Teen Worker Injury Statistics

- Approximately 1.6 million teens (aged 15–17) in the United States work. About 50% of 10th graders and 75% of 12th graders have jobs.

- A teenager in the U.S. is injured on the job every 9 minutes.

- On average, each year
  - 59,800 workers younger than 18 are sent to the ER for job-related injuries, but actual injury statistics are probably much higher.
  - 37 workers younger than 18 die on the job.
  - Young workers are twice as likely to be injured than adult workers.

CDC 2010  [www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/youth/chartpackage.html](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/youth/chartpackage.html)  [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5915a2.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5915a2.htm)

Mallory’s Story

- What are some factors that contributed to this incident?
- What could have kept Mallory from being hurt?
- How might this affect Mallory’s future life choices?
Finding Hazards

All workplaces have hazards that can be identified and corrected.

What is a Job Hazard?
A job hazard is anything at work that can hurt you either physically or mentally.

4 categories:
- Safety
- Chemical
- Biological
- Other health hazards
Job Hazards

- **Safety hazards** can cause immediate injuries
  - Knives, hot grease

- **Chemical hazards** are gases, vapors, liquids, or dusts that can harm your body
  - Cleaning products, pesticides

- **Biological hazards** are living things that can cause sickness or disease, such as:
  - HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, tuberculosis
  - Bacteria, viruses

Job Hazards (continued)

- **Other health hazards** are other harmful things that can injure you or make you sick. Some are not obvious because they may not cause health problems right away.
  - Noise, radiation, repetitive movements, heat, cold, stress, violence

- **Can you think of other job hazards?**
Making the Job Safer

Controlling Job Hazards

- **Remove the Hazard**
  (for example, use safer chemicals, use a machine guard)

- **Improve Work Policies & Procedures**
  (for example, conduct training, assign enough people to do the job)

- **Wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**
  (for example, wear gloves, use a respirator)
Controlling Job Hazards

- **Remove the Hazard = the best way**
  - Example: Buy precut vegetables so that employees don’t have to use knives.

- **Good safety policies**
  - Examples: Train workers, give regular breaks, assign enough people to do the job safely

- **Personal protective equipment (PPE) = the least effective (but use when provided!)**
  - Examples: Gloves, steel-toed shoes, hard hats, respirators, safety glasses, hearing protectors, lab coats or smocks

Removing or Reducing Hazards

**Jasmin’s Story**

**Job:** Hospital dishwasher

**Hazard:** Chemical dishwashing solution

**Injury:** Chemical burn to the eye

*What solutions can you think of that might prevent this injury from happening again?*
Know Your Rights and Responsibilities

Who Protects Teen Workers?

- Employers
- Teens
- Government agencies
  - The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
  - Federal and State Departments of Labor
  - U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)
Are You a Teen Worker?

- What is the minimum wage in our state?
- If you are under 18 years old do you need a work permit before you start a new job?
- During the school year, how late can 14- and 15-year-olds work at night?
- During the school year, how late can 16- and 17-year-olds work at night?

Being Prepared, Taking Action
What is an emergency at work?

An unplanned event that harms or threatens employees, customers, or the public; that shuts down business operations; or that causes physical or environmental damage.

Emergencies at Work - Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Man Made</th>
<th>Natural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toxic releases</td>
<td>Hurricanes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power outages</td>
<td>Blizzards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fires</td>
<td>Wild fires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical spills</td>
<td>Tornadoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrorism</td>
<td>Ice storms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explosions</td>
<td>Earthquakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence</td>
<td>Floods</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Speaking Up

- Never feel bad about seeking help or asking questions. Trust your instincts!

- Don’t be silent when confronted with a problem at work. It could get worse, and you or a co-worker could get hurt!

- It is illegal for an employer to fire someone for reporting work hazards or other safety problems at work!

What Do OSH Professionals Do?

Occupational safety and health (OSH) professionals:
- Help prevent harm to workers, the environment, and the general public.
- Design safe workspaces, study or treat work-related diseases, inspect machines, or test air quality.

For a captioned version of this video visit: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0k7GPWBoCa0
Safety Matters: Summing Up (1)

- Everyone is at risk for being hurt on the job, and all jobs have hazards.
- Young workers are more likely than any other age group to get hurt or killed at work.
- Workplace injuries are NOT accidents. They can be predicted and prevented.

Safety Matters: Summing Up (2)

- You need to know about the types of hazards so you can recognize potential health and safety problems.
- The best way to prevent a workplace injury or illness is to remove the hazard.
- If this can’t be done, then control the hazard through work policies, procedures or the use of PPE.
Safety Matters: Summing Up (3)

- OSHA enforces health and safety laws.
- Employers are responsible for providing a safe and healthy workplace, safety training and safety equipment.
- Young people should know their rights in the workplace but they also need to know their responsibilities, like reporting hazards and following all safety rules.

Safety Matters: Summing Up (4)

- Remember to trust your instincts and don’t be afraid to speak up if you have a problem at work!
- A work injury (or illness) can change your life forever!
- Learn about the risks and hazards at work and take action to protect yourselves and others.
Stay Safe & Healthy at Work!

The skills you’ve learned in the NIOSH/AIHA Safety Matters training will help keep you safe and healthy on the job, now and throughout your work lives.

Thank you!