

Executive Summary

The General Building Contractors Association (GBCA) conducted a comprehensive study to evaluate the safety performance of its member firms compared to nonmembers. The study analyzed data from OSHA 300 logs, highlighting GBCA's focus on fostering safer work environments through union-backed training, resources, and practices. Findings revealed significant safety advantages among GBCA members, demonstrating lower incident rates across various categories and showcasing the effectiveness of GBCA's safety initiatives.

Introduction

Occupational safety is a cornerstone of the construction industry, with OSHA 300 logs playing a pivotal role in tracking and improving workplace safety. These records offer valuable insights into injury trends and health risks, enabling contractors to adopt proactive measures. GBCA's analysis of thousands of OSHA 300 submissions focused on jobsite safety performance within the Philadelphia Metropolitan Statistical Area, comparing unionized GBCA members with nonmember counterparts.

Methodology

The methodology for this study involved several key steps:



DATA COLLECTION: Combed through over 2 million OSHA 300 submissions from 2016 onward, providing a robust dataset for analysis.



REGIONAL AND SECTOR FOCUS: The analysis centered on construction firms operating in the Philadelphia metropolitan statistical area, consisting of Southeastern PA, Southern NJ, Northern DE, and NE Maryland.



INCIDENT ANALYSIS: Reported incidents and incident rates were categorized and calculated for both member and nonmember firms.



RATE CALCULATION: Incident rates were determined by dividing the total number of incidents in a given category by total hours worked, creating a standardized measure for comparison.

