

Occupational Health and Safety in the Caribbean Key Issues and Trends

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ILO Safety and Health Statistics

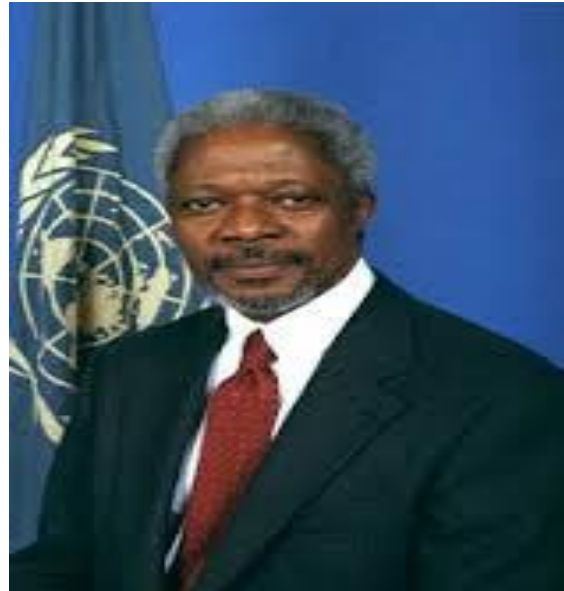
- **6,300** people die as a result of occupational accidents or work-related diseases every day
- More than **2.3 million** deaths per year
- 317 million accidents occur on the job annually; many of these resulting in extended absences from work

ILO Safety and Health Statistics

Every **15 seconds**, a worker dies
from a work-related accident or disease.

Quote

Kofi Annan, Former UN Secretary General said “Safety and health at work is not only a sound economic policy - it is a basic human right”.




Credit Union History

- 1844 Rochdale, England where workers and weavers create a democratic consumer cooperative
- 1849 Germany Hermann Schulze-Delitzsch, a lawyer, established a credit society to help shopkeepers and urban workers
- 1901, Quebec, Canada became the first North American credit union established
- 1909 Manchester, New Hampshire the first U.S. credit union was established

Credit Unions in the Caribbean

- Caribbean people were introduced to the cooperative movement sometime towards the end of the 19th century
- The first attempts to organize cooperative ventures were in Guyana.
- The Peoples Cooperative Bank started in Jamaica in 1905 was the first recorded Caribbean financial cooperative.

ARE YOU
SAFE
AT WORK



How many of our brothers and sisters have died from a work related accident or disease?

The Horrifying Truth

We don't know

- because we don't keep records and we don't investigate.
- because in most of our states there is no legal requirement to know.
- because legal action has not been taken against our organization for compensation.
- in many instances **we don't know simply because we don't know.**

Current OHS Situation in the Caribbean

Core problems and their causes and effects

Inadequate policy, legislation and institutional framework for OHS in the Caribbean

Caused the lack of political will, inadequate financial resources, OHS issues holding a low priority area on the National Agenda and limited capacities for enforcement.

Current OHS Situation in the Caribbean

core problems and their causes and effects

Large number of occupational and work related injuries and diseases are preventable but persist.

Identified as a key challenge to the OHS agenda in the Caribbean, the large number of work related injuries and diseases were strongly linked to the situation of a lack of emphasis on primary prevention.

Current OHS Situation in the Caribbean

core problems and their causes and effects

Occupational injuries and diseases are not diagnosed or reported in many cases.

Political will to ensure/assure or facilitate full implementation of all OHS convention agreements including OHS services is weak or absent, and contributes to the weak detection, diagnosis and reporting of cases.

Current OHS Situation in the Caribbean

core problems and their causes and effects

lack of knowledge due to insufficient data as it relates to workers' health and safety along with a poor understanding of OHS management systems

Occupational injuries and diseases continue to be under recognized as contributing to the health status of the men and women working in the Caribbean because of the pervasive under reporting.

Risk factors and health outcomes

Low-qualified workers

- Found mainly in the manufacturing, wholesale and retail trades and agricultural sectors
- Higher rate of injuries and health-related problems

Studies have shown that low-qualified workers are much more exposed to all types of demanding physical activities than other workers.



