

Occupational Safety and Health Statistics Bulletin

Issue No. 7 (July 2007)



Occupational Safety and Health Branch, Labour Department



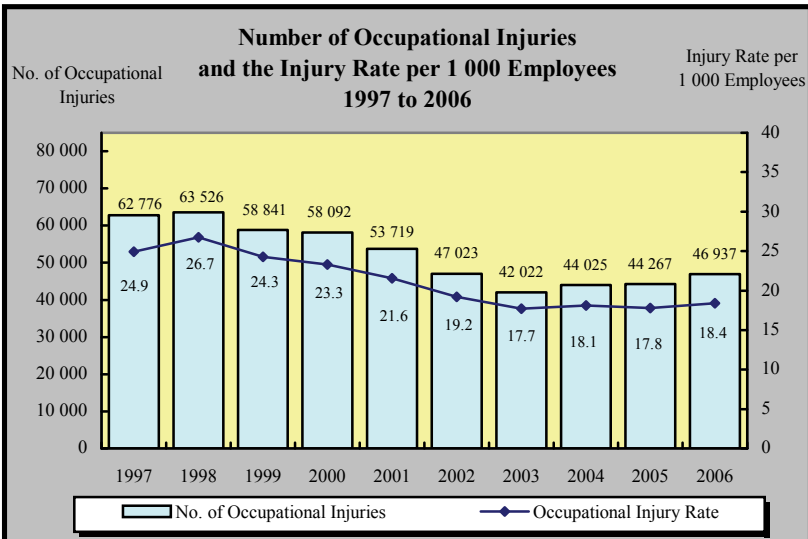
Statistics in this Bulletin provide information, analysis and recent trends on work-related accidents and confirmed cases of occupational disease in Hong Kong with breakdowns by economic sectors and selected industries. Employers, employees and occupational safety and health practitioners may use them to measure the performance in their own organizations against the overall accident rates and the industry average. We hope that such information will help individual establishments manage their occupational safety and health programmes better and improve their performance.

The Labour Department has been making enormous efforts in promoting safety and health in the workplace through legislation, enforcement, promotion and training. These coupled with efforts made by strategic partners such as the Works Branch, the Housing Department and the Occupational Safety and Health Council have enhanced safety awareness of employers and employees and resulted in continual improvements in the overall safety performance in the past decade, especially after 1998.

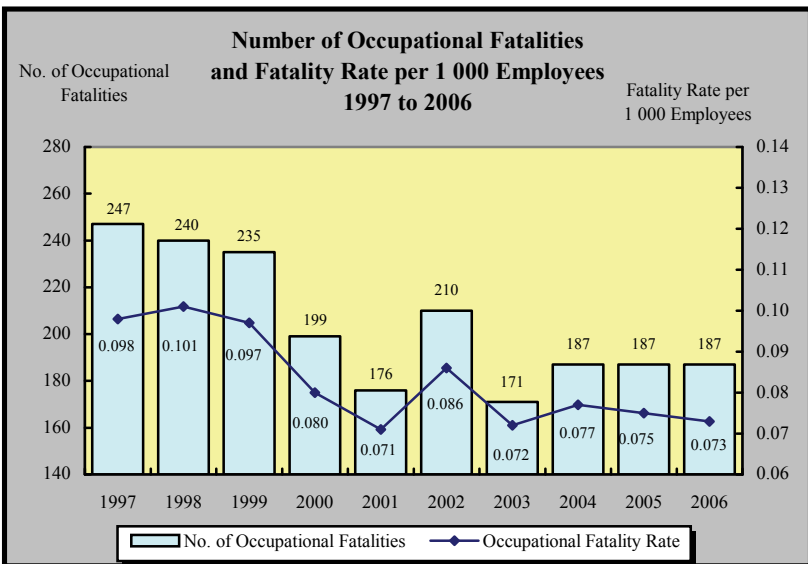
In 2006, the number of occupational injuries in all workplaces stood at 46 937, an increase of 6.0 per cent over 2005, while the injury rate per 1 000 employees increased from 17.8 to 18.4, an increase of 3.3 per cent. The number of industrial accidents in all industries in 2006 stood at 17 286, an increase of 2.2 per cent over 2005, while the accident rate per 1 000 workers increased from 30.6 to 31.5, up by 2.7 per cent.

