

Accidents at Work in the Finnish Food Industry between 2016–2020

Analysis of Finnish national accident statistics database

International Symposium on Occupational Safety and Hygiene (SHO 2022)
8.-9.9.2022

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Background

- Current regulations, policies and programs emphasize improving safety and health at work, and strategic goals for reducing occupational accidents have been set
- Previous studies have highlighted that food industry employees are exposed to several OHS risks
- The number of occupational injuries and diseases are high in comparison to other lines of business
- There is a need to implement further actions to prevent accidents and improve health and safety

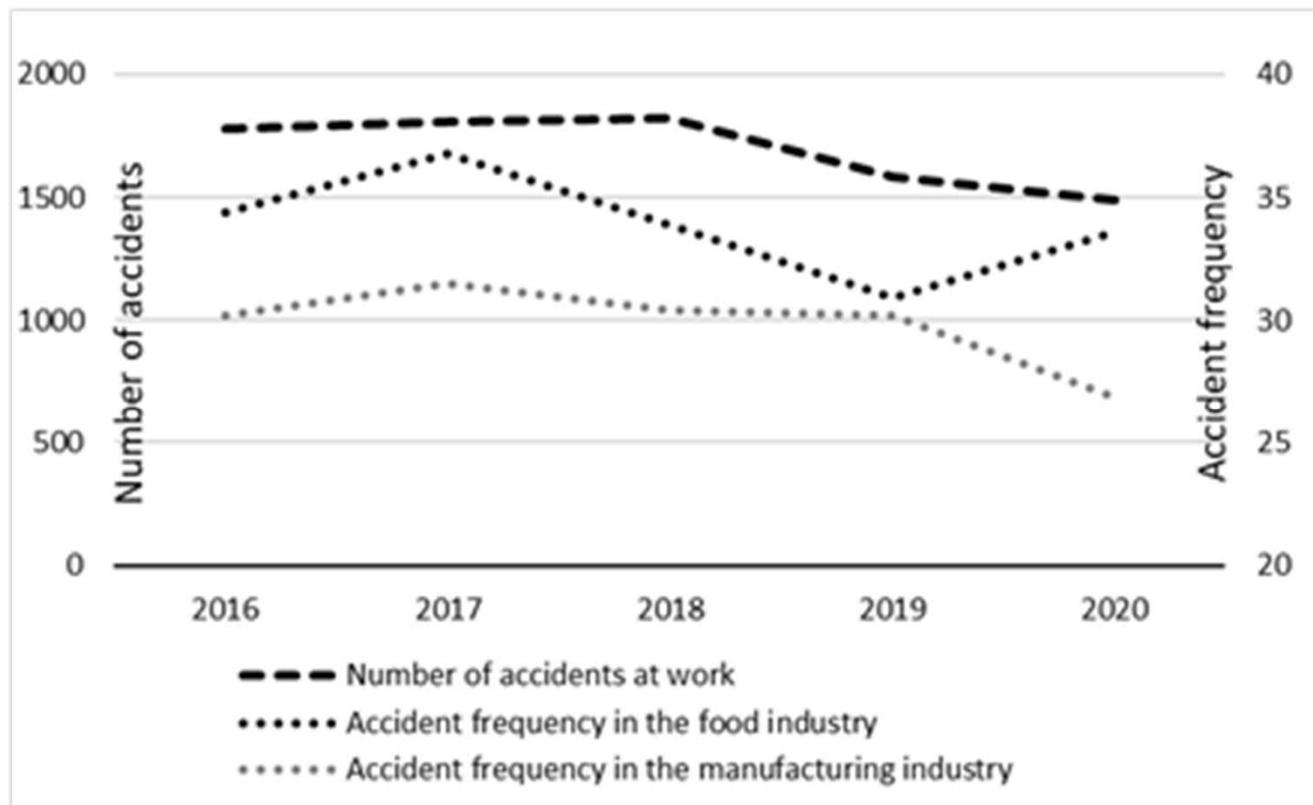
Aim of the study

- This study aimed to descriptively analyze the circumstances, causes, and consequences of accidents at work in the food industry in Finland between 2016–2020 to support efforts to improve safety at work and enhance the well-being and productivity of the employees.
- The study provides a preliminary analysis for a subsequent research project aiming at developing safety culture in the Finnish food industry.