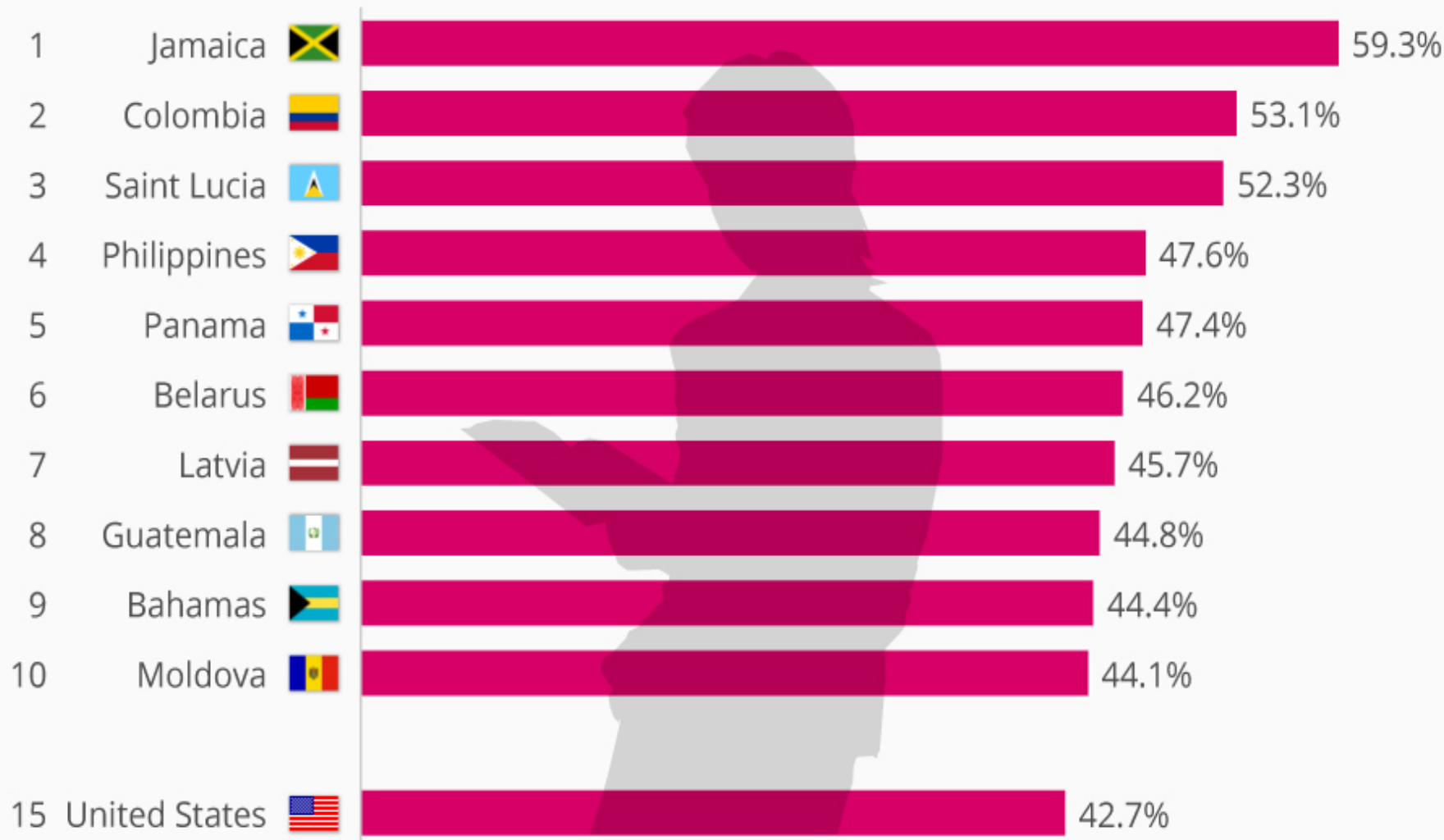
Risk factors and health outcomes

Low-qualified workers

- large share of low-qualified workers has temporary contracts and therefore receives less OSH training than permanent workers.
- Studies have shown that low-qualified workers are less likely to attend training, whether because they are not offered the opportunity or because they show lower interest to participate.
- Low-qualified workers face much higher rates of occupational accidents. According to a 2007 Labour Force Survey

Where Are Women Most Likely To Be Your Boss?

Countries with the highest percentages of female managers*



Risk factors and health outcomes

Women

The growing feminisation of the workforce means that greater attention is needed on the risk factors that affect female workers' health and safety.

Outside of risks during pregnancies and breastfeeding, there is little awareness about the effect of workplace hazards on female reproductive functions, such as menstruation, menopause, fertility and sexuality.



