

**Wisconsin's  
Results from  
the 2020  
National T&E  
Education  
Safety Survey**

*How Does Wisconsin Compare to the  
National Averages?*

*What are the Implications for School  
Systems?*

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Companion Report for *The Interface* article  
May 2021

## Permissions

These findings were derived from a larger data set:

- Love, T. S., & Roy, K. R. (2020). K-12 technology and engineering education safety and facilities survey. [Data set]. National Safety Consultants, LLC. <https://sites.google.com/view/2020-te-safety-study/>
- Love, T. S., Roy, K. R., & Sirinides, P. (2021). What factors have the greatest impact on safety in Pennsylvania's T&E courses? *Technology and Engineering Education Association of Pennsylvania Journal*, 69(1), 5-22.
- Love, T. S., & Roy, K. R. (in press). What factors have the greatest impact on safety in Wisconsin's T&E courses? *The Interface: Journal of the Wisconsin Technology Education Association*.

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### CURRENTLY

- Assistant Professor of Elementary/Middle STEM Education at Penn State Harrisburg
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### PREVIOUS EXPERIENCES

- Coordinator and Associate Professor of T&E Ed in MD
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- ON STAFF AT Glastonbury Public Schools (CT)
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### PRIVATE SAFETY PRACTICE

- National Safety Consultants, LLC – General Manager/Senior Safety Consultant
- National Science Teaching Association (NSTA)  
Chief Science Safety Compliance Adviser and Blogger
- National Science Education Leadership Association (NSELA)  
Safety Compliance Officer
- International Council of Associations for Science Education (ICASE)  
Safety Committee Member
- Author of over 10 safety books and ~ 800 Professional Journal Articles on Safety



## Background Info

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- Last national survey on T&E safety is unknown
- Large focus on safety in T&E education due to:
  - Potential hazards, resulting risks, and teacher liability
  - Alternative certification
  - STEM/Makerspaces
  - After school clubs

## Previous Research - CTE

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- Recent studies on safety in various CTE areas by Threeton and Evanski (2014, 2015, 2019)
  - 57 CTE teachers from 30 counties in PA
  - 93% had safety plan in place
- Top 5 obstacles to implementing safety in CTE classes
  1. Chronic student absences
  2. SPED modifications/accommodations
  3. Lack of funding
  4. High class enrollment surpassing legal occupancy loads
  5. Small classroom/lab space

## Previous Research - Science Ed

-Stephenson, West, Westerlund, & Nelson (2003)

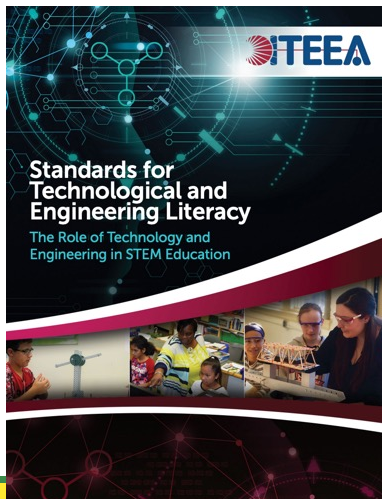
- 856 science teachers in TX
- 81 incident/accident report forms returned

-Incidents/Accidents increased:

1. 8% to 62% as **class size** increases from <14 to >24 students
2. 11% to 66% as **room size** decreased below 60 sq. ft per student
3. 11% to 47% as **room size** decreased below 800 sq. ft
4. 35% did not have adequate training
5. Only 69% had a written safety policy

-Study redone in 2014, similar findings

## Safety – Embedded in Our Standards!



-Love, T. S., Duffy, B. C., Loesing, M. L., Roy, K. R., & West, S. S. (2020). Safety in STEM education standards and frameworks: A comparative content analysis. *Technology and Engineering Teacher, 80*(3), 34-38.

