

# 2015 Wisconsin Work Injury Claims

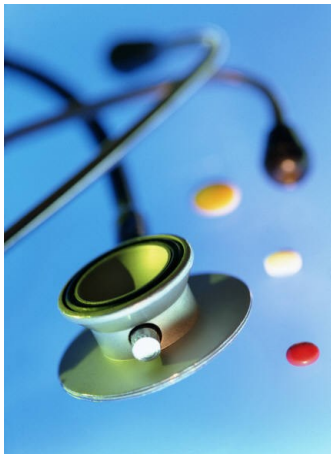
## Worker's Compensation Division

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 2015:

- **22,059 TOTAL CLAIMS FILED**
- **\$207 MILLION TOTAL INDEMNITY PAID OUT**
- **\$ 142.9 MILLION INDEMNITY SPENT ON TRAUMATIC INJURIES**
- **\$9,429 AVERAGE INDEMNITY COST PER CLAIM**



## Leading Cause of Injuries

**In 2015, Wisconsin workers sustained 8,815 strains and 5,381 falls/slips. There were 2,367 workers injured by being struck by an object or person and 1,707 workers injured by miscellaneous causes.**

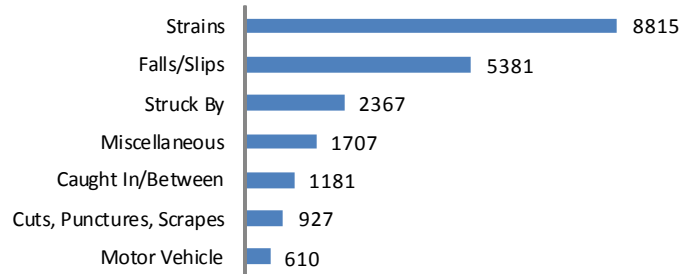
**Strains:** The most frequent types of strain injuries were due to lifting (35%), not otherwise classified (21%), and pushing/pulling (16%).

**Falls and Slips:** Falls not otherwise classified made up 28% of falls, followed by falls on the same level (22%), falls due to ice/snow (14%), and falls from a different level (12%).

**Struck or Injured by:** Thirty-two percent of workers in this category were struck by falling or flying objects, 20% by objects lifted or handled by worker, 16% struck by a co-worker or patient, and 13% struck by something not otherwise classified.

**Miscellaneous:** This category includes 11 subcategories, such as repetitive motion, foreign body in eye, or electrocution. Forty-four percent of miscellaneous injuries were caused by repetitive motion, followed by "other" injuries (25%), and cumulative injuries (10%).

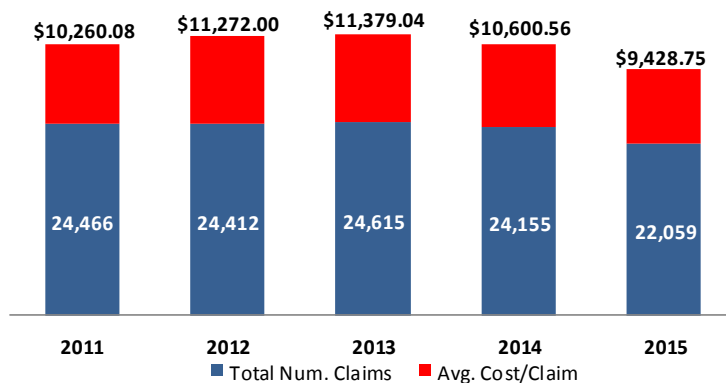
Highest Number of Claims by Cause: WI 2015



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### 5 Year Trend: Total Claims & Average Indemnity Cost





**NUMBER OF CLAIMS**  
 8,543 STRAINS  
 2,280 FRACTURES  
 2,088 SPRAINS  
 540 HERNIAS  
 375 CONCUSSIONS  
 302 DISLOCATIONS  
 299 CARPAL TUNNEL  
 274 HEARING LOSS  
 221 AMPUTATIONS



**Part of Body Injured**  
 Injuries to the upper extremities were most frequent (38%), with shoulders accounting for over one-third of that category, followed by lower extremities (24%), and trunk (22%). Neck injury was the most expensive category, averaging \$15,796.44 per claim, with disc injuries of the neck averaging \$28,530.23 as the highest subcategory.

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

## Nature of Injury

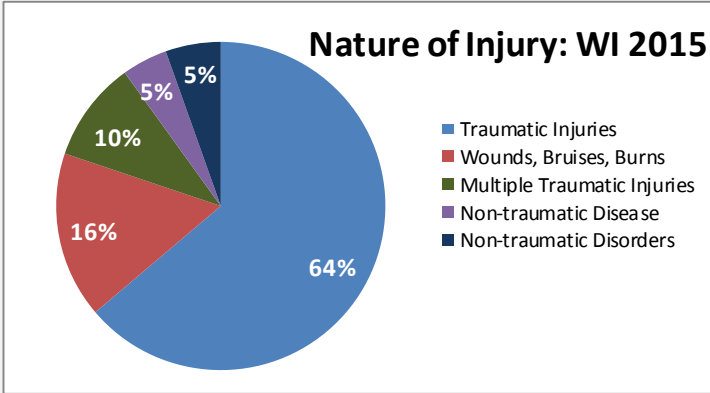
**Traumatic Injuries:** Of the 22,059 total claims filed, 90% of workers sustained traumatic injuries in 2015: 61% of traumatic injuries were strains, 16% were fractures, and 15% were sprains. There were also 221 workers who suffered amputations.

**Wounds, Bruises, and Burns:** Approximately 46% of workers in this category suffered contusions, 29% sustained lacerations, 8% sustained crushing injuries, and 8% sustained burns.

**Multiple Traumatic Injuries:** There were 2,182 workers with multiple injuries and disorders; 375 incidents included concussions.

**Non-Traumatic Disorders and other:** There were 1,196 non-traumatic disorders. 58% of injured workers in this category suffered from carpal tunnel syndrome or cumulative disorders.

**Non-Traumatic Disease:** Out of 991 claims filed in this category, 54% were diagnosed with hernias, and 28% suffered hearing loss.



## County of Injury

