

## The Whole Story: Work-related injuries, illness and deaths updated August 2025



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On June 6<sup>th</sup> 2022, the ILO adopted safe and healthy work as one of its fundamental principles

Safe and healthy work is recognised internationally as a labour right that is fundamental to decent work

The UN-ILO estimates worldwide, work kills more than war every year!

2.93 million work related deaths, more than 395,000 nonfatal occupational health injuries and illness globally

90% of work-related fatalities are from long-term illnesses rather than immediate accidents

FAK – Families Against Corporate Killers say ‘Each and every work-related fatality should be recognised, counted and be made to count!’

**Sources:**

- 1: [www.ilo.org/global/topics/safety-and-health-at-work/areasofwork/fundamental-principle/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/safety-and-health-at-work/areasofwork/fundamental-principle/lang--en/index.htm)
- 2: [https://ungc-communications-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/docs/publications/OSH%20Brief\\_FINAL.pdf](https://ungc-communications-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/docs/publications/OSH%20Brief_FINAL.pdf)
- 3: <https://www.youfactors.com/statistics/how-many-people-die-at-work-each-year-2024-edition#:~:text=According%20to%20a%202023%20report%20by%20the%20International,million%20workers%20worldwide%20also%20sustained%20non-fatal%20work%20injuries.>
- 4: <https://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/blog/far-too-little-fack-statement-international-workers-memorial-day-28-april-2025>

**The HSE continues not to publish the total numbers of people killed through work related incidents and disease.**

- Using evidence-based estimates of work-related harm, provided by various researchers, would ensure the appropriate policy development and allocation of resources.
- Failing to expose the impact of employers' non-compliance and criminal negligence, means that the actual risk that workers and members of the public face are underestimated, and that cuts continue to be made to our health, safety and welfare regulation and enforcement.
- The reality is, that far more workers than officially reported suffer appalling working conditions, that put them at risk of injury, death or illness, at huge cost to themselves, their families and the economy.
- This document represents the Hazards Campaign estimates, using a variety of sources to present a more realistic summary of the numbers of people killed, injured and made ill by work (1)(2) and *The Whole Story* (2008) by Hilda Palmer published in SHP (3)
- The Hazards Campaign estimates that each year, at least 6 million workers are made ill, and more than 66,000 will die because of work and the real number of people injured by work is estimated to be many times more than the HSE estimate.
- Covid-19 continues to infect, kill and leave thousands of workers with long term ill health and disability. We are unable to estimate the number of work-related deaths because they aren't recorded, reported or investigated. In Feb 2023 the Govt started to reduce the reporting of National Stats on Covid-19. There is now no reliable evidence of work-related covid infections.

**Sources:**

- 1: [www.hazards.org/disease](http://www.hazards.org/disease)
- 2: [www.hazards.org/cancer/report.htm](http://www.hazards.org/cancer/report.htm)
- 3: [www.shponline.co.uk/love-working/the-whole-story](http://www.shponline.co.uk/love-working/the-whole-story)
- 4: [www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/?s=The+whole+story](http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/?s=The+whole+story)