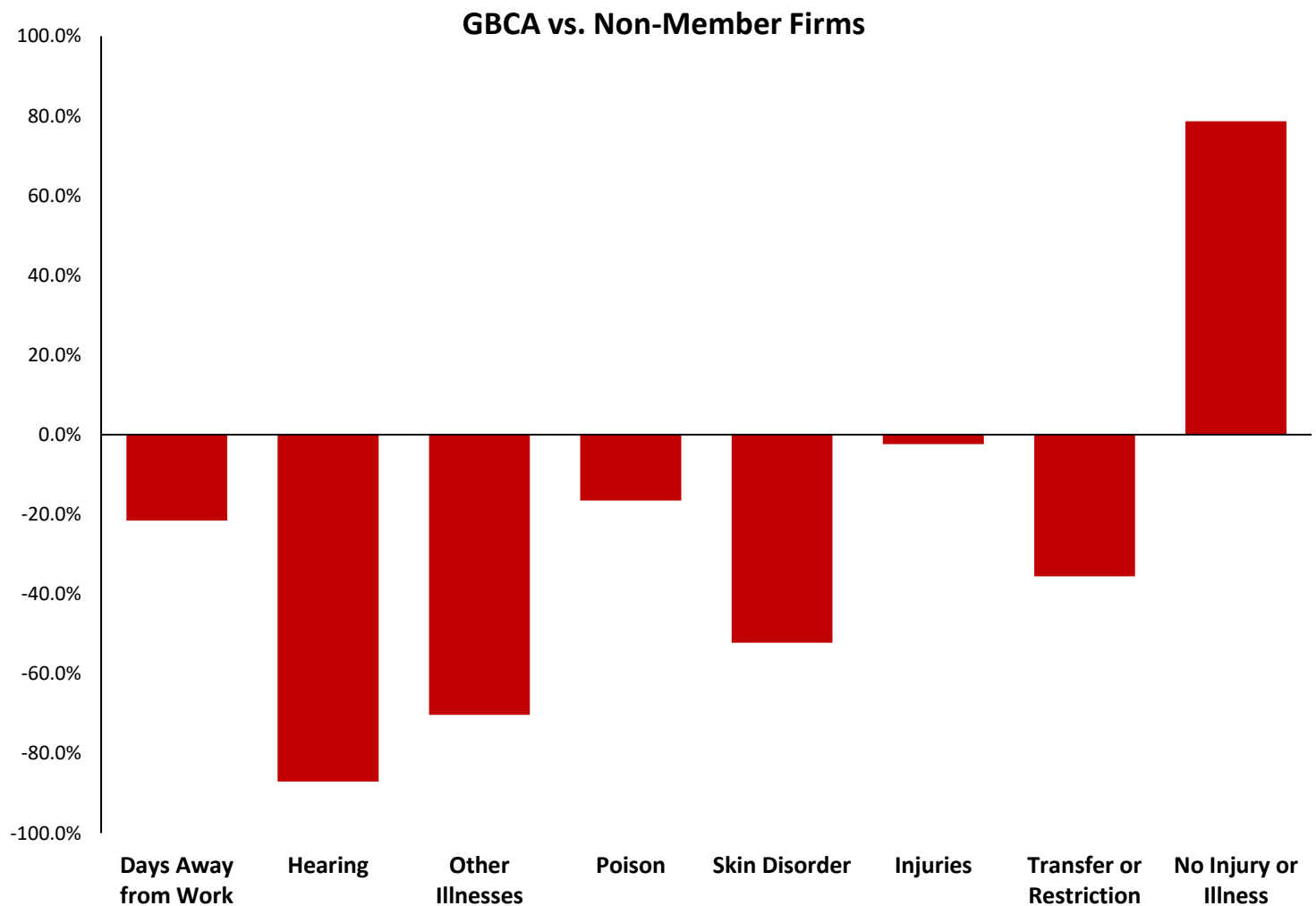


BENCHMARKING: Member and nonmember firm incident rates were directly compared to establish measurable differences in safety performance.

This rigorous approach ensured an objective evaluation of safety outcomes while emphasizing the tangible benefits of GBCA membership.

Results

The study findings highlight the superior safety performance of GBCA member firms compared to nonmembers. Incident rates were consistently lower for GBCA members across multiple categories, reflecting the effectiveness of union-backed training and safety protocols. Key findings are as follows:



Incident Rates by Category

DAYS AWAY FROM WORK: GBCA member firms reported a rate of incidents requiring time away from the jobsite 21.6% lower than nonmember firms. This demonstrates the effectiveness of GBCA-supported measures in minimizing severe injuries.

HEARING-RELATED CASES: The rate of hearing-related incidents among GBCA members was 87.1% lower, showcasing their proactive approach to preventing noise-induced conditions on jobsites.

OTHER ILLNESSES: GBCA members experienced a 70.3% lower rate of other illness-related incidents compared to nonmember firms, indicating robust health management practices.

POISON-RELATED CASES: GBCA firms demonstrated a 16.5% lower rate of poison-related incidents, reflecting better protocols for handling hazardous substances.

INJURIES: Injury rates among GBCA members were 2.4% lower, a modest but meaningful improvement given the volume of incidents in this category.

JOB TRANSFERS OR RESTRICTIONS:

GBCA members had a 35.6% lower rate of cases requiring job transfers or work restrictions, emphasizing their ability to prevent injuries that affect worker productivity.

INCIDENT-FREE JOBSITES: GBCA members reported a rate of no-injury or no-illness incidents that was 78.6% higher than nonmembers, further highlighting their success in maintaining safe environments.

Trends Over Time

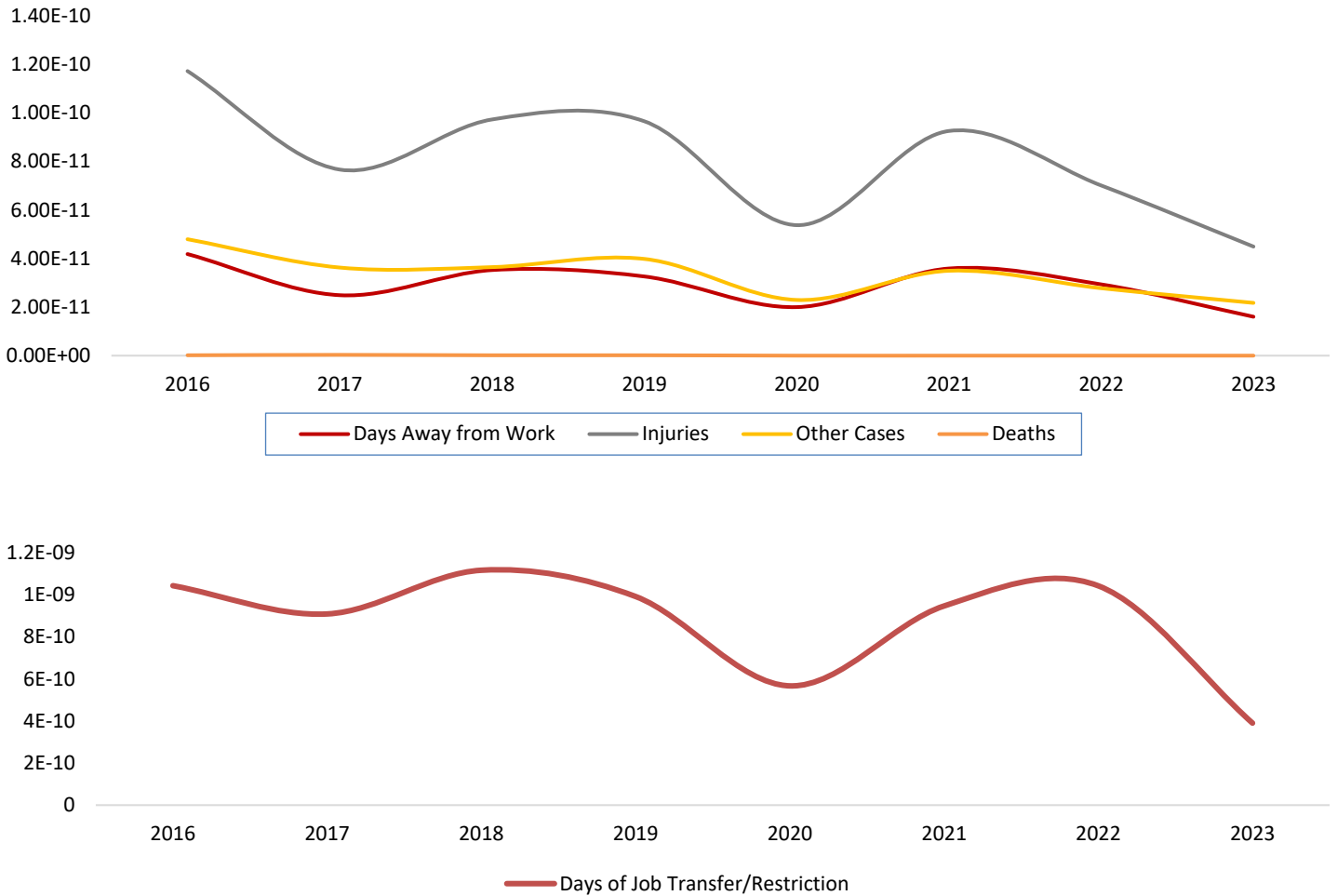
DECLINING INCIDENT RATES: GBCA members consistently reduced incident rates across all categories between 2016 and 2023. This steady decline underscores a commitment to continual safety improvement.

