

Occupational Safety and Health Statistics Bulletin



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Occupational Safety and Health Branch, Labour Department



This Bulletin provides statistics of work-related accidents and confirmed cases of occupational disease in Hong Kong with information, analysis and trend on various economic sectors and selected industries. Employers, employees and occupational safety and health practitioners, by benchmarking against the overall accident rate and the industry average in this bulletin, can better manage the occupational safety and health programme of their own organisations.

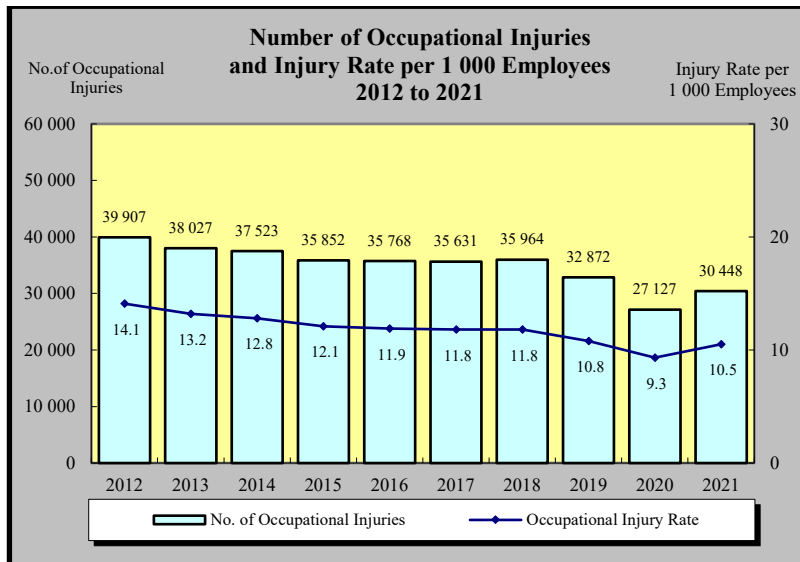
The Labour Department attaches great importance to enhancing occupational safety and health, and is committed to ensuring that risks to the safety of people at work are properly managed and addressed through legislation and enforcement, publicity and promotion as well as education and training. Through the concerted efforts of all parties concerned, including employers, employees, contractors, safety professionals, trade associations, workers' unions, related organisations and government departments, Hong Kong's occupational safety performance has been improving steadily in the past decade.

In 2021, the number of occupational injuries in all workplaces was 30 448, and it was 27 127 in 2020. The injury rate per 1 000 employees was 10.5 in 2021 and it was 9.3 in 2020. The number of industrial accidents in all industries in 2021 was 8 865, and it was 7 202 in 2020. The accident rate per 1 000 workers was 15.2 in 2021 and it was 12.4 in 2020.

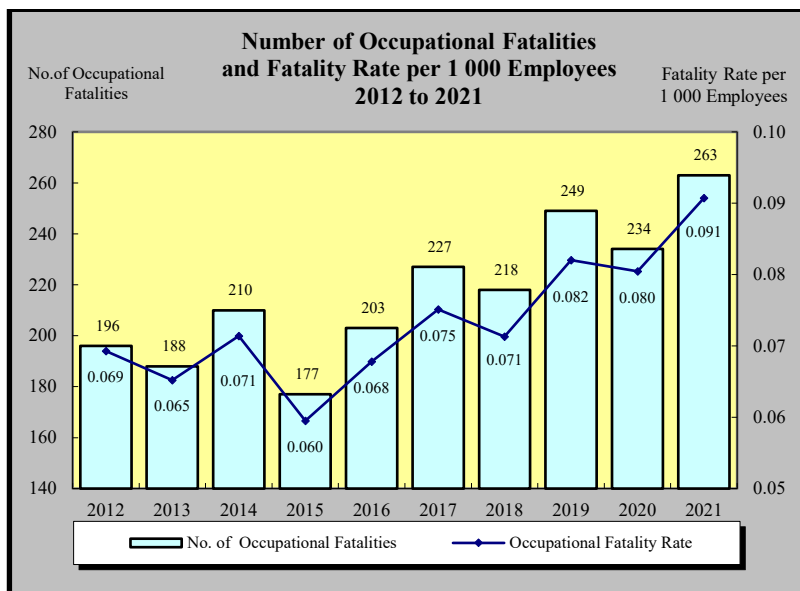
The high-risk construction industry recorded 3 109 industrial accidents in 2021, and it was 2 532 in 2020. The accident rate per 1 000 workers was 29.5 in 2021 while it was 26.1 in 2020. The construction industry still recorded the highest number of fatalities and accident rate among all industry sectors.

