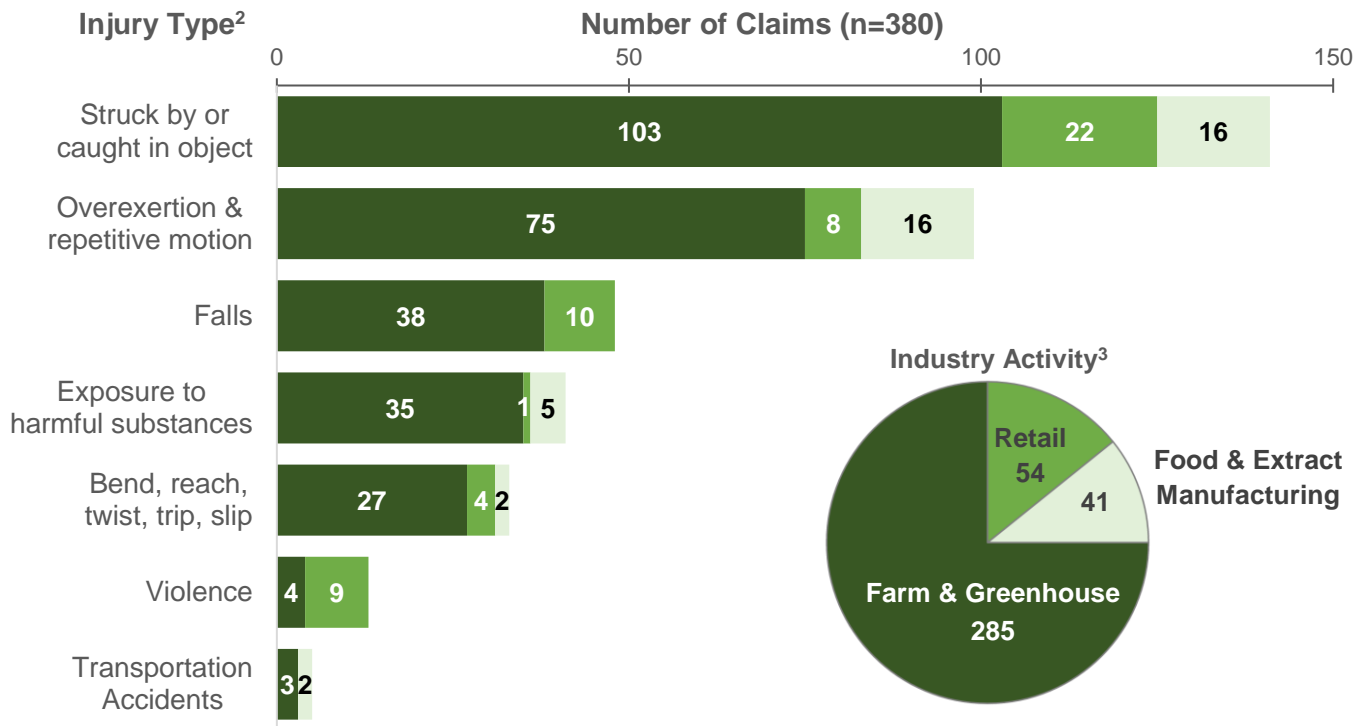


Injury and Illness in the emerging legal cannabis industry¹

Washington State Workers' Compensation Claims, July 2014 through September 2017



Cannabis workers sustained injuries that reflect routine production as well as start-up construction and infrastructure establishment. The types of injuries shown here may change as the industry matures.

- Struck By or Caught In an Object was the leading injury type (37%).
 - Over one-third were cuts or lacerations (n=50).
 - Frequent injuries included contusion (20), fracture (12), concussion (8), sprains, strains and tears (5), crush (3) and fingertip amputation (2).
 - There was 1 vaping device explosion in retail.
- Overexertion & Repetitive Motion (26%) and Bend, Reach, Twist, Trip, or Slip (9%) were common.
 - Over half involved 'sprain, strain, or tear' (84).
 - Also hernia (6), back pain (5), carpal tunnel (3), and 2 each for dislocation and fracture.
- Exposure to Harmful Substances (11%) predominantly involved inhalation injuries from exposure to:
 - Allergens such as cannabis dust (5) and mold (1), pesticide (6) and 1 each for inhalation to chlorine, butane, and carbon dioxide gas.
 - Other harmful exposures included chemical burn (5), UV radiation to eye/skin (2) and noise (2).
- Violence (3%) predominantly occurred in retail stores.
 - Homicide (1), armed robbery (4) and 8 physical assaults (5 with co-worker as the aggressor).

1. Cannabis employers identified by Uniform Business Identifiers (UBI) associated with licenses granted by the WA State Liquor & Cannabis Board.

190 unique businesses filed the 380 claims shown. In WA, cannabis was legalized for medical use in 1998 and for recreational use in 2012.

2. Injury Type classified using Occupational Injury and Illness Codes (OIICS).

3. Industry Activity grouped by the WA State Risk Classification system. 5 claims in other industry activities not shown.