Using Workers' Compensation Data and Systems to Evaluate the Impact of COVID-19

Center for Workers' Compensation Studies (CWCS) National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

> Webinar February 25, 2022

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.





cdc.gov/coronavirus

Webinar Schedule

- Introductions
 - NIOSH Moderators: Steve Wurzelbacher, Alysha Meyers, Kiana Harper
- WC COVID-19 studies
 - WC background
 - Limitations
 - NIOSH Partners
 - California: Ximena Vergara, Bob Harrison
 - Illinois: Linda Forst
 - Michigan: Ken Rosenman
 - Ohio: Mike Lampl and Steve Naber
 - Washington: Carolyn Whitaker and Danièle Todorov
 - Wisconsin: Komi Modji and Collin Morris
 - Workers Compensation Research Institute (WCRI): John Ruser and Olesya Fomenko
- Questions Discussion

Workers' Compensation System Background

- WC involves state-governed administrative systems used to provide medical care and partial wage replacement for workers who become ill or injured due to work
- Insurance coverage is provided by a mix of private and state-based insurers, and self-insured employers, depending upon state regulations
 - Hospitals in most states are self-insured but do report some data to their state WC bureau
- Federal workers covered under a separate system

Limitations to Using WC to Evaluate COVID-19

- COVID-19 compensability through WC insurance is evolving and differs between states
 - Some states have rebuttable presumptions to provide insurance coverage for COVID-19 infections and related conditions for certain occupations, such as healthcare workers and first responders
 - In most states, for other occupations, claims are evaluated for compensability for COVID-19 conditions on a case-by-case basis, depending on how the illness was related to work exposures
 - Current listing of state laws National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)

https://www.ncsl.org/research/labor-and-employment/covid-19-workers-compensation.aspx

Limitations to Using WC to Evaluate COVID-19, cont'd

- Case definitions for COVID-19 in WC also vary between states and over time
 - Early cases may have been accepted without positive tests,
 while later cases may have required such confirmation
- Limits to generalizability, and WC data are not appropriate to use to ascertain the true distribution of COVID-19 by occupation and industry

Advantages to Using WC to Evaluate COVID-19

- WC systems are designed to administer care and recovery for injured and ill workers and track outcomes over several years
- Insights about well-represented occupations and the long-term impacts of COVID-19 can be evaluated in part by using WC systems

NIOSH COVID-19 WC Activities

- Hosting monthly COVID-19 WC calls with ~ 50 interested parties to share best practices for WC analyses – many states and provinces already publicly post data
- Providing support for International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions (IAIABC) survey to track COVID-19 in WC systems nationally



Funding several studies

CDC-NIOSH Funded COVID-19 WC Studies

WC Study Goals

- How is the illness related to worker factors (occupation, age, job tenure, sex) and employer factors (industry, firm size, geographic region)?
- What is the impact on injured worker care and the overall WC system?
- What are the long-term illness impacts on workers?
 - Detailed diagnoses, treatments, disability, costs, work status, hospitalizations, deaths and other outcomes
- Partners
 - Six states (California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Ohio, Washington, Wisconsin)
 - Workers Compensation Research Institute (WCRI)
- Outputs
 - Ongoing data being shared in several states, formal reports from partners
 - Today's webinar where partners will share results

WC COVID-19 Initial Findings





Summary Differences between States

| | CA | IL | OH | MI | WA | WI | WCRI |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | | | | |
| Claim types included (medical only, MO vs lost-time, LT) | MO and LT | LT only | MO and LT | LT only | MO and LT | LT only | LT only |
| Waiting period for lost-time payments (3, 5, 7 days) | 3 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 3 | Varies by state |
| Inclusion of self-insured employers (yes/no) | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| COVID WC coverage state presumption(s) | Yes | Yes | No* *Several bills are pending | No* *Several bills are pending | Yes | Yes | Varies by state |
| Workers covered under presumption | All workers exposed to COVID-19 resulting from a hazardous workplace | All essential workers | | | Health care and frontline workers | First responders | Varies by state |



Workers Compensation Research Institute (WCRI)

John Ruser and Olesya Fomenko



WCRI And Its Data

- Not-for-profit public policy research organization on workers' compensation (WC) and health care issues
- Mission
 - "Be a catalyst for significant improvements in WC systems, providing the public with objective, credible, high-quality research on important public policy issues."
- Very diverse membership—employers, insurers, most state governments, providers, unions, etc.
- Independent collection of claims data
 - Began ~25 years ago
 - Covers claim detail, medical and Rx bills, and vendors
 - Annual submission



