

Youth and High-risk subsectors in Wholesale and Retail Trade Industry in US

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Abstract

Over the last few years, a greater percentage of young workers (< 24 yrs) have been employed in the WRT sector than in any of the other sectors. Although there is a perception that the risk of injury in the WRT sector is low, the reality is that young workers are typically employed in one or more of the 10-12 higher risk WRT subsectors (Anderson et al., 2010). To gain a better understanding of the nature and pattern of the injuries to young workers, we reviewed datasets from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) beginning with 2003 through 2009. The BLS data sets included information supplied by the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII), the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), and the Current Population Survey (CPS).

From 2003 through 2009, the WRT sector employed 10% more young workers (<24) than were employed by the overall private sector: 23% versus 13%, respectively. Injuries/illnesses occurred most frequently among younger workers in the high-risk WRT subsectors than was generally found when compared with older age groups working in the same subsector. The high risk WRT subsectors included the grocery and related product merchant wholesalers and the lumber and other construction materials wholesalers in the wholesale trade.

The number of injury and illnesses reported for the youngest age group (16-19) was greater than was found for their older counterparts (20-24) doing the same jobs, suggesting experience does count for safety. The industry jobs in which the majority of young workers were employed included the supermarket and other grocery, the department stores, the warehouse clubs and superstores in the retail trade. The most common events and exposures among 16-19 age groups that were associated with nonfatal injury and illness included contact with objects (41.9-43.8%), overexertion (13.4-15.0%), the floor (14.3-16%) and containers (10.8-12.8%). The jobs that young workers performed most frequently included manual materials handling, sale and service functions.