The high-risk construction industry still recorded the highest number of fatalities and accident rate among various industry sectors. Although the number of industrial accidents decreased from 3 548 to 3 400, down by 4.2 per cent, the accident rate per 1 000 workers increased from 59.9 to 64.3, up by 7.4 per cent as compared with 2005. It is encouraging to note the construction accidents in 2006 dropped by 82.6 per cent when compared to 1998 and the accident rate per 1 000 workers also dropped from 247.9 in 1998 to 64.3 in 2006, down by 74.1 per cent.

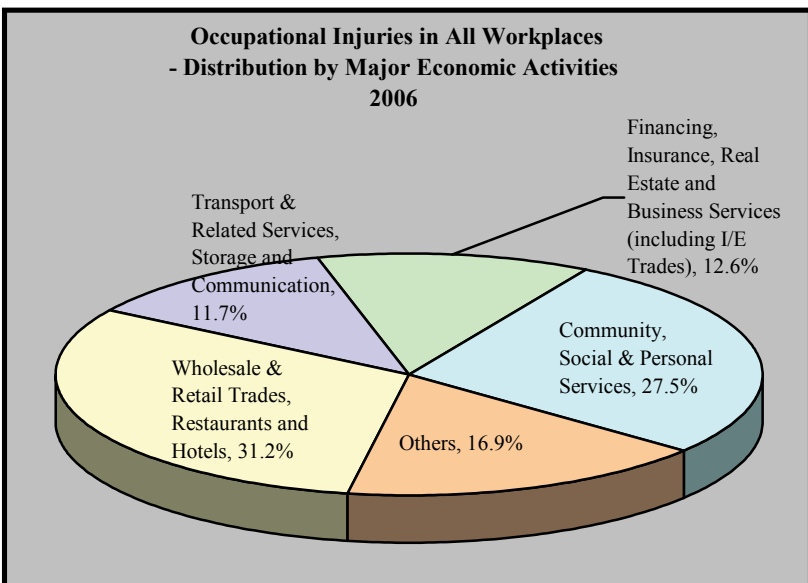
Occupational Injuries



- In 2006, there were 46 937 occupational injuries, higher than 44 267 in 2005 by 6.0%, lower than 62 776 in 1997 by 25.2% and higher than the average of the past five years (44 855) by 4.6%.
- The injury rate per 1 000 employees in 2006 was 18.4, higher than 17.8 in 2005 by 3.3%, lower than 24.9 in 1997 by 26.2% and slightly higher than the average of the past five years (18.2) by 0.9%.

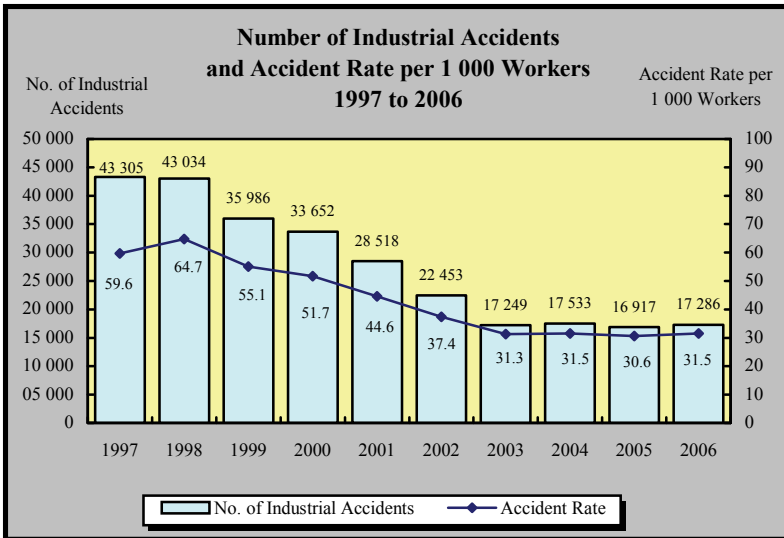


- In 2006, there were 187 occupational fatalities, same as that in 2005, lower than 247 in 1997 by 24.3% and the average of the past five years (188) by 0.7%.
- The occupational fatality rate in 2006 was 0.073 per 1 000 employees, lower than 0.075 in 2005 by 2.6%, 0.098 in 1997 by 25.2% and the average of the past five years (0.077) by 4.3%.



