

TITLE: The burden and distribution of fatal and non-fatal disabling injuries in the Oregon construction industry: Analysis of Oregon workers' compensation accepted disabling claims, 2007-2013

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: Yes

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: researchers, professionals, health practitioners and policy makers in occupational health and construction industry

ABSTRACT: Background: No report has been published analyzing recent Oregon workers' compensation (WC) claims data for the construction industry.

Methods: Frequencies and rates by demographics and injury characteristics were calculated for Oregon WC accepted disabling claims from 2007 to 2013. Denominators were obtained from Oregon Current Employment Estimates (CES) and the Quarterly Workforce Indicator (QWI). Poisson regression was performed to compare rates by year, gender, age, and construction sector.

Results: Thirty-six fatalities and 12,222 accepted disabling claims were analyzed. The most frequent injury characteristics were: by nature "traumatic injuries to muscles, tendons, ligaments, joints (30%); by body part back (19%)". The average rates of fatal and non-fatal injuries were 6.52 per 100,000 workers and 2.21 per 100 workers respectively. A significantly decreasing trend of annual non-fatal injury rate was seen during the study period. Men experienced significantly higher rates than women in both fatal and non-fatal injuries. The non-fatal injury rate decreased while the fatal injury rate increased with age. Injury rates differed by construction sectors.

Conclusions: The study provides an understanding of the burden and trend of fatal and non-fatal work-related injuries among workers in construction industry and guides appropriate prevention strategies.

OBJECTIVE(S): 1) describe the annual rate and trend of work-related disabling injuries among workers in construction industry; 2) identify the burden and distribution of work-related disabling injuries among workers in construction industry by gender, age, industry sector, injury characteristics, and injury time.

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