# T&E 2020 National Safety Survey

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-**TEE-FASS** (T&E Ed Facilities and Safety Survey)

Adapted from Stephenson et al. study

April 2020 - sent out to ITEEA/TEEAP members

718 responses from 42 states, 42 WI responses

-Questions on:

- Info and Demographics
- Experience and Certification
- Classroom Conditions
- T&E facilities
- Teacher and Student Safety Training
- Recent Incidents/Accidents

# Demographics

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### Gender and Race

#### Wisconsin

Answer	%	Count
Male	93%	39
Female	7%	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>42</b>
White	100 %	42
Black	0 %	0
Two or More Races	0 %	0
Asian	0 %	0
Hispanic or Latino	0 %	0

**National** - 74% male; 90% White, 5% Black (718 total responses)

### Certification(s)

#### Wisconsin

Answer	Percent	Count
Alternative or Emergency	2%	1
Elementary Education	9%	5
Technology Ed or T&E Education	69%	40
A Science Education area	0%	0
CTE area	12%	7
Other (please specify)	9%	5

**National** – T&E = 78%, Elementary = 3%, CTE = 8%

### Total Years Teaching T&E/Tech Ed/Indust. Arts

#### Wisconsin

Answer	%	Count
0-3	2%	1
4-8	17%	7
9-15	21%	9
16-25	31%	13
26+	29%	12

#### National

0-3	10%	70
4-8	20%	142
9-15	20%	143
16-25	28%	201
26+	23%	162
Total	100%	718

### Grade Level Taught

#### Wisconsin

Grade Level	%	Count
K-5	0%	0
Middle School	17%	7
High School	45%	19
6-12 (Middle & High School)	36%	15
K-12	2%	1

#### National

Grade Level	%	Count
K-5	3%	21
Middle School	29%	207
High School	55%	394
6-12 (Middle & High School)	11%	82
K-12	2%	14

# Courses and Enrollment

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## Course Preps

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<u>Preps</u>	<u>Wisconsin</u>	<u>National</u>
1	0%	3%
2	5%	14%
3	12%	31%
4	33%	25%
5	40%	13%
>5	10%	14%



# Primary Focus of Your Courses

## Wisconsin

1. Materials Processing - Woods
2. Materials Processing - Metals
3. Tie - T&E Design/Literacy, Construction Technologies

## National

1. Engineering Design, T&E Literacy
2. Tie - Materials Processing (woods and metals combined)  
CAD  
Electronics/Programming/Robotics
3. Pre-engineering (ex. PLTW)

## Enrollment in your classes: Average and Largest Class sizes

### Wisconsin

**Average:** 33% said 16-20  
29% said 21-24  
12% said 25-30  
2% said more than 30

**Largest:** 41% said 25-30  
10% said more than 30

### National Comparison

**Average:** 33% said 16-20  
25% said 21-24  
22% said 25-30  
8% said more than 30

**Largest:** 34% said 25-30  
23% said more than 30

Percentage of students in your classes this past year that had special needs?

**Wisconsin**

Answer	%	Count
0-5%	2%	1
6-15%	48%	20
16-25%	43%	18
26-50%	2%	1
More than 50%	5%	2

**National**

0-5%	20%	146
6-15%	41%	297
16-25%	27%	191
26-50%	10%	73
More than 50%	2%	11
Total	100%	718

