

Table 4. Prevalence (%) of Numbness, Proportion (%) of Limitation of Motion among Cases, and Standard Errors (SE) in among Health-care Workers by Job Category and Body Part

Body Part	Doctors			Nursing staff		
	Cases	Prevalence (SE)	Limitation of motion (SE)	Cases	Prevalence (SE)	Limitation of motion (SE)
Neck	7	3.2 (1.2)	1 (14.3)	12	2.4 (0.7)	1 (8.3)
Shoulder	2	0.9 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	21	4.2 (0.9)	3 (14.3)
Upper back	3	1.4 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	3	0.6 (0.3)	1 (33.3)
Elbow	3	1.4 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	7	1.4 (0.5)	1 (14.3)
Lower back	11	5.1 (1.5)	5 (45.5)	18	3.6 (0.8)	3 (16.7)
Wrist	5	2.3 (1.0)	0 (0.0)	20	4.0 (0.9)	5 (25.0)
Hand	12	5.5 (1.5)	0 (0.0)	23	4.6 (0.9)	3 (13.0)
Hip	3	1.3 (0.8)	1 (33.3)	3	0.6 (0.3)	1 (33.3)
Upper leg	8	3.7 (1.3)	0 (0.0)	14	2.8 (0.7)	3 (21.4)
Knee	2	0.9 (0.6)	1 (50.0)	3	0.6 (0.3)	2 (66.7)
Lower leg	9	4.1 (1.4)	2 (22.2)	49	9.8 (1.3)	12 (24.5)
Ankle	4	1.8 (0.9)	1 (25.0)	22	4.4 (0.9)	2 (9.1)
Other	1	0.5 (0.5)	0 (0.0)	16	3.2 (0.8)	14 (87.5)

Body part	Medical technicians			Support Staff		
	Cases	Prevalence (SE)	Limitation of motion (SE)	Cases	Prevalence (SE)	Limitation of motion (SE)
Neck	2	1.7 (1.7)	0 (0.0)	3	3.3 (1.9)	1 (33.3)
Shoulder	2	1.7 (1.7)	1 (50.0)	5	5.4 (2.4)	2 (40.0)
Upper back	2	1.7 (1.7)	0 (50.0)	2	2.2 (1.5)	0 (0.0)
Elbow	4	3.4 (1.6)	0 (0.0)	1	1.1 (1.1)	0 (0.0)
Lower back	3	2.5 (1.4)	1 (33.3)	2	2.2 (1.5)	0 (0.0)
Wrist	9	7.4 (2.4)	0 (0.0)	4	4.3 (2.1)	1 (25.0)
Hand	10	8.3 (2.5)	0 (0.0)	15	16.3 (3.9)	1 (6.7)
Hip	2	1.7 (1.2)	1 (50.0)	0	0.0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Upper leg	5	4.1 (1.9)	0 (0.0)	4	4.4 (2.1)	1 (25.5)
Knee	2	1.7 (1.2)	1 (50.0)	2	2.2 (1.5)	2 (100.0)
Lower leg	6	5.0 (2.0)	0 (0.0)	4	4.3 (2.1)	1 (25.0)
Ankle	3	2.5 (1.4)	0 (0.0)	5	5.4 (2.4)	1 (20.0)
Other	2	1.7 (1.2)	0 (0.0)	0	0.0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)

health-care workers. The over-all response rate to our survey was high, but doctors had a relatively low response rate. We conducted a search in *Medline* and failed to find studies on soreness of the musculo-skeletal system among health-care workers. Therefore, we have no data to compare with, and our study may be one of the very few, if any, sources of data on these conditions. On the other hand, we did find some studies on numbness of musculoskeletal system among health-care workers.³⁵⁻⁴¹ Most of the cases were dentists or nurses caused by exposure to ethylene oxide or nitrous oxide. Whereas people might sometimes con-

fuse soreness with pain, these can be easily distinguished in most cases. Numbness indicates a decrease in sensation and can be more clearly distinguished from the other two. The causes of these 3 conditions have some overlap, but many of them are quite specific in most cases. For example, chronic fatigue often results in soreness, sometimes pain, but much less frequently in numbness. Acute injuries mainly cause pain, and numbness is a common clinical manifestation of neuropathies. Although numbness and soreness might not be as serious as pain in terms of taking workers away from work, it often caused limitation of motion.