WCRI COVID-19 Related Studies

- Interstate variation in COVID-19 claims
- Impact of COVID-19 on
 - Composition for non-COVID-19 claims
 - Delivery of medical treatment for non-COVID-19 claims
 - Timing and services delivered
 - Use of telemedicine
- Comparison of duration and cost of COVID-19 versus non-COVID-19 claims
- Prevalence and characteristics of "long" COVID-19 claims

Sources: The Early Impact Of COVID-19 On Workers' Compensation Claim Composition (2021); The Early Impact Of COVID-19 On Medical Treatment For Workers' Compensation Non-COVID-19 Claims (2021); Telemedicine: Patterns Of Use And Reimbursement—A WCRI FlashReport (2021); COVID-19 Workers' Compensation Presumption Coverage (2021, 15 Volumes)



2020Q2: Percentage Of COVID-19 Claims Among All Paid Claims Varied Greatly Across 27 States



Note: All claims with injury dates in 2020Q2, evaluated as of June 30, 2020.



Reasons For Interstate Variation

- Severity of the pandemic and its timing
- Compensability rules
 - Presumption laws, orders, and policies
 - Pay without prejudice (MA)
 - Other compensability rules (NJ)
 - Thomas P. Canzanella Twenty First Century First Responders Protection Act
- Other coverage (e.g., continuity of pay for police)
- Changes in the volume of WC claims (denominator):
 - Impact of shutdown, social distancing, and work from home
- Industry mix only a minor factor



COVID-19 Claims Mainly In Service Industries, Largely In Assisted Living, Hospitals, And Physicians Offices





% Of COVID-19 Claim

Note: All claims with injury dates in Q1 and Q2 2020.

🔿 WCRI

COVID-19 Versus Non-COVID-19 Claims 2020 Experience

 COVID-19 claims accounted for a low percentage of total costs across study states

| | % Of Claims | % Of Costs |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| All Paid Claims | 1-7% | 1-5% |
| Claims With > 7 Days Of Lost Time | 5-24% | 1-6% |

- COVID-19 claims were fundamentally different from non-COVID-19 claims
 - Much lower average indemnity benefit per claim
 - Many claims had no medical payments
 - Claims concentrated in certain industries

Source: CompScope [™] Benchmarks, 22nd Edition (Forthcoming)



Future Work

- Continue to monitor impact of pandemic with data through 2021Q1 and later
- Evaluate "long" COVID-19 claims thru 2021Q1 and 2022Q1
 - Fraction of all COVID-19 claims
 - Nature of conditions and treatments
 - Costs



CALIFORNIA



CALIFORNIA COVID-19 RELATED WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS

A GLIMPSE OF THE WORKPLACE BURDEN

Ximena Vergara, PhD, MPH Matt Frederick Kathryn Gibb, MPH Jessie Wong, MPH Robert Harrison, MD, MPH

California Department of Public Health, Occupational Health Branch

NIOSH Workers' Compensation COVID Webinar February 25, 2022

CALIFORNIA WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS AND COVID-19

COVID-19 presumptions

- Frontline work presumption HCW¹ and public safety
- Outbreaks working outside home and specific numbers

Extract of claims using any of the following criteria:

- keywords within the injury description (e.g. "COVID" or "CORONA*VIRUS*" or "SARS" or "CV")
- COVID-19 International Classification Disease code version 10 (ICD-10) within the medical billing data (e.g. U07.1 or U07.2)
- nature of injury codes related to COVID-19 (83)
- cause of injury codes related to pandemic (83)

CAWC COVID related claims by county, 1/1 – 12/31/2020 (N = 117,166)



CALIFORNIA 2020 WC CLAIMS BY INDUSTRY GROUP

WC COVID related claims by top 10 industry major group, 1/1 – 12/31/2020 (N = 117,166)

| Major Group Description | Claims ¹ | % |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------|
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 37,681 | 32.2 |
| Public Administration | 20,792 | 17.8 |
| Retail Trade | , 3 | 9.5 |
| Manufacturing | 8,626 | 7.4 |
| Transportation and Warehousing | 6,859 | 5.9 |
| Accommodation and Food Services | 6,577 | 5.6 |
| Administrative and Support and Waste Management services | 4,301 | 3.7 |
| Construction | 3,494 | 3.0 |
| Finance and Insurance | 2,838 | 2.4 |
| Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting | 2,035 | 1.7 |

¹ Excludes 2,202 claims with insufficient information to code industry or coded as non-paid workers. Coded to 2012 US Bureau of Census Industry Codes Preliminary analyses only

CA initial regular UI claims as total of labor industry by major industry group, 3/15 – 11/28/2020



Unique Claimants as % of Labor Force

From Bell, Alex, Thomas J. Hedin, Geoffrey Schnorr, and Till Von Wachter. "An analysis of unemployment insurance claims in California during the COVID-19 pandemic." *California Policy Lab, https://www. capolicylab. org/californiaunemployment-insurance-claims-during-the-covid-19-pandemic* (2020).