**The Whole Story –  
much greater than HSE estimate, and record**



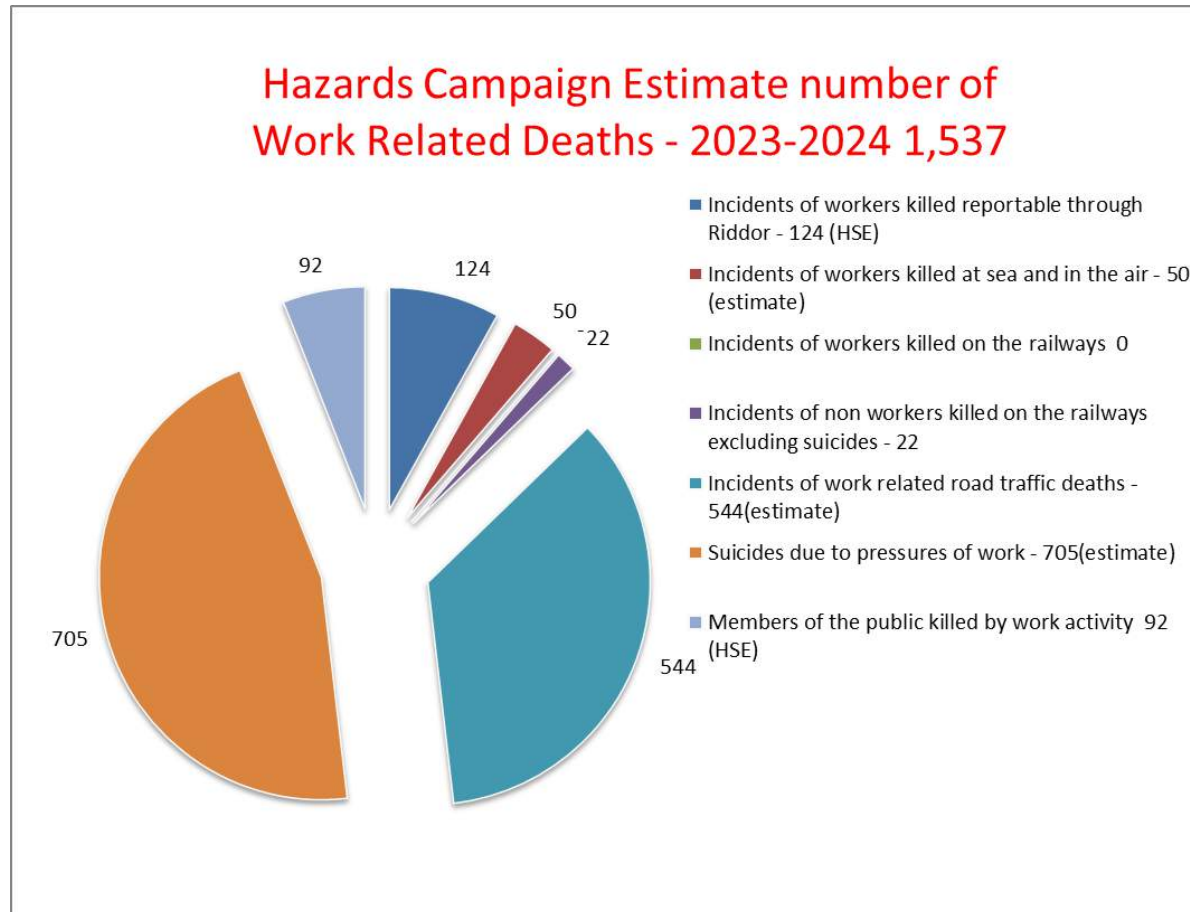
Ten times as many deaths  
caused by work incidents at  
least 1,537

Five times as many work-illness  
