



INDEVA[®]

INTELLIGENT DEVICES FOR HANDLING



Ergonomics Research

Summary Report

Work-related Musculoskeletal Disorder (WRMSDs) Statistics, Great Britain, 2015



WARNING! WRMSDs ACCOUNTING FOR 44% OF WORKFORCE ILL-HEALTH IN THE UK WARNING! WRMSDs ACCOUNTING FOR 44% OF WORKFORCE ILL-HEALTH IN THE UK

WRMD FACTS!

To date WRMSDs in Great Britain remains an ill health related condition that places significant burdens on employers and employees accounting for **44% of all work related ill-health.**

The total number of WRMSD cases (prevalence) in 2014/15 was 553,000 out of a total of 1,243,000 for all **work related illnesses, 44% of the total.**

The number of new cases of WRMSDs (incidence) in 2014/15 was 169,000, an **incidence rate of 530 cases per 100,000 people.**

An estimated 9.5 million working days were lost due to WRMSDs, an average of 17 days lost for each case. This represents **40% of all days lost due to work related ill-health in 2014/15.**

With the highest rates of WRMSDs averaged over the 3 year period, 2011/12, 2013/14 and 2014/15 are **agriculture and forestry, construction, transport and storage and public administration and defence.**

The age ranges 45-54 and the 55 years plus age range had significantly higher rates at 1590 and **2320 cases per 100,000 people employed,** compared with 1610 cases as a whole across all the age ranges.

Males in the 45-54 and the 55 years plus category had rates significantly higher than all males as a whole with rates of 2170 and 2200 respectively per 100,000 people employed compared with 1650 cases per 100,000 persons employed.

According to the HSE's 2015 WRMSDs study, work-related Musculoskeletal Disorders (WRMSDs) account for 44% of workforce ill-health in the UK. Ensuring that the right equipment and procedures are in place could be vital to guaranteeing a good standard of health and safety in your workplace.

We invite you to review a summary of the statistics mentioned within this document and look forward to assisting you with any questions or queries you may have.

At Indeva, our industrial manipulators are designed and manufactured with ergonomics in mind. It is our mission to provide businesses with state-of-the-art material handling equipment which can improve productivity, as well as profitability and employee well-being.

To ensure that we fulfil our mission, our team work hard to identify issues within workplaces up and down the country, which may affect health and safety and overall productivity. And with industries with physical work such as the construction and skilled trade having the highest rates of WRMSDs, you should probably think about how your workplace environment effects ongoing operations.



WARNING! WRMSDs ACCOUNTING FOR 44% OF WORKFORCE ILL-HEALTH IN THE UK WARNING! WRMS

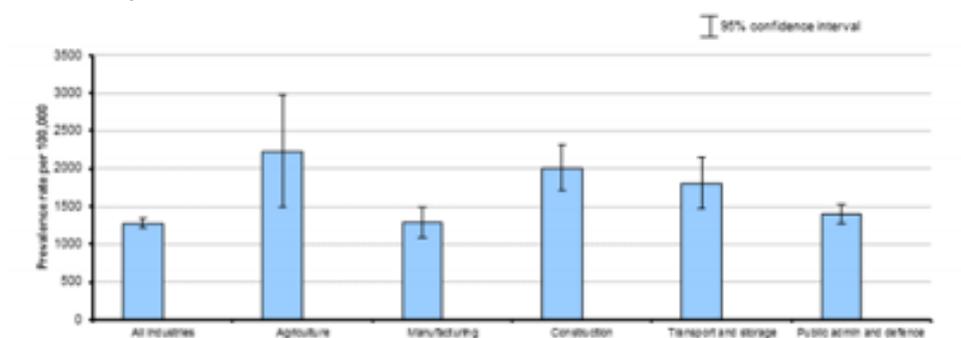
INDUSTRY & OCCUPATION

The industries with the highest rates of WRMSDs over the 3 year period, 2011/2012, 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 are agriculture and forestry, construction, transport and storage, public administration and defence.