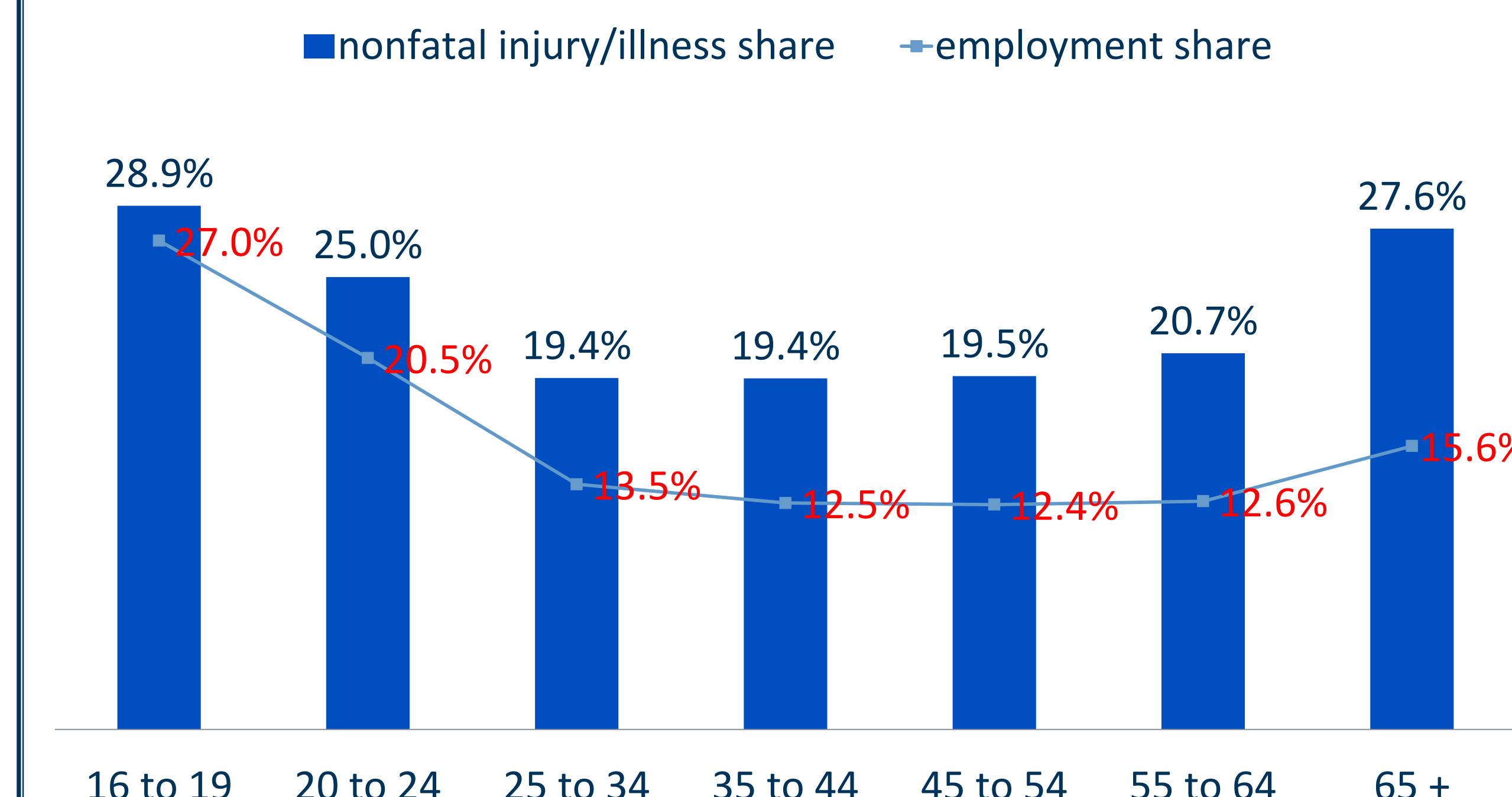
OSH Burden	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Fatality	609	581	555	481	477
Nonfatal (A)	849700	820500	822200	751300	673100
Lost time (B)	256100	238500	242020	218200	199400
MSD	83710	81480	76580	69410	65030
Overexertion	68750	67250	62750	57010	54530
Lost time/(A)	30.1%	29.1%	29.4%	29.0%	29.6%
MSD/(B)	32.7%	34.2%	31.6%	31.8%	32.6%
Overexertion/(B)	26.8%	28.2%	25.9%	26.1%	27.3%
Wholesale inj/ill rate per 100 FTE	4.5	4.1	4.0	3.7	3.3
Retail inj/ill rate per 100 FTE	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.4	4.2
Private inj/ill rate per 100 FTE	4.6	4.4	4.2	3.9	3.6