- Of the 46 937 occupational injuries in 2006, over 80% occurred in the following major economic sectors:
- 31.2% Wholesale & Retail Trades, Restaurants and Hotels
 - 27.5% Community, Social & Personal Services
 - 12.6% Financing, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services (including Import & Export Trade)
 - 11.7% Transport & Related Services, Storage and Communication

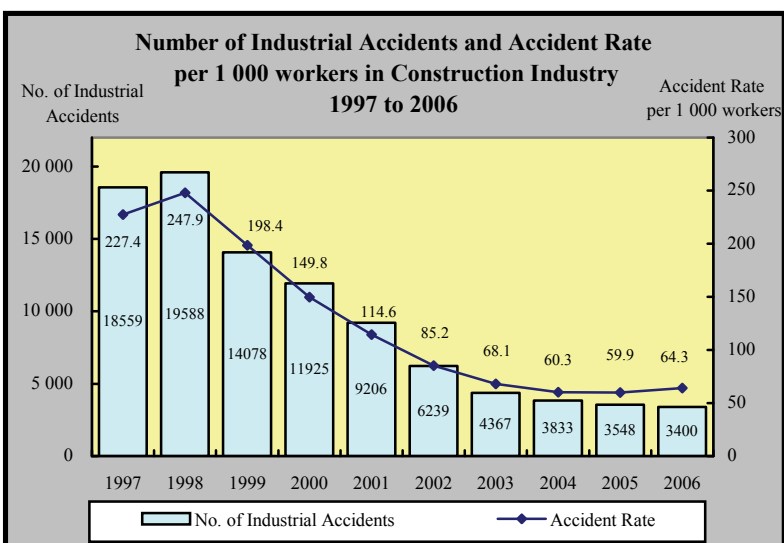
Industrial Accidents



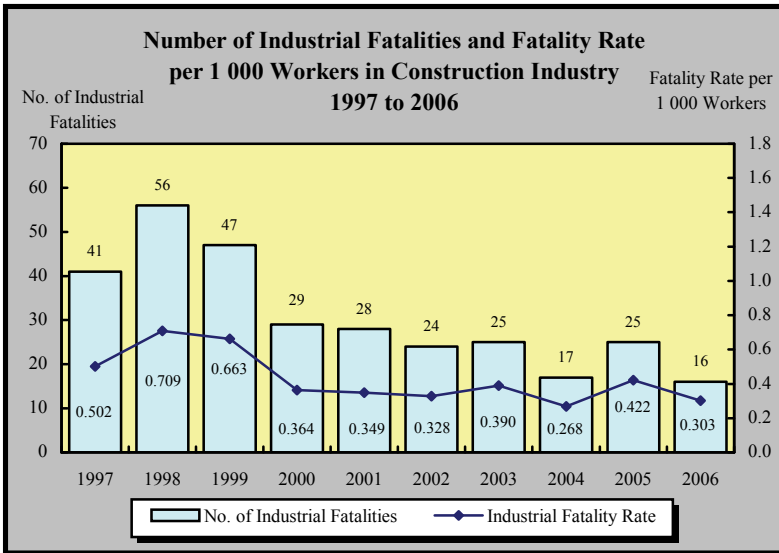
- The number of industrial accidents in 2006 was 17 286, higher than 16 917 in 2005 by 2.2%, lower than 43 305 in 1997 by 60.1% and the average of the past five years (18 288) by 5.5%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers in 2006 was 31.5, higher than 30.6 in 2005 by 2.7%, lower than 59.6 in 1997 by 47.2% and the average of the past five years (32.5) by 3.0%.