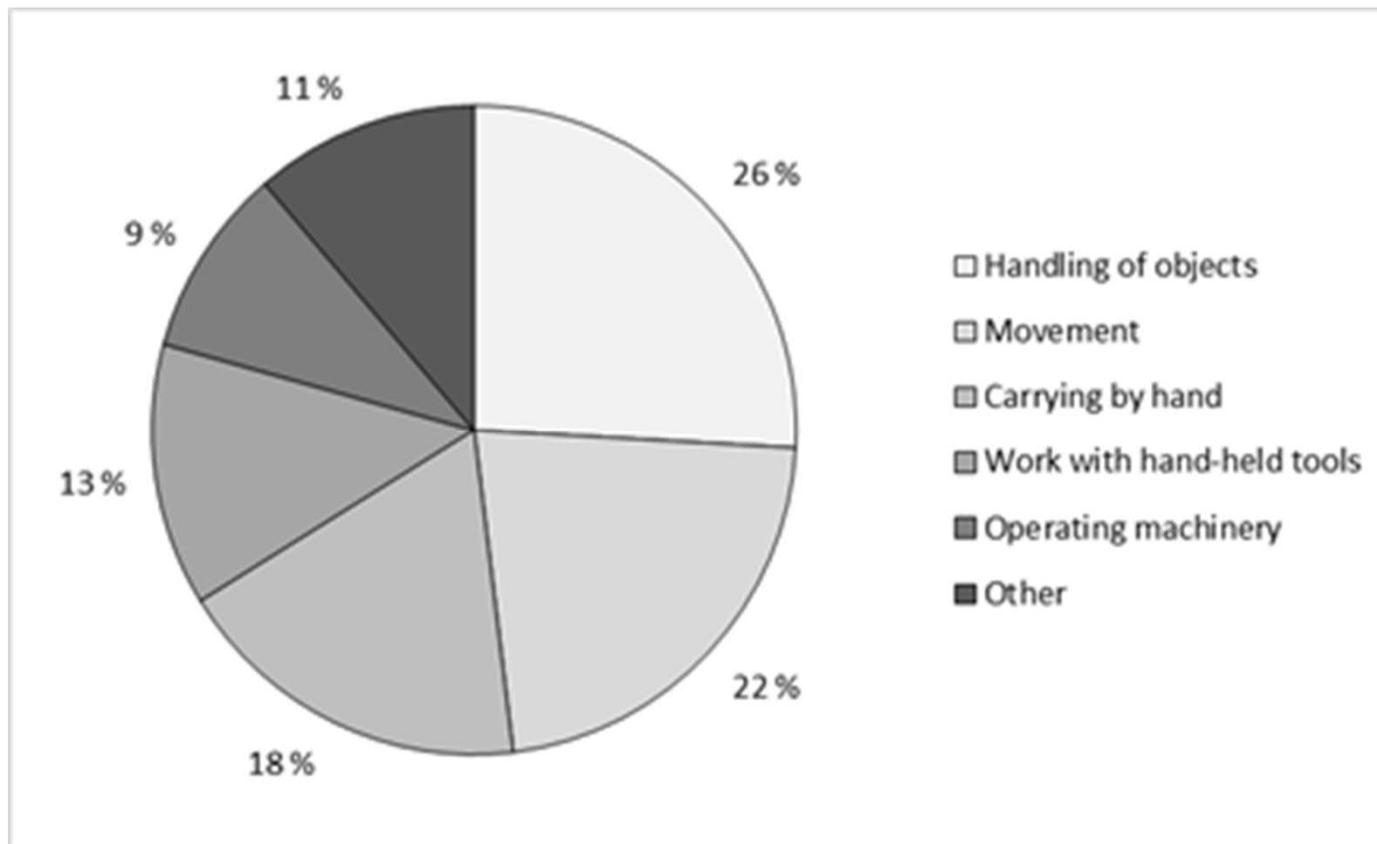
Materials and Methods

- The Finnish official national occupational accident database was utilized to survey the accidents at work in the food industry between 2016 and 2020 (n = 8481)
 - The web-based database includes all the accidents reported and compensated through the statutory accident insurance system in Finland
- The focus is on accidents at work, excluding commuting accidents
- The data were analyzed with descriptive statistics according to ESAW classification