Compared with the average rate for all industry, these industries have significantly higher rates of WRMSDs.

The industrial automation of tasks has reduced the scope over the years, however a recent report in the USA by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has suggested that investigators have identified excessive heavy lifting and several ergonomic hazards that tax or endanger the human body excessively. The agency warns that these hazards put employees at potential risk for crippling low back problems as well as musculoskeletal disorders of the upper body.

Prevalence rate (total cases) of work related musculoskeletal disorders in Great Britain by industry averaged over the 3 year period 2011/12, 2013/14 and 2014/15.



AGE & GENDER

Historically, the prevalence rates across genders and age groups are statistically significantly lower than the corresponding period 10 years ago, 2001/2002, 2003/2004 and 2004/2005.

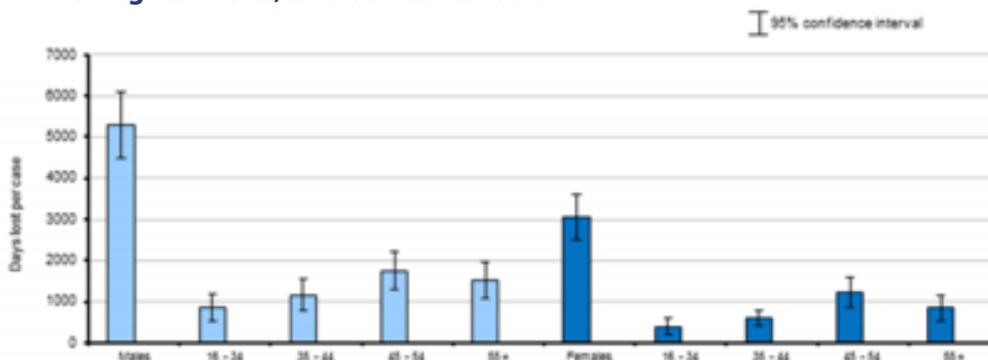
Males in the 16-34 age range have statistically significantly lower prevalence rates of WRMSDs than the other age ranges. The current three year average shows that the 16-34 year age bracket had a prevalence rate estimate of 970 cases per 100,000 people employed, compared with a rate of 1650 cases per 100,000 people employed for all males as a whole.

This pattern is replicated in females, with the 16-34 age range statistically significantly lower than females as a whole, at 840 cases per 100,000 people employed, compared with 1610 cases per 100,000 people employed as a whole. The age ranges 45-54 and the 55+ age range had significantly higher rates at 1590 and 2320 cases per 100,000 people employed, compared with 1610 cases as a whole across all the age ranges.

In Britain, as in many developed nations, the populations, including worker populations, are ageing. This has generated increased research into the control of age-related workplace risks, particularly those associated with occupational ill health.

Age is not the most important determinant of health, nor does ageing inevitably bring illness and disease. Negative beliefs about ageing, including that older age are a risk factor for injury at work, have however tended to preclude older workers from workplaces (HSE, 2010).

Average days lost for WRMSDs by age and gender in Great Britain 3 year average 2011/12, 2013/14 and 2014/15





