

RISK OF COVID-19 RELATED HOSPITALIZATION AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS AMONG ONTARIO WORKERS COMPARED TO THE GENERAL POPULATION OF ONTARIO

Key Insights



This fact sheet summarizes COVID-19 related emergency department visits and hospitalizations among a group of over 1 million workers in the Occupational Disease Surveillance System (ODSS).



Ontario workers had a higher risk of visiting the emergency department or being hospitalized for COVID-19, when compared to the general population of Ontario.



The risk of an emergency department visit or hospitalization for COVID-19 among Ontario workers varied by sex. Overall, female workers had a higher risk compared to male workers.

Risk of COVID-19 among male and female workers compared to the general population of Ontario

↑ **14% higher risk** based on emergency department visits

↑ **11% higher risk** based on hospitalizations



↑ **52% higher risk** based on emergency department visits

↑ **43% higher risk** based on hospitalizations



Select occupations with a higher risk of COVID-19 compared to the general population of Ontario



Textile Fabrication Workers



Air Transport Workers



Nurses



Personal Services Workers



Food and Beverage Processing Workers



Janitors and Cleaners



Sales Workers



Food and Beverage Preparation Workers

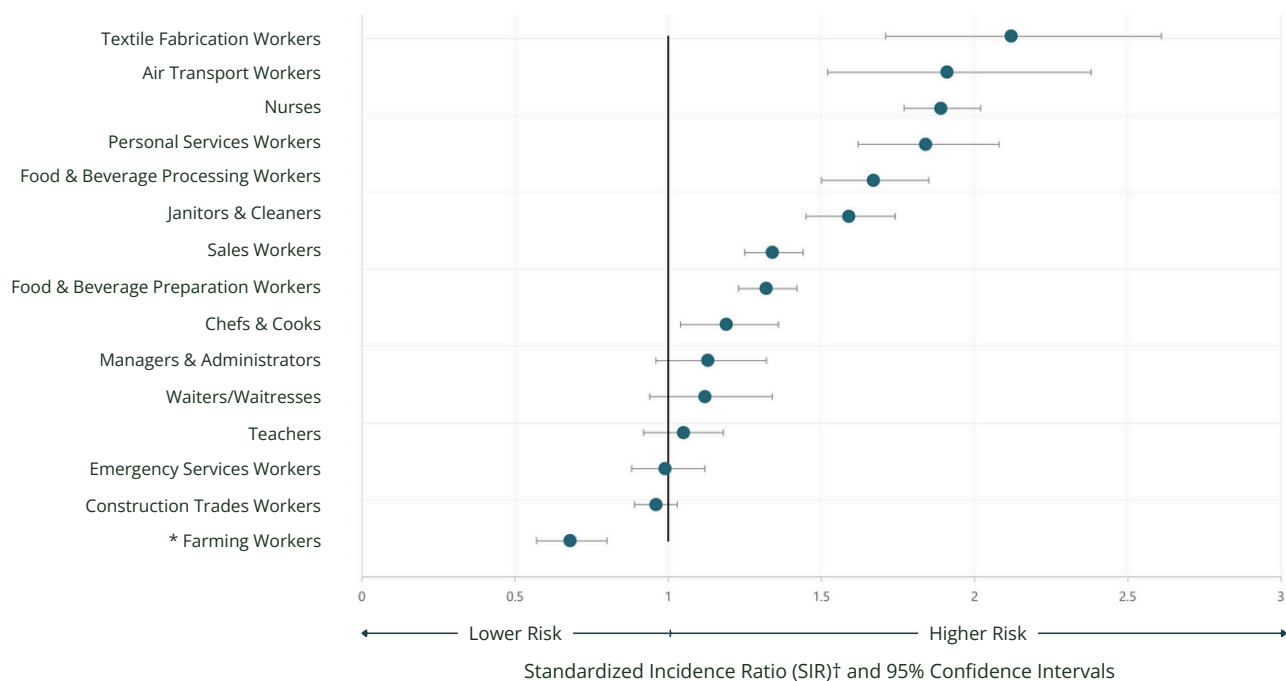


Chefs and Cooks

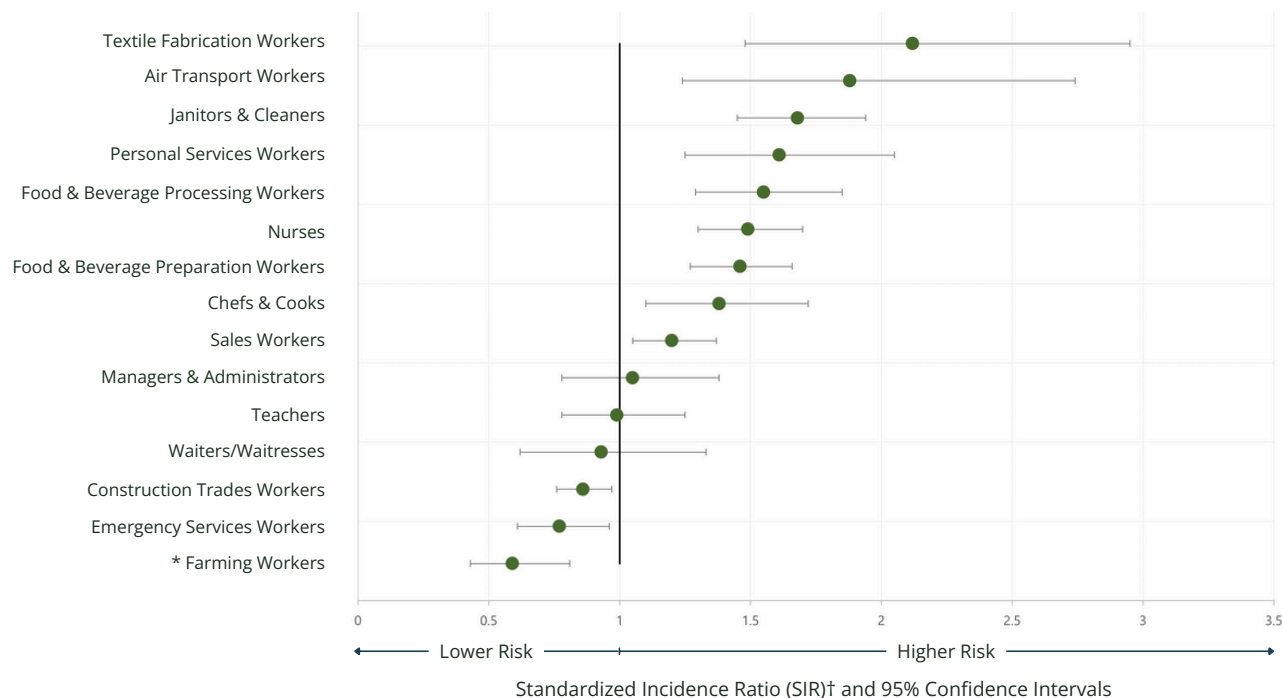
Higher risk of COVID-19 may be due to indoor, in-person operations, with close physical proximity and frequent contact with others.

Lower risk of COVID-19 may be due to outdoor work, well-ventilated environments, use of respiratory protection, or minimal physical proximity and contact with others (e.g. remote work).

