

October 2021

Final progress report towards the 2020 acute injury target

In 2013, the Government set a target for New Zealand of reducing fatal and serious non-fatal work-related injuries by the year 2020.

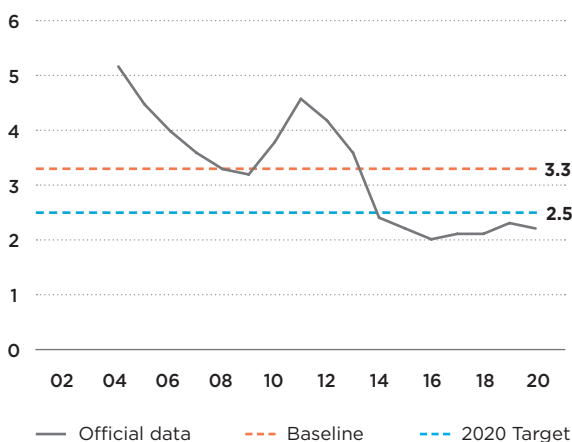
The three work-related acute injury rates indicate New Zealand's progress towards the work-related injury reduction target – a 25% reduction from the baseline by 2020.

While there has been progress since 2013, for two out of the three indicators (serious non-fatal injuries and injuries with more than a week away from work) the targets have not been achieved. For fatal injuries, the target was met early, but progress has stalled since about the middle of the past decade.

The most recent official data available for the indicators is for the 2020 calendar year, with results reflecting the impact of COVID-19 and associated fluctuations in economic activity.

Preventing fatalities and injuries is a critical facet of the work health and safety system. Other priorities include addressing harmful exposures like carcinogens and airborne contaminants which can lead to long-term ill health (the largest source of work-related harm) and controlling potentially catastrophic risks such as those from hazardous substances and energy sources. WorkSafe will continue to work with businesses, workers and key partners to lift health and safety across all areas of work in Aotearoa.

Target indicator 1: Work-related fatal acute injury



Latest official data: 2018-2020 three-year average

2.2 fatal acute injuries per 100,000 FTEs

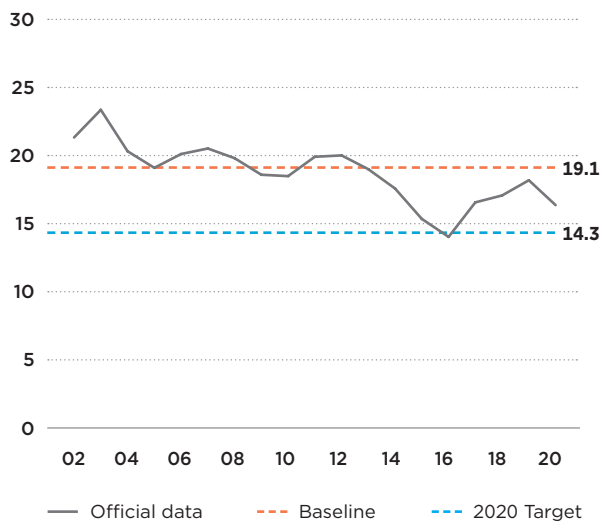
33% LOWER than the baseline¹

The fatality rate for 2018-2020 has reduced slightly from 2017-2019. The total number of fatalities was 179 in 2018-20, compared to 186 in 2017-19.

Source: Stats NZ, from WorkSafe notifications and ACC claims data, 2002-2020

¹ The baseline for work-related fatal injury is the average rate for 2008-2010, excluding the 29 workers killed in the Pike River Coal Mine Tragedy (November 2010). These fatalities are included in the official indicator data, as are the worker fatalities that occurred during the Christchurch earthquakes in 2011.

Target indicator 2: Work-related serious non-fatal acute injury²



Latest official data: 2020 calendar year

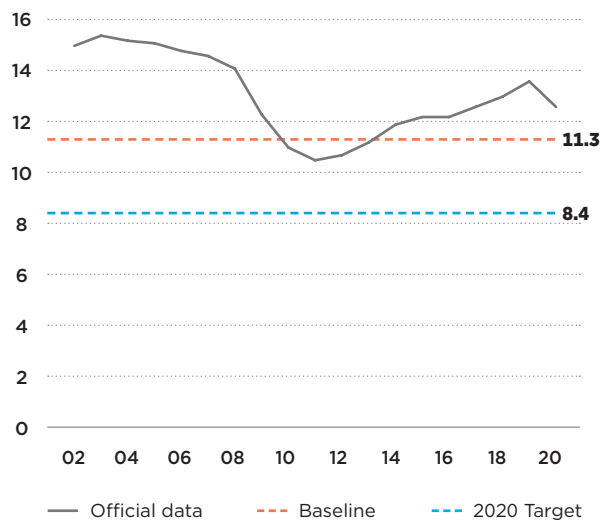
16.5 serious non-fatal acute injuries per 100,000 FTEs

14% LOWER than the baseline³

The indicator for potentially fatal acute injuries remains below baseline but has been above the target level since 2017.

Source: Stats NZ from ACC claims and Ministry of Health hospitalisation data, 2002-2020

Supplementary indicator: Work-related acute injury resulting in more than a week away from work



Latest official data: 2020 calendar year

12.6 ACC week away from work injury claims per 1,000 FTEs

12% HIGHER than the baseline⁴

The rate of week away from work acute injuries has trended upwards since 2012 and has been above baseline for the past seven years. The total number of work-related claims has trended down over this period but the proportion that result in more than a week away from work has increased.

Source: Stats NZ from ACC claims data, 2002-2020

² A serious non-fatal injury is an injury to a patient who is admitted to hospital with a probability of death of 6.9 percent or more.

³ The baseline rate of work-related serious non-fatal acute injury is the average rate for 2008-2010.

⁴ The baseline rate of work-related acute injury resulting in more than a week away from work (where an injured worker has received weekly compensation from ACC for loss of earnings while recovering from injury) is the average rate for 2009-11.