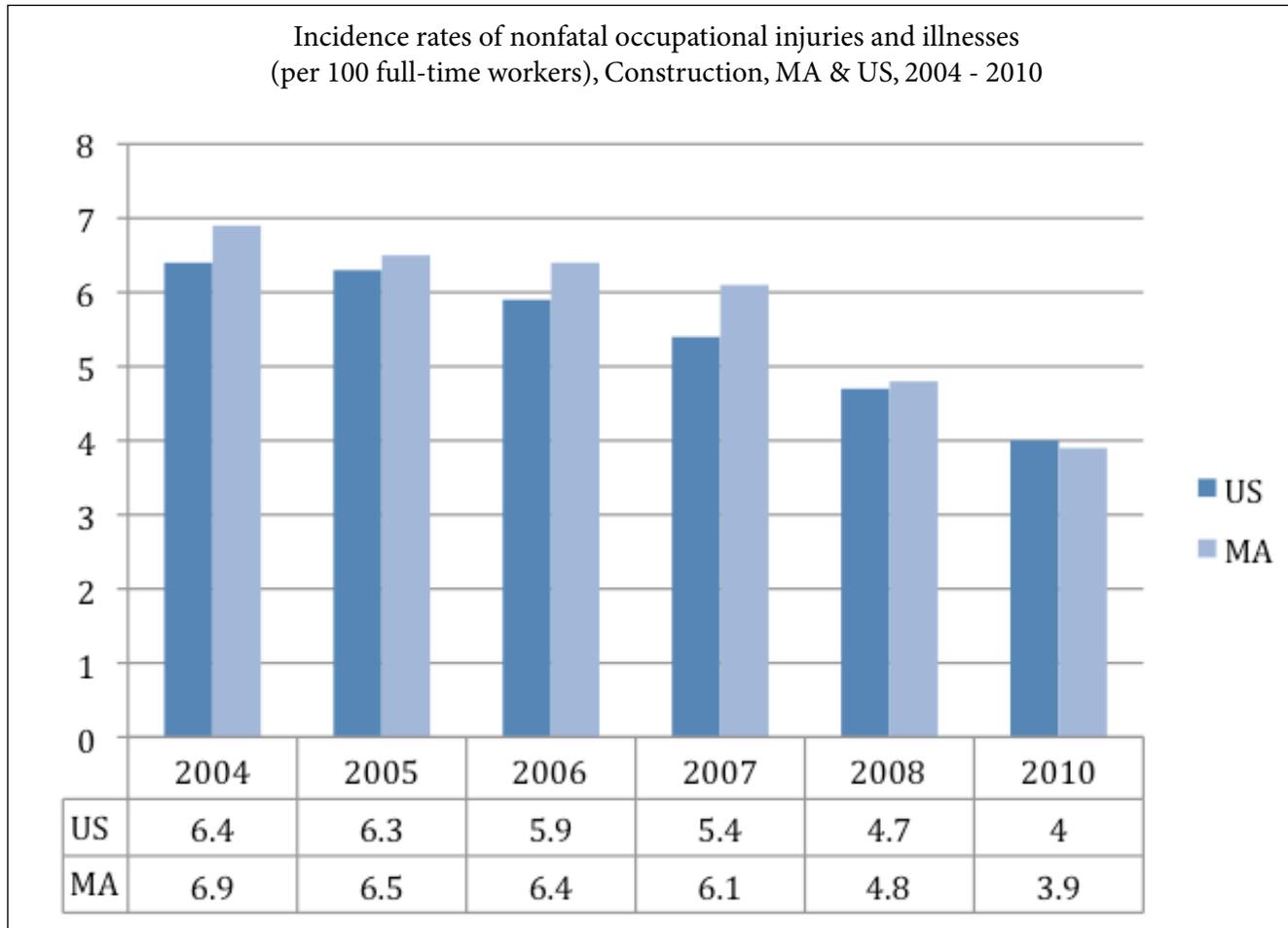
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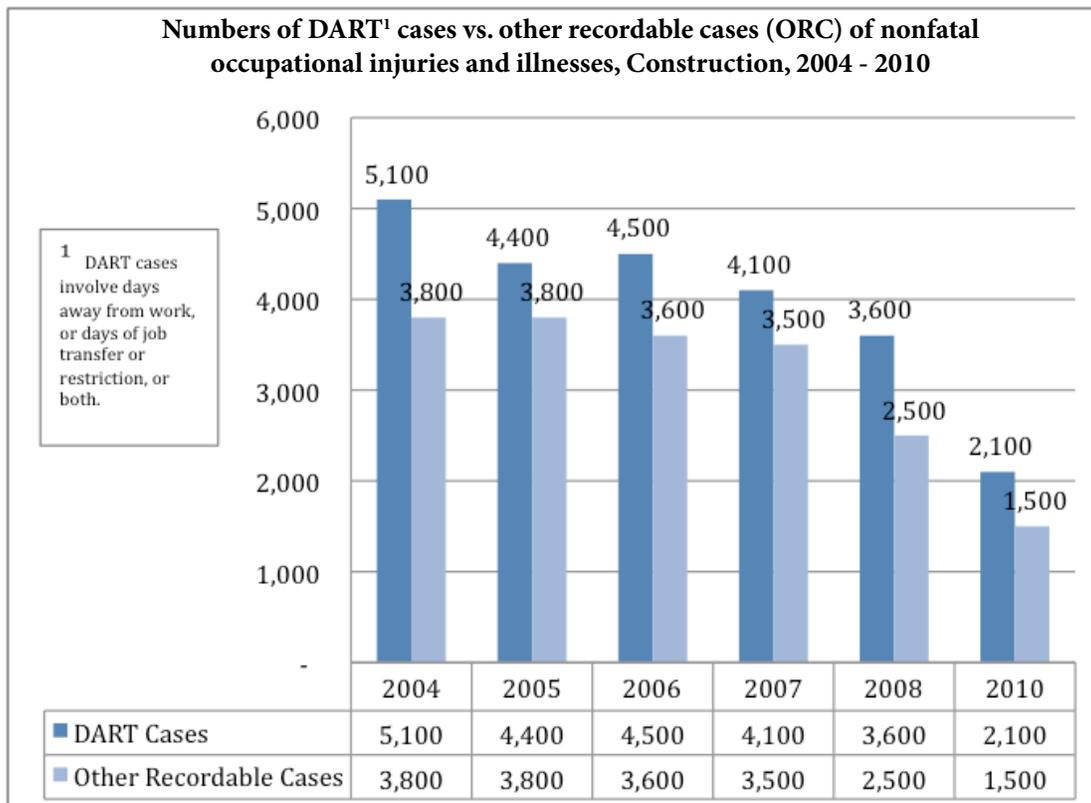
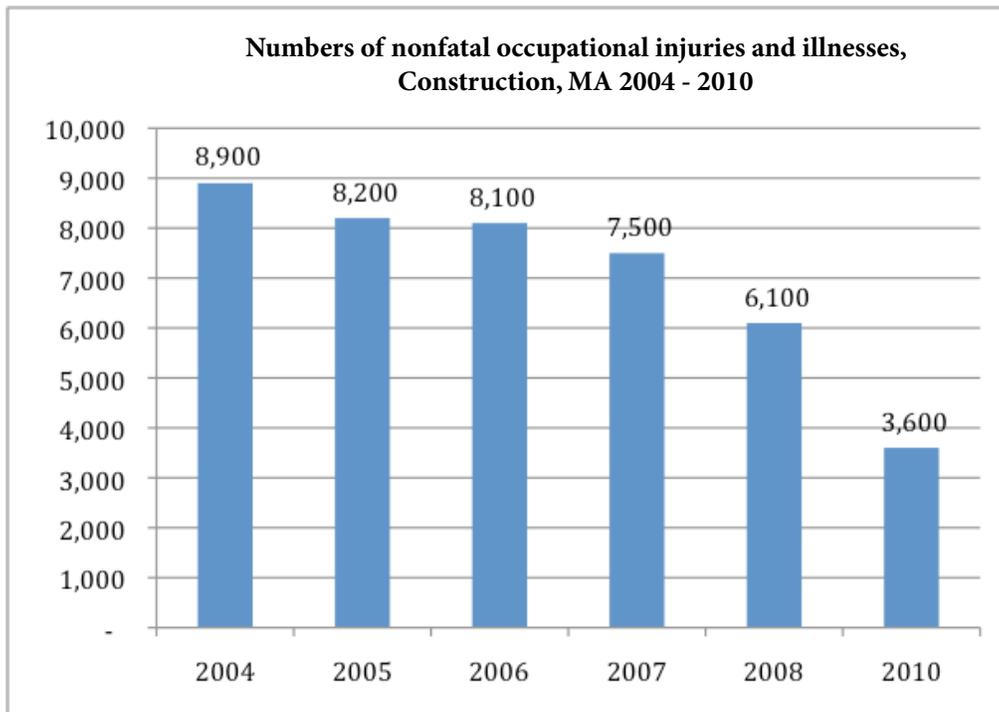
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Non-Fatal Occupational Injury and Illness Data Charts