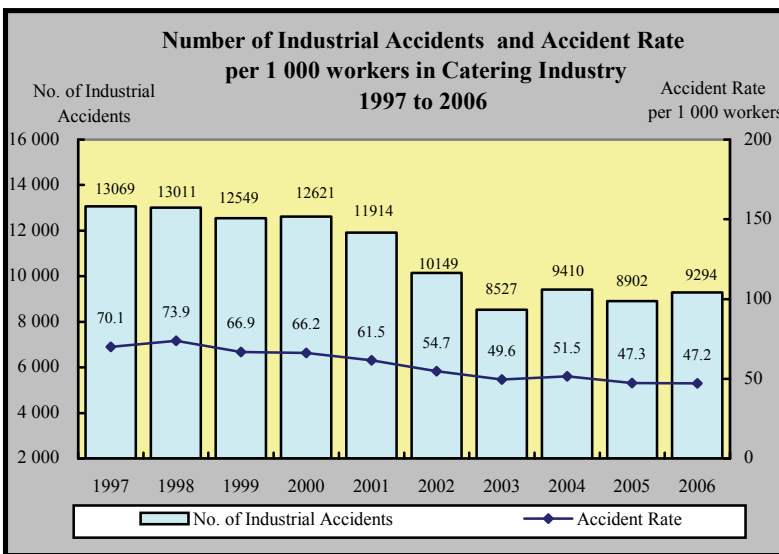
- In 2006 the number of industrial fatalities was 26, lower than 29 in 2005 by 10.3%, 58 in 1997 by 55.2% and the average of the past five years (26) by 1.5%.
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers in 2006 was 0.047, lower than 0.053 in 2005 by 9.8%, 0.080 in 1997 by 40.7%, but slightly higher than the average of the past five years (0.047) by 0.5%.
- On average, about 81% of the industrial fatalities occurred in the construction industry in the past five years.



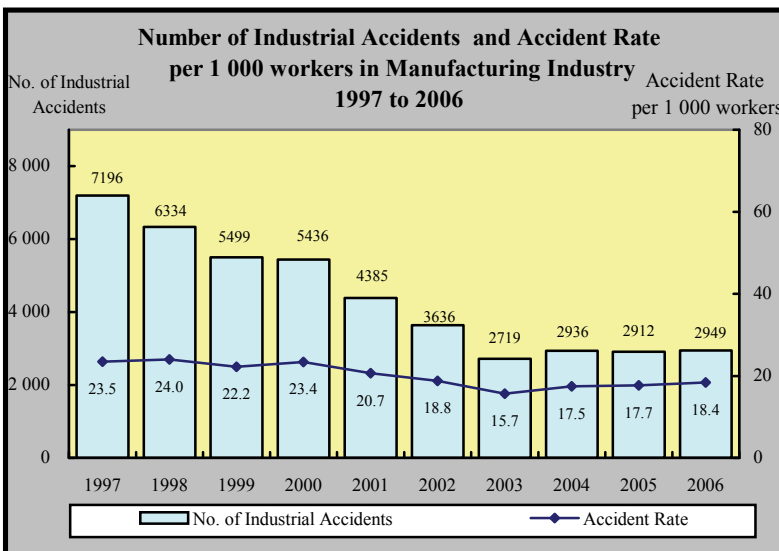
- In 2006, there were 3 400 industrial accidents in the construction industry, lower than 3 548 in 2005 by 4.2%, 18 559 in 1997 by 81.7% and the average of the past five years (4 277) by 20.5%. It was the lowest over the past ten years.
- The accident rate of the construction industry in 2006 was 64.3, higher than 59.9 in 2005 by 7.4%, lower than 227.4 in 1997 by 71.7% and the average of the past five years (67.6) by 4.8%.



- In 2006, the number of industrial fatalities in the construction industry was 16, lower than 25 in 2005 by 36.0%, 41 in 1997 by 61.0% and the average of the past five years (21) by 25.2%. It was the lowest over the past ten years.
- The industrial fatality rate of the construction industry in 2006 was 0.303, lower than 0.422 in 2005 by 28.3%, 0.502 in 1997 by 39.7%, and the average of the past five years (0.342) by 11.5%.