Sector by % Size and % Burden*

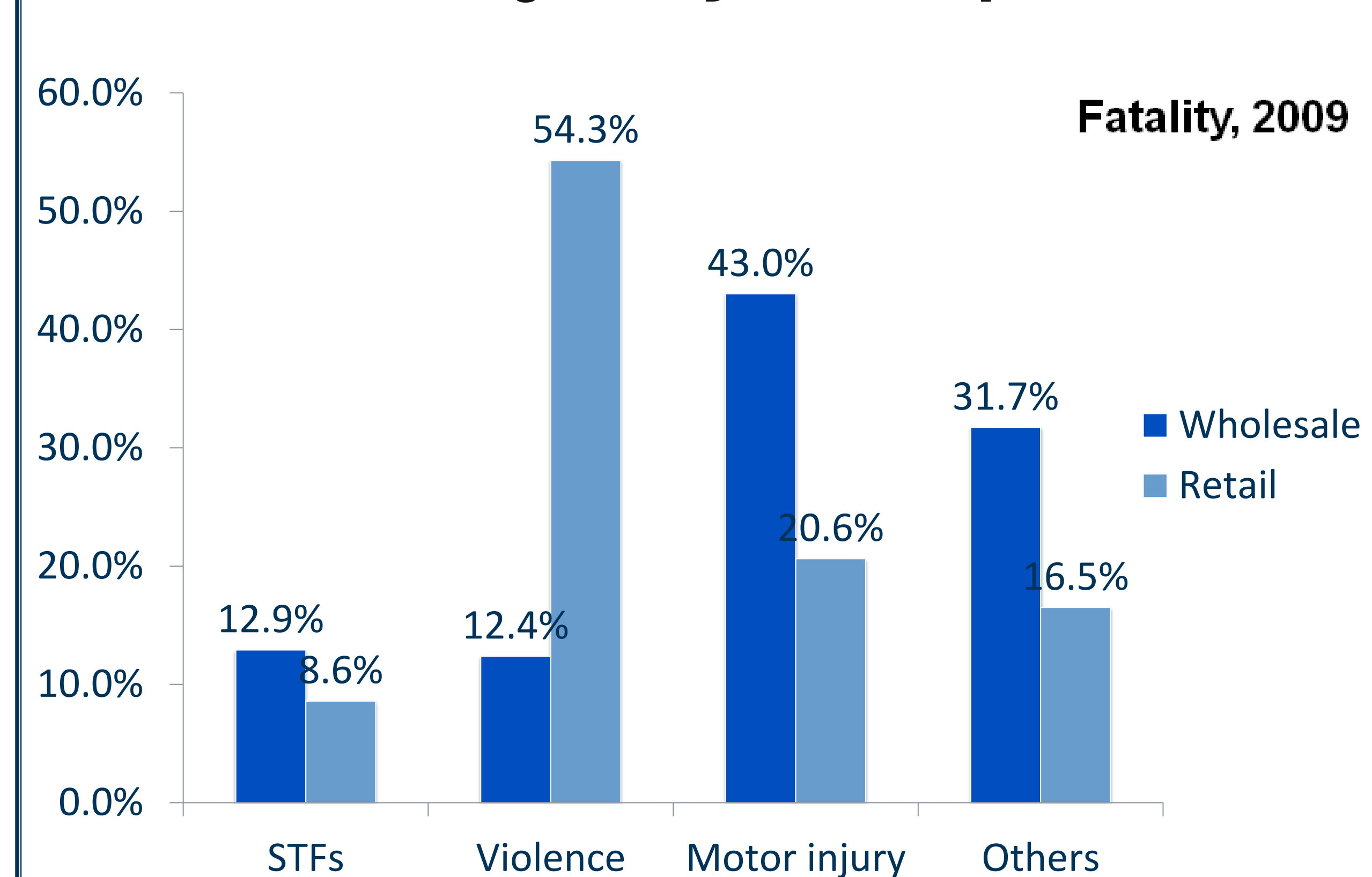
Sector	% Size	% Burden*
Agricultural ,Ft, Fi, Ht	0.9	1.4
Mining	0.6	0.5
Construction	6.0	7.7
Manufacturing	11.4	16.1
Wholesale/Retail	18.8	20.7
Trans, Warehouse, Ut	4.3	6.9
Information	2.6	1.5
Financial Activities	7.1	3.2
Prof Business Serv	15.6	7.5
Education Health Serv	16.5	21.6
Leisure Hospitality	12.2	10.4
Other Services	4.1	2.7
Total Percent	100.0	100.0

