

The addition of hearing loss as a new category of illness in 2004 accounted for the change in the percent distribution of "All other illnesses," which fell from 75 percent in 2003 to 65 percent in 2004.

Hearing loss accounted for more than 11 percent of all illnesses in 2004. In 2003, cases of hearing loss were included in the "All other illnesses" category.

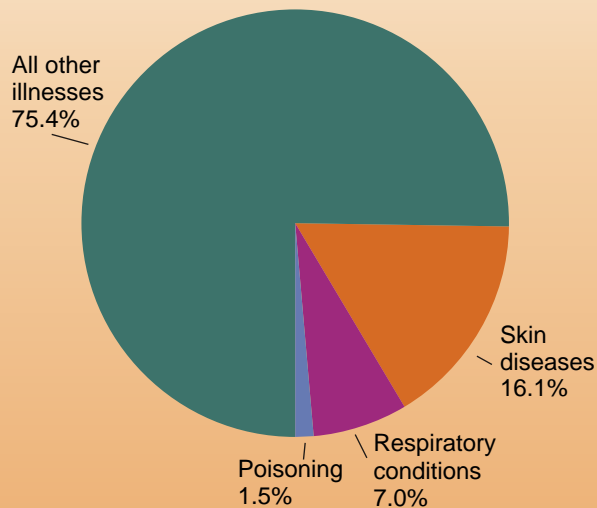
Manufacturing industries reported nearly 84 percent of the cases of hearing loss.



Percent of nonfatal occupational illnesses, 2003 and 2004

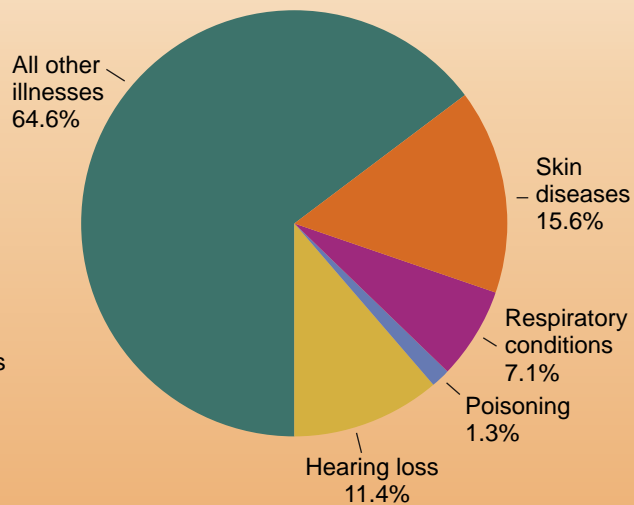
Nonfatal illness cases by category of illness, private industry, 2003

269.5 total cases
(in thousands)



Nonfatal illness cases by category of illness, private industry, 2004

249.0 total cases
(in thousands)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, November 2005