Risk factors and health outcomes

Women

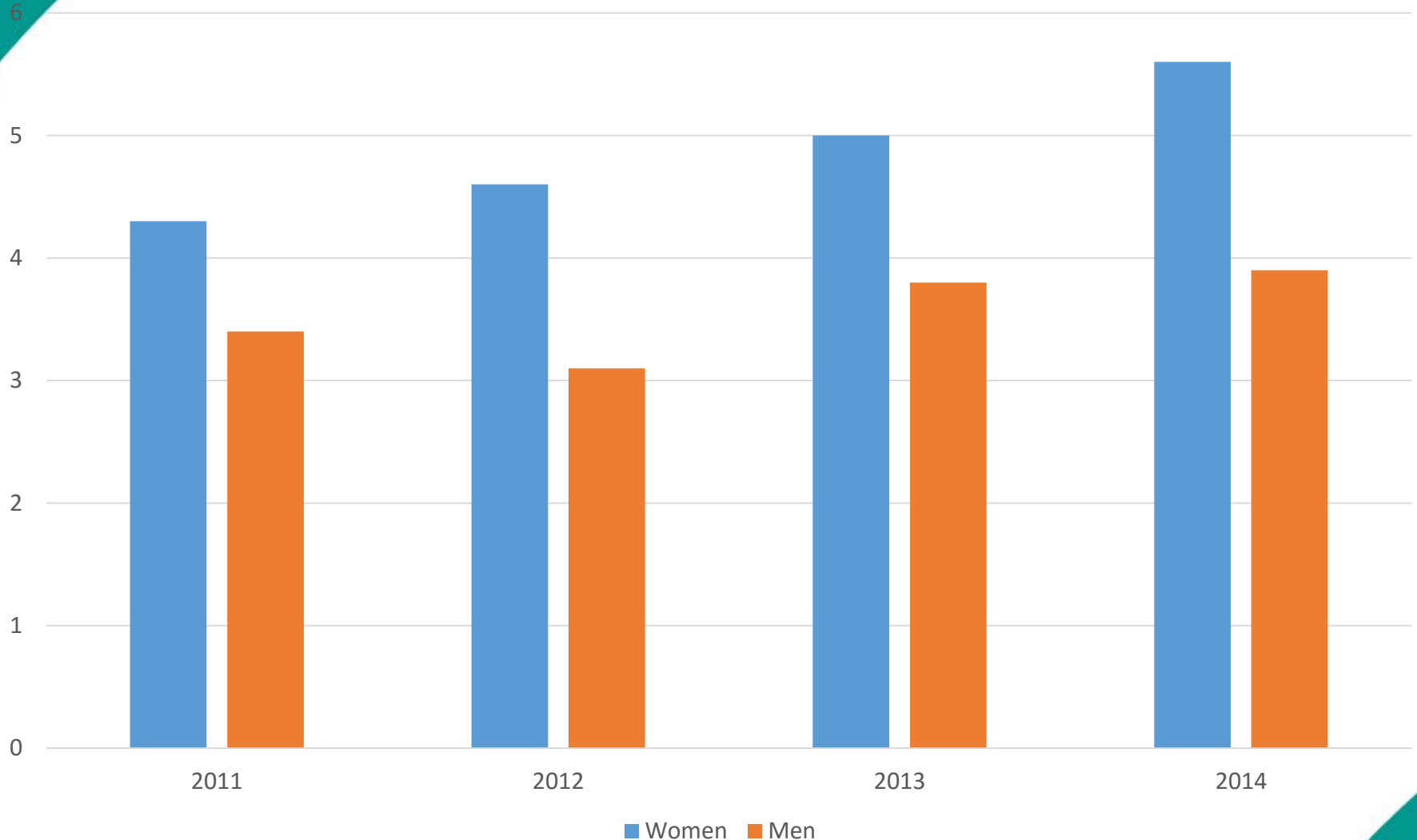
Overall, women report fewer work-related accidents than men,

Higher levels of other work-related health problems, including musculoskeletal disorders and stress.

Causes of accidents for female workers are not as well identified and integrated into prevention policies.



Occurrence of work-related health problems Men and Women



Type of work-related health problems

Breathing or lung problems

Heart disease or attack, or other problems in the circulatory system

Headache and/or eyestrain

Infectious disease (virus, bacteria or other type of infection)

Hearing problems

Skin problems

Breathing or lung problems

Heart disease or attack, or other problems in the circulatory system

Other types of complaint

Current Trends

- Several countries have now started to formalize modern OSH Legislation
- National OSH policies have been developed
- Organisations are implementing safety management systems

Case Study

Kingstown Co-Operative Credit Union

- The oldest Credit Union in St Vincent and The Grenadines is again leading the way and has taken the proactive decision to implement a full Safety Management System based on the international safety standard BS OHSAS 18001.
- This system will ensure that the Credit Union is in compliance with the soon to be implemented OSH Laws in St Vincent and the Grenadines.

Case Study

Kingstown Co-Operative Credit Union

The implementation of the safety system includes


- Risk Assessments of all operations
- Development of a Safety and Health Policy
- Development of a Safety and Health Policy and Procedures Manual
- Development of Emergency Response Plans
- Training at the Board Level
- Staff training in Basic Safety, Advance Safety for Supervisors, Basic Fire Fighting, First Aid CPR and Office Ergonomics

Case Study

Kingstown Co-Operative Credit Union

The Credit Union as part of its commitment to its members will be also be providing safety awareness secessions among its membership in areas of...

- fire safety in the home
- emergency planning



Thank you
Any Questions