* Burden in the percentage of injury illness cases

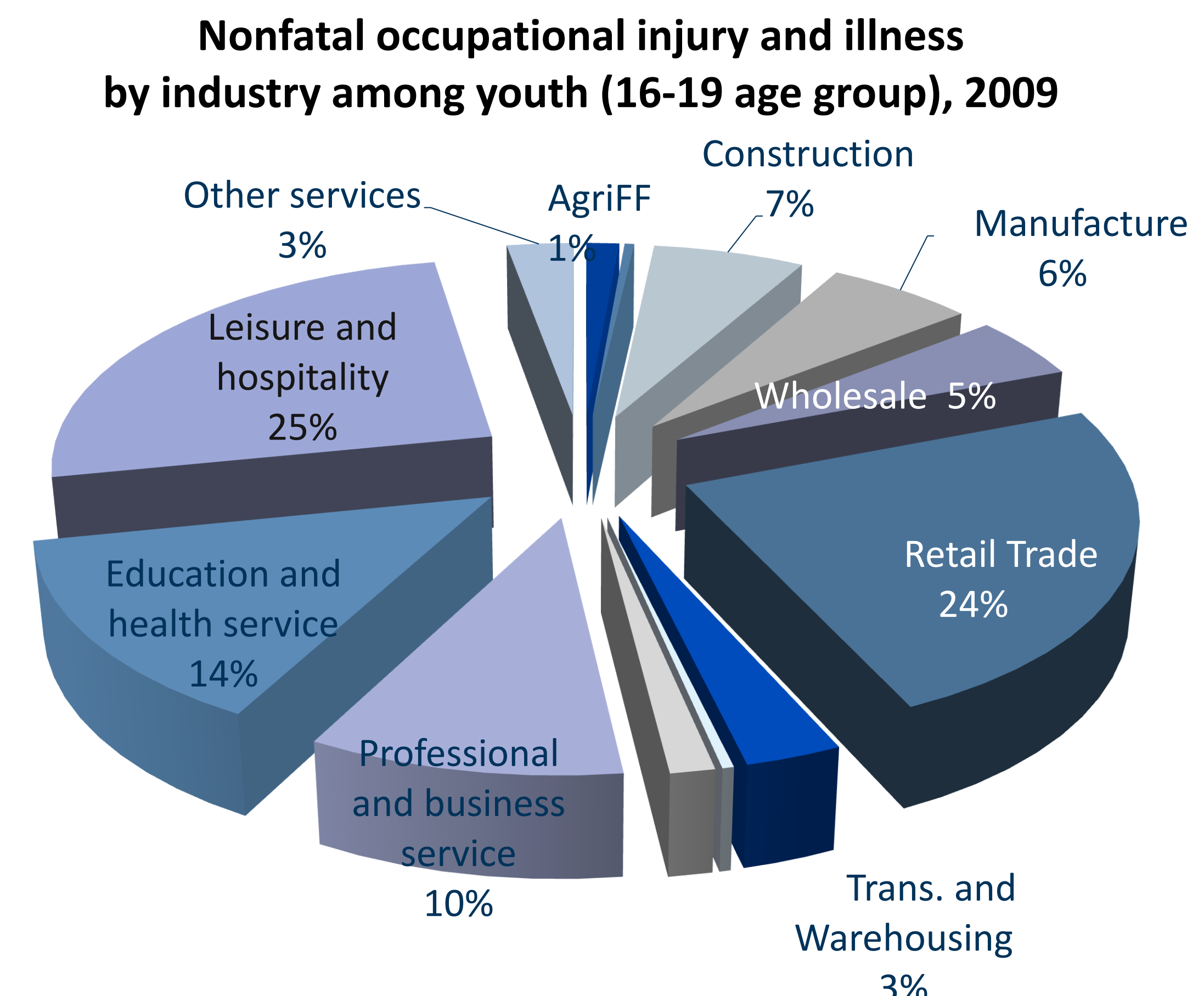
WRT share of nonfatal injury/illness and employment by age group, 2009