deaths approx. 65,020



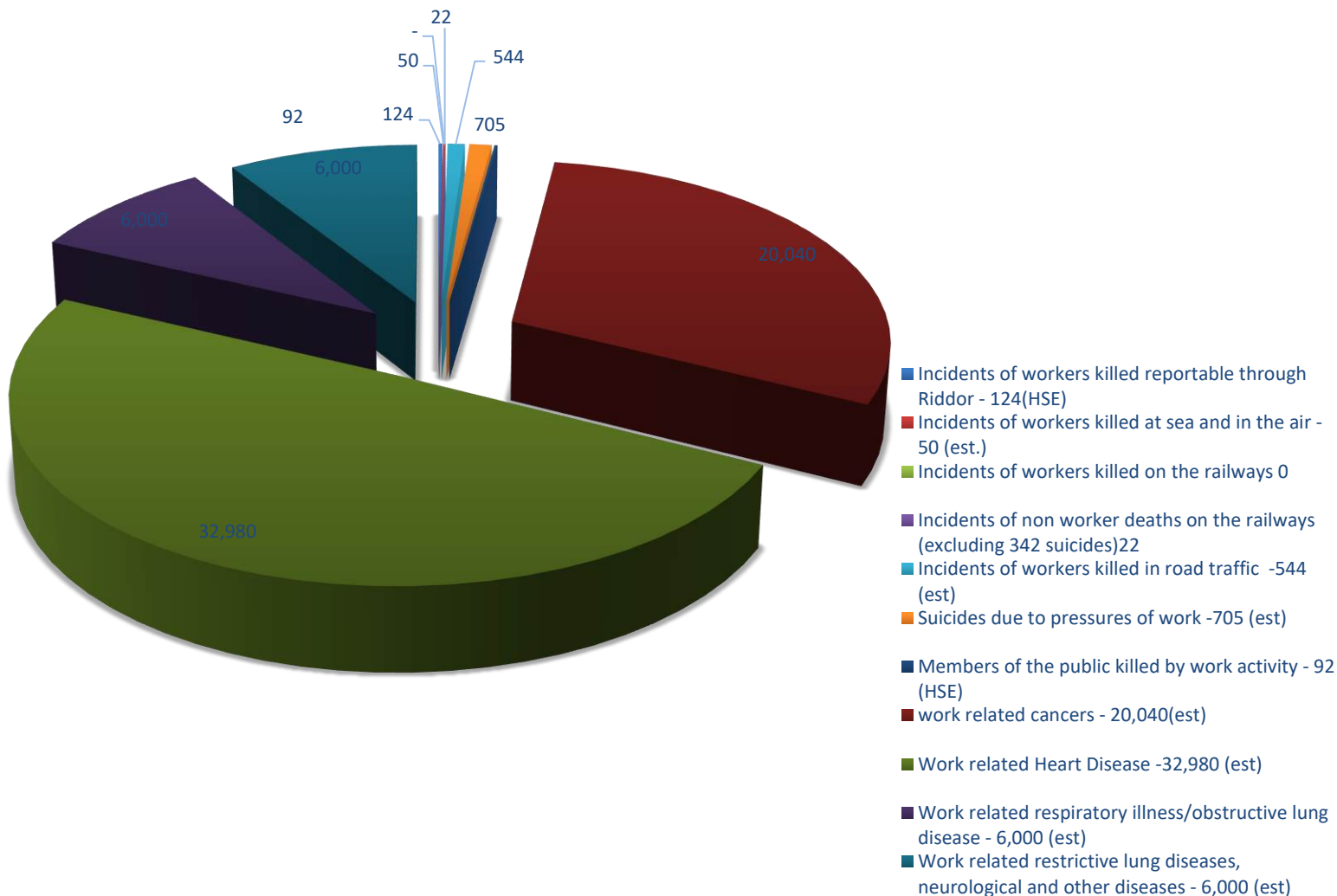
We estimate the number of  
people made ill by work is  
approx. four times greater than  
HSE estimate, at least 6 million