The relatively low number of accidents in 2020 may be due to the fact that some workers were affected by factors such as taking of no-pay leave, underemployment, etc. during the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, the number of accidents in 2020 may not reflect the normal occupational safety and health performance of various industries in that year, and is thus not appropriate for comparison with those in other years.

Occupational Injuries

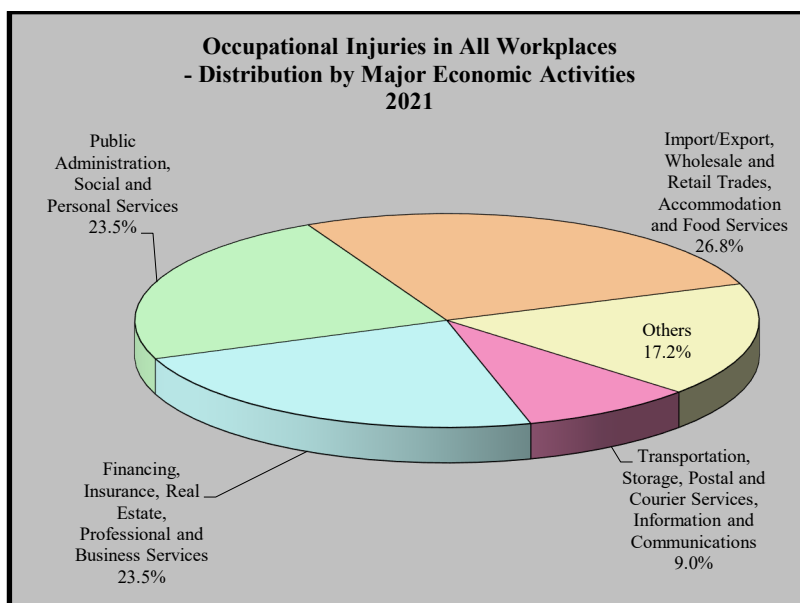


- In 2021, there were 30 448 occupational injuries. It was 27 127 in 2020 and 39 907 in 2012. The average of the past five years was 32 408.
- The injury rate per 1 000 employees in 2021 was 10.5. It was 9.3 in 2020 and 14.1 in 2012. The average of the past five years was 10.8.



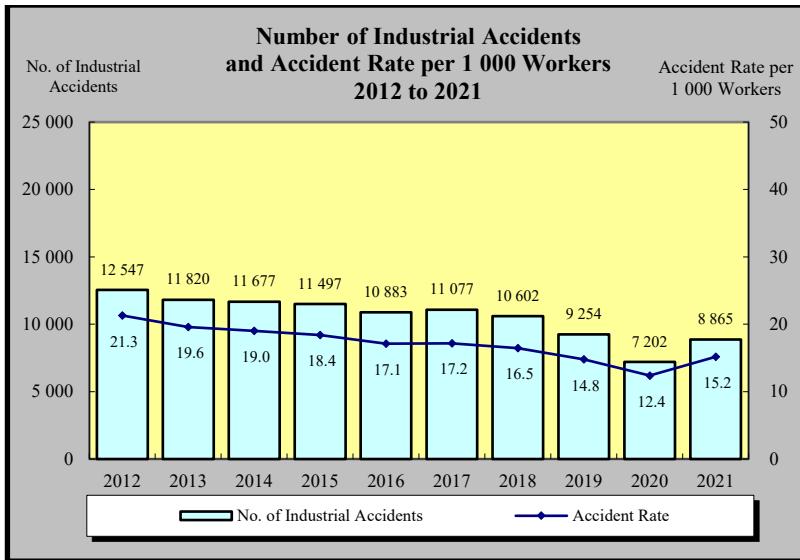
- In 2021, there were 263 occupational fatalities. It was 234 in 2020 and 196 in 2012. The average of the past five years was 238.
- The occupational fatality rate in 2021 was 0.091 per 1 000 employees. It was 0.080 in 2020 and 0.069 in 2012. The average of the past five years was 0.080.