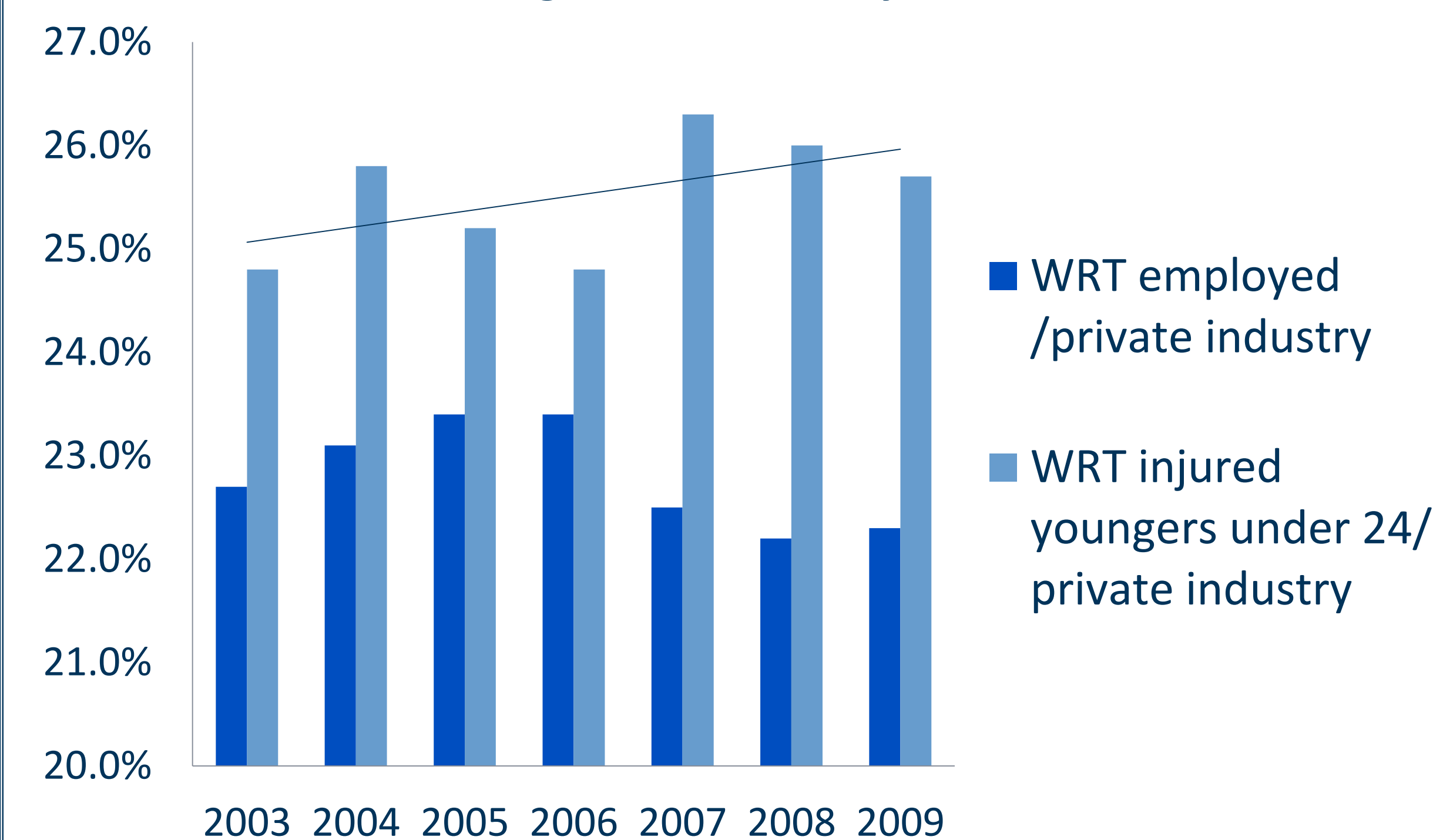
Retail Trade Has High Fatality due to Workplace Violence



