STATE OF WISCONSIN

DWD
Department of Workforce Development

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

2013 Wisconsin Work Injury Claims

Worker's Compensation Division

These reports are based off data provided by the Worker's Compensation Division and their Information Claims Management System. Claims included in this analysis are indemnity-only and the amounts paid are only indemnity. They do not include claims denied, under investigation, non-compensable, or no lost time. They include closed claims and claims in litigation when the reports were run.

The WC Division started accepting First Reports of Injury (FROI) via our Electronic Data Interchange program on October 30th, 1997, and then via our Pending Reports Internet application on October 25th, 2001. Starting September 1st, 2005 FROIs were required to be reported to us electronically via either method. It should be noted that for electronically reported FROIs the codes for gender, body part, cause of injury, nature of injury and county where injury occurred are accepted into our database as they are sent to us, without any vetting or accuracy examination by WC staff.

KEY FIGURES FOR 2013:

- **24,615 TOTAL CLAIMS FILED**

- **$280 MILLION TOTAL INDEMNITY PAID OUT**

- **$ 202.6 MILLION INDEMNITY SPENT ON TRAUMATIC INJURIES**

- **$11,379 AVERAGE INDEMNITY COST PER CLAIM**
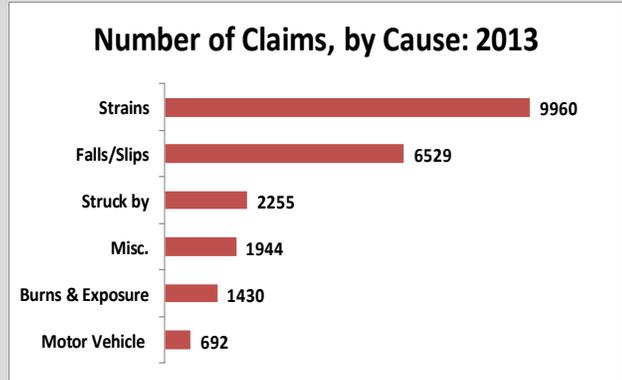
Leading Cause of Injuries

In 2013, Wisconsin workers sustained 9,960 strains and 6,529 falls/slips. There were 2,255 workers injured by being struck by an object or person and 1,944 workers injured by miscellaneous causes.

Strains: The most frequent types of strain injuries were due to lifting (**35%**), not otherwise classified (**22%**), and pushing/pulling (**16%**).

Falls and Slips: Falls not otherwise classified made up **27%** of falls, followed by falls due to ice/snow (**25%**), falls on the same level (**18%**), and falls from a different level (**9%**).

Struck or Injured by: Thirty percent of workers in this category were struck by falling or flying objects, **18%** by objects lifted or handled by worker, **17%** struck by something not otherwise classified, and **14%** struck by a co-worker or patient.
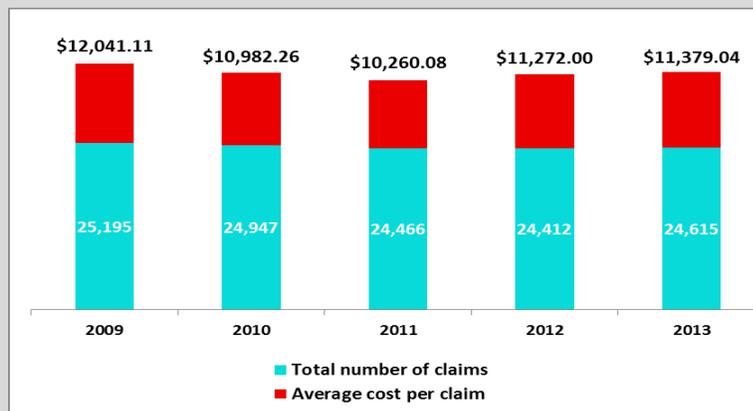
Miscellaneous: These types of injuries include 12 subcategories, such as repetitive motion, foreign body in eye, ingestion, or electrocution. Nearly half of misc. injuries were caused by repetitive motion (**48%**), followed by "other" injuries (**22%**), and cumulative injuries (**11%**).

Number of Claims, by Cause: 2013

Cause	Number
Strains	9960
Falls/Slips	6529
Struck by	2255
Misc.	1944
Burns & Exposure	1430
Motor Vehicle	692

5 Year Trend: Total Claims & Average Indemnity Cost

Year	Total number of claims	Average cost per claim
2009	25,195	$12,041.11
2010	24,947	$10,982.26
2011	24,466	$10,260.08
2012	24,412	$11,272.00
2013	24,615	$11,379.04

Nature of Injury

Traumatic Injuries: Of the **24,615** total claims filed, **90%** workers sustained traumatic injuries in 2013: **46** of these injuries were strains, **12%** were fractures, and **11%** were sprains. There were also **262** workers who suffered amputations.

Wounds, Bruises, and Burns: Approximately **48%** of workers in this category suffered contusions **30%** sustained lacerations, and **13%** sustained crushing injuries or burns.
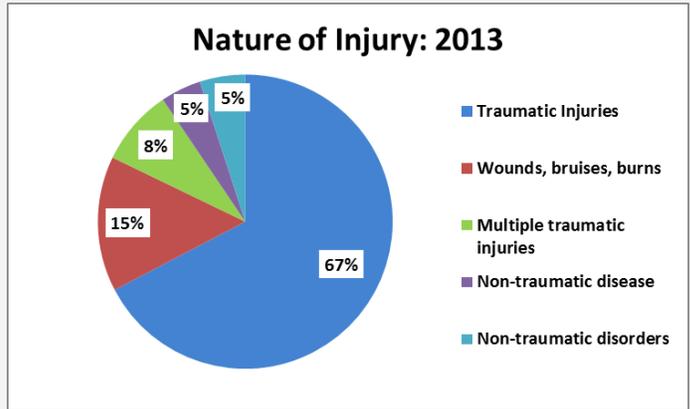
Multiple Traumatic Injuries: There were **2,058** workers with multiple injuries and disorders, including **293** concussions.

Non-Traumatic Disorders and other: There were **1224** non-traumatic disorders. **63%** of injured workers in this category suffered from carpal tunnel syndrome or cumulative disorders.

Nature of Injury: 2013

- Traumatic Injuries — 67%
- Wounds, bruises, burns — 15%
- Multiple traumatic injuries — 8%
- Non-traumatic disease — 5%
- Non-traumatic disorders — 5%

Non-Traumatic Disease: Out of **1,091** claims filed in this category, **57%** were diagnosed with hernias, and **28%** suffered hearing loss.

NUMBER OF CLAIMS
10,263 STRAINS
2,582 FRACTURES
2,431 SPRAINS
622 HERNIAS
412 CARPAL TUNNEL
306 HEARING LOSS
262 AMPUTATIONS
260 DISLOCATIONS
293 CONCUSSIONS

Part of Body Injured

Injuries occurred most frequently to the upper extremities (34%), with shoulder & wrist injured most, followed by lower extremities (24%), and trunk (10%)

Multiple disc injuries were the most expensive category, costing an average of $40,369 indemnity paid per claim

For more information visit our website:
www.dwd.wi.gov/wc/

County of Injury

Number of claims
- 1000+
- 500-1000
- 400-499
- 300-399
- 200-299
- 100-199
- Less than 100