

## 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 focuses on these areas:

- Expanding use of state-level workers' compensation claims data for research and prevention.
- Identifying and communicating interventions most effective at preventing illness and injury.
- Encouraging collaborations between the public health and workers' compensation communities.

## What do we do?

- Build the capacity of states to use workers' compensation 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 it 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 workers' compensation industry and public health partners.

## What have we accomplished?

### Claims

- Completed four claims analyses studies from Ohio and Alaska, on high-risk industries ([private ambulance services](#), temporary services, and [seafood processing](#)) and severe outcomes (traumatic brain injury) to focus prevention efforts.
- Published a web-based [data visualization dashboard](#) to explore 1.4 million claims in Ohio.
- Partnered with West Virginia University to publish a study that found elevated mortality rates among low back injury claimants, demonstrating that workplace injury has long-term implications.
- Worked with Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists to survey states regarding workers' compensation data use.
- Partnered with the National Council on Compensation Insurance to summarize claims data for several industries including oil/gas and mining.

### Health Services

- Sponsored a [study](#) by RAND to interview key stakeholders about ways to improve the

workers' compensation system.

- Sponsored a [study](#) by the Workers Compensation Research Institute that identified factors leading to higher opioid dispensing rates in 27 states.
- Hosted a [webinar](#) and meeting to support an American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine initiative to develop standardized measures of functional outcomes that can be used to track treatment progress in health care systems.

### Risk Assessment and Control

- Published a [NIOSH Science Blog](#) and developed a workgroup on insurer risk assessment standardization.
- Published studies to evaluate the effectiveness of several insurer programs ([wellness](#), material handling interventions) in Ohio.
- Hosted a July 2019 meeting that brought together workers' compensation and public health organizations to discuss specific ways to use workers' compensation data (and other data sources such as prescription drug monitoring programs) to address research gaps related to opioid use/misuse and workplace exposures.

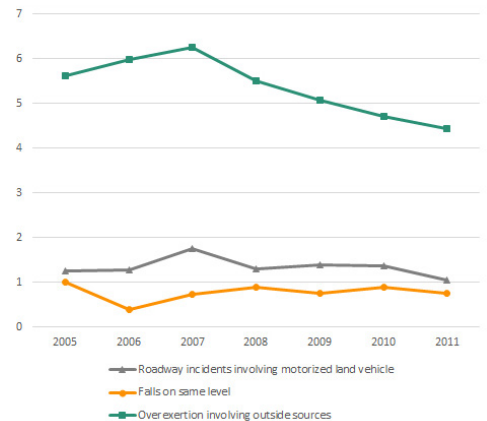
auto-coding, and data-dashboards.

- Conduct health services research studies to examine the impact of alternative and conventional treatments (such as spinal cord stimulation and chiropractic care) on disability and opioid use.

## At-A-Glance

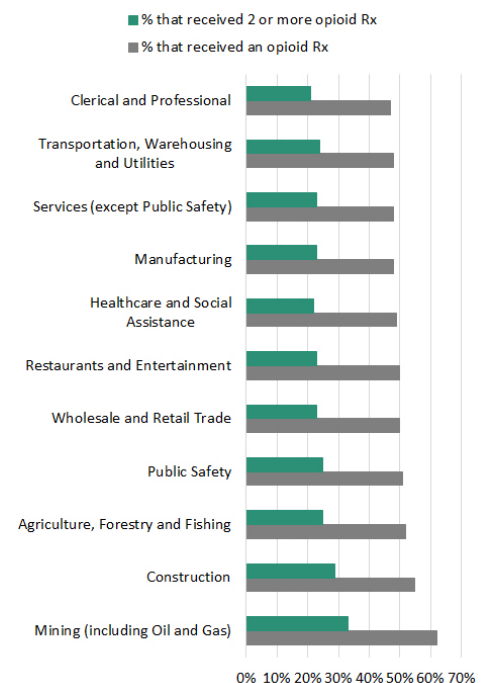
The Center for Workers' Compensation Studies uses workers' compensation data and systems to improve workplace safety and health. This snapshot shows recent accomplishments and upcoming work.

### Private Ohio ambulance services worker total injury claim rates (per 100 estimated FTEs) by leading injury



Source: Reichard et al. Am J Ind Med. 2018 Dec;61(12):986-996

### Opioid dispensing variation by industry among injured workers receiving pain medications



Source: Workers' Compensation Research Institute [2018]. Correlates of Opioids Dispensing. WC-18-48.

## What's next?

- Complete additional claims analyses for multi-industry cost and detailed causation, and specific high-risk industries.
- Conduct outreach to state workers' compensation bureaus and departments of health to share best practices for data linkage,