Risk of COVID-19 related emergency department visits, by occupation



Risk of COVID-19 related hospitalization, by occupation



* Risk estimates among farming workers may not fully capture COVID-19 infections among migrant workers.

† The SIR estimates the occurrence of COVID-19 among workers in the ODSS relative to what might be expected if workers in the ODSS had the same COVID-19 experience as the general population of Ontario. The SIR was calculated as the ratio of the total number of observed cases of COVID-19 in the ODSS to the number of expected cases. The expected number of cases is the number of cases that would occur among workers in the ODSS if the incidence rate in the general population occurred in the ODSS. For example, an SIR greater than 1 means that there are more COVID-19 cases than expected among workers in the ODSS compared to the general population.

About the Data

This fact sheet summarizes the risk of COVID-19 among workers in the Occupational Disease Surveillance System (ODSS) based on emergency department visits and hospitalizations between December 2020 and February 2021. Workers in each group (e.g. occupation) were compared to the general population of Ontario. The ODSS monitors COVID-19 outcomes among more than 1 million Ontario workers.

For more information on the project, visit:

 www.occupationalcancer.ca/project/covid-19-surveillance/



This project was funded by a grant provided by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB, Ontario). The provision of grant support by the WSIB does not in any way infer or imply endorsement of the content by the WSIB.