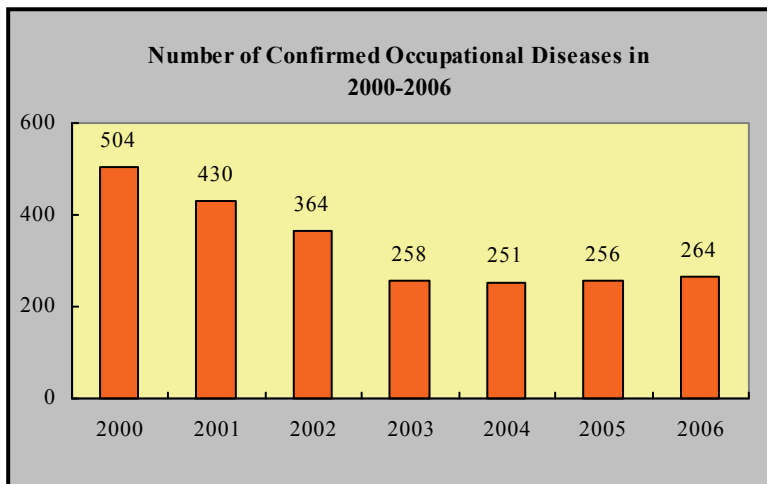
- In 2006, there were 9 294 industrial accidents in the catering industry, higher than 8 902 in 2005 by 4.4%, lower than 13 069 in 1997 by 28.9% but higher than the average of the past five years (9 256) by 0.4%.
- The accident rate of the catering industry in 2006 was 47.2, lower than 47.3 in 2005 by 0.2%, 70.1 in 1997 by 32.7% and the average of the past five years (50.1) by 5.7%.



- In 2006, there were 2 949 industrial accidents in the manufacturing industry, higher than 2 912 in 2005 by 1.3%, lower than 7 196 in 1997 by 59.0% and the average of the past five years (3 030) by 2.7%.
- The accident rate of the manufacturing industry in 2006 was 18.4, higher than 17.7 in 2005 by 3.9%, lower than 23.5 in 1997 by 21.7% but higher than the average of the past five years (17.6) by 4.3%.

Occupational Diseases

Total Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 2000-2006



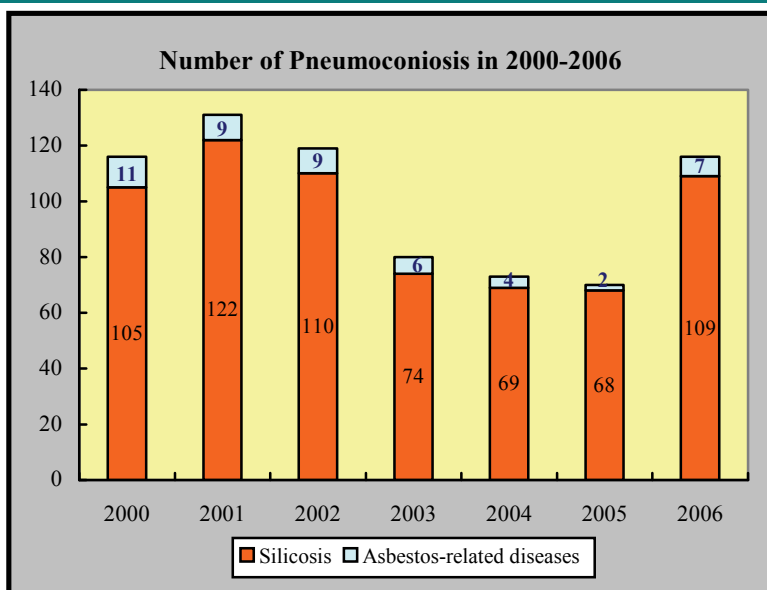
- The number of confirmed occupational disease cases increased slightly from 256 cases in 2005 to 264 cases in 2006.
- There was an apparent increase in the number of cases of silicosis. On the other hand, there was a notable drop in the number of tuberculosis cases.

Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 2006

Occupational Disease	Number
Silicosis	109
Tenosynovitis of Hand or Forearm	63
Occupational Deafness	51
Tuberculosis	18
Occupational Dermatitis	8
Asbestos-related Diseases	7
Gas Poisoning	5
Compressed Air Illness	1
Cadmium Poisoning	1
Carpal Tunnel Syndrome	1
Total	264

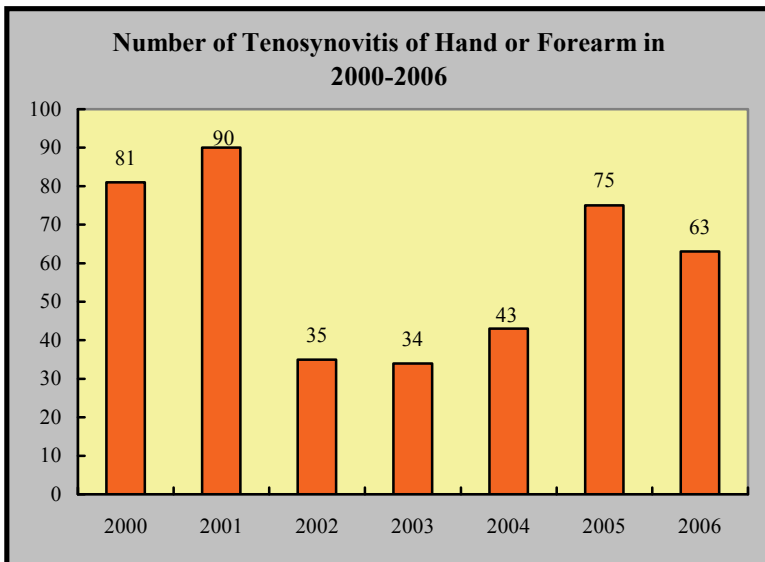
- Silicosis, tenosynovitis of hand or forearm and occupational deafness were the most common occupational diseases confirmed.
- The other more common occupational diseases included tuberculosis and occupational dermatitis.

Pneumoconiosis



- Over 90% of the 109 silicosis cases in 2006 worked in the construction and quarry industries. The other cases were employed in ship building/repairing/ demolition & water transport industry, jade & gem polishing, enamel & ceramics making, and tombstone work.
- The apparent rise in number of silicosis cases in 2006 was likely due to year-on-year fluctuation in the figure as evidenced by the fact that the number of cases did not deviate much from the average yearly number in the past 10 years.
- Out of the 7 cases of asbestos-related diseases, 3 cases were engaged in the ship building, repairing & demolition; 3 cases worked in the construction and quarry industries; and 1 case worked in other industry.

Tenosynovitis of Hand or Forearm

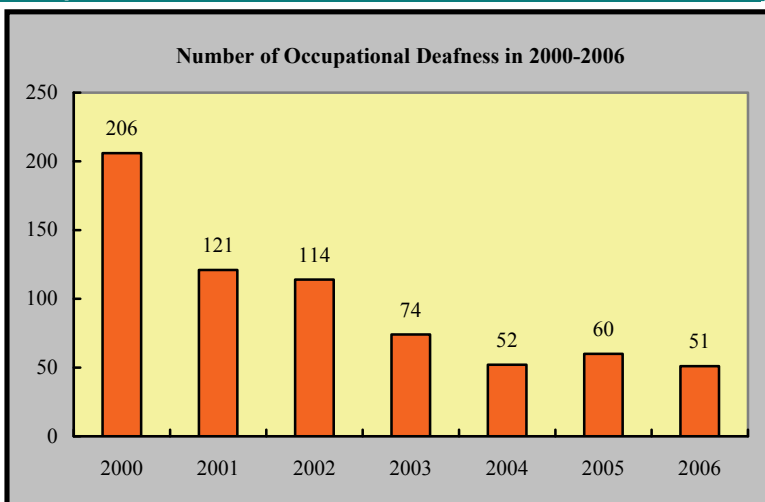


- The occupations of the 63 cases in 2006 included the following: clerical personnel, catering workers, technicians, service personnel (e.g. cleaner and housekeeping services personnel), and general labourers.

