2010 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.

Table of Contents

- Leading Cause of Injuries
- Indemnity Amount Paid Per Claim
- Nature of Injury
- County of Injury
- Part of Body Injured

Key Figures for 2010:

- 24,947 total claims filed
- $274.0 million total indemnity paid out
- $203.2 million indemnity spent on traumatic injuries
- $10,982 average indemnity cost per claim

Leading Cause of Injuries

In 2010, Wisconsin workers sustained 10,783 strains and 5,845 falls/slips. There were 2,282 workers injured by miscellaneous causes and 2,170 workers injured by being struck by an object or person.

Strains: The most frequent types of strain injuries were due to lifting (36%), not otherwise classified (22%), and pushing/pulling (16%).

Falls and Slips: Falls not otherwise classified made up 27% of falls, followed by falls on the same level (20%), falls due to ice/snow (16%), and falls from a different level (12%).

Miscellaneous: These types of injuries include 12 subcategories, such as repetitive motion, foreign body in eye, ingestion, or electrocution. Approximately 42% of misc. injuries were caused by repetitive motion, followed by “other” injuries (27%), and cumulative injuries (13%).

Amount of Indemnity Paid Per Claim

This graph lists the top five average amounts of indemnity paid out per claim. Four of the five categories are also listed as the most frequent cause of injury above. Motor vehicle accidents were the highest average indemnity payout, of which there were 581 claims filed.
**Traumatic Injuries:** There were 17,154 workers who sustained traumatic injuries in 2010: 66% of these injuries were strains, 14% were fractures, and 13% were sprains. There were also 261 workers who suffered amputations.

**Wounds, Bruises, and Burns:** Approximately 45% of workers in this category suffered contusions (1,706), while 32% (1,192) sustained lacerations.

**Multiple Traumatic Injuries:** There were 1,369 workers with multiple injuries. Electric shock averaged the highest indemnity payout at $65,476.

**Non-Traumatic Disease:** Out of 1,182 injured workers in this category, 59% were diagnosed with hernias, and 25% suffered hearing loss.

**Non-Traumatic Disorders and other:** 72% of injured workers in this category suffered an inflammatory disorder or carpal tunnel syndrome. This category averaged the highest payout overall.