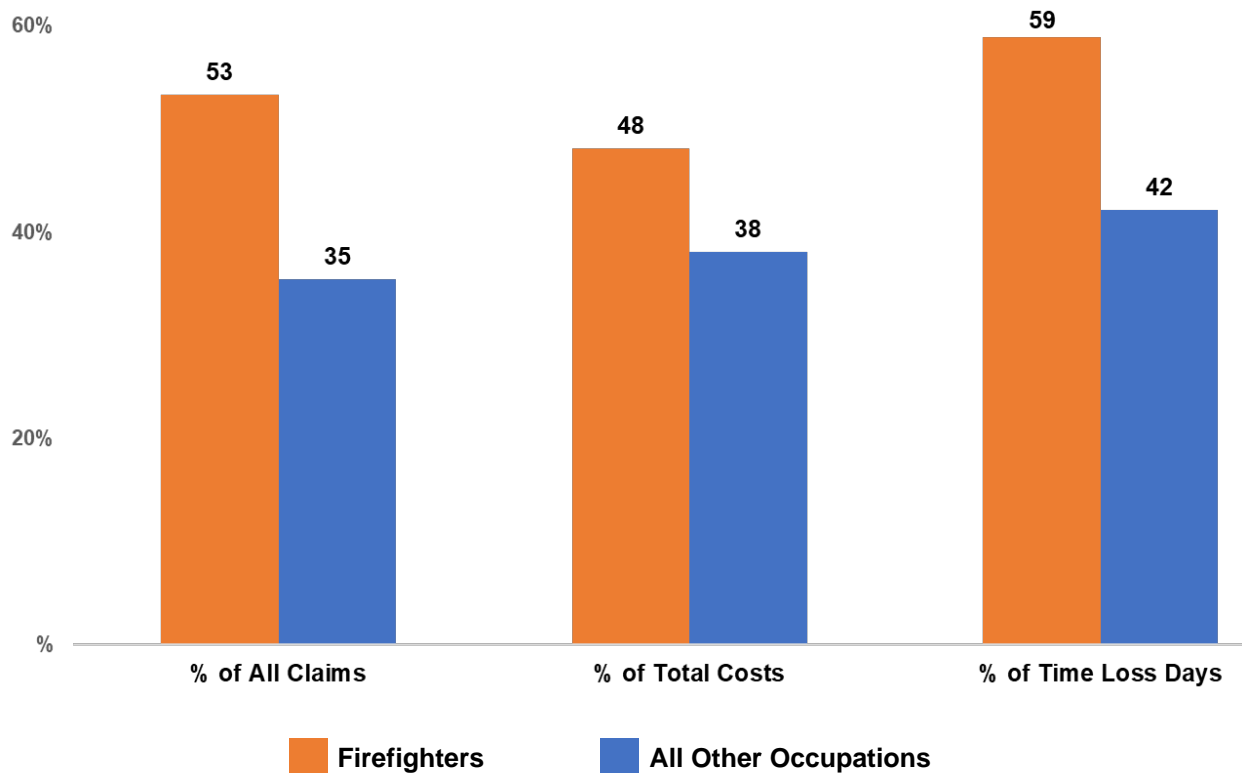


## Firefighter Claims for Musculoskeletal Disorders

Washington State Workers' Compensation State Fund, 2012–2016



- Among firefighters,<sup>1</sup> workers' compensation claims for musculoskeletal disorders (MSD) account for a higher percentage of total claims,<sup>2</sup> claim costs,<sup>3</sup> and lost work time than do MSD claims for all other occupations.
- The rate of MSD claims for firefighters is 2.7 per 100 FTE.<sup>4</sup> For all other occupations, the MSD claim rate is 0.5 per 100 FTE.
- For firefighters, 1 out of every 4 workers' compensation claims is for an MSD of the back, and 1 in 8 is for a shoulder MSD.

1. County and City Firefighters – Salaried, reported under Washington Risk Class 6904.

2. Compensable claims only. Compensable claims include those involving wage replacement for lost work time (4 or more days), total permanent disability, fatality, or a worker kept on salary by the employer during disability. Total MSD claims for time period: Firefighter = 717, All Other Occupations = 41,010.

3. Total direct costs include medical and wage replacement costs. Claim costs and time loss days paid to date as of June 2018.

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