WORKPLACE ILLNESS + INJURY
LOW-WAGE WORKERS EXPERIENCED ON THE JOB IN 2010

1.62 MILLION WORK-RELATED INJURIES (FATAL AND NON-FATAL)

100,272 OCCIDENTAL ILLNESSES SUCH AS CANCER AND BLACK LUNG (FATAL AND NON-FATAL)

FATAL WORK-RELATED ILLNESSES & INJURIES

596 FATAL INJURIES
12,415 FATAL ILLNESSES
13,011 TOTAL DEATHS BECAUSE OF THE JOB

THE TOTAL DEATHS IS EQUIVALENT TO:

- DEATHS PER HOUR:
  - FULL GREYHOUND BUSES: 36
  - FULL-LOADED 747 AIRPLANES: 31
  - AMTRAK ACELA EXPRESS TRAINS: 43

- DEATHS PER DAY:
  - FULL GREYHOUND BUSES: 1
  - FULL-LOADED 747 AIRPLANES: 2
  - AMTRAK ACELA EXPRESS TRAINS: 3

LOW-WAGE WORKERS’ DEATHS EXCEED SOME HIGHER PROFILE CAUSES:

- INFLUENZA
- ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE FIREARMS
- COMPLICATIONS OF MEDICAL & SURGICAL CARE
- ACCIDENTAL DROWNING
- HIV

- ASSAULT (HOMICIDE) BY DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS
- DEATHS OF LOW-WAGE WORKERS

OF THE 1.62 MILLION INJURIES SUFFERED BY LOW-WAGE WORKERS,

- 29% INVOLVED WORKERS IN FOOD SERVICE
- 18% WORKERS EMPLOYED IN CLEANING WORK

THE TOTAL ANNUAL COST OF WORKPLACE ILLNESS + INJURY FOR LOW-WAGE WORKERS

- $39 BILLION

WORKERS’ COMPENSATION

SICK DAYS

- ONLY 19% OF EMPLOYERS OFFER PAID SICK DAYS

COMBINED FOOD PREPARATION & SERVING WORKERS

- $8.76 BILLION IN MEDICAL COSTS
- $17,520 TOTAL ANNUAL COST TO SERVES MILLION

DRIVER/SALES WORKERS

- $2 BILLION IN MEDICAL COSTS
- $867 MILLION IN PRODUCTIVITY COSTS
- $1.4 BILLION IN INJURIES & ILLNESS COSTS

THE LOWEST-PAID JOB IS ONE OF THE COSTLIEST IN TERMS OF WORKPLACE INJURY & ILLNESS.

- THE TOP 11 LOW-WAGE JOBS BY EMPLOYMENT:
  - Retail Salespersons
  - Cashiers
  - Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers, Including Fast Food
  - Waiters & Waitresses
  - Janitors & Cleaners, Except Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners
  - Stock Clerks & Order Fillers
  - Cooks, Restaurant
  - Home Health Aides
  - Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners
  - Personal Care Aides
  - Food Preparation Workers

- ABOUT 18% INVOLVED WORKERS EMPLOYED IN CLEANING WORK

- ALMOST 29% OCCURRED AMONG WORKERS IN FOOD SERVICE

For more information, please contact:
Public Welfare
1200 U STREET, NW | WASHINGTON, DC 20009 | T (202)965-1800 | PUBLICWELFARE.ORG

All data, unless otherwise noted, from J. Paul Leigh, “Numbers and Costs of Occupational Injury and Illness in Low-Wage Workers,” “Average Number of Fatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses in the U.S.’s Growing Low-Wage Workforce” (Dec. 2012).