

Center for Workers' Compensation Studies

What are our priorities?

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Center for Workers' Compensation Studies works with partners in the insurance industry, health care providers, labor, employers, trade associations, professional organizations, and academia. The program aims to:

- Expand use of state-level workers' compensation (WC) claims data for research and prevention.
- Identify and communicate interventions most effective at preventing illness and injury.
- Encourage collaborations between public health and workers' compensation communities.

What do we do?

- Build the capacity of states to use WC claims data for prevention purposes through grants, partnerships, and technical assistance.
- Evaluate approaches to preventing illness and injury by working with insurers. These approaches include insurer sponsored engineering control grant programs, consulting services, and training.
- Distribute information on the most effective prevention approaches to insurers, state workers' compensation bureaus, and state departments of health. This primarily includes interventions to prevent injuries, but also includes best practices for treatment of illness and injury, and issues related to return-to-work.
- Host webinars and meetings to encourage communication between the WC industry and public health partners.

What have we accomplished?

- Funded studies and hosted meetings for states to understand the impact of COVID-19 through WC, such as the effect on [claim composition](#) and [injured worker treatment](#).
- Conducted claim studies for [detailed causation across industries](#) (Fig. 1) and higher risk industries ([landscaping](#) and [construction](#)) that insurers and employers use to focus interventions in Ohio.
- Developed a claims dashboard for [Wyoming Workforce Services](#) to use to identify prevention needs.
- Developed a crosswalk between diagnoses categories (from ICD-9 to 10) that researchers can use for coding work-related medical data.
- Determined that employer-completed hazard identification [assessments](#) may be useful to employers in prioritizing safety improvement efforts, and insurers may use the identifications to target safety resources to companies with high injury risk (Fig. 2).
- Determined that insurer [risk control services](#) (Fig. 3) can reduce injury cost rates, providing some justification to continue or expand services where possible.
- Reviewed [cannabis reimbursement](#) for work-related health conditions by states' WC insurance laws and regulations and identified needed research to ensure efficacy of treatment and safety of workers.

What's next?

- Publish claims analyses for cost by detailed causation across industries, specific diagnoses (such as hearing loss), and high-risk industries (firefighting and law enforcement).
- Expand services to WC bureaus and departments of health to assist in data linkage, visualization, and text mining.
- Complete studies with Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation and Wyoming Miners Hospital to examine the impact of work and medical treatment types on disability and opioid use.
- Publish a study to identify factors associated with drug and alcohol use disorders among workers.
- Complete a study on improving safety interventions in the construction industry.
- Collaborate with the American Industrial Hygiene Association on standardizing industrial hygiene data.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
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At-A-Glance

The Center for Workers' Compensation Studies uses workers' compensation data and systems to improve workplace safety and health. This snapshot shows recent accomplishments and upcoming work.

Top Private Industries for Serious Injuries in Ohio 2007-2017

Figure 1: Top Private Industries for Serious Injuries in Ohio 2007-2017*

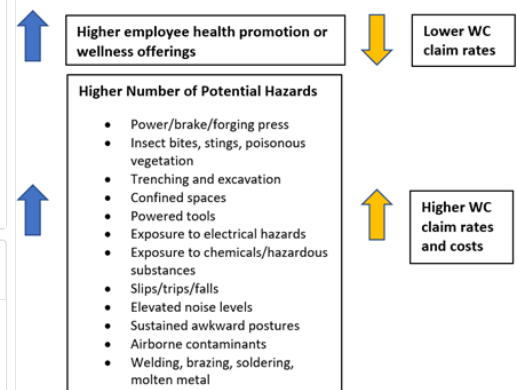
NAICS Code**	Description
48412	General Freight Trucking, Long-Distance
33639	Other Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturing
62191	Ambulance Services
48423	Specialized Freight (except Used Goods) Trucking, Long-Distance
48422	Specialized Freight (except Used Goods) Trucking, Local
42393	Recyclable Material Merchant Wholesalers

*Based on count and rate of lost-time claims (8 or more days away from work)
**North American Industry Classification System code

Source: [Workers' compensation claim counts and rates 2007-2017](#)

Employer Self-Ratings Predict Injuries

Figure 2: Employer Self-Ratings Predict Injuries



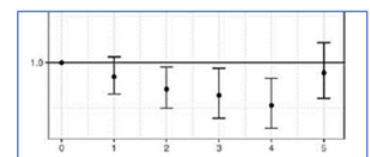
Source: [Employer-completed safety hazard and management questionnaire](#)

Impact of Insurer Risk Control

Figure 3: Impact of Insurer Risk Control

Cost per Employee Ratio*

*Compared to the value before service



Number of Risk Control Visits Provided to Employer Over a Time Period up to 4 Years

Data represent data point estimates and the