# Administrative and District Support

**Administration's progressive disciplinary support?**

**Wisconsin**

Answer	%	Count
Poor	14%	6
Fair	26%	11
Good	36%	15
Excellent	24%	10

**National**

Poor	12%	79
Fair	21%	152
Good	42%	303
Excellent	26%	184

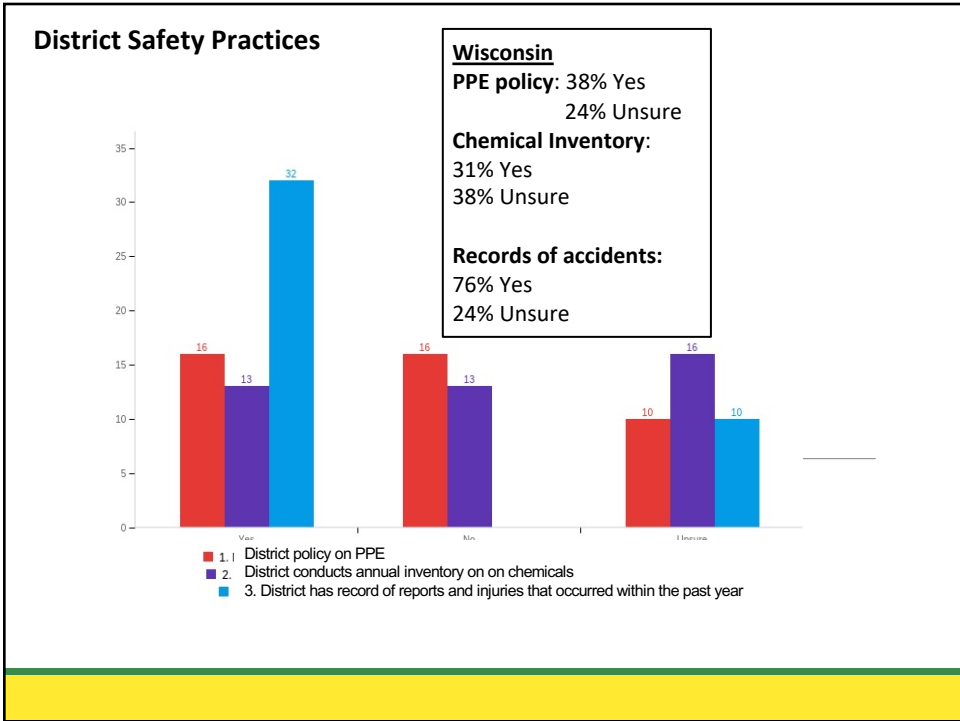
**Have a sufficient budget to maintain safety**

**Wisconsin**

Answer	%	Count
Yes	38%	16
No	62%	26

**National**

Answer	%	Count
Yes	53%	380
No	47%	338



### Does your district conduct annual safety audits of T&E facilities?

Answer	Wisconsin	National
Yes	38%	43%
No	40%	37%
Unsure	21%	21%

### Do the Following Have A Written Safety Policy?

Answer	Wisconsin	National
T&E Classes	90%	82%
T&E Department	76%	56%
School District	36%	44%

### How does your district dispose of hazardous chemicals?

Answer	Wisconsin	National
Hazardous waste contractor	45%	26%
Municipality	17%	11%
Down the drain/trash	7%	6%
Unsure	29%	37%
Do not use hazardous chemicals	2%	18%

## Recommendations

- Work with your district safety compliance officer, legal counsel, fire marshal, administrators/supervisors, and teachers to **develop a written safety program**, including protocols, inspections, training, etc.
- Work with your **Board of Education** to help develop a written safety policy.
- Ask your district's chemical hygiene officer or safety officer how to properly **dispose of chemicals**
- Refer to **legal resources** (e.g. OSHA, NFPA) and professional resources (e.g. ITEEA, NSTA) for additional information in developing the safety program.
- Enforce safety **consistently and fairly**

## Further Recommendations

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Refer to Wisconsin's safety and health rules governing public sector (state and local government offices and operations) workplaces under the jurisdiction of the **State of Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services** (<https://dsps.wi.gov/Pages/Programs/PublicSafety/Default.aspx>). The state has adopted the federal OSHA rules by reference and additionally, has adopted several rules that are stricter than federal standards, including injury and illness reporting, hazard communication requirements related to infectious agents, and permissible exposure limits for air contaminants.

## Safety Training

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**Did you receive any form of safety training during the following?**

<b>Answer</b>	<b><u>Wisconsin</u></b>	<b><u>National</u></b>
UG tech/eng or lab courses	57%	62%
UG teaching methods courses	52%	54%
Grad tech/eng or lab courses	12%	28%
Grad teaching methods courses	14%	32%

**When initially hired did your district provide safety training?**

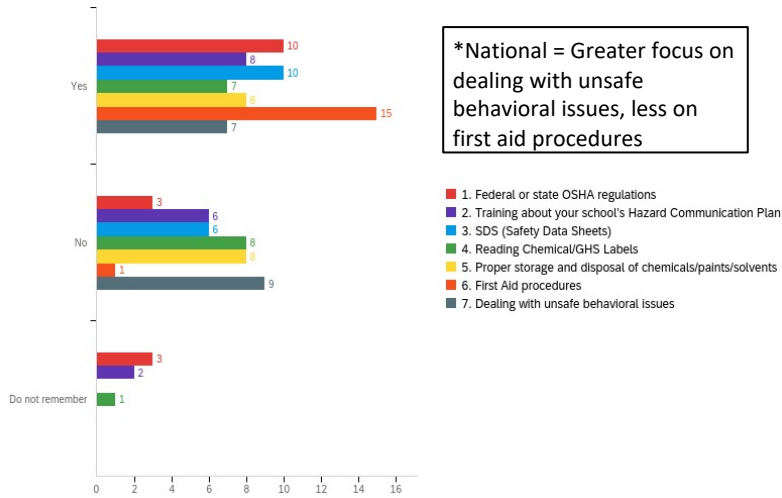
<b>Answer</b>	<b><u>Wisconsin</u></b>	<b><u>National</u></b>
Yes	19%	32%
No	81%	68%