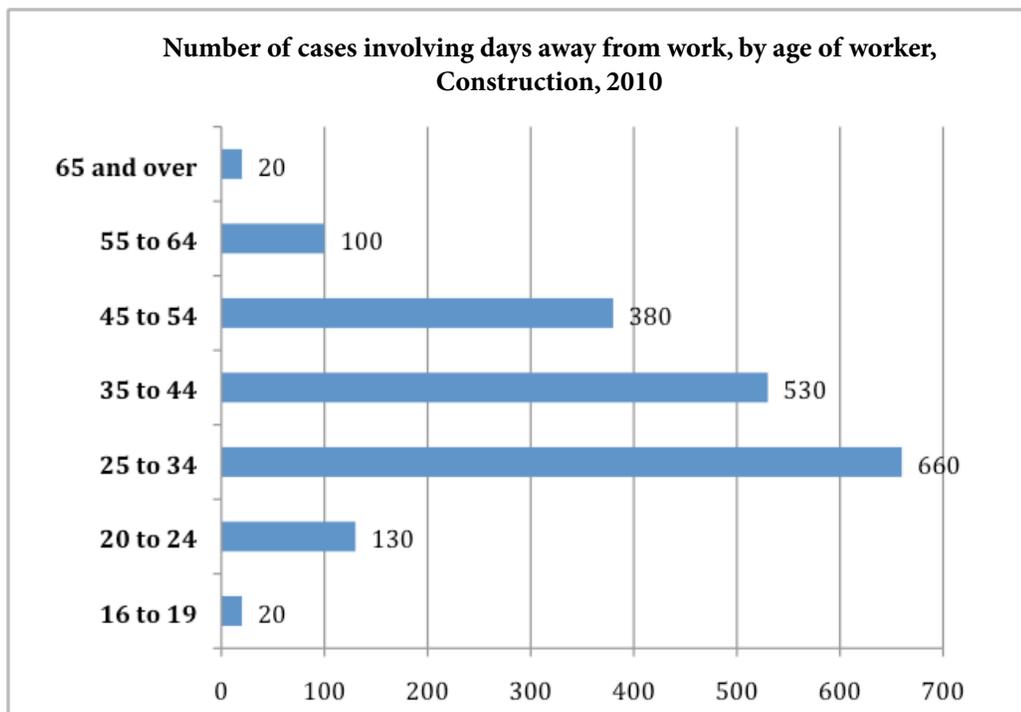
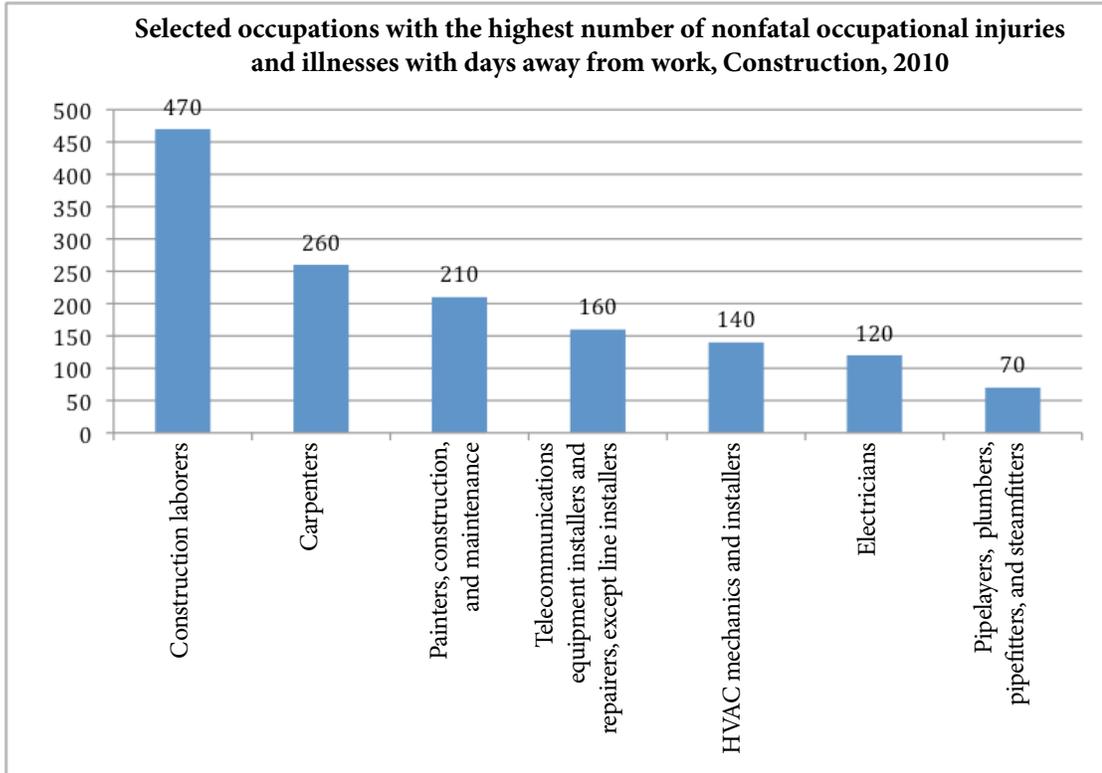
While data were collected in 2009, they were not statistically significant and therefore not publishable. These graphs represent data from 2004 to 2010, excluding 2009.