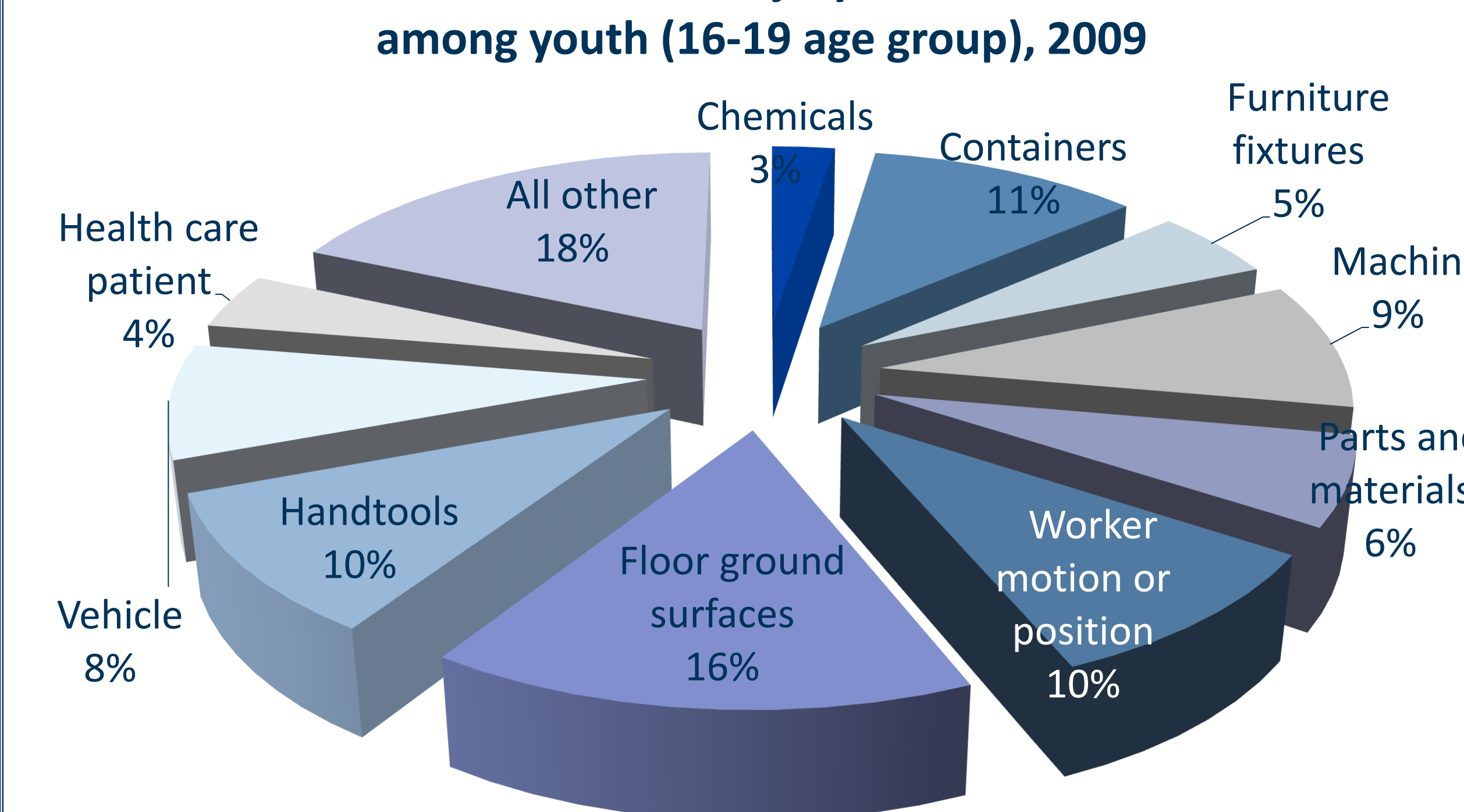
WRT (29%) accounts for the largest share of Injury and Illness Cases for Young Workers



