



BLS uses four characteristics to describe injuries and illnesses:

- Nature of injury or illness, or the principal physical characteristic of the worker's injury or illness;
- Part of the body directly affected by the injury or illness;
- Source of injury or illness—that is, the object, substance, bodily motion, or work environment that directly produced or inflicted the injury or illness; and
- Event or exposure, or the manner in which the injury or illness was inflicted or produced.

In addition, BLS reports the median number of days away from work as a measure of the severity of the injury or illness.

# CHAPTER 27

## Injury and illness topology

