

Confronting the Burden of Injuries - JHSPH OpenCourseWare

Self-Study Survey 4

Reading: [Schoemaker MJ, et al. Non-fatal work related injuries in a cohort of Brazilian steelworkers. Occup Environ Med 2000;57:555-62](#)

1. What are the common risk factors for occupational injuries?
2. How is risk measured?
3. How are injury events measured?
4. Why is time important in this paper for the measurement of risk?
5. What type of policy would help workers on the job reduce their risk?
6. How would you test for an intervention in the steel industry to reduce injuries?

Answer Key

1. a. Younger age; b. Less experience; c. Recently employed; d. Previous history of injuries; e. Type of job (some more likely to lead to injuries)
2. Risk was calculated by using the person years as denominator and the event (injury) as the numerator
3. a. The event (i.e., injuries) was determined from the database of the Occupational Hygiene Department which has all the relevant information such as site and type of injury, days of work lost, etc.; b. Each injury event was considered such that any person may have more than one injury event attributed to them
4. The risk is only valid for the time that the individual is exposed to the risk
5. a. Making the study of injury outcomes a part of the "work" at the plant; b. Institution of quality assurance including better supervision of new and inexperienced workers; c. Further assessing risk factors in workers with previous history of injuries; d. Training of workers in safe working habits; e. Use and promotion of safety measures
6. a. If the intervention is of proven effectiveness, then implementation of the intervention and monitoring of outcomes with time; b. If the implementation is new, then the possibility for a randomized trial exists, i.e., implementation of the intervention in some parts of the industry and not in others and then monitoring the injuries; the "controls" may be given other interventions as well for comparison

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