

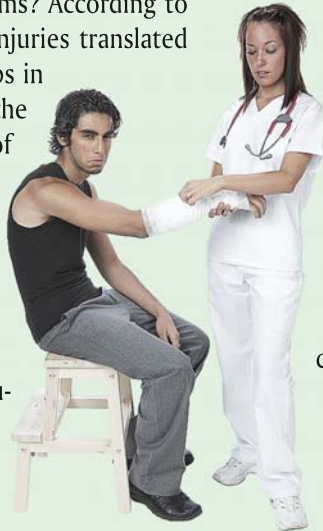
# SAFETY & HEALTH

## FEWER INJURIES BENEFIT THE ECONOMY

### Study shows economic results of lower injury rate

Between 1993 and 2002 the occupational injury rate fell by 38 percent. What does that mean in economic terms? According to a new study, the drop in injuries translated into 550,000 additional jobs in 2002 and an increase in the gross domestic product of \$25.5 billion. The rise in GDP alone accounted for nine percent of the annual average GDP increase between 1993 and 2002.

Researchers at Pacific Institute for Research & Evaluation, Calverton, MD, used an input-output model of the U.S. economy to deter-



mine the impact of occupational injuries on national economic output, gross domestic product, national income and employment. Studies have established that fewer injuries mean lower labor and fringe benefit costs for employers, and the assumption has been that those savings filter down into the economy. This is the first study to attempt to measure that economic impact using an input-output model.

The study appeared in the September 2006 issue of the American Journal of Industrial Medicine.

Source: *Safety Currents Express*

## NSC: ACCIDENTAL DEATHS INCREASING Motor vehicle crashes lead the way

Accidental deaths in the United States are on the rise, warns the National Safety Council. The rate rose more than 20 percent over a 10-year period, reaching 113,000 deaths in 2005.

According to data released by the council to mark National Safety Month, motor vehicle crashes continue to be the leading cause of injury-related death in the country. Driver behaviors including speeding, distractions and impairment, as well as not wearing seatbelts, contribute significantly to motor vehicle injuries and fatalities.

The data also shows poisonings – particularly overdoses of over-the-counter, prescrip-

tion and illicit drugs – is now the fastest-rising cause of accidental death.

A state-by-state review shows that unintentional injury is the third-leading cause of death in Alaska, Arizona, Mississippi, New Mexico and the District of Columbia; it ranks fourth in 18 states, and sixth in Maine, Maryland, New Jersey and New York.

Source: *Safety Currents Express*



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Ocala, Florida 34482  
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www.concretetoday.com

### PUBLISHING

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### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Ashraf M. Ghaly, PE, Ph.D.  
Christopher M. Ernst  
Frank B. Arenas, B.S., J.D.  
George Hedley  
John Vitko  
Lisa Weaver  
Ron Hoffman  
Shelly Speedling  
Sue Marquette Poremba  
Trent Lydic  
Troy Sankey  
W.B. King

### GRAPHICS

Email: [graphics@concretetoday.com](mailto:graphics@concretetoday.com)

### ADVERTISING / MARKETING

Kim McLane  
Office: 407-401-9735  
FAX: 352-351-4730  
Email: [advertising@concretetoday.com](mailto:advertising@concretetoday.com)

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