**How long has it been since your district last offered you safety training?**

<b>Answer</b>	<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>National</b>
<6 months	12%	15%
6 months -1 year	14%	21%
1-2 years	7%	7%
2-5 years	2%	5%
>5 years	2%	7%
Never received training from my district	62%	44%

**Did the training mentioned in the previous question provide information on the following:**

**Wisconsin**



**Have you participated in any T&E safety training provided by someone other than your district within the last 12 months?**

**Wisconsin**

Answer	%	Count
Yes	14%	6
No	86%	36

\*National = 18% said Yes



**Who delivered the safety training you attended within the past 12 months?**

WI Answer	WI %	WI Count	National %
Local training source (not my school district)	17%	1	26%
State teacher's association	33%	2	12%
State department of education	0%	0	6%
National teacher's association	0%	0	3%
A university	0%	0	11%
OSHA	0%	0	17%
Other (please describe)	50%	3	25%
Total	100%	6	

## Recommendations

**According to OSHA**

-Safety Training must be administered **upon initial hire**, again any time a **new hazard is introduced** (chemical, equipment, etc.), **change in teaching assignment**, and/or updates in safety plans

-Under duty or standard of care the employer (school) has a legal and professional responsibility to **provide these trainings**

-Employee can **request in writing** to receive these trainings

# Facility Characteristics

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**In what type of room did you primarily conduct your T&E activities this past year?**

Answer	Wisconsin	National
Portable Classroom	0%	0.28%
Regular Classroom/computer room	2%	17%
T&E classroom/lab combo	79%	66%
T&E Lab	19%	12%
Makerspace	0%	2%
Varied due to floating	0%	3%

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### Approximate size of the instructional area?

Answer (Fire Code Capacity)	Wisconsin	National
Less than 600 square feet (<12 students)	2%	8%
600-800 square feet (12-16 students)	7%	20%
800-1,000 square feet (16-20 students)	24%	22%
1,000-1,200 square feet (20-24 students)	26%	24%
Greater than 1,200 square feet (>24 students)	40%	26%

**Review:**

**Average Enrollment:**

14% said more than 24

**Largest Enrollment:**

50% said more than 24

## Soldering Ventilation

	<u>Wisconsin</u>	<u>National</u>
Do soldering activities	45%	52%
Under external vented fume hood	16%	15%
Under internal fume extractor	11%	12%

## 3D Printer Ventilation

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	<u>Wisconsin</u>	<u>National</u>
Have 3D printer(s)	74%	75%
Built in filter (HEPA)	23%	17%
Used inside of a fume hood	0%	2%
Used near internal vent system (ex. electrostatic air filter)	0%	6%
No ventilation used	77%	75%

## Laser Engraver

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	<u>Wisconsin</u>	<u>National</u>
Have a laser engraver	64%	44%
Internal Exhaust	37%	31%
External Exhaust	63%	64%
No ventilation	0%	5%

## Recommendations

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Fire code NFPA 101 Life Safety Code requires **50 sq. ft. per student** (net square footage) in academic **labs and shops**

Research suggests at a minimum 60 sq ft. limits accident rates

Conduct at a minimum **annual safety inspections** to make sure your facilities have proper safety controls and space (ITEEA website and NIOSH have excellent checklists)

Make sure the **instructional space meets all** OSHA, NFPA, and other legal safety **standards** and better professional safety practices like ANSI/ISEA, ITEEA, etc. to make it safer for both teachers and students.

Use non-lead based **solder** when possible with ventilation at the source.

Source: <https://www.iteea.org/102756.aspx>

# Classroom Management Safety Practices

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**How often are all students in your T&E class required to:**

Question	Never	Rarely	Usually	Always
1. Sign a <b>safety acknowledgement form</b> ?	7% (WI) 16% (US)	2% 6%	7% 10%	<b>83%</b> 69%
2. Be <b>tested</b> for their knowledge of safety procedures prior to participating in new hazardous T&E activities/using new hazardous equipment?	0% 8%	0% 5%	5% 12%	<b>95%</b> 76%
3. Safely <b>demonstrate a new procedure</b> or use of a new tool/piece of equipment while directly supervised?	0% 5%	2% 3%	17% 16%	<b>81%</b> 76%
4. Be tested on safety knowledge on their quizzes/exams?	0% 10%	14% 15%	17% 24%	<b>69%</b> 52%
5. Be provided both written and oral safety precautions by the instructor prior to each lab?	0% 7%	7% 14%	19% 24%	<b>74%</b> 52%

**How often are all students in your T&E class required to:**

Question	Never	Rarely	Usually	Always
6. Secure <b>long hair</b> /tie it back?	0% (WI) 6% (US)	0% 2%	12% 14%	<b>88%</b> 78%
7. Remove <b>loose jewelry</b> , roll up long sleeves, secure baggy clothing?	0% 7%	2% 3%	14% 14%	<b>83%</b> 76%
8. Wear close toed shoes?	0% 7%	2% 4%	24% 20%	<b>74%</b> 69%
9. Wear <b>safety glasses</b> when working with solid hazards	0% 11%	0% 3%	0% 10%	<b>100%</b> 77%
10. Wear <b>safety goggles</b> when working with liquid hazards	31% 31%	19% 13%	14% 12%	<b>36%</b> 44%

## Recommendations

Have all students be safety **trained, tested** and sign a **safety acknowledgement** form before starting any work involving hazards (ex. hand and/or power tools)

All students need **safety glasses with side shields** on when an activity is being conducted in a room or lab (**indirectly vented chemical splash goggles** for liquid hazards)

Students should be **directly supervised** when using any equipment (after meeting all other criteria like safety tests)

Include some key safety questions on unit tests/quizzes

Provide written and oral forms of safety instruction/reminders

No **open toed shoes or flip flops** allowed during lab activities

Always require students to **tie back** long hair/**secure** loose clothing and jewelry



## Example from WI Case Law

Heuser ex rel. Jacobs v. Community Insurance Corporation, 321 Wis. 2d 729. (Wis. App 2009).

“An eighth grade student sustained a cut while using a scalpel to dissect a flower in science class. His parents sued the school for negligence because he was the third student that day to sustain a cut from a scalpel in that class. The court ruled in favor of the student, finding that no precautionary measure was taken in response to the open and obvious danger of the scalpels. The instructor had the option to pick one precautionary measure over another but instead chose to do nothing, resulting in the school district being found liable” (Love, 2013, p. 33).

Source: <https://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JOTS/v39/v39n1/pdf/love.pdf>

### Safety tests and posters used with students?

Answer	Wisconsin	National
ITEEA's safety website	0%	10%
Virginia Tech's lab safety resource website	0%	1%
Power Tool Institute resources	2%	3%
School district/department developed resources	14%	15%
State developed resources	2%	4%
Student developed safety resources	0%	1%
Teacher (my own) developed resources	81%	58%
I do not use safety tests or posters	0%	8%

### Teachers Reported Having the Following:

	Wisconsin	National
Safety Zones on Floor	52%	48%
Non-skid strips near machines	29%	27%
Eyewash w/in 10 second access		
Plumbed	62%	47%
Portable	14%	22%
Adequate Ventilation	69%	45%
Workspace accessible to wheelchair bound students	36%	47%
Accessible master power shut offs	69%	61%
Sufficient number of outlets	57%	61%

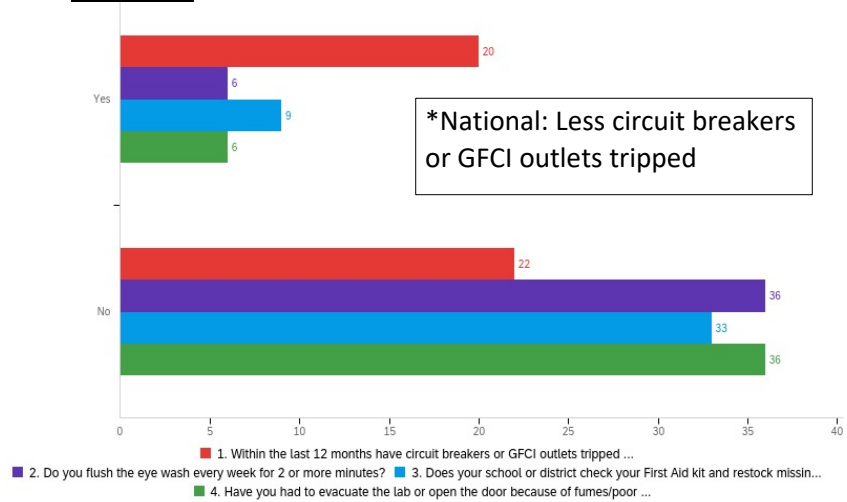


## Teachers Reported Having the Following:

	<u>Wisconsin</u>	<u>National</u>
Lockable tool storage	69%	78%
Sufficient work space per student	52%	60%
Sufficient project storage	57%	61%
ANSI Z87.1 glasses for entire class	97%	83%
Cabinet to sanitize goggles	26%	50%
A sink in the facility	86%	76%
First Aid Kit	69%	61%
Lockable chemical storage cabinet	74%	67%
Finishing or chemical storage room	71%	46%
External exhaust paint booth	93%	83%

## Have any of the following occurred/do they occur?

### Wisconsin



## Recommendations

**Flush out** emergency eye wash & shower once a week for 1-3 minutes

Check first aid kit each semester to **restock**, work with school nurse

Use a U-V goggle **sanitizer** with a UV-C Germicidal bulb to sanitize eye protection devices after each individual's use.

Have at least one or more **sinks** with running cold and hot water sources dependent on class enrollment

Have a **lockable/secure** finishing or chemical storage room and chemical storage cabinet to prevent student access.

Have a **lockable/secure tool cabinet** to prevent student access when not in use instructionally.

## Recommendations

Have appropriate taped or painted safety **work zones** around all machines.

Have **non-skid strips** near machines to prevent slip/fall hazards.

Have appropriate **ventilation** to accommodate particulate and aerosol hazards.

Have a **wood dust collection system** with the intake vent placement **at the machine source** of wood dust production to prevent exposure to air-borne wood dust.

Have **workspace accessible to wheelchair** bound students per ADA requirements.

Have all electrical receptacles **GFCI** protected and ensure that they **work properly**.

Have easily accessible **emergency power shut-off** switches.

Have a **sufficient number of electrical receptacles** to eliminate use of extension cords.

Have a **lockable/secure tool cabinet** to prevent student access when not in use instructionally.

# Accidents

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During your time of employment, has your school district been involved in litigation or a settlement because of a T&E laboratory accident?

## Wisconsin

Answer	%	Count
Yes	10%	4
No	71%	30
Unsure	19%	8

## National

Yes	7%	51
No	62%	444
Unsure	31%	223

**Within the last 12 months, how many T&E safety incidents (no injury) have occurred in your classes?**

**Wisconsin**

Answer	%	Count
0	36%	15
1-10	55%	23
11-20	10%	4
21-30	0%	0
More than 30	0%	0

**National**

0	38%	274
1-10	60%	427
11-20	2%	15
21-30	0%	0
More than 30	0.3%	2

**If a T&E safety incident has occurred, did it involve any of the following?**

**Wisconsin**

Question	Involved	
1. Hot glue gun	24%	10
2. Broken glass	5%	2
3. Spills/splashes (of any kind)	14%	6
4. Student Operated Equipment/Machinery (ex. scroll saw, band saw, etc)	38%	16
5. Automated equipment (ex. CNC, laser cutter, 3D printer, robotics, etc.)	2%	1

Question	Involved	
6. Hand or portable power tools (ex. cordless drill, Dremel, etc.)	31%	13
7. Fumes	7%	3
8. Fires	7%	3
9. Projectiles	14%	6
10. Electrical Short	5%	2
11. Outdoor activities	0%	0

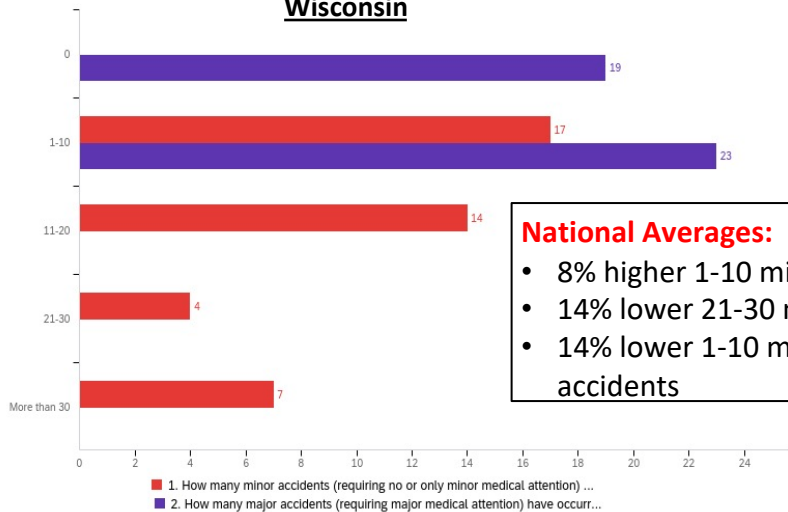
**National = Hot glue guns more involved. Equipment and power tools less involved**

**How many T&E lab accidents occurred within the past year in your classes?**  
Wisconsin

Question	0		1-5		6-10		11-15	
1. How many <b>minor accidents</b> in the past 12 months?	7%	3	69%	29	14%	6	5%	2
2. How many <b>major accidents</b> (requiring major medical attention) occurred in your classes within the past 12 months?	76%	32	24%	10	0%	0	0%	0

National = 20% had no minor accidents; 88% had no major accidents and 12% had 1-5 major accidents

**How many T&E lab accidents occurred within the past 5 years in your classes?**  
Wisconsin



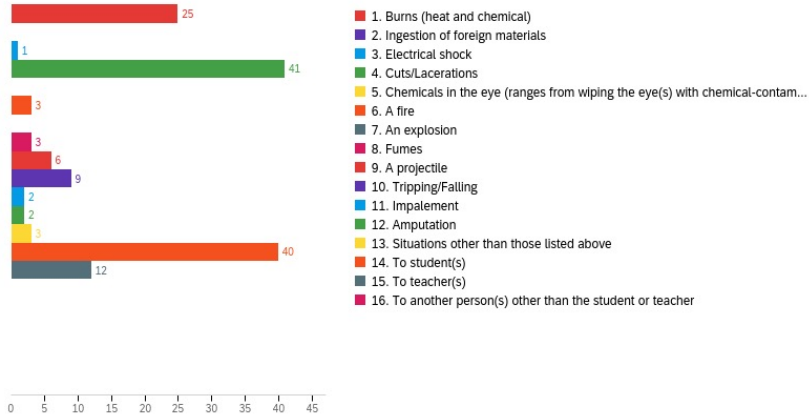
**National Averages:**

- 8% higher 1-10 minor
- 14% lower 21-30 minor
- 14% lower 1-10 major accidents

**If an accident (minor or major) has occurred in your classes within the past 5 years, did it involve any of the following:**

Similar to national findings.  
Mostly cuts/lacerations or burns to students

**Wisconsin**



**Wisconsin**

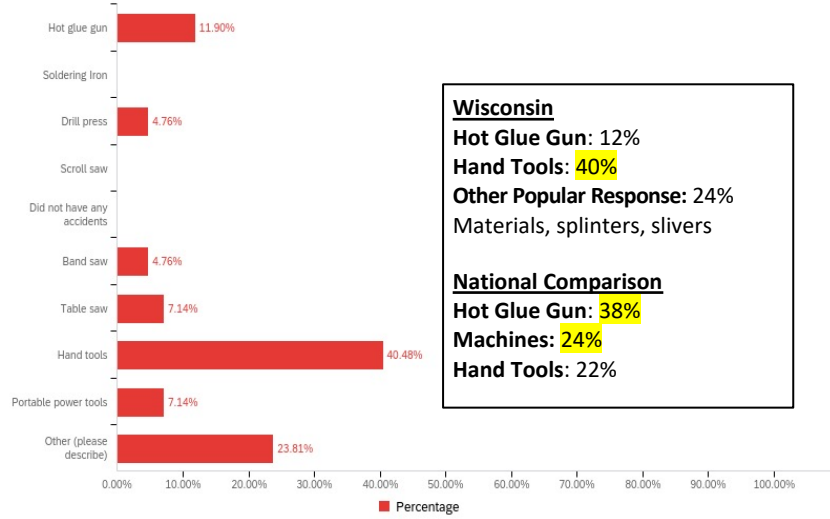
**Most commonly injured body part?**

Answer	%	Count
Did not have any accidents	0%	0
Fingers/hands	100%	42
Eyes/face	0%	0
Arms	0%	0
Legs	0%	0
Other body part	0%	0

**National**

Did not have any accidents	13%	93
Fingers/hands	86%	615
Eyes/face	0.4%	3
Arms	0.1%	1
Legs	0%	0
Other body part	0.8%	6

**Of all accidents that have occurred during the past 5 years in your classes, what was the most common tool/equipment that caused injury?**



**Wisconsin**  
**Hot Glue Gun: 12%**  
**Hand Tools: 40%**  
**Other Popular Response: 24%**  
**Materials, splinters, slivers**

**National Comparison**  
**Hot Glue Gun: 38%**  
**Machines: 24%**  
**Hand Tools: 22%**

## Table Saws

	<u>Wisconsin</u>	<u>National</u>
Have a table saw	88%	65%
SawStop brand	78%	56%
Instructor only use	16%	34%
Student use with strict guidance	30%	31%
Student use with Teacher in Lab	54%	35%

### Top 3 Factors for Unsafe Conditions/Accidents in a T&E lab?

#### Wisconsin

1. Student Failure to follow safety protocols
2. Overcrowding
3. Percentage of Students with Disabilities in class

#### National

1. Student Failure to follow safety protocols
2. Overcrowding
3. Classroom management/discipline
4. Percentage of Students with Disabilities in class
5. Inadequate facilities

# Correlations and Predictors of Accidents

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## Statistically Significant Factors Contributing to Accident Rates

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Polychoric correlation tests ( $p = 0.05$ )

<b>Contributing Factors</b>
Type of course taught (more hazardous, greater risk) Ex. 24% more likely to have minor accident, 30% more likely to have major accident
Greater than 25% of class doing hands-on T&E activities
Hybrid classroom/lab higher than other facility designs
Independent student use on table saw

## Statistically Significant Factors Reducing Accident Rates

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Polychoric correlation tests ( $p = 0.05$ )

<b>Protective Factors</b>
Safety glasses for every student in class Ex. 16% less likely minor accident, 25% less likely major accident
Dust collection connected directly to equipment
Fire extinguisher within 25 feet
Circuit breakers that had tripped
Have GFCI outlets
Lockable flammables cabinet
Lockable tool storage cabinet
Master shut off switch

## Statistically Significant Factors Reducing Accident Rates cont.

Polychoric correlation tests ( $p = 0.05$ )

<b>Protective Factors cont.</b>
Safety zones on the floor around equipment
Non-skid strips on the floor around equipment
Type of Table Saw: SawStop
Finishing/chemical storage room separate from lab/classroom and secure (locked)
Appropriate gloves for all students when needed
Appropriate aprons for all students when needed
Sinks in lab/classroom

## Statistically Significant Predictors of Accidents

Logistic regression tests ( $p = 0.05$ )

<b>Contributing Factors cont.</b>	<b>Statistically Significant?</b>
Undergraduate T&E methods course	<b>N</b>
<b>Comprehensive training</b> (undergrad or graduate safety coursework + training from district upon initial hiring + training updates from district within past 5 years)	<b>Y*</b>
<i>*37% lower odds of <math>\geq 1</math> accidents occurring</i>	
Comprehensive training + <b>years of teaching experience</b>	<b>N</b>

# Questions?

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Additional Results:

[https://sites.google.com/view/  
2020-te-safety-study/](https://sites.google.com/view/2020-te-safety-study/)