Coded to North American Industry Classification System Codes

CALIFORNIA 2020 WC CLAIMS BY OCCUPATION GROUP

- Healthcare occupations well-represented
 - Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations (15+%)
- Protective service occupations (13%)
- Office and administrative support (8%)
- Healthcare support (7+%)

Assessed with job exposure matrices

- Worker group¹
 - HCW (28+ %) and public facing (31+%)
- Majority working very close to others¹¹

CAWC COVID related claims by occupation major group and physical proximity, 1/1 – 12/31/2020 (N = 117,166)



¹ Assessed using Development of the category of public facing workers (other than healthcare) for applying the CSTE surveillance case definition of work-related COVID-19 (2-9-21) (CSTE white paper) ¹¹ Assessed via job exposure matrix working in close physical proximity to others (unpublished manuscript)

Note: Proximity 3 assignment accounts for the ability to telework

¹ Excludes 7,513 claims with insufficient information to be occupation coded or coded as non-paid workers Coded to 2010 US Bureau of Census Occupation Codes Preliminary analyses only

NEXT STEPS: POST-ACUTE SEQUELAE AND LONG COVID

- Apply a priori COVID case definition (exposure and illness), 2020 2021 WC claims
 - Definite, probable and possible
- Assess for post-acute sequelae and long covid based, determined on time
 - Characterize ICD-10 and symptoms with each category
- Generate frequencies by industry and occupation
 - Occupation subgroup analysis: home health service workers
- Analyze further, depending on time
 - Construct crude occupation and industry rates
 - Assess known clusters for category of COVID-19 (COVID, PASC or long COVID) for a subset of the data
 - Evaluate outcomes (COVID, PASC, Long COVID) in relation to occupational groups, type of worker (HCW or public facing), nature of proximity (very close proximity or not), tenure, age, sex, time (month)

THANKS! ANY QUESTIONS?





. . .

COVID-19 in Illinois Workers' Compensation FROIs January 1, 2020 - May 2021

Linda Forst <u>Iforst@uic.edu</u> Dana Madigan <u>dmadig2@uic.edu</u> Lee Friedman <u>Ifried1@uic.edu</u>

FEBRUARY 25, 2022



Illinois Workers' Comp and COVID



Illinois Population Stats 2021 General 12.8 mil (5th largest state) Working 6.2 mil Employed 5.8 mil





<u>Overall Work Comp Stats</u> Injury estimates: ~200,000/yr FROIs ~40,000/year

Claims ~35,000/vear Table 1. Illinois employees by economic sector*

| Economic Sector | Number of | Proportion |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| | employees | of total |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 1,154,800 | 19.2% |
| Professional & Business Services | 905,400 | 15.0% |
| Education & Health Services | 879,700 | 14.6% |
| Government | 830,000 | 13.8% |
| Manufacturing | 574,800 | 9.5% |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 551,600 | 9.2% |
| Financial Activities | 368,600 | 6.1% |
| Other Services | 250,800 | 4.2% |
| Construction | 191,600 | 3.2% |
| Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing** | 107,300 | 1.8% |
| Information | 98,200 | 1.6% |
| Mining and Logging | 9,700 | 0.2% |

FROIs v Claims

IL Form 45 Employer's First Report of Injury

- Reporting requirement: 3 days of lost work time
- Usu submitted by the insurance company, or a TPA does batch uploads on behalf of employers
- Stored/filed; no action from State

How is a FROI different from a Claim?

