

Office Safety

LEADING ACCIDENT TYPES

OFFICE EMPLOYEES COMPARED WITH OTHER INJURED WORKERS

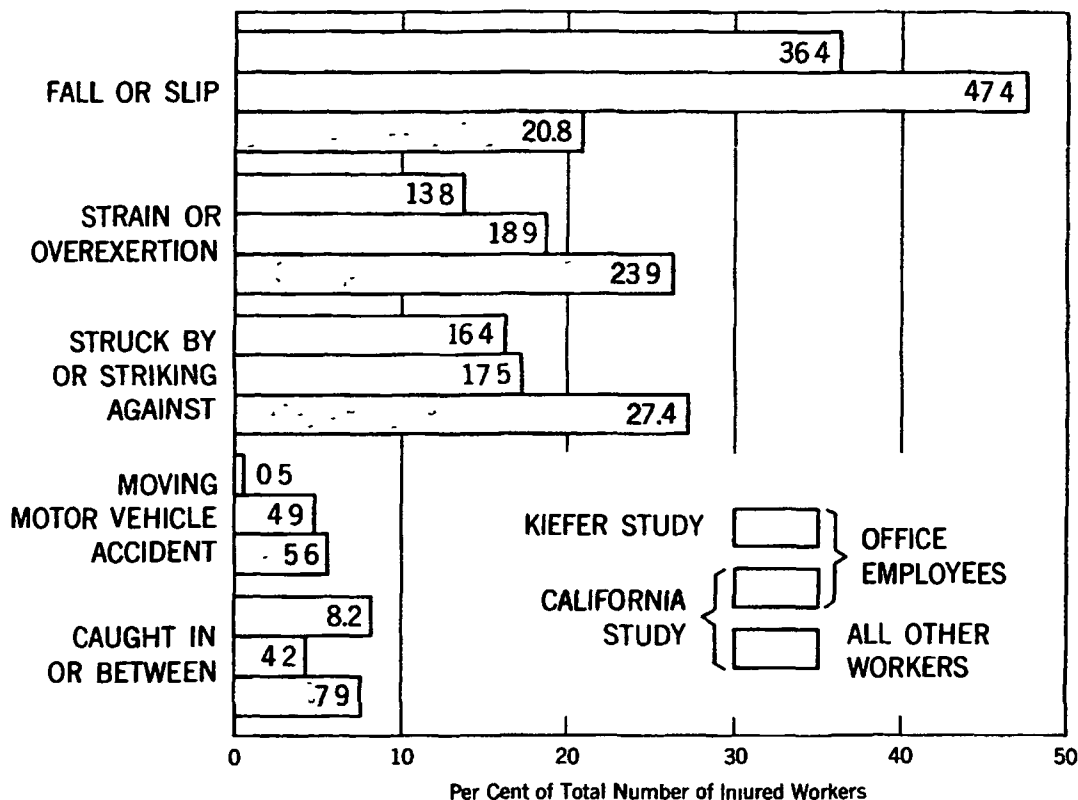


FIG 15-2 — A comparison of the California study with the Equitable study, and of office employees with all other workers

example, paid out \$102,000 over eight years at one facility just for injuries incurred by people falling out of chairs. Approximately 25,000 people worked at the plant, on the average, and more than half were office workers. Fourteen chair accidents occurred, and the two worst totaled \$97,000.

Studies made by the State of California Department of Industrial Relations, and by Norvin C. Kiefer, M.D., Chief Medical Director, Equitable Life Assurance Society of the U.S. (see "References"), show that this is not an isolated incident.

The California State Department of Industrial Relations analyzed reports filed by more than 3000 California employers (employ-

ing more than one million office workers) on disabling injuries to employees during 1959. When extrapolated to nationwide scale, on-the-job office accidents would annually amount to about 40,000 disabling injuries at a *direct cost* (indemnity benefits and medical expenses) of about \$100 million. (This figure does not include any indirect costs for employers, workers, or the nation.)

"Office worker" is defined as (in the California study) "a person primarily engaged in performing clerical, administrative, or professional tasks indoors in an office at his employer's place of business." This definition would *not* cover salespersons, claims adjusters, social workers, medical and teach-