

PRESS RELEASE



US BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS PUBLISHES 2015 WORKPLACE INJURY AND ILLNESS DATA

New Data Highlights Vital Importance of Private Waste Industry Safety Efforts

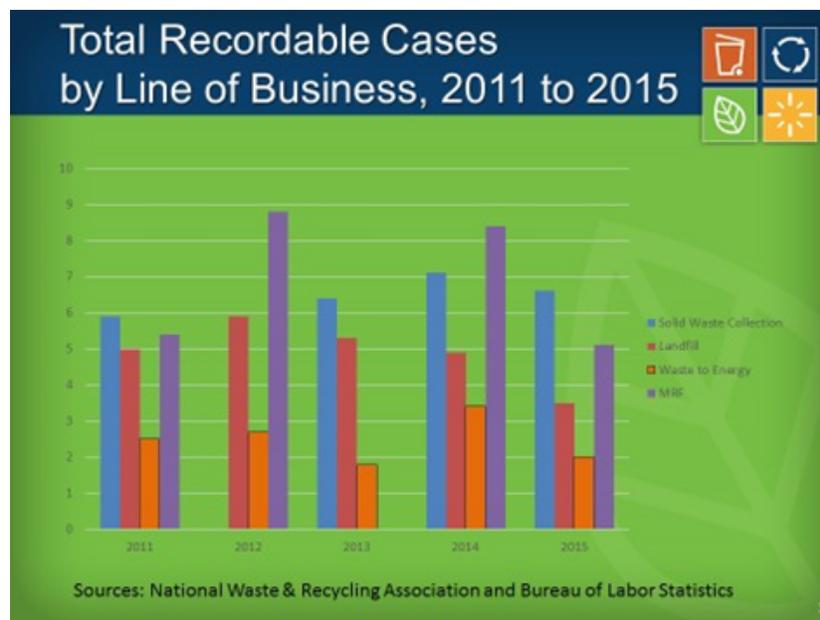
Washington, DC, October 27, 2016 – The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) today released its 2015 Workplace Injury and Illness Data. For the waste and remediation sector, the report highlighted a decrease in total recordable workplace injury and illness cases, a slight decrease in injuries that resulted in job transfers or job restrictions, and the rate of lost workday cases also declined year-over-year. Nationally, the report indicates across all industries a downward trend of incidence rates, with the total recordable cases for private industry fell to .0 per 100 full time workers in 2015, down from .2 in 2011.

- The BLS data for the waste and remediation sector shows:
- The total recordable cases of workplace injury and illness in the Waste Management and Remedial Services category was .5 per 100, an decrease from the 2011 rate of 5.1 per 100.
- The rate for cases with days away from work was 1.1 per 100, a decrease from 2.2 per 100 in 2011.
- The rate for cases that resulted in job transfer or restriction was 1.2 per 100, the same rate as in 2011.

In addition, the BLS data found that in the subcategory for solid waste collection employees within the waste and remediation category was lower in two of three measurements:

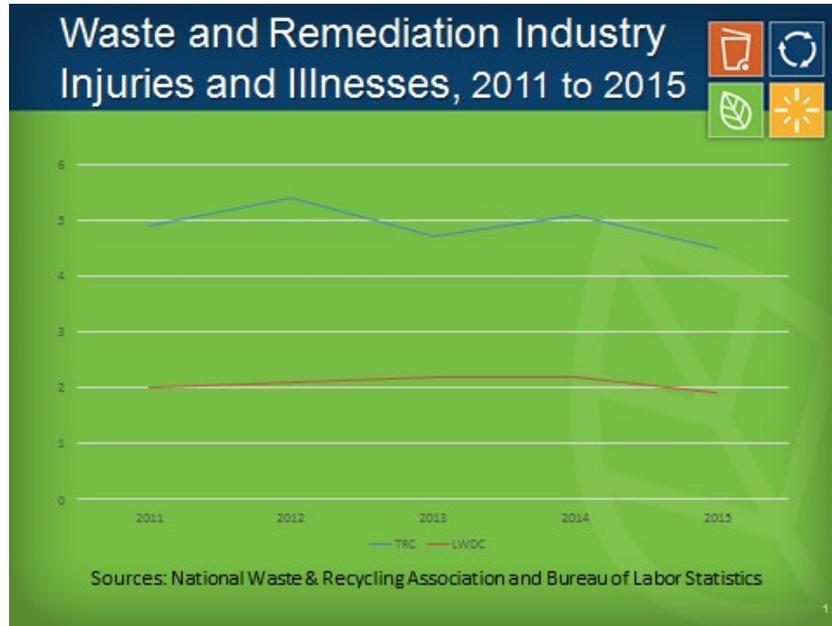
- The total rate of recordable cases for solid waste collection employees was 6.6 per 100, down from the 2011 rate of 11.1 per 100.
- The rate of cases with days away from work was 2.1 per 100, down from the 2011 rate of 4.1 per 100.
- The rate of cases with job transfer or restrictions was 1.3 per 100, slightly up from the 2011 rate of 1.5 per 100.

The chart below shows the waste and recycling industry total recordable cases by line of business, including solid waste collection, landfill, waste-to-energy and material recovery facilities.



“NWRA is engaged in a comprehensive data collection effort as part of our strategic initiatives to directly impact industry safety performance,” commented Bret Biggers, director of statistics and standards for NWRA. “We monitor both long-term trends and current performance data from our member companies to continuously evaluate the impact of our programs that are designed to prevent and reduce accidents and injuries.. What we see in the 2015 BLS data is favorable for the waste and recycling industry, reflecting the continuing safety efforts of industry companies.”

The chart below shows injury and illness incidence rates for total recordable cases and lost work day cases over the past five years.



"Earlier this year, NWRA convened an unprecedented industry-wide Safety Summit with the goal of significantly reducing accidents, injuries and fatalities as we build a stronger safety culture," said Anthony Hargis, NWRA national director of safety. "As a result, the tools and tactics we have deployed all focus on specific areas where performance can be improved, including weekly safety reminders for front line employees, to nationwide weeklong 'Stand Down' programs and Safety Professional Development sessions with our chapters across the country. These efforts are directly driven by the data collection and analysis we perform so we can have the greatest impact in creating a safer work environment for our employees across the United States."

About the Data

The BLS data on workplace injury and illness is published annually, and information on the waste and recycling industry is based on the U.S. Census Bureau definition of the waste and remediation services industry (NAICS Code 562) as "solid waste collection, hazardous waste collection, other waste collection, hazardous waste treatment and disposal, solid waste landfill, solid waste combustors and incinerators." A copy of the BLS announcement can be found here: [HTTP://WWW.BLS.GOV/NEWS.RELEASE/PDF/OSH.PDF](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/osh.pdf)

Industry-wide Efforts

While the BLS data covers the private sector waste and recycling industry, NWRA also coordinates its safety effort with other associations serving various sectors of the waste industry. NWRA and its public sector counterpart, the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) are holding a joint safety meeting on November 15 and 16, 2016 in conjunction with NWRA's ANSI Standards meetings. Information to register and participate in this industry safety meeting can be found [HERE](#).

About NWRA

The National Waste & Recycling Association is the leading organization providing leadership, advocacy, research, education and safety expertise for the waste and recycling industries. NWRA advocates at the Federal, State and Local levels on all issues of importance to our member companies as they provide safe, economically sustainable and environmentally sound services to communities in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

For more information about industry safety initiatives and how NWRA is working to make the waste and recycling industry safer, smarter and stronger, visit **wasterecycling.org**.

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