*The occupational fatality rates per 1000 employees are rounded to three decimal places, whereas percentage change is calculated from unrounded figure.



- Of the 30 448 occupational injuries in 2021, over 80% occurred in the following major economic sectors:
 - 26.8% Import/Export, Wholesale and Retail Trades, Accommodation and Food Services
 - 23.5% Public Administration, Social and Personal Services
 - 23.5% Financing, Insurance, Real Estate, Professional and Business Services
 - 9.0% Transportation, Storage, Postal and Courier Services, Information and Communications

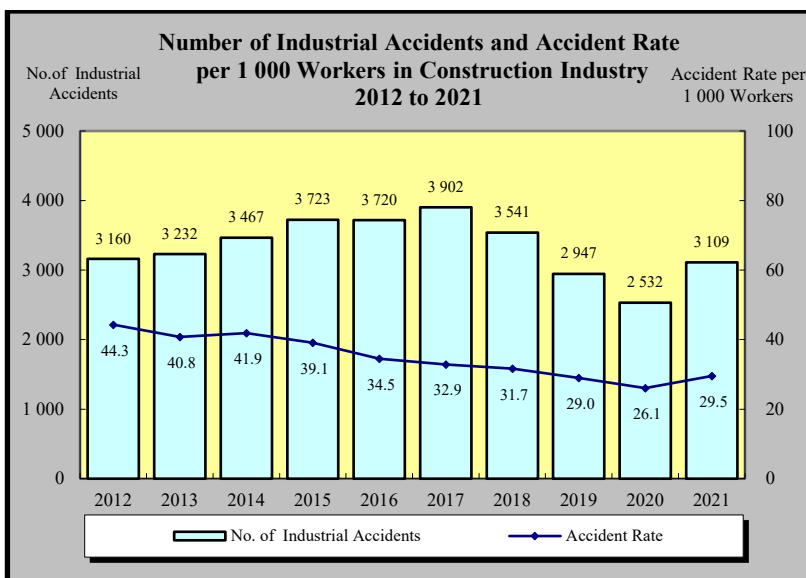
Industrial Accidents



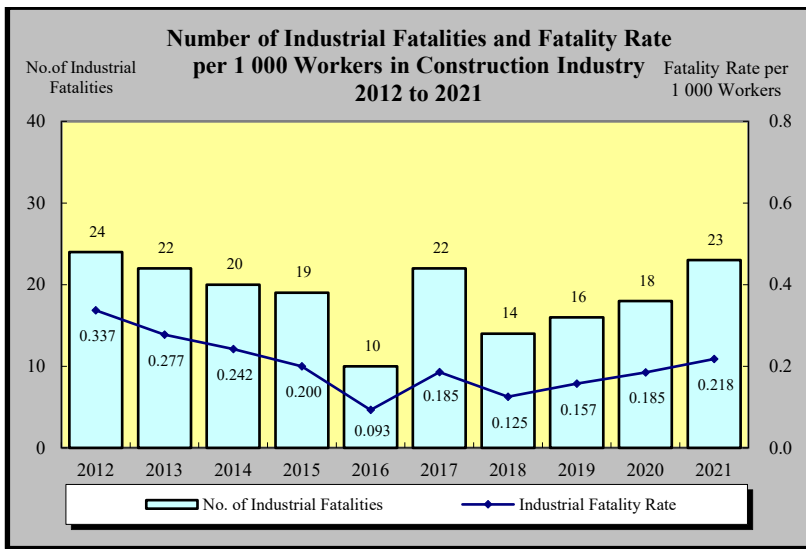
- In 2021, the number of industrial accidents was 8 865. It was 7 202 in 2020 and 12 547 in 2012. The average of the past five years was 9 400.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers in 2021 was 15.2. It was 12.4 in 2020 and 21.3 in 2012. The average of the past five years was 15.2.