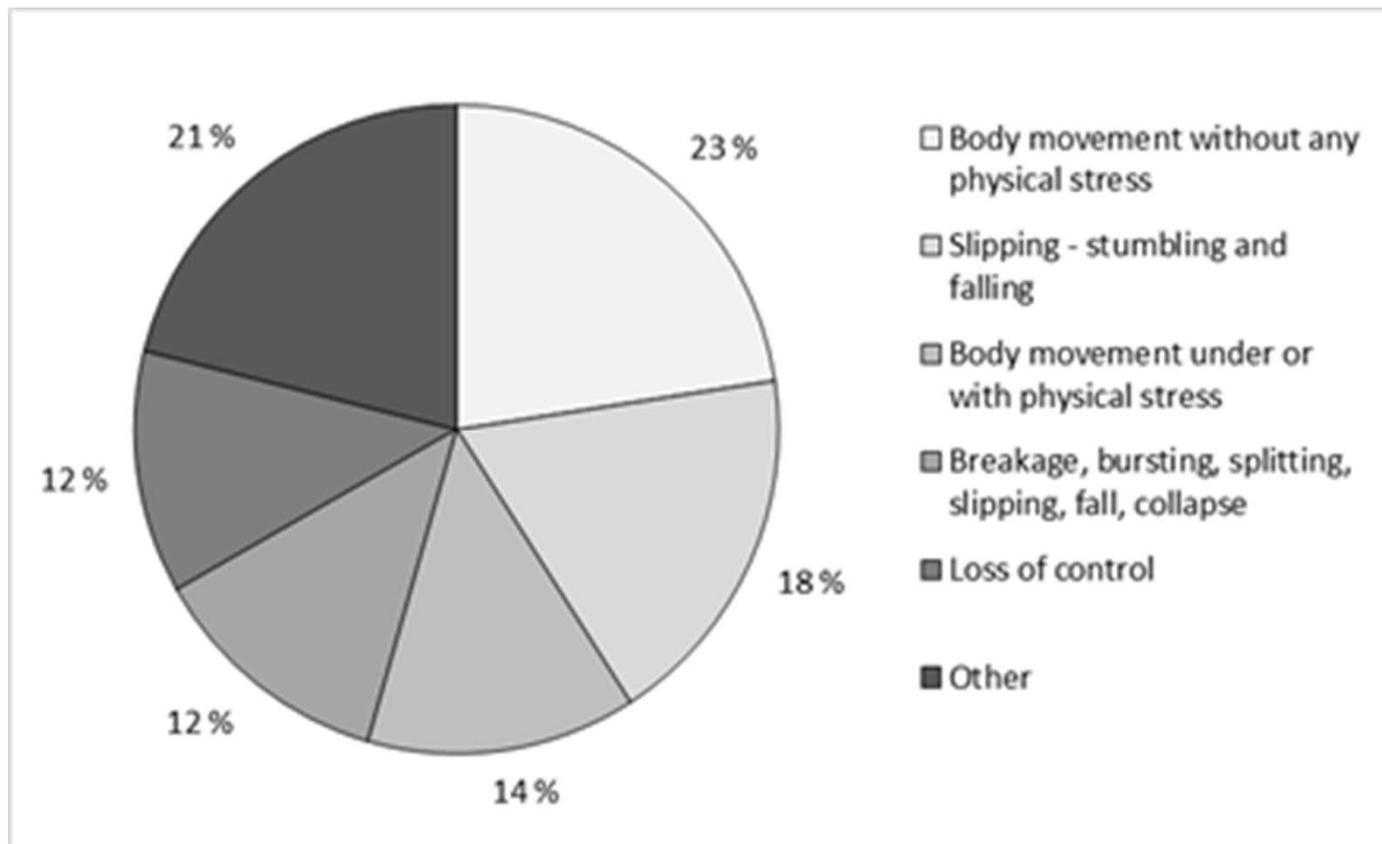
Trends in the frequency and number of accidents at work in the food industry