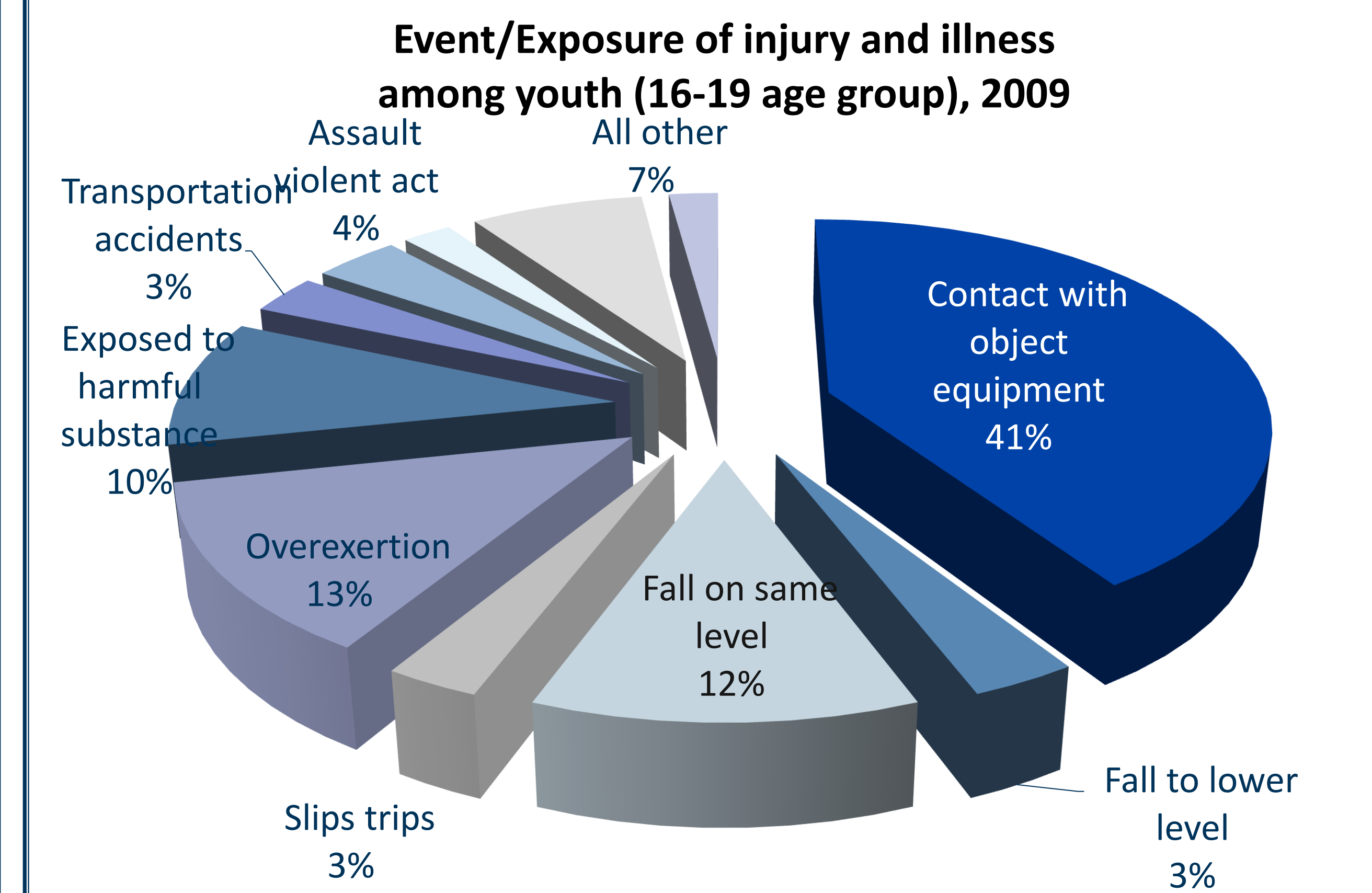
Percent Changes of Injured Youth (under 24) in WRT among Private industry, 2003-9