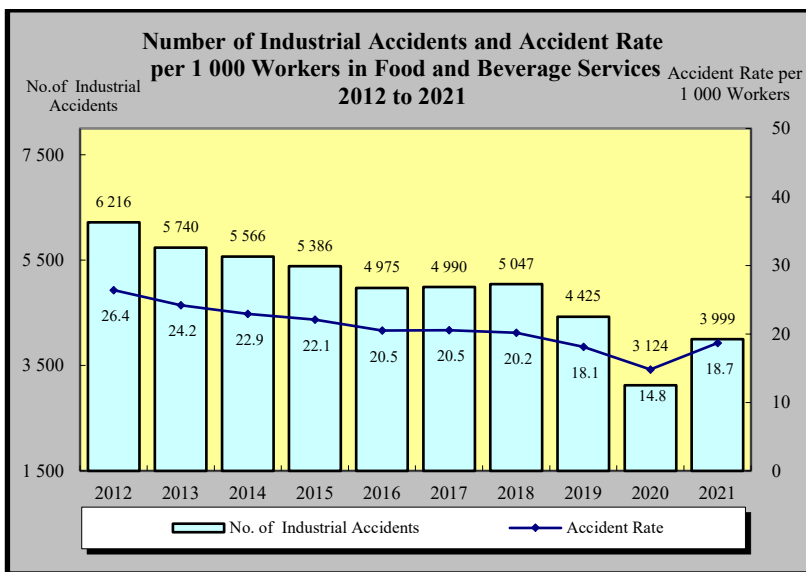
- In 2021, the number of industrial fatalities was 25. It was 21 in 2020 and 29 in 2012. The average of the past five years was 23.
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers in 2021 was 0.043. It was 0.036 in 2020 and 0.049 in 2012. The average of the past five years was 0.037.



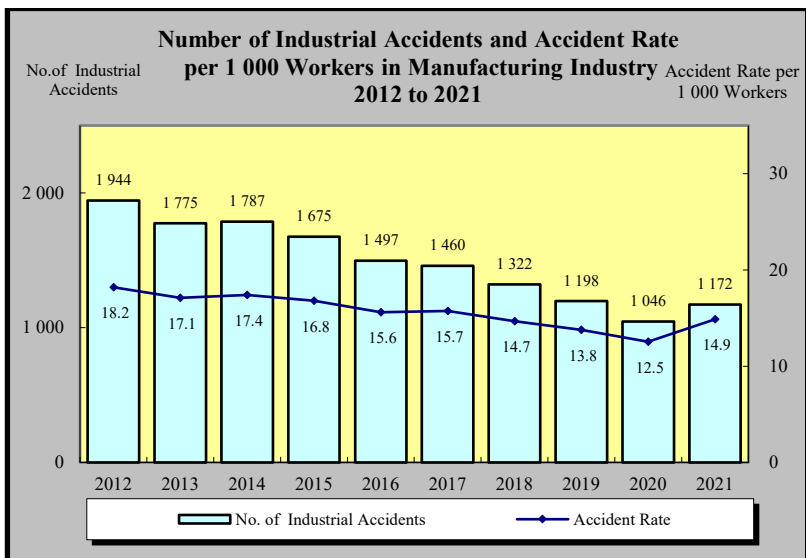
- In 2021, there were 3 109 industrial accidents in the construction industry. It was 2 532 in 2020 and 3 160 in 2012. The average of the past five years was 3 206.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the construction industry in 2021 was 29.5. It was 26.1 in 2020 and 44.3 in 2012. The average of the past five years was 29.8.



- In 2021, the number of industrial fatalities in the construction industry was 23. It was 18 in 2020 and 24 in 2012. The average of the past five years was 19.
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers of the construction industry in 2021 was 0.218. It was 0.185 in 2020 and 0.337 in 2012. The average of the past five years was 0.174.