- Distribution by industry of the 63 cases in 2006:

- 41% Community, social and personal services
- 28% Wholesales, retail and import/export trades restaurants and hotels
- 13% Financing, insurance and real estate and business services
- 9% Manufacturing
- 9% Others

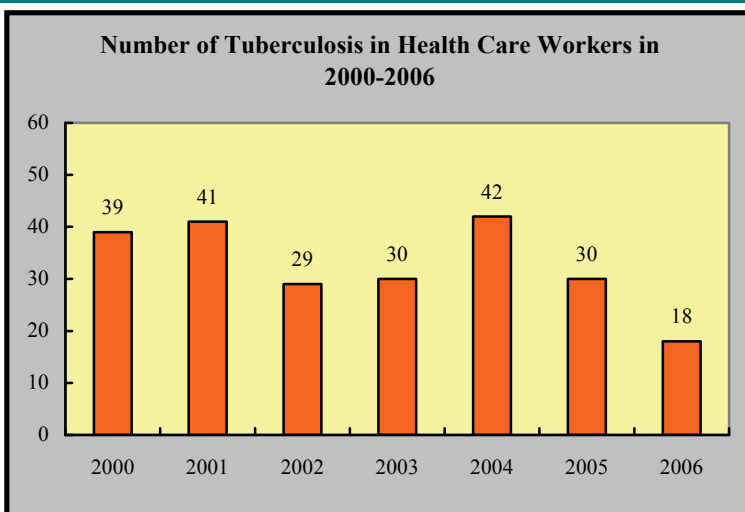
Occupational Deafness



- The 51 cases in 2006 were engaged in the following work:

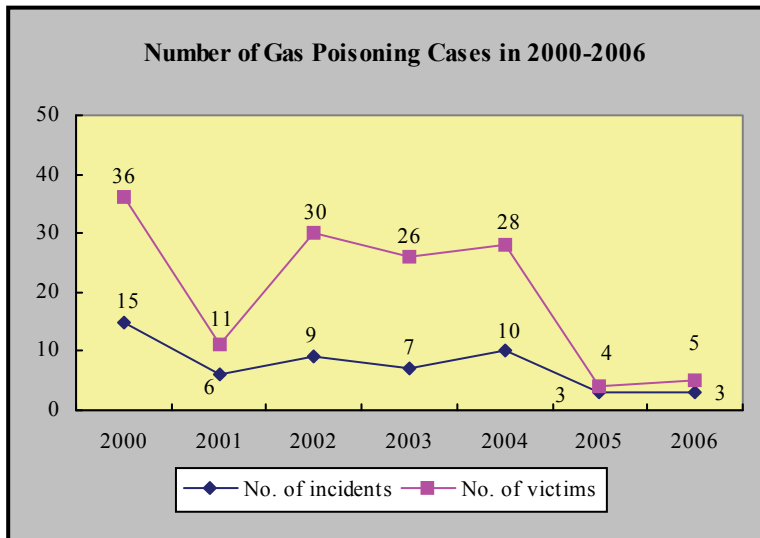
- 55% Rock grinding, chiselling, cutting or percussion
- 14% Working near jet engine/pressurized fuel burners/internal combustion engine
- 12% Metal grinding
- 6% Weaving and Spinning
- 6% Metal Percussion
- 4% Machine operation (such as planning machine, automatic lathes, circular sawing machine, etc.)
- 3% Others

Tuberculosis in Health Care Workers



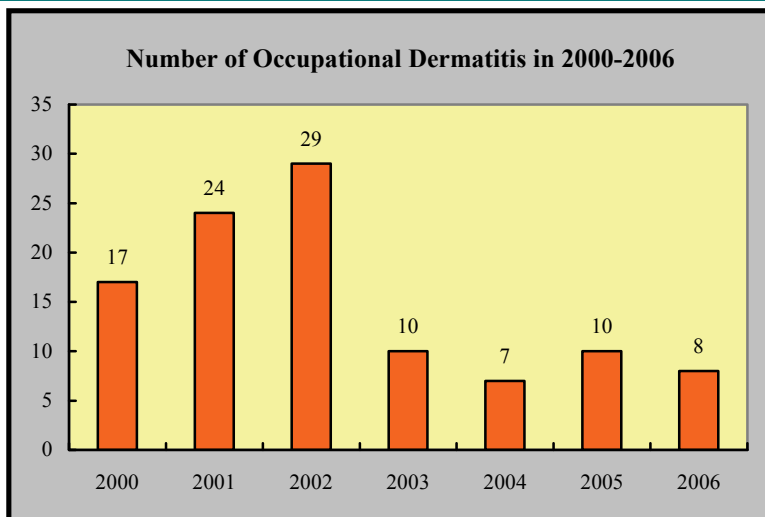
- Among the 18 cases confirmed in 2006, all of them worked in public hospitals and clinics.