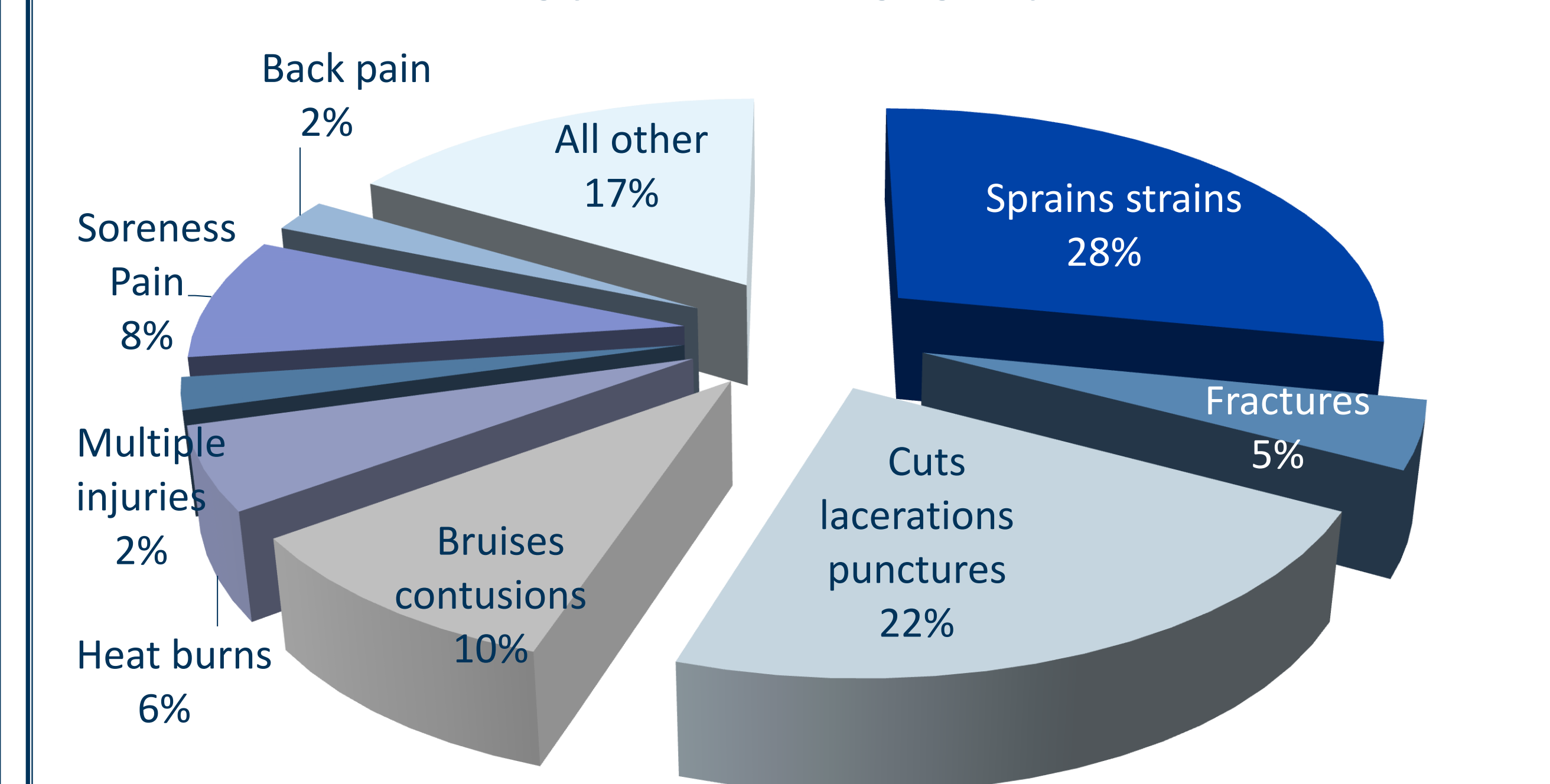
Nonfatal injury and illness cases involving lost workdays, 2009



Young workers have a high risk of contact of object/equipment



Nature of injury and illness among youth (16-19 age group), 2009



Young workers who hurt on the job have following occupations: Service (45%), Transportation & Material moving (16%), Sales and related (11%).

Young workers (under 24) work at grocery stores (21%), department discount stores (14%), clothing and accessories (10%), pharmacies (5%), automobile dealer(4%), sporting goods, hobby and toy stores in the wholesale and retail trade sector.

Summary: Nonfatal Injury and Illness of Youth

Event/Exposures: Contact Objects, Falls, Overexertion

Nature/Type: Sprains, Strains, Cuts, Lacerations, Punctures

Source: Floors, Containers, Vehicles

Body Part: Upper & Lower Extremities, Trunk