

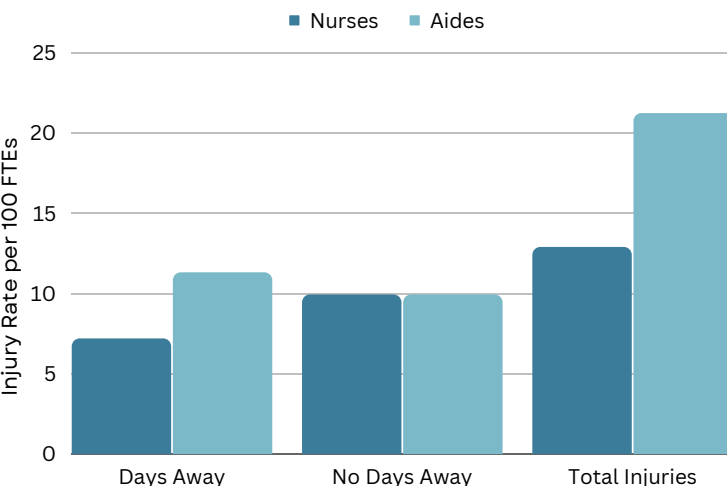


## Patient Care Assistants Have Higher Injury Rates than Nurses Findings from the Center’s Boston Hospital Workers Health Study

### Total Worker Health Implications

**Determining why some employee groups report higher injury rates may support identifying working conditions that could be modified to decrease injury rates overall and especially for patient care assistants.**

- Healthcare workers have some of the highest overall injury rates in the United States; injury rates increase with declining socioeconomic status.
- The non-physician healthcare workforce is largely female with a race/ethnicity distribution similar to the general population, although with a majority of non-white and immigrant groups employed as lower wage nursing aides with less training than nurses.
- Injury data are important as a surveillance mechanism that drives prevention efforts, establishes a health and safety benchmark, and influences policy-making at the institutional and state levels.



### Full Publication

Boden LI, Sembajwe G, Tveito TH, Hashimoto D, Hopcia K, Kenwood C, Stoddard AM, Sorensen G. Occupational injuries among nurses and aides in a hospital setting. *Am J Ind Med.* 2012 Feb;55(2):117-126. doi: 10.1002/ajim.21018.

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### Data Collected

**Researchers compared recordable injuries of nurses and aides providing direct patient care at two large Boston hospitals.**

- Human Resources and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recordable injuries data were used.

### Study Findings

**Aides have higher injury rates than nurses for both types of injuries: those resulting in days away from work and no days away from work.**

- For both nurses and aides, back injuries were the most common days away injuries, and injuries from sharp medical devices were the most common no days away injuries.
- About half of injuries involved days away for both nurses and aides.
- This study supports the importance of continued emphasis on preventing back and sharps injuries and reducing risks faced by workers in hospital settings.