Gas Poisoning



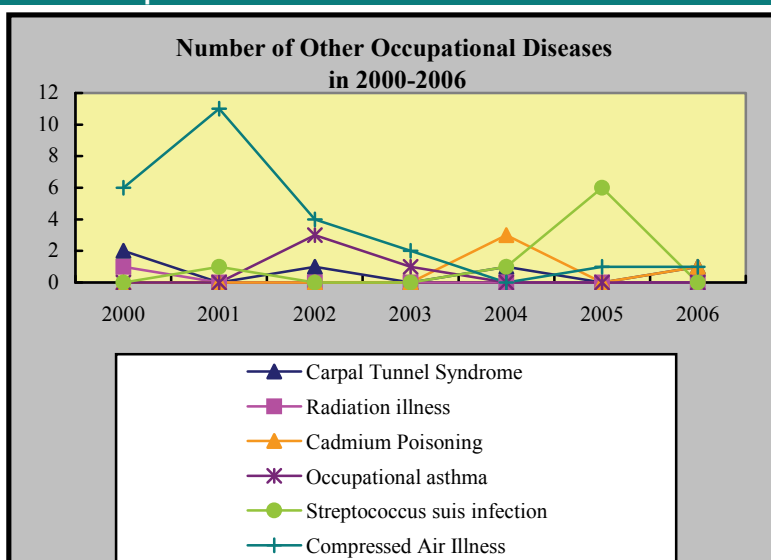
- The 3 incidents of gas poisoning confirmed in 2006 resulted in 3 fatalities and 2 injuries of workers. The noxious agents identified were chlorine and hydrogen sulphide.

Occupational Dermatitis



- The causative agents identified among the 8 cases in 2006 included organic solvents, food additives, paint and cleansing agents, etc.

Other Occupational Diseases



- In 2006, there was 1 confirmed case of cadmium poisoning and the worker worked in the same battery manufacturing company of the 3 similar cases confirmed in 2004. There was 1 confirmed case of compressed air illness. The victim engaged in marine engineering work. Besides, there was 1 case of carpal tunnel syndrome and the worker was engaged in facility management.

Definitions and further information

Occupational injuries (including industrial accidents) are injury cases arising from work accidents, resulting in death or incapacity for work of over three consecutive days, and reported under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance.

Industrial accidents refer to injuries and deaths arising from industrial activities in industrial undertakings as defined under the Factories and Industrial Undertaking Ordinance.

Since 1.1.1998, Labour Department has used the date of occurrence of an injury as the basis for computing work injury statistics instead of the date of reporting in order to reflect more accurately the number of work injuries occurring in the year.

Occupational diseases are the notifiable occupational diseases covered by the Schedule 2 to the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance (Chapter 509) and diseases caused by accidental inhalation of noxious gas at the workplace.

Injury rate per 1 000 employees is calculated by:

$$\frac{\text{Number of occupational injuries}}{\text{Persons engaged in all economic activities}} \times 1\,000$$

Accident rate per 1 000 workers is calculated by:

$$\frac{\text{Number of industrial accidents}}{\text{Persons engaged in relevant industries}} \times 1\,000$$

The components that form the statistics may vary from country to country in respect of the legal requirements in the reporting of accidents and occupational diseases, the economic sectors covered and the definition of workforce. Accident and occupational disease statistics of different countries may not be directly comparable and should therefore be interpreted with care.

**For enquiry or further information relating to the accident statistics of this Bulletin,
please contact the Accident Analysis and Information Division at Tel 2815 0678 or Fax 2541 8537**

**For enquiry or further information relating to the occupational disease statistics of this Bulletin,
please contact the Occupational Medicine Division (Health Promotion) at
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**For complaints regarding unsafe workplaces and practices,
please call the Accident Analysis and Information Division at Tel 2542 2172**

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