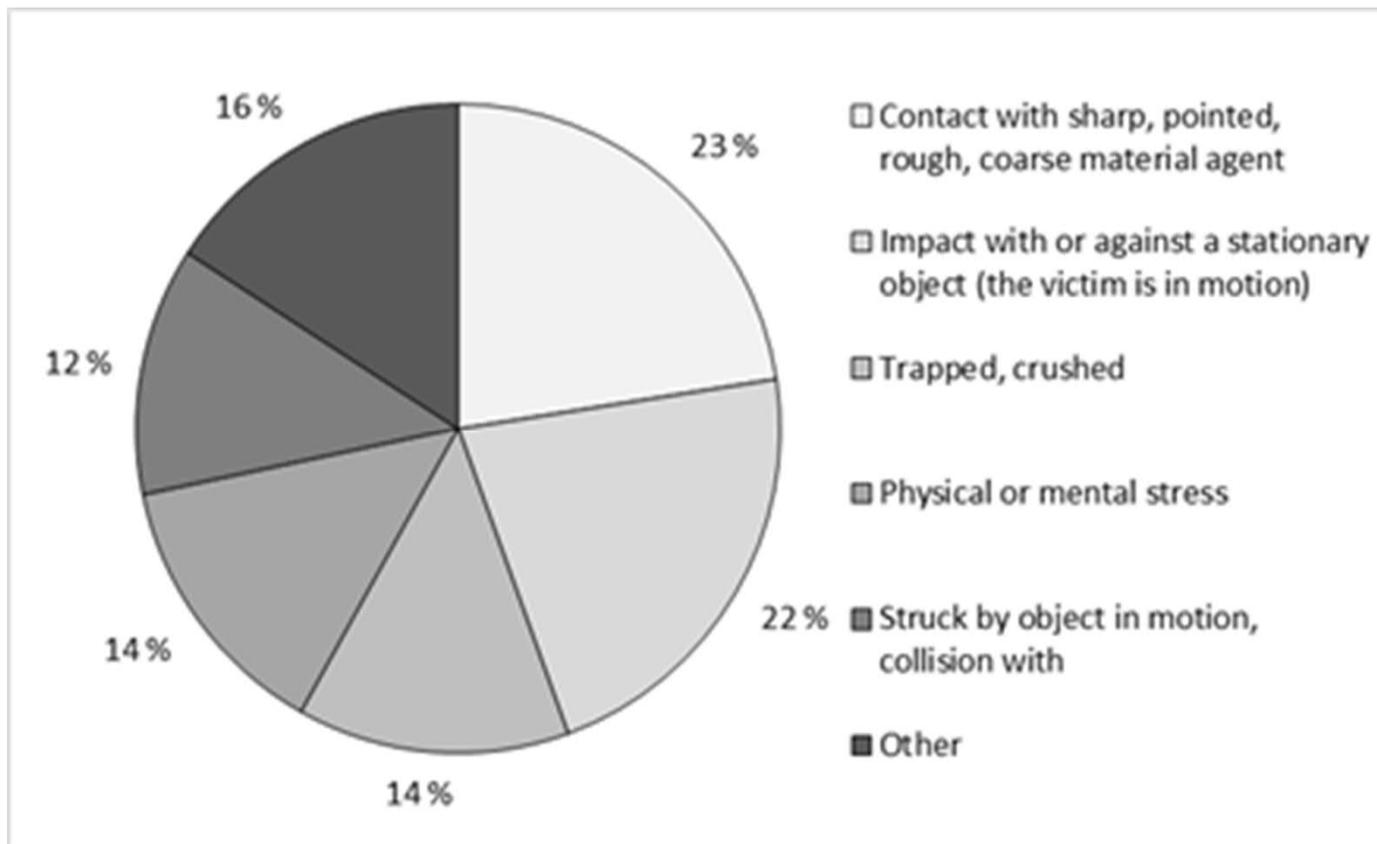
ESAW variable: Specific physical activity