- Claims are filed by workers or their reps
- Generally filed when there is lost time (rarely "medical only" claims)
- File includes the whole medical record

Note: our prior work from FROIs shows that most FROIs do not result in claims and most claims are not preceded by FROIs





COVID FROIs by 2-digit NAICS codes, IL March 2020 - June 2021



Presumption of Work-relatedness

• IL legislature amended WC law

•Effective June 5, 2020, creates a <u>rebuttable</u> presumption that a COVID-19 diagnosis or related injury arises out of and in the course of employment in defined circumstances

•Applies to any **first responder or frontline worker*** receiving a COVID-19 diagnosis, March 9, 2020 - June 30, 2021

FRONTLINE: Health care providers, grocery stores. Food and beverage manufacturers /distributors; Financial institutions; Pharmacies; Gas stations and transportation businesses; Educational institutions; Charitable and social services organizations; Hardware and supply stores; Media enterprises; Critical trades, such as contractors, plumbers, and electricians, among others; Laundry services; Suppliers of goods for essential business; Suppliers of goods necessary to work from home; Home-based care and services; Residential facilities and shelters; Professional services, such as legal, accounting, insurance, and real estate services; Certain daycare centers; Manufacturers and distributors of critical products for industry; *Critical labor union functions*; Hotels and motels; Funeral services; Restaurants providing carry-out and curbside pickup **Only applies to** workers who, 1) Were required to interact with the public, or 2) Work with 15 or more employees at their place of business. With the exception of home care workers, an employee's residence is not considered

their place of business.



Analyze later data

Numbers, rates, trends, demographics, industries, occupations

Case severity

Link workers' comp data with Hospital Discharge

Time to return to work: can it be used in a case definition for "long covid"?

Link workers' comp data with vaccination data in Chicago

Side project on Industry and Occupation Coding (NIOCCS vs hand coding vs IL DES)





Illinois Occupational Surveillance Program http://illinoisinjuryprevention.org/

MICHIGAN



Evaluating the Impact of COVID-19 Using Workers' Compensation Data in Michigan NIOSH Webinar, 2/25/2022



Kenneth D. Rosenman, M.D. Professor of Medicine Michigan State University www.oem.msu.edu Rosenman@msu.edu 517-353-1846

Funding: NIOSH Contract 75D30121P11069

Objectives – NIOSH Contract

- 1) Analysis of paid and non-paid workers' compensation claims.
- 2) Analysis of hospital discharge data.
- 3) Analysis of reports from employers.

Data Characteristics

From 3/18/20 – 3/20/21, health care, fire, police and correction officers, subject to rebuttal by specific facts to the contrary, shall be presumed to be work related.

- Both private and governmental employers included
- Self-Insured included
- Specific code assigned for COVID-19 cases
- ✤ Only wage replacement claims can be analyzed (≥ 7 consecutive days).
- ***** Narrative and Occupation not available (under negotiation with WDCA).

Workers' Compensation for COVID19 for ≥ 7 Consecutive Days Away from Work, Michigan Jan/2020-July/2021

7,474 of 23,800 (31%) paid lost time claims 2020 & first half 2021 Total paid lost time claims 16,000 in in 2018 and 17,300 in 2019

- 1st Quarter 2020 22%
- 2nd Quarter 2020 47%
- 3rd Quarter 2020 17%
- 4th Quarter 2020 53%
- 1st Quarter 2021 24%
- 2nd Quarter 2021 16%

Gender, Age and Fatality of Paid and Non-Paid COVID-19 WC Claims with Seven or More Days Away from Work, Michigan March 2020-July 2021.

| AGE | Not Paid (N=2,909) | | Paid (N=7,474) | | p- value | % Claims Paid |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------------|---------------------|
| | Ν | % | Ν | % | | |
| <=20 | 62 | 2.1 | 85 | 1.1 | <0.01 | 57.8% |
| 21-30 | 631 | 21.7 | 1547 | 20.7 | | 71.0% |
| 31-40 | 711 | 24.4 | 1862 | 24.9 | | 72.4% |
| 41-50 | 740 | 25.4 | 1778 | 23.8 | | 70.6% |
| 51-60 | 545 | 18.7 | 1519 | 20.3 | | 73.6% |
| 61-70 | 185 | 6.4 | 611 | 8.2 | | 76.8 % |
| 71-80 | 22 | 0.8 | 54 | 0.7 | | 71.1% |
| >80 | 1 | 0.0 | 3 | 0.0 | | 75.0% |
| GENDER | | | | | | |
| Female | 1860 | 63.9 | 5316 | 71.1 | <0.01 | 74.1% |
| Male | 1046 | 36.0 | 2155 | 28.8 | | 67.3% |
| Fatal Status - No | 2891 | 99.38 | 7453 | 99.72 | 0.011 | 72.1% |
| Yes | 18 | 0.62 | 21 | 0.28 | | 53.8 % |

Industry of Paid and Non-Paid COVID-19 WC Claims with Seven or More Days Away from Work, Michigan March 2020-July 2021.

