2012 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 2012:

- 24,412 total claims filed
- $275.2 million total indemnity paid out
- $196.5 million total indemnity spent on traumatic injuries
- $11,272 average indemnity cost per claim

Leading Cause of Injuries

In 2012, Wisconsin workers sustained 10,504 strains and 5,366 falls/slips. There were 2,271 workers injured by being struck by an object or person and 2,139 workers injured by miscellaneous causes.

Strains: The most frequent types of strain injuries were due to lifting (36%), not otherwise classified (22%), and pushing/pulling (15%).

Falls and Slips: Falls not otherwise classified made up 30% of falls, followed by falls on the same level (21%), falls due to ice/snow (13%), and falls from a different level (11%).

Struck or Injured by: Nearly 30% of workers in this category were struck by falling or flying objects, 20% by objects handled by worker, and 17% not otherwise classified.

Miscellaneous: These types of injuries include 12 subcategories, such as repetitive motion, foreign body in eye, ingestion, or electrocution. Nearly half (45%) of misc. injuries were caused by repetitive motion followed by “other” injuries (24%), and cumulative injuries (11%).

Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leading Cause of Injuries</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Claims &amp; Average Indemnity</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature of Injury</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County of Injury</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part of Body Injured</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2009-2012: Total Claims & Average Indemnity Cost

While the total number of claims filed decreased in 2012 from prior year, the average amount of indemnity paid out per claim increased by $1,012.
**Number of claims**

- **2,358 fractures**
- **2,180 sprains**
- **615 hernias**
- **428 carpal tunnel**
- **287 hearing loss**
- **266 amputations**
- **245 dislocations**
- **232 concussions**

**Traumatic Injuries:** There were 16,187 workers who sustained traumatic injuries in 2012: 65% of these injuries were strains, and cost $129 million total indemnity. Fifteen percent of traumatic injuries were fractures, and 13% were sprains. There were also 266 workers who suffered amputations.

**Wounds, Bruises, and Burns:** Nearly half (44%) of workers in this category suffered contusions while 32% sustained lacerations.

**Multiple Traumatic Injuries:**
There were 1,924 workers with multiple injuries. These injuries averaged an indemnity of $16,943 paid per claim.

**Non-Traumatic Disease:** Out of 1,151 injured workers in this category, over half were diagnosed with hernias, and 25% suffered hearing loss.

**Non-Traumatic Disorders and other:** 65% of injured workers in this category suffered from either cumulative injuries or carpal tunnel syndrome.

**County of Injury**

- Injuries occurred most frequently to upper extremities, including:
  - Shoulder (34%), Finger (17%), Wrist (12%), and Hand (9%)
- Neck injuries were the most expensive, costing an average of $30,520 indemnity paid per claim

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