

WORKER AGE AND TYPE OF INJURY IN ONTARIO CONSTRUCTION

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Purpose and Method

There is a widespread belief that young construction workers are more likely than older workers to suffer non-fatal injuries in the workplace.

To test the validity of this belief, the Construction Safety Association of Ontario (CSAO) conducted a study of all lost-time injuries (LTIs) from 1996 to 2001.

CSAO used LTI data obtained from the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board of Ontario and employment data obtained from Statistics Canada.

LTI data were grouped into three categories (slips and falls, struck by object, and overexertion). Workers were divided into six age groups.



Results

The analysis of the LTI rate (rate of injury per 100 workers) for each age group showed that age is a factor in some non-fatal injuries (see first chart at right).

There is an inverse linear trend for “struck by object” injuries in relation to age (1.42 per 100 workers for the 15-24 age group versus 0.67 per 100 workers for the 55-64 age group).

There is an inverted “U” relationship between age and “overexertion” injuries, with the highest injury rate occurring in the 25-34 age group.

There was no significant trend for “slips and falls” injuries.

The study also examined the gross frequency distribution of injury type by age group (see second chart at right). The findings were similar to the LTI rate analysis, with the exception of “slips and falls” injuries which showed a positive linear trend.

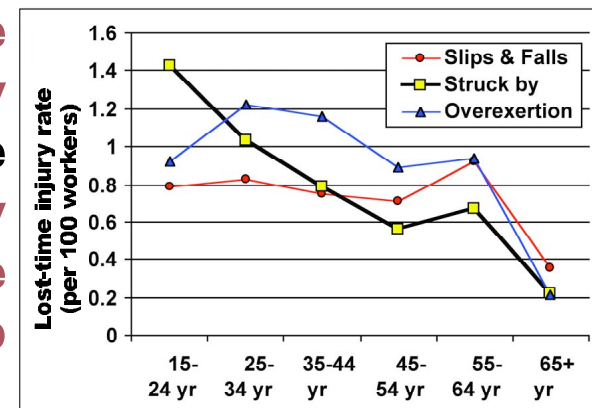
Conclusion

There is a relationship between the age of workers and the types of injuries.

There is a significantly higher risk of “struck by object” injuries in the younger age groups. For older workers, the risk of “slips and falls” is higher.

To prevent injuries in construction, the industry should consider age-specific interventions.

Lost-time injury rate by age group



Lost-time injury distribution by age group