# Work Related Incidents resulting in Fatality -2023-2024

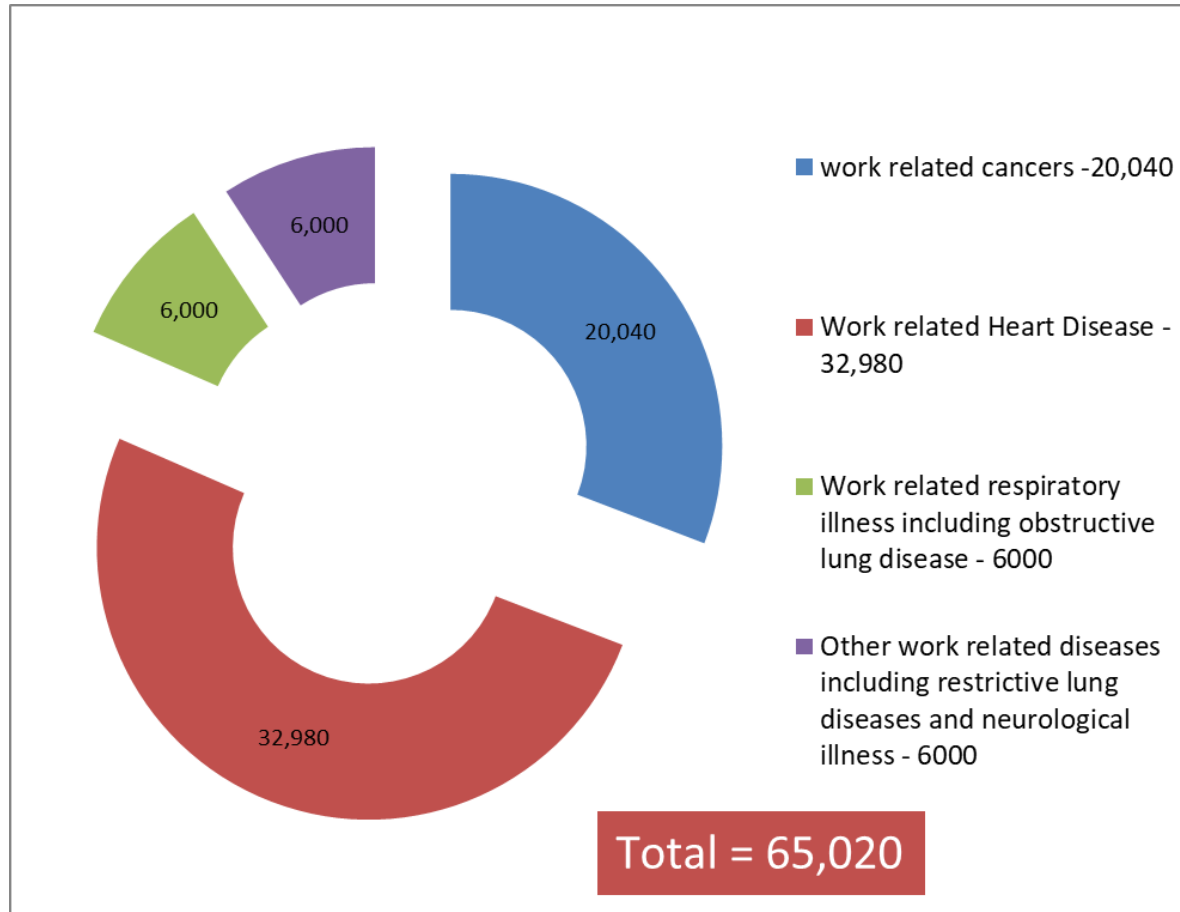




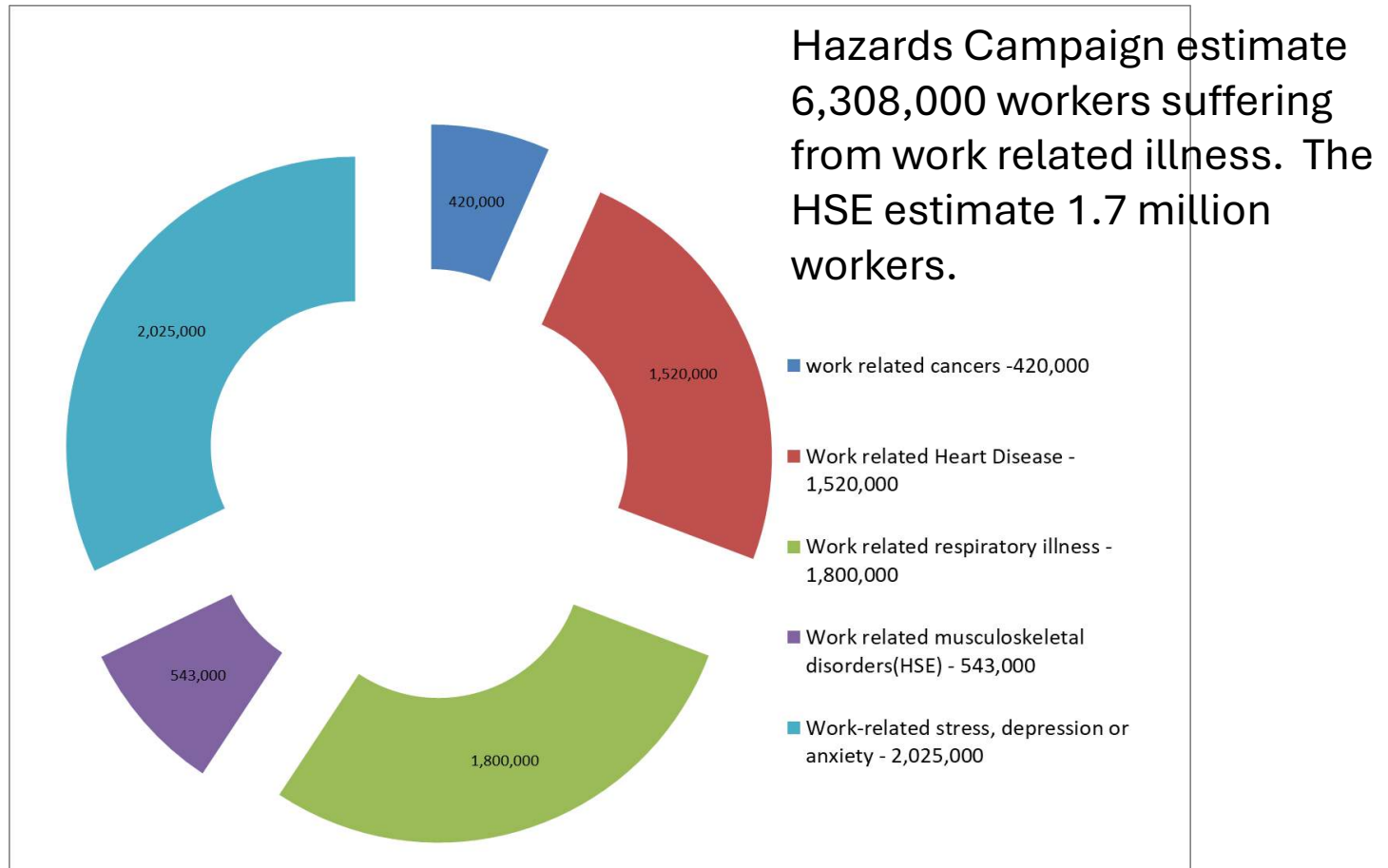
## Hazards Campaign Estimate of Work Related Deaths 2023-2024 – 66,557