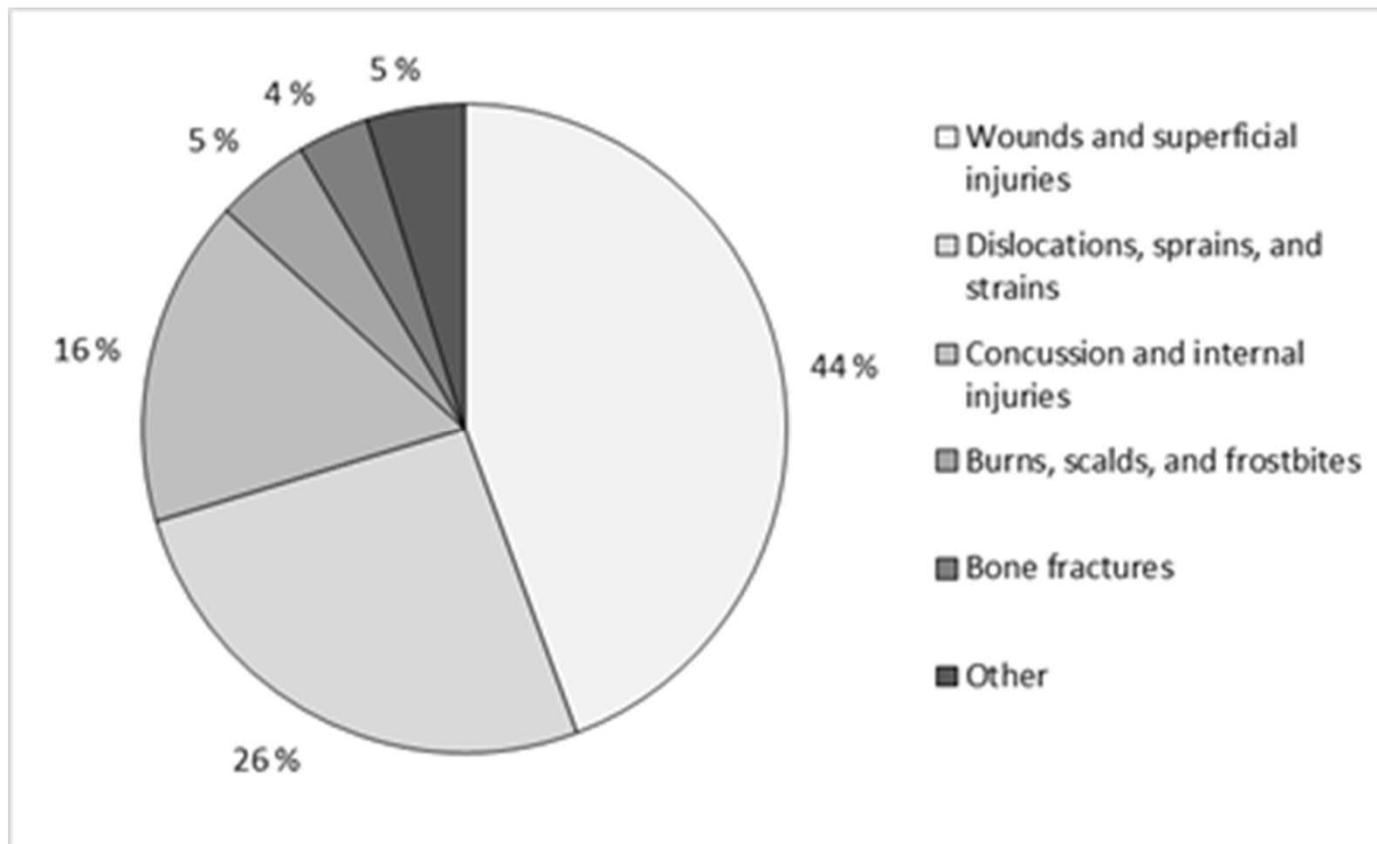
ESAW variable: Deviation



ESAW variable: Contact-mode of injury



ESAW variable: Type of injury



Discussion

- There was a slightly decreasing trend in the number and frequency of accidents at work in the food industry
 - The frequency rate was higher in the food industry than in manufacturing industry in general
- Most of the accidents were minor causing less than 4 days of incapacity for work, with wounds and superficial injuries
 - The percentage of severe accidents was higher than in manufacturing industry in general
- Focusing accident prevention on found factors may support the food industry in its effort to reduce the number of accidents