

# Impact of Anti-Fatigue Matting on Worker Productivity

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SmartCells® can improve worker productivity and reduce musculoskeletal injuries

**JAMA**

Results of a recent productivity study was reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) November 12, 2003 – Volume 290, No. 18: **“Lost productive time from common pain conditions among active workers costs an estimated \$61.2 billion per year... The majority (76.6%) of the lost productive time was explained by reduced performance while at work and not work absence...”**

According to the study, 12.6% of workers experience a loss of productivity due to the following pain conditions: 5.4% headache; 3.2% back pain; 2.0% musculoskeletal pain; and 2.0% arthritis pain. The study further reports an average loss of **4.6 hours per week per person** who experiences debilitating pain. Since the majority of this loss is at work as reported, then **employers are losing an average of 3.5 hours per week, or 23 days per year, of productive time when a worker is in pain (76.6% x 4.6 hours).**

SATECH's anti-fatigue technology has been optimized to reduce the pain and fatigue associated with standing work. Since standing workers frequently report back and musculoskeletal pain conditions, SmartCells® can help reduce 41% of the pain associated with lost productivity (3.2% back pain and 2.0% musculoskeletal pain). The cost of productivity loss due to pain is typically not understood or addressed by most employers. Standing workers who experience back and musculoskeletal pain could be draining their employers of 1000s of dollars per year in lost productivity. By implementing SmartCells® anti-fatigue systems, employers can recapture lost productivity from workers who experience pain associated with standing work.

Pain not only results in productivity loss but also leads to costly injuries. According to Washington State Dept of Labor and Industries data, the direct cost of a musculoskeletal injury claim is \$5,625 with a frequency of 30 claims per 1,000 workers. Liberty Mutual projects TOTAL direct and indirect costs for a claim at \$33,750. Clearly, avoiding even ONE claim can justify an investment in SmartCells®. Back pain has become a pervasive problem deserving employer focus. Recent studies report low back pain affects 60 – 80% of U.S. adults at some time during their lives, and up to 50% have back pain within a given year. Workers who stand on SmartCells® have reported less back pain as well as less leg and foot pain while performing their work.

## SmartCells®: A Dual-purpose Solution in Healthcare

SmartCells technology not only cushions falls but also provides fatigue relief for healthcare workers.

- Employees in nursing and personal care facilities suffer one of the highest rates of lost-work time due to injuries and illnesses—more than double the national rate.
- One-fourth of these injuries entail eleven or more missed workdays, at a tremendous cost to employers.
- An estimated 82,000 lost-work time injuries and illnesses occurred in private nursing and personal care facilities in 1995.

- Those facilities employed approximately 1.5 million workers that year. These employees typically return to work in four days, but,
- it is not uncommon for these workers to miss eleven or more workdays due to occupational injury.

Lost work time is expensive for employers, and it is a particular problem in healthcare occupations where continuity in patient care is important.

**The second largest cause of injury to these workers, behind being directly injured by a patient, is floors, walkways, and other ground surfaces. A SmartCells® surface in these facilities could help prevent employee injuries and significantly reduce lost work time and the associated expense to employers.**