WARNING! BACK DISORDERS WORKING DAYS LOST IN 2014/2015 WAS 2,957,000 **WARNING! BACK D**

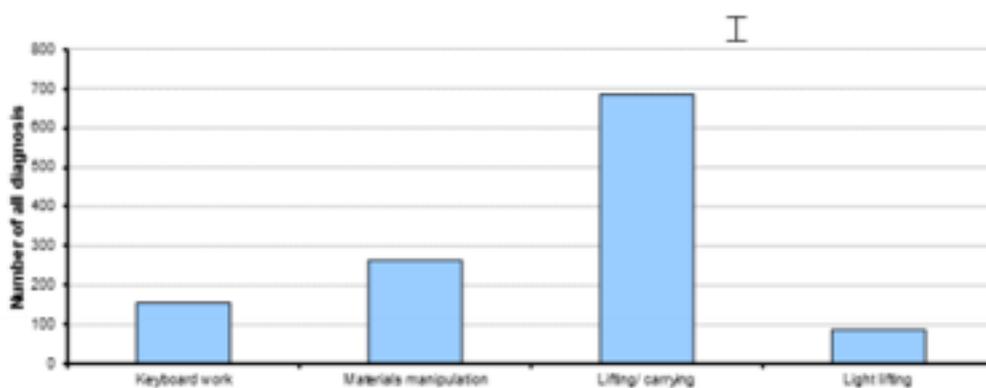
WRMSDS BACK DISORDERS

Work-related low back pain is a major ill health condition in Great Britain and across the EU more generally.

Typical low back pain has a recurrent course with fluctuating symptoms. Low back pain is also a socioeconomic problem associated with work absenteeism, disablement and high healthcare costs (Van Tulder,2006).

WRMSDs affecting the back are a common work-related complaint reported through the Labour Force Survey. Latest results show:

- There has generally been a downward trend in the prevalence rate of back disorders since 2001/2002. In 2014/2015 the prevalence rate was 700 cases per 100,000 people employed compared with 1020 cases in 2001/2002. This equates to 223,000 total cases in 2014/2015 compared with 294,000 total cases in 2001/2002, a statistically significant reduction.
- In 2014/2015 the working days lost due to work-related back disorders was 2,957,000 days with the average number of days lost per case was 13.3 days.



WORK-RELATED UPPER LIMB DISORDERS (WRULDS)

Upper limb disorders include a large number of different WRMSDs in the hand, wrist, shoulder and neck.

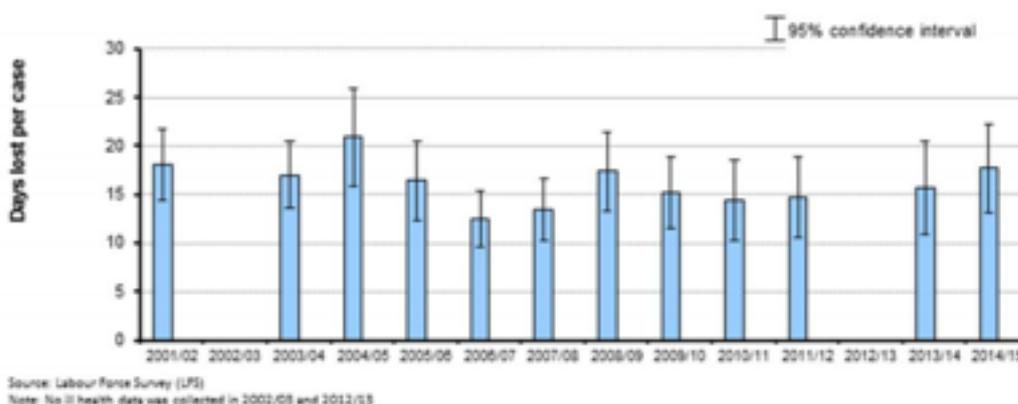
Typical examples include repetitive strain trauma, hand-wrist tendon syndromes, carpal tunnel syndrome or epicondylitis.

Hand-wrist tendon syndrome, for example, can occur in a setting where there are repetitive movements of the hand and wrist, forceful movement or extensive flexion of the hand and wrist. Examples of occupations in which this could occur include the work in the food and drink industry, involving repetitive food packing (Riihimaki, 1995).

The prevalence of WRULDs in 2014/2015 was 223,000 total cases (case rate of 730 per 100,000 people employed) and the number of days lost due to WRULDs was 4,112,000 days, on average 17.7 days per case.

The industries with the highest prevalence rates of WRULDs were the manufacturing and construction industries, and within those industries the occupations reporting the highest rates were skilled building trades, machine operatives and human health professions.

Average days lost per case for WRULDs per 100,000 people employed in the last 12 months in Great Britain.



WARNING! HIGHEST PREVALENCE RATES OF WRULDS IN MANUFACTURING AND CONSTRUCTION W



223,000
total cases

310 cases
per 100,000



WARNING! HIGHER PREVALENCE OF KNEE OSTEOARTHRITIS IN HEAVY PHYSICAL JOBS WARNING!

WORK-RELATED LOWER LIMB DISORDERS (WRLLDs)

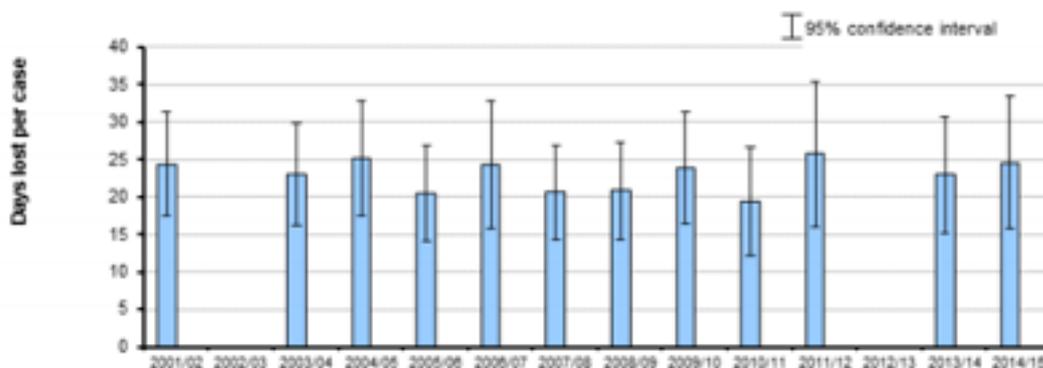
WRLLDs are distinct from WRMSDs affecting the back, the neck and the upper limbs, in that they can often give rise to greater degrees of immobility and thereby can degrade quality of life substantially (Bruchal, 1995; Lohmander et al., 2004).

WRLLDs are often categorised as acute or overuse injuries. Acute can include meniscal tears of the knee or ankle and metacarpal fractures of the ankle and foot. Overuse injuries for example include in the hip and thigh, osteoarthritis and hamstring strains, in the knee, osteoarthritis, patellofemoral pain syndrome, shin splints and in the foot and ankle, Achilles tendonitis, plantar fasciitis or ankle sprain amongst others.

According to many cross-sectional studies, workers in occupations with heavy physical demands have a higher prevalence of knee osteoarthritis than those in lower demanding work.

The prevalence rate of WRLLDs was 310 cases per 100,000 people employed and equated to a total case number of 97,000. The number of working days lost in 2014/2015 was 2,396,000 days lost at a rate of 24.6 days lost per case.

Average days lost per case for WRLLDs per 100,000 people employed in the last 12 months in Great Britain 2014/15



Source: Labour Force Survey (LFS)
Note: No ill health data was collected in 2002/03 and 2012/13

WARNING! WRULDs ACCOUNTED FOR 44% OF WORK-RELATED ILL HEALTH IN GREAT BRITAIN



40% days
lost in 2014/15

CONCLUSION

WRMSDs, while not life-threatening, can impair the life quality and mobility of large numbers of the working population.

WRMSDs accounted for 44% of the prevalence of all work-related ill health in Great Britain in 2014/2015 and despite the downward trend in prevalence over the same period it remains a significant proportion of all work-related ill health.

WRMSDs work days lost (which place burdens on employers) account for 40% of all days lost due to work-related illness in 2014/2015 in Great Britain.

Industries with active physical work such as the construction industry or skilled trade occupations were those with the highest rates of WRMSDs. The size of the workplace does not seem to influence the prevalence rate of musculoskeletal disorders in general. Examining the prevalence in terms of age and gender, the overall rate for males and females is similar for all WRMSDs. However the age ranges 45-54 and 55+ tend to have the highest rates for both genders.

Source: The HSE Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorder (WRMSDs) Statistics, Great Britain, 2015.

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