

# Indicator #22: Work-related severe traumatic injury hospitalizations

## Maryland State Occupational Health Indicators

### About this Indicator:

#### Why is this Indicator Important?

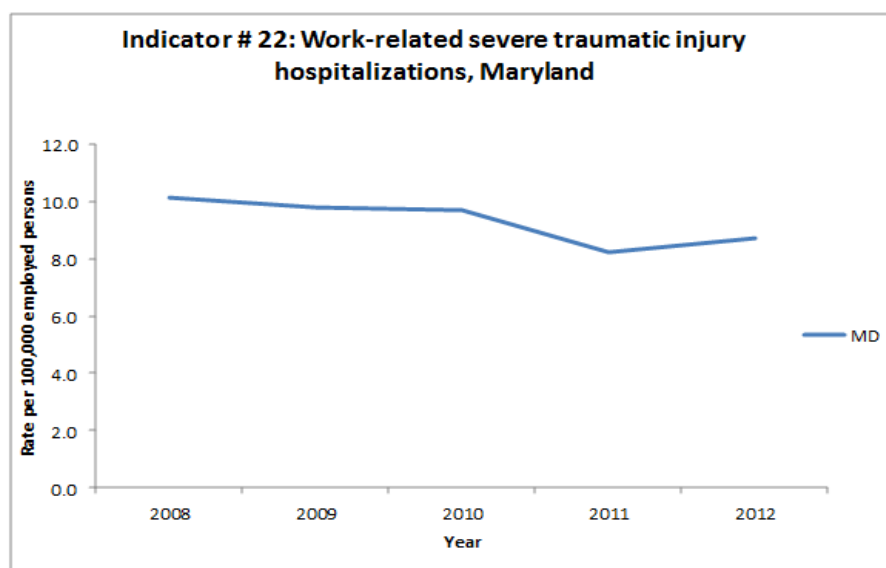
Acute work-related trauma is a leading cause of death and disability for U.S. workers. In 2010, more than 4,500 U.S. workers died from occupational injuries. Severe traumatic injury can lead to long-term pain and disability and is very costly for workers' compensation systems and society as a whole.

#### Limitation of Indicator:

Hospital discharge records are only available for non-federal, acute care hospitals. Many individuals with work-related injuries do not file for workers' compensation or fail to recognize work as the cause of their injury. Self-employed individuals are not covered by state workers' compensation systems.

For more information on this indicator or occupational health in Maryland, visit the DHMH website.

► Acute work-related trauma is a leading cause of death and disability among U.S. workers. Changes in hospitalization practices and workers' compensation coverage/reporting may increasingly reduce capture of minor injuries but have little effect on severe injuries. Use of a severity threshold can decrease the impact of changing utilization and service delivery patterns on observed injury trends. When hospitalization data are used to calculate occupational injury trends in the absence of severity restriction, observed trends are biased downward. Accurate characterization of injury trends is critical to understanding how we are doing as a nation with regard to occupational injury prevention.



**Indicator # 22: Work-related severe traumatic injury hospitalizations, Maryland**

Year	Number	Rate*
2008	292	10.2
2009	276	9.8
2010	273	9.7
2011	236	8.2
2012	253	8.7

\* Rate per 100,000 employed persons

**Data Source for this Indicator:** Hospital discharge data (numerator); BLS Current Population Survey Data (denominator)