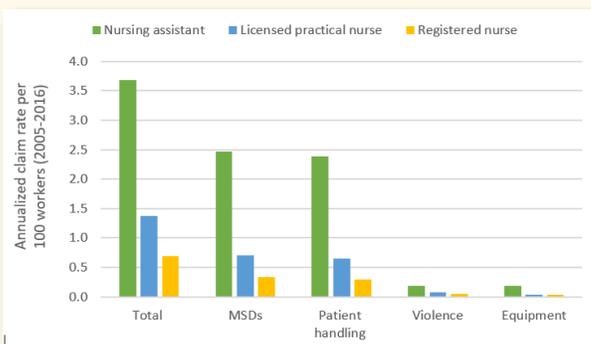


# SAFE PATIENT HANDLING IN LONG-TERM CARE: A MINNESOTA UPDATE



## THE MINNESOTA SAFE PATIENT HANDLING ACT IS DESIGNED TO PROTECT DIRECT CARE WORKERS

- » The 2007 Minnesota Safe Patient Handling Act requires every nursing home to maintain a **written safe patient handling program** and committee.
- » Employers **must provide assistive equipment**, such as Hoyer and sit-to-stand lifts, to minimize manual patient-handling. Research shows gait belts and lift sheets are not enough to prevent injuries.
- » Though the law only applies to nursing homes, safe patient handling practices **can benefit any long-term or transitional care environment**, including assisted living.

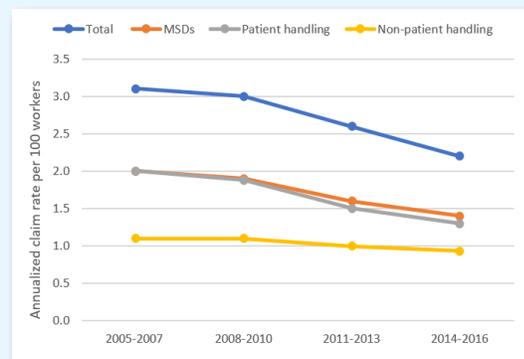


## INJURY RISK IS HIGHEST AMONG NURSING ASSISTANTS

- » Each year in nursing homes, **one in every 40 nursing assistants files a workers' compensation claim** for a lost-time musculoskeletal disorder (MSD). Half are away from work for at least 12 days.
- » Nursing assistants have **higher rates of injuries** caused by patient handling, patient violence, and assistive equipment.
- » Nursing assistants are **less likely than registered nurses to receive weekly workers' compensation benefits** and more likely to receive a lump-sum payment.

## PATIENT-HANDLING INJURIES HAVE DECLINED

- » Over nine years, lost-time workers' compensation claims for patient handling injuries **dropped by 38%**.
- » Patient handling injuries resulting in **temporary and permanent worker disability** declined.
- » **55% of nursing homes reduced patient handling injury claims**. 44% saw reductions in claims for all other injuries and illnesses.
- » Patient handling injury reductions may be even greater in nursing homes with well-developed safe patient handling programs.



## MINNESOTA NURSING HOMES HAVE ROOM TO IMPROVE

- » Nursing homes with higher patient handling injury claim rates are nonprofit, not affiliated with a hospital, outside of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area, and have low staff retention.
- » The 2018 rate of OSHA-recordable injuries and illnesses in Minnesota nursing homes (*7.8 in every 100 workers*) **remains elevated** compared to the national average (*6.2 in every 100 workers*).

## LEARN MORE

- » If your organization could benefit from free ergonomics and patient handling consultation, contact [osha.consultation@state.mn.us](mailto:osha.consultation@state.mn.us), 651-284-5060 or 800-657-3776.
- » If your organization would like to apply for financial assistance to purchase safe patient handling equipment, contact [dli.grants@state.mn.us](mailto:dli.grants@state.mn.us), 651-284-5060 or 800-731-7232.
- » For sample safe patient handling programs and guidance, visit: [www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-wsc-safe-patient-handling](http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/workplace-safety-and-health/mnosha-wsc-safe-patient-handling)
- » For information about this research, email Christina Rosebush, PhD at [rose0611@umn.edu](mailto:rose0611@umn.edu)

