Declines in Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorders (WMSDs)


- Compensable claim rates for WMSDs decreased by 42% overall from 1999 to 2013.

- WMSD claims declined for all body areas over the study period, but at different rates.

- Back WMSDs were most frequent, but decreased the most. Back claims also had the lowest median cost per claim.

- Shoulder WMSDs decreased least, and had a high relative cost per claim.

1. Compensable claims include those involving wage replacement for lost work time (4 or more days) or restricted duty, permanent disability, fatality, or a worker kept on salary by the employer during disability.

2. Full Time Equivalent. 1 FTE = 2000 hours worked in year.

3. Total direct costs include medical and wage replacement costs.