MICHIGAN STATE

| Industry (2-digit NAICS) | Not Paid | Paid | % Claims |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| | # (%) | # (%) | Paid |
| Construction (23) | 16 (0.6) | 5 (0.1) | 23.8% |
| Manuffood/textiles (31) | 2 (0.1) | 2 (0.0) | 50.0% |
| Manufwood/chemicals (32) | 28 (1.0) | 31 (0.4) | 52.5% |
| Manufmetal/vehicles (33) | 49 (1.7) | 17 (0.2) | 25.8 % |
| Wholesale Trade (42) | 20 (0.7) | 9 (0.1) | 31.0% |
| Retail Trade (44) | 10 (0.3) | 17 (0.2) | 63.0% |
| Retail Trade (45) | 23 (0.8) | 6 (0.1) | 20.7% |
| Transport./Warehousing (48) | 42 (1.4) | 3 (0.0) | 6.7% |
| Transport./Warehousing (49) | 1 (0.0) | 1 (0.0) | 50.0% |
| Information (51) | 1 (0.0) | 0 (0.0) | 0.0% |
| Finance/Insurance (52) | 11 (0.4) | 1 (0.0) | <mark>8.3%</mark> |
| Real Estate (53) | 7 (0.2) | 25 (0.3) | <mark>78.1%</mark> |
| Prof/Sci/Tech Services (54) | 5 (0.2) | 8 (0.1) | <mark>61.5%</mark> |
| Admin/Support/Waste (56) | 68 (2.3) | 579 (7.8) | <mark>89.5%</mark> |
| Education (61) | 20 (0.7) | 23 (0.3) | 53.5 % |
| Health Care/Social Assist. (62) | 1727 (59.4) | <mark>5184 (69.4)</mark> | 75.0% |
| Arts/Entertainment/Rec. (71) | 10 (0.34) | 1 (0.01) | 9.1% |
| Accommodation/Food (72) | 17 (0.58) | 16 (0.21) | <mark>48.5%</mark> |
| Other Services (81) | 10 (0.34) | 42 (0.56) | <mark>80.8%</mark> |
| Public Administration (92) | 840 (28.88) | 1498 (20.04) | 64.1 % |

Venn Diagram of Sources of Work-Related COVID-19 Cases, Michigan March 2020-July 2021. Total 8,050 Cases Representing 7,894 Unique Individual Cases



Summary

Workers' Compensation Available but Only Percentage of Workers Apply

Plans

- Address duration of compensation received
- Extend data collection through 12/31/2022
- > If possible, include occupation derived from narrative







The Impact of Covid-19 in Ohio using WC Claims Data

Michael Lampl, Director of Research Steven J. Naber, PhD, BI&A Manager

Overview

- Ohio Covid Setting
 - State
 - WC
- WC Claim Evaluation
 - Filed Covid Claims
 - Accepted Covid Claims
 - Claims by Occupation
 - Time Trends
- Future Work

Ohio BWC Overview

- Largest of 4 monopolistic WC states
- Large businesses may be self-insured, sole proprietors can be exempted
- OBWC covers 2/3 of Ohio's workers
- No laws have been enacted regarding presumption of workplace exposure
- Incoming Covid claims are reviewed by a special committee
- Self-insured Covid claim counts are also reported to BWC

Claims Filed

| | State Fund | | | | Self Insured | |
|------------------|------------|-----|-----|-----------|-----------------|-------|
| Initial Decision | PA | PEC | PES | Sub-total | SI | Total |
| Accept / Certify | 778 | 442 | 54 | 1,274 | 1,082 | 2,356 |
| Dismiss / Reject | 1,583 | 426 | 33 | 2,042 | 442 | 2,484 |
| Pending | 101 | 37 | 2 | 140 | 148 | 288 |
| Total | 2,462 | 905 | 89 | 3,456 | 1,672 | 5,128 |

Occupation

| Category | Occupation | SF | SI | Total |
|---------------------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|
| EMW / Healthcare | Corrections | 128 | 4 | 132 |
| | Firefighter | 324 | 6 | 330 |
| | Nurse | 720 | 447 | 1,167 |
| | Other | 701 | 522 | 1,223 |
| | Paramedic | 63 | 13 | 76 |
| | Physician | 61 | 4 | 65 |
| | Police | 392 | 14 | 406 |
| Other | Other | 1,050 | 662 | 1,712 |
| | Teacher | 17 | 0 | 17 |
| Total | | 3,456 | 1,672 | 5,128 |

Time Trends:

Statewide and WC





48

Time Off Work



Future Work

- Update the current summaries
- Delve into Return-to-Work to eliminate extraneous data
- Determine the impacts of long-term COVID.

