

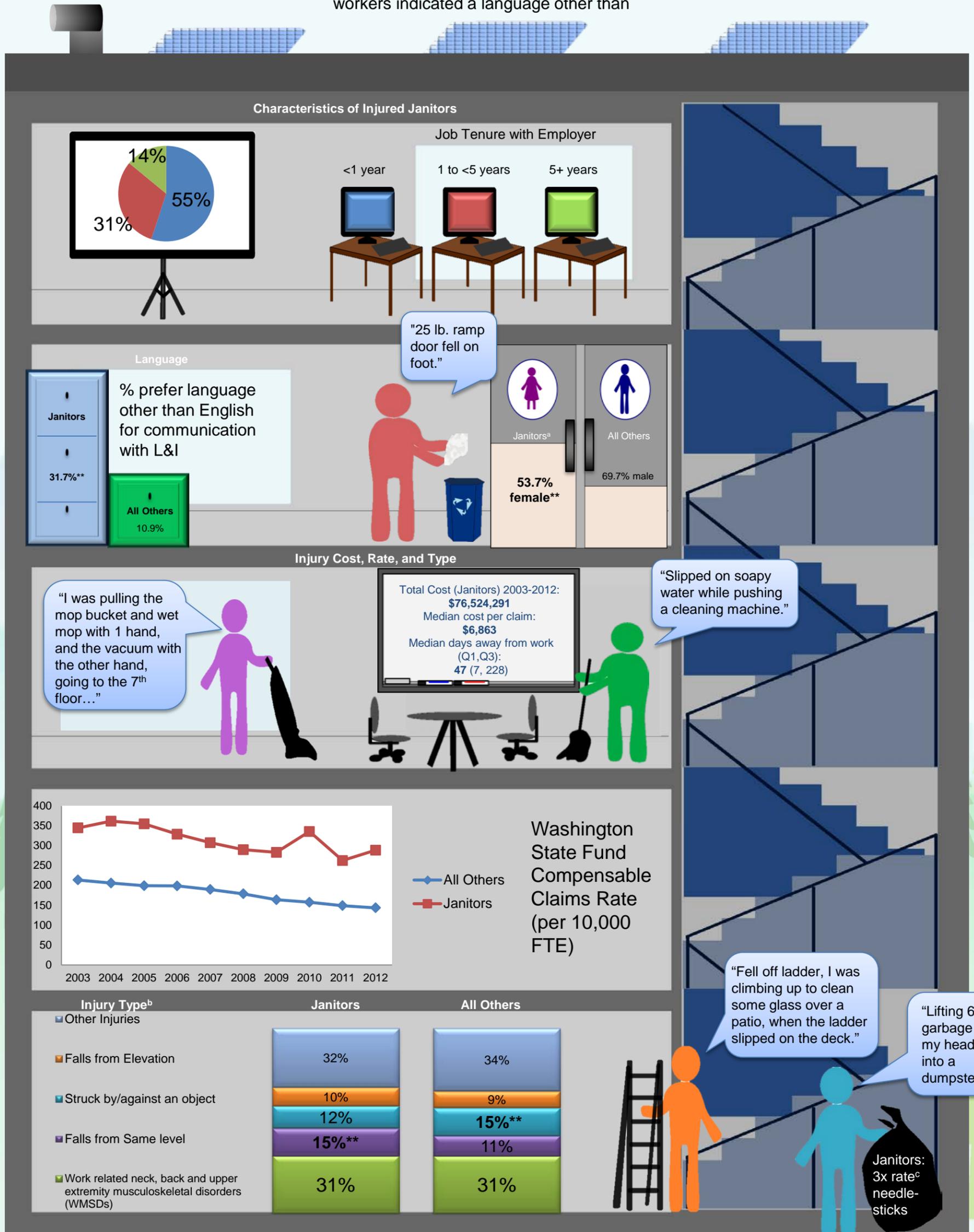
Work-related injuries in Janitorial Services workers in Washington State, 2003-2012

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In WA state Janitorial Services workers had 1.8 times the rate of compensable (lost work-time) injuries than all other occupations in the Services Sector between January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2012. Janitorial Services includes workers in two WA risk classifications (insurance groupings designed to aggregate similar work activities): 6602-03 and 6602-05.

We compare the demographics of Janitorial Services workers ('Janitors') to those of All SF compensable claims minus Janitorial Services ('All Others'). There were 2,450 SF compensable claims for Janitorial Services workers in WA 2003-2012. Costs over the 10 year period averaged over \$7.6 million a year. Nearly a third (31.7%) of Janitorial Services workers indicated a language other than

English in which to communicate with the workers' compensation agency (primarily Spanish). Janitorial Services workers have a high burden of occupational injury, have different demographics than other State Fund claimants, and would benefit from increased research and prevention efforts that are targeted to their needs and to the hazards they face.



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** Significant (p<0.05) differences between Janitors and 'All Other' SF risk classes are denoted by bold font and double asterisks.

a - Based on U.S. Census and Washington State Employment Security Department data.
 b - Only displaying those injury types making up at least 10% of compensable claims (in either category). 'Other Injuries' includes: Overexertion, Lower-extremity MSDs, Vehicle related, Bodily Reaction, Abraded, Caught In/Under/Between, Toxic, and Electrical.
 c - The needle-stick comparison looks at all accepted claims (not just compensable). Rate of accepted needle-stick injuries - 19.5 per 10,000 FTE, rate ratio vs. all other SF risk classes accepted needle-stick claims - 3.08. A needle-stick injury was defined as any OIICS code event Needle-stick, or OIICS code for source/associated source that was "needle/syringe". This does not include claims from Self-Insured employers (many healthcare employers are self-insured). Worker quotes are from the claim text, the injured worker's narrative description of the injury/event.



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