# Number of Work related illness resulting in death – 2023-2024 est. (excludes covid deaths)

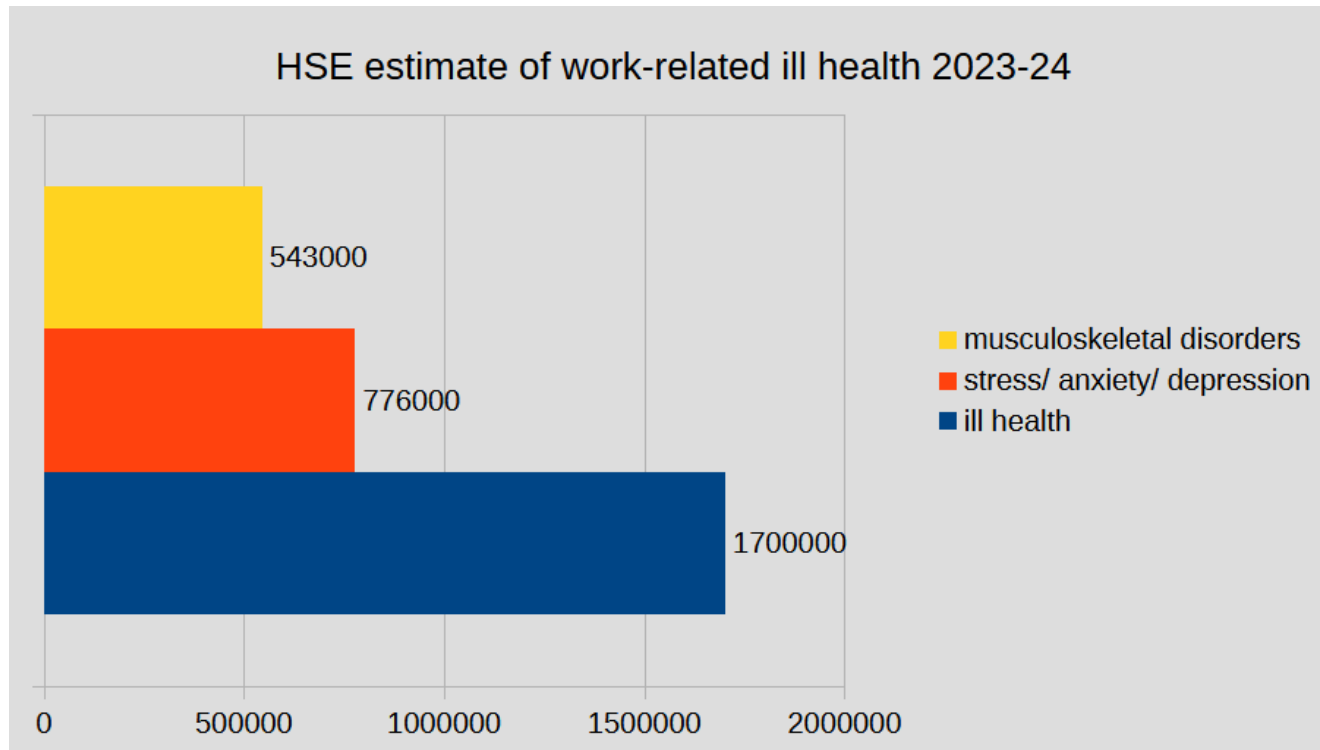


# Hazards estimates over 6 million people with work-related illnesses 2023-2024





## Ill health according to the HSE (2024)



= 33.7 million  
working days  
lost to work  
related ill  
health

However,  
this is not  
the

However  
this is not  
the full story

On average there are only **1,914** disease notifications under RIDDOR per annum for the 609,000 new cases of work-related ill health that HSE estimate occurs every year (0.03%) - Dr Anne Raynal former Senior Med Insp. (1) HSE 2023-24 1.7 million workers suffering from new and long term work-related ill health (2) (HSE estimate/LFS)

Sources:

1: [www.hazards.org/workandhealth/doctorno.htm](http://www.hazards.org/workandhealth/doctorno.htm)

