



## Tip Sheet

### Calculating OSHA-Based Incidence Rates

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) incidence rates are one of the more common methods of measuring safety performance. Incidence rates for higher levels of industry detail are produced using aggregated, weighted, and benchmarked totals. Rates may be computed using industry, employment size, geographic area, extent or outcome of case, and case characteristic category.

Rates for illnesses and rates for case characteristic categories are published per 10,000 full-time employees, using 20,000,000 hours instead of 200,000 hours in the formula shown below. Rates per 10,000 workers can be converted to rates per 100 workers by moving the decimal point to the left two places and rounding the resulting rate to the nearest tenth.

There are varieties of formulas that can be used to calculate these incidence rates. Some of the more common rates are the OSHA recordable injury incidence rate, the recordable illness incidence rate, the death rate, and the lost day case injury rate. The formulas used to calculate these rates are as follows:

$$\text{OSHA Recordable Injury Incidence Rate} = \frac{(\text{Number of Recordable Injuries}) \times 200,000}{\text{Number of hours worked}}$$

$$\text{OSHA Recordable Illness Incidence Rate} = \frac{(\text{Number of Recordable Illnesses}) \times 200,000}{\text{Number of hours worked}}$$

$$\text{Death rate} = \frac{(\text{Number of Deaths}) \times 200,000}{\text{Number of hours worked}}$$

$$\text{OSHA Lost Day Injury Case Rate} = \frac{(\text{Number of Lost Day Cases}) \times 200,000}{\text{Number of hours worked}}$$

*Excerpted from **Safety Metrics: Tools and Techniques for Measuring Safety Performance** by Christopher A. Janicak, CSP, ARM, ISBN: 0-86587-947-8 (978-0-86587-947-8). To order this book, or to view a complete list of available compliance and management resources—including all 50 Titles of the Code of Federal Regulations—call our customer service center or visit us online.*