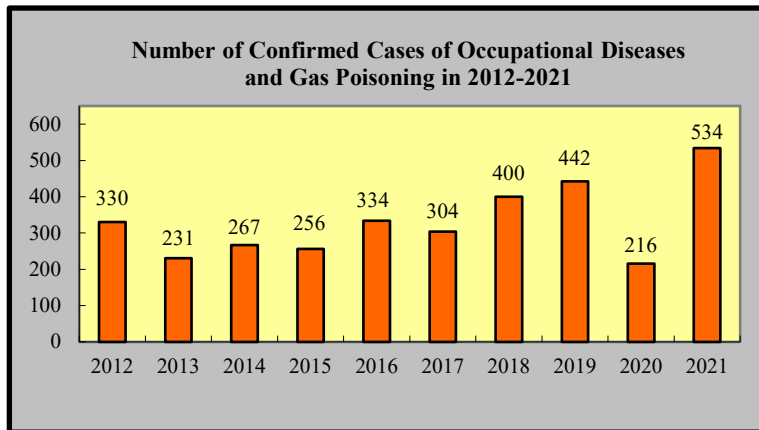
- In 2021, there were 3 999 industrial accidents in the food and beverage services. It was 3 124 in 2020 and 6 216 in 2012. The average of the past five years was 4 317.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the food and beverage services in 2021 was 18.7. It was 14.8 in 2020 and 26.4 in 2012. The average of the past five years was 18.5.



- In 2021, there were 1 172 industrial accidents in the manufacturing industry. It was 1 046 in 2020 and 1 944 in 2012. The average of the past five years was 1 240.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the manufacturing industry in 2021 was 14.9. It was 12.5 in 2020 and 18.2 in 2012. The average of the past five years was 14.3.

Occupational Diseases

Number of Confirmed Cases of Occupational Diseases and Gas Poisoning in 2012-2021



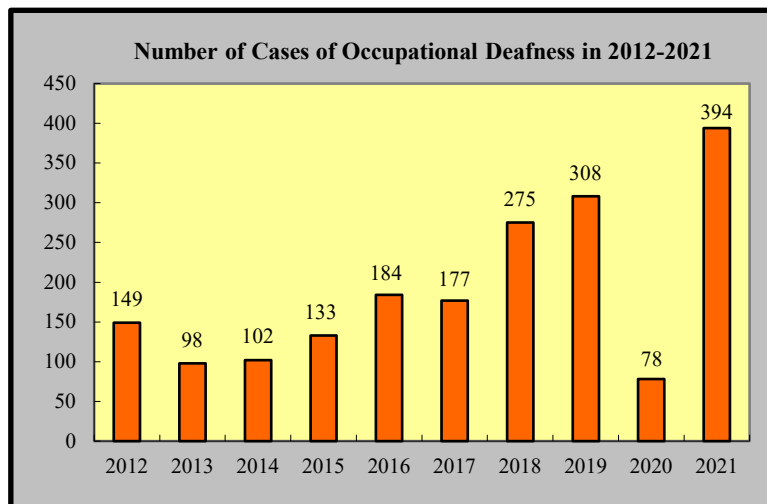
● In 2021, there were 534 confirmed cases of occupational diseases and gas poisoning, compared to 216 in 2020.

Number of Confirmed Cases of Occupational Diseases and Gas Poisoning in 2021

Occupational Disease	Number
Occupational Deafness	394
Silicosis	67
Tenosynovitis of the Hand or Forearm	28
Mesothelioma	20
Tuberculosis	11
Asbestosis	7
Occupational Dermatitis	1
Compressed Air Illness	1
Gas Poisoning	5
Total	534

● The most common occupational diseases confirmed in 2021 were occupational deafness, silicosis and tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm.