2: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis/index.htm>

## What is the problem with RIDDOR injury reporting?

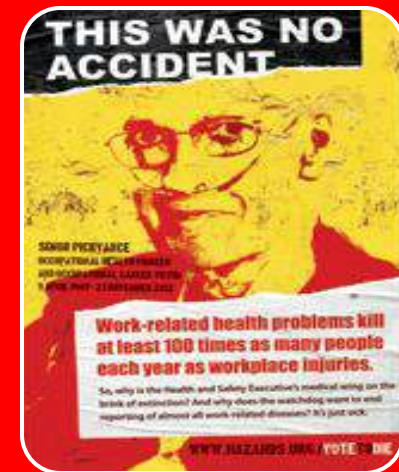
- Massive under-reporting (the labour force survey(LFS) estimate injuries at work are at least 2.6 times higher than reported)
- 29% less incidents reported because of changes made to RIDDOR in 2013
- 2024 HSE summary statistics record 609,000 (new case self reports from LFS 2023/24) only 61,663 RIDDOR reported non-fatal injuries reported Statistics - Non-fatal injuries at work in Great Britain
- Trade Union Health and safety representatives say that the real number is significantly higher and not all fatalities, injuries or ill health reportable – Covid not recorded, investigated and no one held to account!



Graph: Hazards Magazine 2025

## Occupational Health

- Only 0.03% of cases of diseases reported, that should be notified under RIDDOR – Dr Anne Raynal, former senior medical inspector with the HSE
- Employers failing to carry out occupational health surveillance
- Many workers with Long-Covid are not being provided with appropriate reasonable adjustments
- In Nov 2022. the IAC recommended that Long-Covid is prescribed as an Industrial Disease for some workers, the Govt have yet to respond



*Hazards Magazine*

## The Real Cost

- The HSE estimates the cost of harm to society by poor workplace health and safety, as £21.6 billion. (1)
- **Hazards** estimates it to be between £30 and £60 billion – including illnesses
- Who pays? We do - twice!
  - Individuals and families pay 59%
  - the state – taxpayers, the public purse pays 21% and
  - employers who cause the harm pay only 20%



*Hazards Magazine*

Source:

1: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/cost.htm>

## Hazards campaign estimates that:

- **LIVING WITH CANCER:** Of the 3.5 million people living with cancer in UK (2025) less (approx. 0.5% (or 175,000) children) = 3,350,000 of which 12% are estimated to be work-related = 402,000 cases (1)

**NEW CANCER CASES:** 392,000 people diagnosed with cancer (2024) estimated 12% work related = 47,040 (1)

**Die from Cancer:** Each year approx. 167,000 die from cancer, with work related cancer deaths estimated = 20,040 (1)

Mesothelioma – 2257 deaths 2023- 2024 (HSE)

- **CARDIO VASCULAR DISEASES:** 7.6 million people live with cardio vascular disease in UK (approx 3% less (or 28,000 children) = 7,572,000 of which it is estimated that 20% are work-related = 1,514,400 (3)

CVD deaths in UK – 2024 – 170,000 – 3% = 32,980

- **LUNG DISEASES:** 12 million people live with lung disease in UK, including approx 1.1 million children <https://www.asthmaandlung.org.uk/> - Estimated to be work related 17.5% = 1,907,000

No of people living in the UK with Asthma = 7.2 million (2/4)

- **Work related stress – 25% of working population unable to cope with workplace stress** <https://mhfaengland.org/mhfa-centre/blog/Key-workplace-mental-health-statistics-for-2024/> = 25% of 8,100,000 = 2,025,000 (5)

Sources:

1: <https://www.macmillan.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/research/cancer-statistics-fact-sheet>

2: <https://facts.net/the-prevalence-of-asthma-in-the-uk-in-2025/>

3: <https://www.bhf.org.uk/what-we-do/news-from-the-bhf/contact-the-press-office/facts-and-figures#:~:text=There%20are%20around%207.6%20million,the%20single%20biggest%20killer%20worldwide>

4. <https://stateofchildhealth.rcpch.ac.uk/evidence/long-term-conditions/asthma>

5. <https://mhfaengland.org/mhfa-centre/blog/Key-workplace-mental-health-statistics-for-2024/>

## Data sources and further information

HSE (reportable incidents under RIDDOR) Statistics - Work-related fatal injuries in Great Britain [hse.gov.uk](https://www.hse.gov.uk) (1)

