

Market, Street Traders & Headload Porters' Health & Safety

A survey undertaken in the Accra Market, in Ghana, investigated the main occupational health and access to healthcare challenges faced by market, street traders and headload porters. Here's what we learned:

Illness and injury affect informal workers' ability to work:



The main reason (cited by 43% of workers) for missing work in the last 12 months was illness or injury



Most workers surveyed (60-65%) who had been ill or injured in the previous 12 months said that their illness or injury was related to work

Workers' illness or injury affects their ability to work & earn a living:



Most workers (63%) who had been ill or injured had missed a day or more of work



Most workers (85%) who had missed work were unable to earn during that period

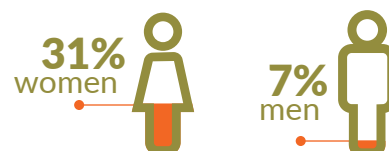
Ergonomic hazards:



The majority of workers surveyed (92% of women and 72% of men) reported experiencing ergonomic hazards while at work

Violence and harassment:

A greater number of women than men reported being exposed to violence and harassment at work



Informal Workers & the Ghana National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS)

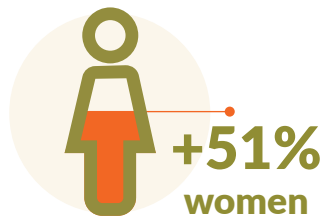
Informal workers were also interviewed about their ability to access the National Health Insurance Scheme.



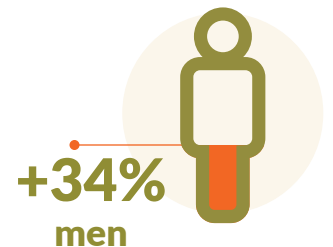
48% of market, street traders & headload porters surveyed were members of the NHIS. This means they have to pay out of pocket to access health services.

Membership to the NHIS varies according to informal workers' occupation:

- 56% of market traders reported being members of the NHIS;
- 47% of street vendors reported being members of the NHIS;
- Only 40% of headload porters reported being members of the NHIS.



More women than men informal workers surveyed reported being members of the NHIS



Reasons for not being a member of the NHIS included:



Allowing membership to expire (31%)



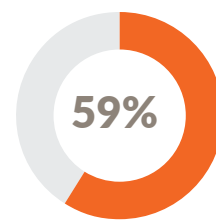
Unable to afford premiums (16%)



Inconvenience of registration (16%)



The majority of workers surveyed (59%) who are members of the NHIS, still had to pay additional fees to access treatment.



Workers' health measures to support street vendors, market traders and headload porters should include:

- safer and healthier public spaces in which to work;
- access to social protection to protect workers from loss of income when they are ill or injured;
- universal access to quality health services and medicines.