Occupational Deafness

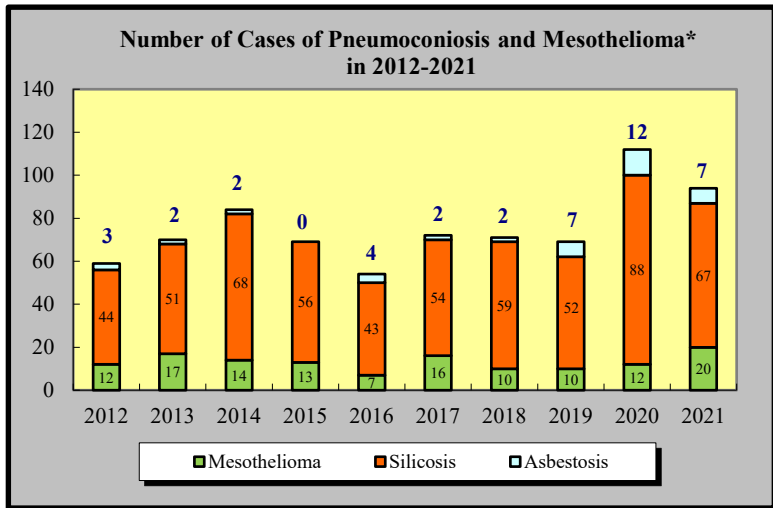


Please refer to the Occupational Deafness Compensation Board for detailed statistical information on occupational deafness.

● There were 394 cases of occupational deafness in 2021. Cases were engaged in the following work#:

- 59.7% Rock grinding, chiselling, cutting or percussion
- 20.1% Working near internal combustion engines, turbines, pressurised fuel burners or jet engines
- 11.7% Metal grinding
- 4.6% Pile driving
- 1.8% High speed web-fed offset printing
- 0.8% Using routing, planing, circular sawing machine or automatic lathes
- 0.5% Car body repair, or of making metal articles by manual hammering
- 0.2% Using machines engaged in weaving fibres
- 0.2% Metal percussion
- 0.2% Using paper folding machines
- 0.2% Abrasive blasting operations

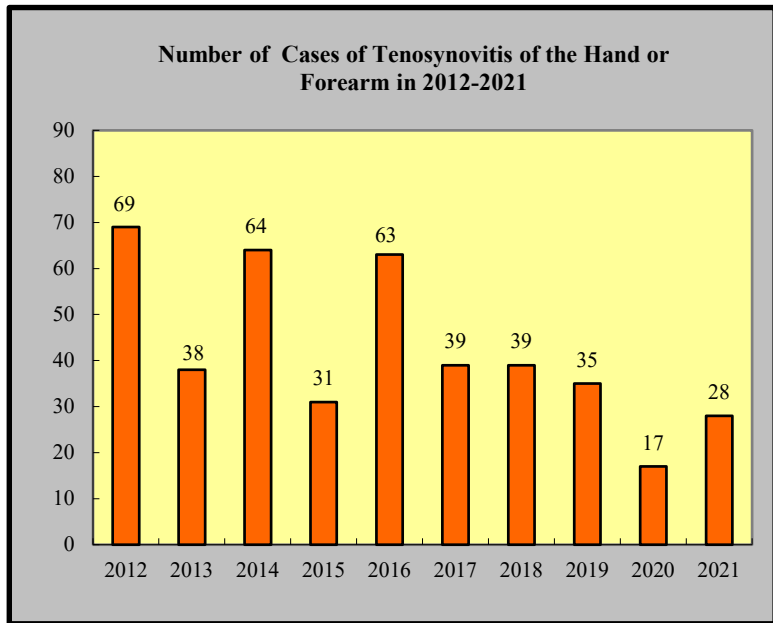
Pneumoconiosis and Mesothelioma



* Please refer to the Pneumoconiosis Compensation Fund Board for detailed statistical information on pneumoconiosis (including silicosis and asbestosis) and mesothelioma.

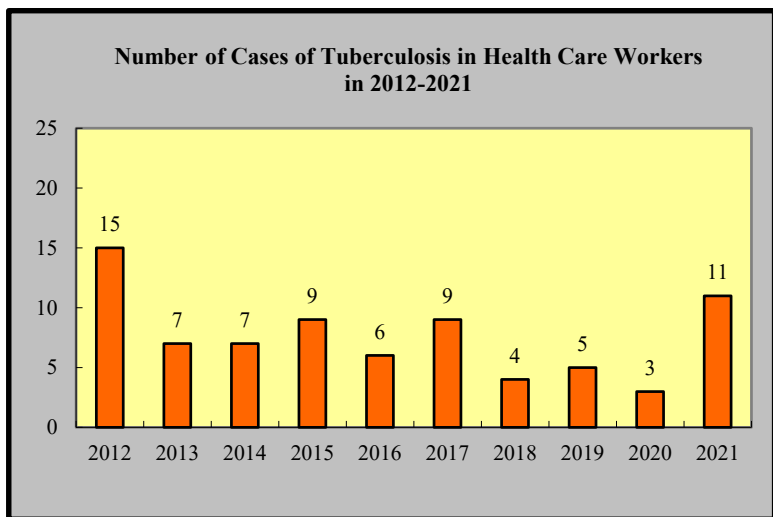
- In 2021, there were 67 confirmed cases of silicosis*.
- Those silicosis cases had history of exposure to silica dust in their occupations many years ago. The latent period of silicosis could be as long as 10 to 20 years.
- There were 7 confirmed cases of asbestosis* in 2021.
- In 2021, there were 20 confirmed cases of mesothelioma*.
- Occupational exposure to asbestos dust could cause mesothelioma and the average latent period of the disease could be as long as 30 to 40 years.

Tenosynovitis of the Hand or Forearm



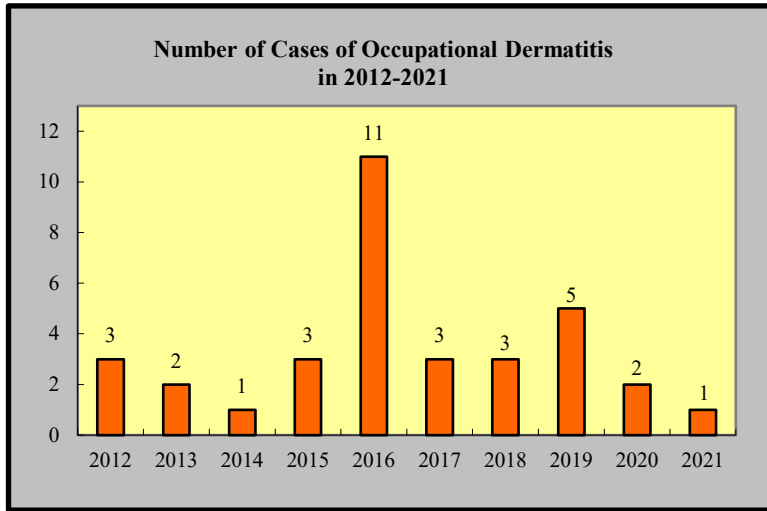
- In 2021, there were 28 confirmed cases of tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm. The disease was common among clerical support workers, services and sales workers and elementary occupations, etc.
- Distribution by industry of the 28 cases in 2021:
 - 60.7% Public administration, and social and personal services
 - 14.2% Accommodation and food services
 - 10.7% Transportation, storage, postal and courier services
 - 3.6% Professional and business services
 - 3.6% Import/export, wholesale and retail trades
 - 3.6% Construction
 - 3.6% Agriculture, forestry and fishing

Tuberculosis in Health Care Workers



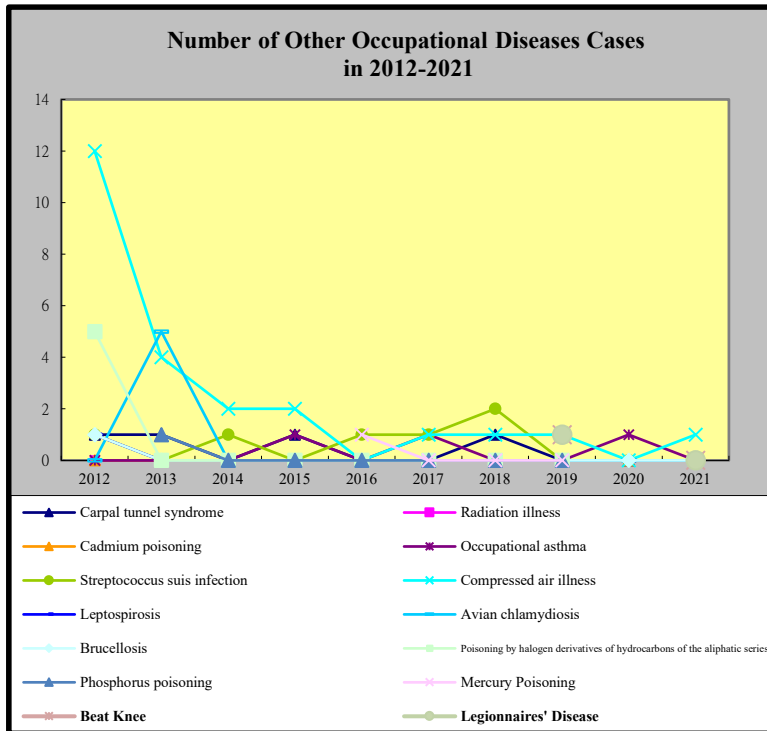
- In 2021, there were 11 confirmed cases of tuberculosis in health care workers, including ten nurses and a personal care assistant.