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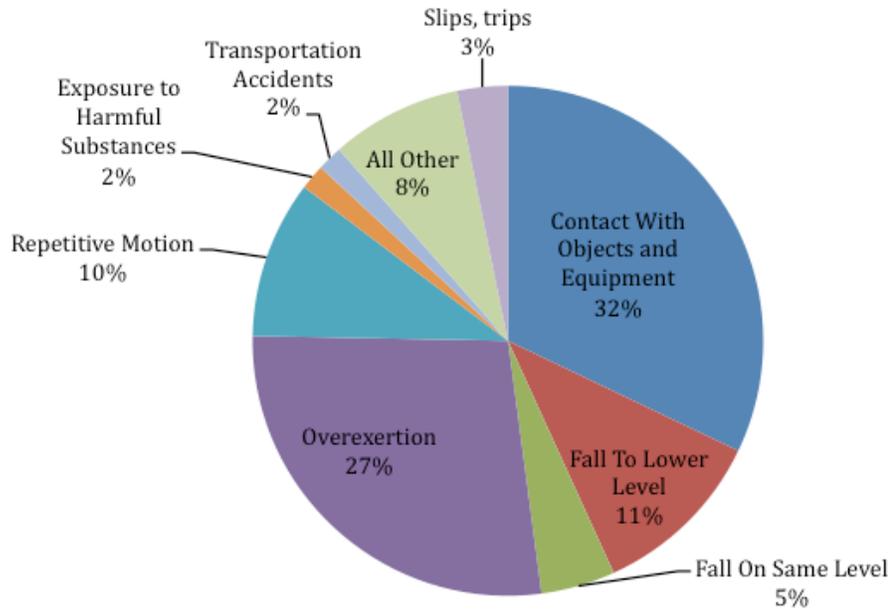


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Percent distribution of nonfatal injuries and illnesses involving days away from work by event or exposure, all private industries, Construction, 2010



Percent distribution of nonfatal injuries and illnesses involving days away from work by source of injury or illness, all private industries, Construction, 2010