- **Rail Safety** – Office of Rail and Road (ORR) safety April 2023 to March 2024 (2)
  - **Deaths at Sea** - Deaths in coastal waters are investigated by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch and information estimated from press reports (3 & 4)
  - **Deaths in the air** - from air crashes are reported to the Air Accident Investigation Board and information estimated from press reports (5)
  - **Work related suicides** (England/ Wales) - estimated up to 10% of the total suicides - Office for National Statistics Suicides - Office for National Statistics (6)
- Suicide statistics (Scotland) Public Health Scotland published 2024 (7)
- Suicide statistics (Northern Ireland) 2023 published 2025
- Suicide other data –The Samaritans in the UK (9)
- **Members of the public** - killed through work related incidents are taken from the HSE figures Statistics - Work-related fatal injuries in the UK (10) ([hse.gov.uk](https://www.hse.gov.uk))
  - **Work related road traffic deaths** include lorry drivers, some of the deaths of people killed whilst driving to work, and those killed on work related activity. The figure is estimated at 33.3% of the reported road traffic incident fatalities. Reported road casualties in Great Britain, provisional estimates: year ending June 2024 - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk))
  - **Covid 19** - HSE RIDDOR notifications of Covid-19 fatalities = 318 – 2020/21 – no statistics available after this period. See: Management Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19) disease reports made by employers to HSE and Local Authorities since 10 April 2020 (11)

### Sources:

- 1: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/fatals-overview.htm>
- 2: <https://dataportal.orr.gov.uk/statistics/health-and-safety/rail-safety/>
- 3: [www.gov.uk/maib-reports](https://www.gov.uk/maib-reports)
- 4: [www.lloydslist.com/LL1145359/Increase-in-incidents-of-deaths-at-sea](https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1145359/Increase-in-incidents-of-deaths-at-sea)
- 5: <https://asn.flightsafety.org/asndb/year/2025/1/G>

- 6: [www.ons.gov.uk](https://www.ons.gov.uk)
- 7: [www.nrscotland.gov.uk/publications/probable-suicides-2023](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/publications/probable-suicides-2023)
- 8: [www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/suicide-statistics-2023](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/suicide-statistics-2023)
- 9: [www.samaritans.org/about-samaritans/research-policy/suicide-facts-and-figures/latest-suicide-data](https://www.samaritans.org/about-samaritans/research-policy/suicide-facts-and-figures/latest-suicide-data)
- 10: [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/fatals.htm](https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/fatals.htm)
- 11: [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/coronavirus/management-information.htm](https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/coronavirus/management-information.htm)



### Work related cancer deaths

<https://www.macmillan.org.uk/dfsmedia/1a6f23537f7f4519bb0cf14c45b2a629/16768-10061/Cancer-statistics-fact-sheet-April-2024#:~:text=People%20dying%20from%20cancer.,1>

### Work related heart disease

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/what-we-do/news-from-the-bhf/news-archive/2024/september/action-could-avoid-11000-cvd-deaths-a-year-2035>

### Work related respiratory

<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/population-health/respiratory-disease>

### Work related suicide

<https://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/blog/hazards-campaign-reveals-the-tragic-price-of-work-hazards>

<https://www.samaritans.org/about-samaritans/research-policy/suicide-facts-and-figures/latest-suicide-data>

### Public killed by work

<https://hqnetwork.co.uk/news/hse-statistics-work-related-fatal-injuries-in-great-britain-2024/>

### Other work related deaths

### Road deaths

[https://uk.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?p=no%20of%20road%20deaths%20uk%202024&hspart=fc&hsimp=yhs-1\\_15&type=fc\\_A23B324045A\\_s69\\_g\\_e\\_d072525\\_n126022\\_c999&param1=7&param2=eJwtj8tqwzAURH9FywRk%2BerqFUWrNGk%2BoHRVoYXjqI7wE9vBpV9fFMpsBuYMzDTp7I34uHAABcJ6GgbvAkcnIj6GHIJBhcrTUHsXrM1MmrwLxjAOyJBhrpJ7Gpo4eheim6fhWXkX%2BvE3dV1VKgZkt6XhPm4LGVbCgYEjWxq0dORHyZ2ppqmLW7y1aS2VMExosmsfa99R0qU2kibW7bgn9WMe%2B1hyYRIkkaX6rub0X8m7ltedPGCJ88ufBfA3PEFhOJwLzq9QnOQVCnlRVkrQ9t3k5rPOMAKqAg4FyE84HFEfpWHCwNcfMFJTPw%3D%3D](https://uk.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?p=no%20of%20road%20deaths%20uk%202024&hspart=fc&hsimp=yhs-1_15&type=fc_A23B324045A_s69_g_e_d072525_n126022_c999&param1=7&param2=eJwtj8tqwzAURH9FywRk%2BerqFUWrNGk%2BoHRVoYXjqI7wE9vBpV9fFMpsBuYMzDTp7I34uHAABcJ6GgbvAkcnIj6GHIJBhcrTUHsXrM1MmrwLxjAOyJBhrpJ7Gpo4eheim6fhWXkX%2BvE3dV1VKgZkt6XhPm4LGVbCgYEjWxq0dORHyZ2ppqmLW7y1aS2VMExosmsfa99R0qU2kibW7bgn9WMe%2B1hyYRIkkaX6rub0X8m7ltedPGCJ88ufBfA3PEFhOJwLzq9QnOQVCnlRVkrQ9t3k5rPOMAKqAg4FyE84HFEfpWHCwNcfMFJTPw%3D%3D)