Occupational Dermatitis



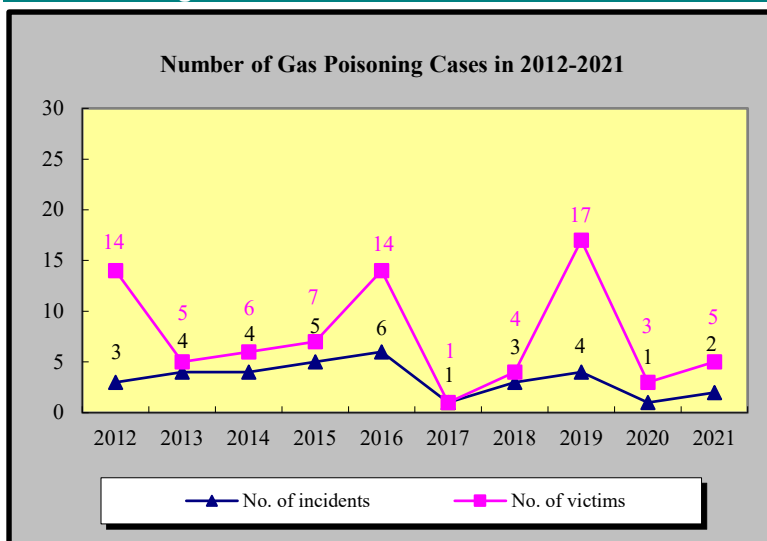
- There was 1 case of occupational dermatitis in 2021 that was related to work process in a fast food restaurant.

Other Occupational Diseases



- In 2021, there was 1 confirmed case of compressed air illness and the worker was a healthcare worker.

Gas Poisoning



- In 2021, there were 5 confirmed gas poisoning cases involving 2 incidents. The noxious chemical involved in one of the accidents was thiourea dioxide, while the other accident was considered to be caused by toxic gases such as hydrogen sulphide in the sewers.

Definitions and further information

Occupational injuries refer to injury cases in workplaces reported under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance, resulting in death or incapacity for work of over three days.

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

Occupational diseases refer to confirmed cases of occupational diseases and gas poisoning reported under the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance, the Employees' Compensation Ordinance, the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance and the Pneumoconiosis and Mesothelioma (Compensation) Ordinance.

Injury rate per 1 000 employees is calculated by:

$$\frac{\text{Number of occupational injuries}}{\text{*Employment size}} \times 1\,000$$

Accident rate per 1 000 workers is calculated by:

$$\frac{\text{Number of industrial accidents}}{\text{*Employment size}} \times 1\,000$$

**Figures of employment size are based on the Quarterly Report of Employment and Vacancies Statistics published by the Census and Statistics Department.*

The statistics are compiled based on Hong Kong Standard Industrial Classification Version 2.0.

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
Tel 2852 4041 or Fax 2581 2049.**

**If you have any complaint about unsafe operations and environments at workplaces,
please call the Labour Department's occupational safety and health complaint hotline at Tel 2542 2172
or fill out and submit an online occupational safety and health complaint form on our website.**

All complaints will be treated in the strictest confidence.



Online OSH Complaint Form

Email : enquiry@labour.gov.hk