Contact Information

Steve Naber

- <u>Steven.n.1@bwc.state.oh.us</u>
- 614-328-5420

• Mike Lampl

- michael.I.1@bwc.state.oh.us
- 614-995-1203

WASHINGTON





Evaluating the Impact of COVID-19 using Workers' Compensation

Washington State, SHARP Program

Carolyn Whitaker, Principal Investigator Danièle Todorov, Epidemiologist Elyette Martin, Safety & Health Specialist Suzanne Kelly, Database Consultant

NIOSH Webinar

February 25, 2022





COVID-19 Surveillance Methods

- Data Source: Workers' compensation system administered by the WA State Department of Labor and Industries
 - WA Dept of Health COVID population data (reportable positive tests)
- Case Definition: Suspected or confirmed occupational exposure or infection with COVID-19.







WA Workers' Compensation COVID case counts Feb 2020 – Jan 2022 (n=10,670)



Workers' compensation COVID cases compared to statewide employment share







Long Haul COVID

Case Definition:

Among workers with a positive COVID test, ongoing COVID-related symptoms resulting in either:

- a) 30 days or more of time loss and/or
- b) 30 days or more between test date and symptoms that require medical care, job modification, or schedule modification.

Cases may be:

Washington State Department of Labor & Industries

- Diagnosed with known post-COVID conditions and/or
- Exacerbation of existing condition(s)
- 1066 potential cases (Feb 2020 Jan 2022)
- 262 reviewed / 37% confirmed as long haul



Thank You!

Carolyn.Whitaker@Lni.wa.gov

Danièle Todorov Elyette Martin Suzanne Kelly

Find our COVID reports at: https://lni.wa.gov/safety-health/safetyresearch/covid-19







WISCONSIN





Wisconsin Worker's Compensation 2020 COVID-19 Claims

Komi Modji, Epidemiologist Collin Morris, Epidemiologist Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health

NIOSH Webinar - February 25, 2022



Introduction

- Wisconsin (2020): 538,402 positive cases (confirmed and probable) and 8,046 facility-wide outbreak investigations
- Presumption law: March 7, 2020–July 10, 2020 and limited to first responders and healthcare workers
- Gap: Limited information on COVID-19 and Worker's Compensation (WC)

Objectives

- Calculate COVID-19 claim rates by industry and occupation
- Describe how presumption law affected claim acceptance

Results

- Claims: 3,910 (15.5%) COVID-19 claims out of 25,267
- ✤ Claimants: 3,880
- ✤ Age: Median age: 39 years, Range: 15–96 years
- Race
 - White: 2,428 (62.5%)
 - Non-White: 528 (13.6%)
 - Multiple races: 16 (0.4%)
 - Unknown: 910 (23.5%)

Ethnicity

- Not Hispanic or Not Latino: 2,752 (70.9)
- Hispanic or Latino: 219 (5.6%)
- Unknown: 909 (23.4%)

Results

Non-medical cost payment:

- Median: \$1,186 [\$0-75,468]
- Total: \$2,525,772

Industry claim rate (per 100,000 Full-Time Equivalents):

- Health care and social assistance: 1,564
- Management of companies and enterprises: 538
- Transportation and warehousing: 396

Results

Occupation claim rate (per 100,000 workers):

- Health care practitioners and technical occupations: 306
- Health care support occupations: 293
- Personal care and service occupations: 218

Claim denial rate:

- Overall: 52.7% COVID-19 vs. 13.7% non-COVID-19 claims
- Presumptive occupations: 18.6% during presumption period vs. 45.4% after (+26.8%)
- Non-presumptive occupations: 52.5% during presumption period vs. 65% after (+12.5%)

Next Steps: Long COVID and COVID-19 vaccine injury claims

- Determine Long COVID claim and case rates by industry and occupation and by month.
- Identify risk factors associated with Long COVID.
- Describe medical diagnoses associated with Long COVID cases.
- Determine Long COVID lost work time and payment.
- Describe COVID-19 vaccine injury claims (count, frequency).

Questions -Discussion

For more information, contact CDC 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636) TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.cdc.gov

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



