

Each injury or illness is described from four viewpoints.

BLS uses four characteristics to describe injuries and illnesses:

Nature of injury or illness, or the principal physical characteristic of the worker's injury or illness;

Part of the body directly affected by the injury or illness;

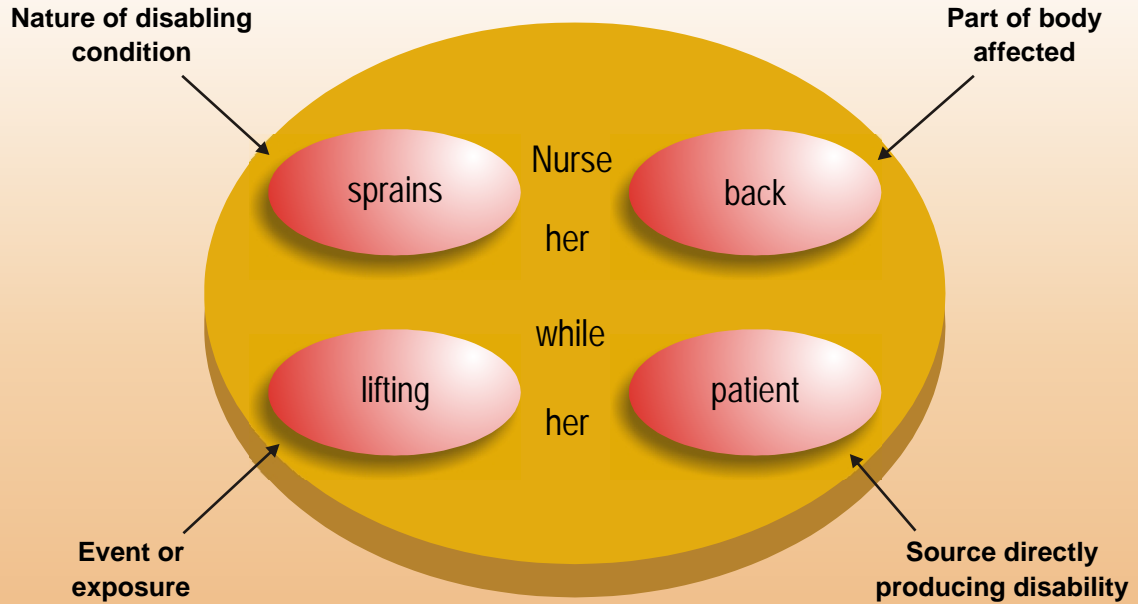
Source of injury or illness—that is, the object, substance, bodily motion, or work environment that directly produced or inflicted the injury or illness; and

Event or exposure, or the manner in which the injury or illness was inflicted or produced.

In addition, BLS reports median days away from work as a measure of severity.



Injury and illness topology



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