

# 2011 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 2011:

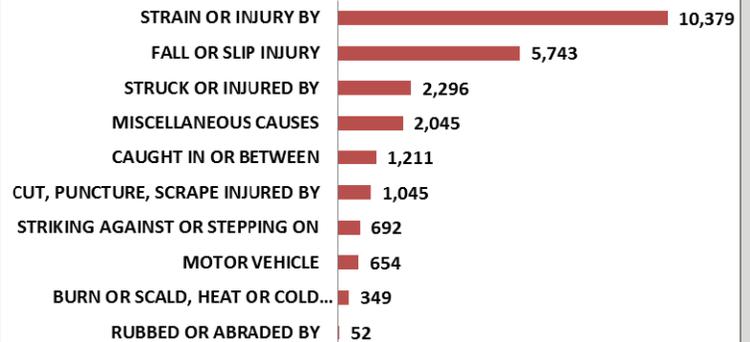
- **24,466 TOTAL CLAIMS FILED**
- **\$251.0 MILLION TOTAL INDEMNITY PAID OUT**
- **\$181.9 MILLION INDEMNITY SPENT ON TRAUMATIC INJURIES**
- **\$10,260 AVERAGE INDEMNITY COST PER CLAIM**



In 2011, Wisconsin workers sustained **10,379 strains** and **5,743 falls/slips**. There were **2,296 workers injured by being struck by an object or person** and **2,045 workers injured by miscellaneous causes**.

## Leading Cause of Injuries

Number of Claims, by Cause of Injury: 2011



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

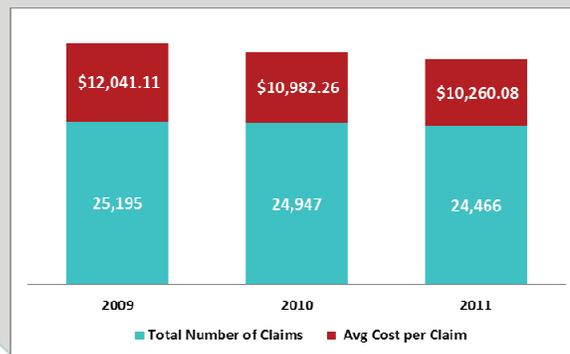
**Falls and Slips:** Falls not otherwise classified made up 28% of falls, followed by falls on the same level (20%), falls due to ice/snow (17%), and falls from a different level (12%).

**Struck or Injured by:** Thirty percent of workers in this category were struck by falling or flying objects, 19% by objects handled by worker, 17% struck by something not otherwise classified, and 14% struck by a co-worker or patient.

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### 2009-2011: Total Claims & Average Indemnity Cost



The total number of claims filed since 2009 has dropped 2.9%. The average amount of indemnity paid out per claim has also decreased by \$1,781, or 14.8%.





## Nature of Injury

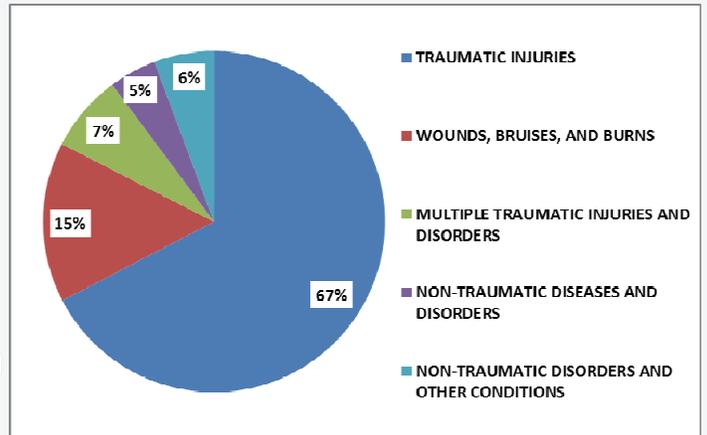
**Traumatic Injuries:** There were 16,477 workers who sustained traumatic injuries in 2011: 65% of these injuries were strains, 15% were fractures, and 13% were sprains. There were also 260 workers who suffered amputations.

**Wounds, Bruises, and Burns:** Approximately 46% of workers in this category suffered contusions while 30% sustained lacerations.

**Multiple Traumatic Injuries:** There were 1,789 workers with multiple injuries. Asphyxiation had the highest claim indemnity payout in this category at \$124,440.

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

**Non-Traumatic Disease:** Out of 1,2098 injured workers in this category, 55% were diagnosed with hernias, and 24% suffered hearing loss. This category includes occupational diseases and these types of claims had the highest average amount of indemnity paid at \$30,404.



### NUMBER OF CLAIMS

2476 FRACTURES  
 2108 SPRAINS  
 603 HERNIAS  
 471 CARPAL TUNNEL  
 265 HEARING LOSS  
 242 DISLOCATIONS  
 260 AMPUTATIONS  
 160 CONCUSSIONS



### Part of Body Injured

Injuries occurred most frequently to the upper extremities (38%), trunk (25%), and lower extremities (23%)

Neck injuries were the most expensive, costing an average of \$21,717 indemnity paid per claim

For more information  
 visit our website:  
[www.dwd.wi.gov/wcl](http://www.dwd.wi.gov/wcl)

## County of Injury

