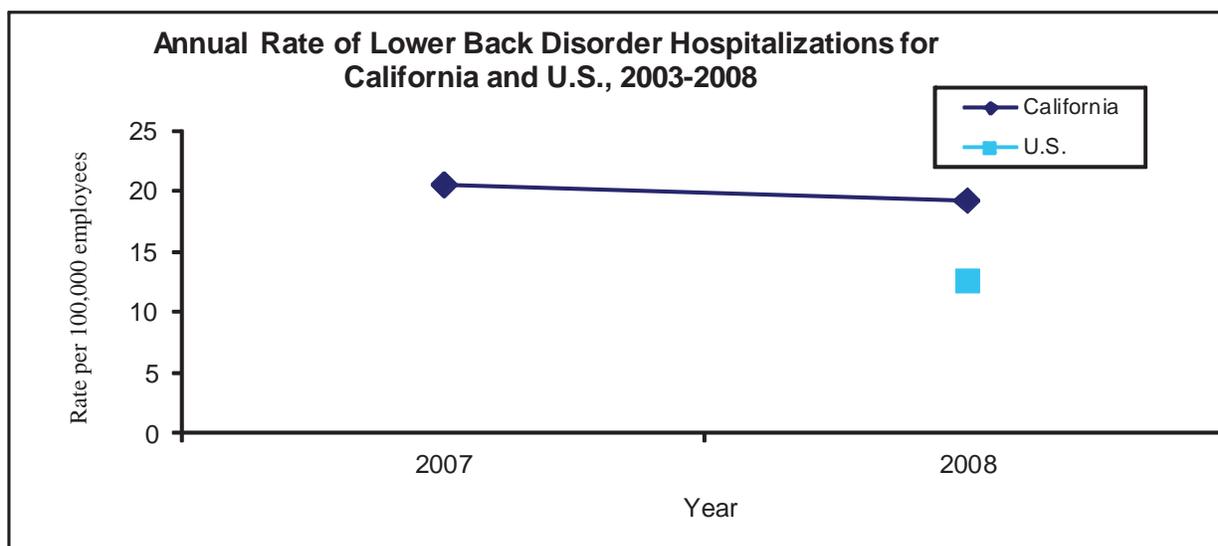


## Hospitalizations for Work-Related Lower Back Disorders

Hospitalizations for work-related lower back disorders have serious and costly effects, from high medical bills to reduced work performance and lost productivity. Lower back pain is a common disorder among the general population. An estimated two-thirds of lower back disorder cases are related to work activities. Hospital discharge data from non-federal acute care hospitals are used to identify lower back disorder hospitalizations that are paid for by workers' compensation. The number of hospitalizations for work-related lower back disorders is likely to be undercounted, since not all workers are eligible for workers' compensation, and there may be inaccuracies in identifying payment source. This new indicator was developed by the states and added starting in 2007.



Incidence Rate and Number of Hospitalizations for Work-Related Lower Back Disorders for California and U.S., 2003-2008							
Year	California						U.S.
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2008
Rate of Work-Related Lower Back Disorder Hospitalizations per 100,000 Employees	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	20.5	19.2	12.7
Number of Work-Related Lower Back Disorder Hospitalizations	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,524	3,272	18,507

Data Sources: Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development Hospital Discharge Data, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey

Incidence Rate and Number of Hospitalizations for Work-Related Lower Back Disorders for California and U.S., 2003-2008							
Year	California						U.S.
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2008
Rate of Work-Related Surgical Lower Back Disorder Hospitalizations per 100,000 Employees	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	16.0	14.4	11.8
Number of Work-Related Surgical Lower Back Disorder Hospitalizations	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,753	2,528	17,090

Data Sources: Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development Hospital Discharge Data, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey