



Injury Reporting in Dance

Injury reporting is part of a robust prevention model used by many industry health and safety experts and sports organizations to monitor work related musculoskeletal injuries in an effort to reduce them. In the realm of Ergonomics, the systematic tracking and reporting of injuries is commonly referred to as surveillance.

The use of an injury reporting surveillance system within a dance workplace (school or company) is critical to the prevention of dance injuries because it catalogs conditions associated with each injury event and offers an epidemiologically sound method of measuring annual injury incidence by body region and exposure-based injury rates for time or factor comparison.

Before dance medicine healthcare professionals can know how to be most effective in reducing dance injury risks with clinical intervention and research inquiry, they must first determine the magnitude of the injury problem. Such information forms a baseline from which to evaluate the effectiveness of training and injury prevention programs.

In 1993 the Harkness Center for Dance Injuries implemented the International Performing Arts Injury Reporting System (IPAIRS[®]) – an injury surveillance system - at the various companies and schools where it provides on-site care in order to evaluate risk and improve understanding of the multiple factors associated with injury occurrence. IPAIRS is a secure electronic database that is fully privacy-protected and HIPAA compliant, allowing field users to enter real time data into a PDA or laptop and electronically upload the information for later report generation, which in turn drives our quality assurance and improvement planning processes.