JOB TRANSFER/RESTRICTION REDUCTION: The rate of cases involving job transfers or restrictions among GBCA members decreased by 62.61% during the study period, signaling significant progress in injury prevention.

ZERO FATALITIES: Since 2020, GBCA member firms reported no fatalities, demonstrating a strong focus on life safety.

OSHA 300

Narrative Report



REDUCTION IN OTHER INCIDENT TYPES: Rates of less common but significant incidents, categorized as "Other Cases," dropped by 54.72% from 2016 to 2023.

IMPROVED INJURY RATES: The rate of jobsite injuries among GBCA members improved by 61.59% over the study period, further reinforcing the long-term impact of their safety initiatives.

LOST TIME INCIDENT RATE (LTIR): The lost time incident rate, a standard OSHA metric for safety, was consistently lower for GBCA members compared to nonmembers. This serves as a key indicator of their enhanced jobsite safety and operational efficiency.

Lost Time Incident Rate	
GBCA Member Firms	0.57
Non Member Firms	0.73

These findings illustrate how GBCA members' lower incident rates across diverse categories reflect the tangible benefits of the association's resources and support. By fostering safer worksites, GBCA demonstrates leadership in the construction industry's safety efforts. The study findings align with GBCA's mission to promote worker safety through union-backed training and comprehensive safety protocols. GBCA's investment in safety resources and its emphasis on collaboration have yielded measurable improvements, setting a benchmark for the industry. Key factors contributing to this success include:



UNION TRAINING: Enhanced safety education and certifications for union workers.



PREVENTIVE PRACTICES: Regular inspections, risk assessments, and adherence to OSHA standards.



RESOURCE ALLOCATION: Access to advanced tools, protective equipment, and health programs.

In contrast, nonmember firms lagged in safety performance, facing higher incident rates and increased severity of injuries. These disparities highlight the need for broader adoption of GBCA-inspired practices across the construction sector.

Recommendations

To further enhance safety outcomes, the following recommendations are proposed:

- ***FOR GBCA MEMBER FIRMS:***
 - Continue leveraging union-backed resources to sustain high safety standards.
 - Explore innovative safety technologies and data-driven approaches for continuous improvement.
- ***FOR NONMEMBER FIRMS:***
 - Adopt practices aligned with GBCA's standards, including rigorous training and safety protocols.
 - Participate in industry safety initiatives and seek collaboration with organizations like GBCA.
- ***FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY:***
 - Advocate for widespread implementation of best practices to reduce incidents.
 - Promote safety culture through incentives and public recognition for firms prioritizing worker safety.

Conclusion

The GBCA study presents compelling evidence of the association's role in fostering safer workplaces. By achieving significantly lower incident rates, GBCA members exemplify the benefits of union-backed safety initiatives. This report serves as a call to action for the construction industry to adopt similar strategies, prioritizing worker well-being and productivity. As the industry evolves, GBCA's leadership in safety performance sets a standard for excellence, ensuring safer jobsites for all.