### Public deaths

## Mental Ill Health Sources

[www.tuc.org.uk/research-analysis/reports/trades-union-health-and-safety-reps-survey-report](http://www.tuc.org.uk/research-analysis/reports/trades-union-health-and-safety-reps-survey-report)

The TUC safety reps survey in 2023 says 'of all the hazards listed, stress is the most widespread concern, cited by 59 per cent of safety reps'

[www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/stress.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/stress.pdf)

By top-level industry, stress, depression or anxiety is most prevalent in: – Human health and social work activities – Public administration and defence; compulsory social security – Education"

[www.unitetheunion.org/uploaded/documents/Regional%20Stress%20Survey%20Results%20201611-28858.pdf](http://www.unitetheunion.org/uploaded/documents/Regional%20Stress%20Survey%20Results%20201611-28858.pdf)

West Midlands Unite the union survey of public sector members. 74.84% are feeling stressed by their work and 52.76% of respondents say that the level of stress is unacceptable and causing them harm

[www.rcm.org.uk](http://www.rcm.org.uk) 'Stress affects almost 50% of England's midwives'

[www.unison.org.uk](http://www.unison.org.uk) – Police staff survey "increased workloads that have resulted from the police cuts, are the major contributory factor in the growth of workplace stress"

[www.ciphr.com/workplace-stress-statistics](http://www.ciphr.com/workplace-stress-statistics) work life can be stressful, and it can be difficult to switch off and leave it all behind at the end of the working day.

[www.perkbox.com/uk/resources/library/2020-workplace-stress-survey](http://www.perkbox.com/uk/resources/library/2020-workplace-stress-survey) In 2020, of British adults in employment – a staggering 79% commonly experience work-related stress. This is 20% higher than 2018's findings

**TEAR UP** | HSE must admit there is a stress catastrophe under its nose and act - Hazards magazine [www.hazards.org/stress/tearup.htm](http://www.hazards.org/stress/tearup.htm)

**RESISTANCE!** | Dave Smith's guide to organising. No.21. Resilience is not the answer - Hazards magazine [www.hazards.org/mentalhealth/resistance.htm](http://www.hazards.org/mentalhealth/resistance.htm)

**FAILED** | HSE's refusal to act leaves workers in a desperate state - Hazards magazine [www.hazards.org/suicide/failed.htm](http://www.hazards.org/suicide/failed.htm)

**DEATH WISH** | Pressure grows on HSE to act on work-related suicide risks - Hazards magazine [www.hazards.org/suicide/pressuregrows.htm](http://www.hazards.org/suicide/pressuregrows.htm)

## The Whole Story Data

Due to the lack of timely, reliable and detailed official data the information for the Whole Story has been compiled from a variety of trusted sources within the countries of the UK and by comparisons with other similar industrial economies.

The Hazards Campaign has challenged successive governments to improve the scope and details of work-related deaths and injuries

Some of the information in the document, like some of the work from the HSE, is based on estimates. In the UK , it is clear that more comprehensive data is needed.

The sources for the data are spread throughout the document.

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## **Greater Manchester Hazards Centre/ Hazards Campaign**

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Manchester M15 5BP (UK)

[www.hazardscampaign.org.uk](http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk)

<https://gmhazards.org.uk/>

[www.facebook.com/GreaterManchesterHazardsCentre](https://www.facebook.com/GreaterManchesterHazardsCentre)

<https://bsky.app/profile/gmhazardscentre.bsky.social>

Twitter/ X: @CentreGreater



# 2025

the Whole Story

HAZARDS  
CAMPAIGN

# ORGANISE!

Safe, healthy work is a fundamental right.  
Unions provide the best protection.  
**We are in a fight for our lives.**

International Workers' Memorial Day  
[www.28april.org](http://www.28april.org)

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY 28 APRIL 2025



HAZARDS CAMPAIGN

WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY ♦ 28TH APRIL Remember the Dead: Fight for the living

## Union workplaces are safer workplaces!

**Fighting for hearts and minds!**

