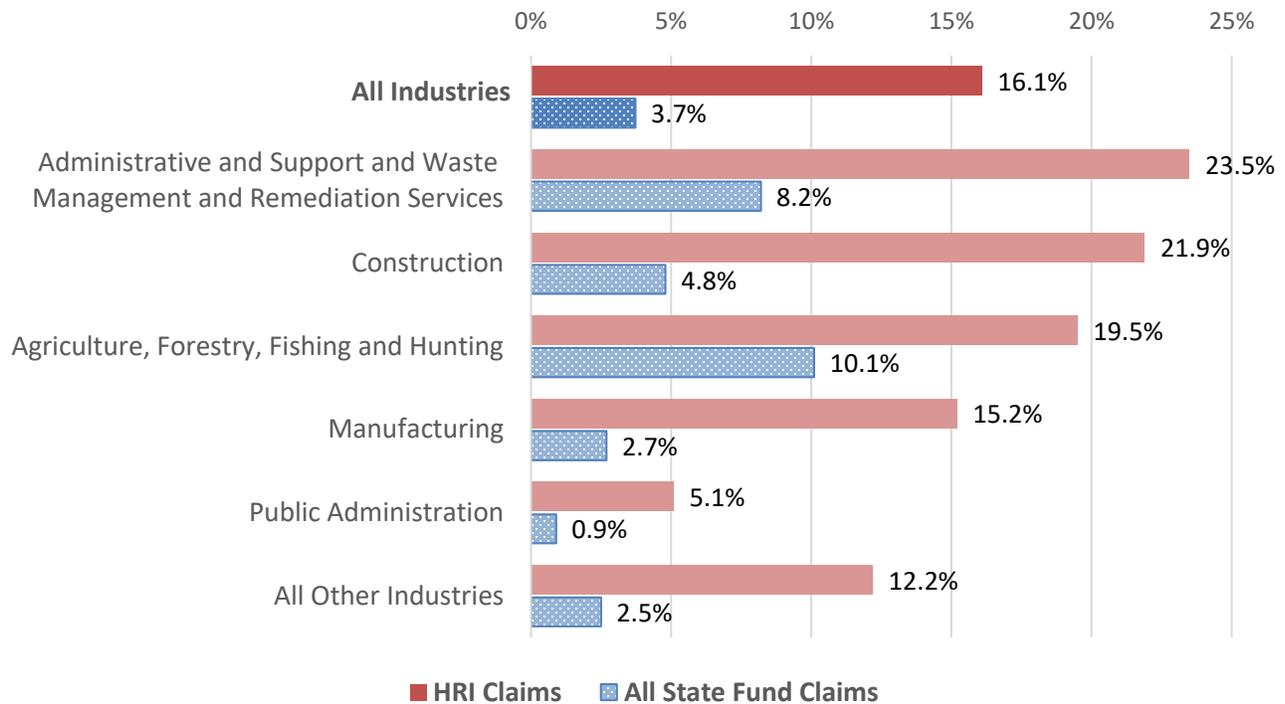


Heat-related Illness in New Workers

Percent of heat-related illness (HRI) claims occurring in new workers

Accepted Washington State Fund workers' compensation claims occurring in the first two weeks of work, by industry, 2006–2021¹



- Workers' compensation claims occurring in the first two weeks of work were more common for accepted HRI claims than for all accepted State Fund claims (16.1% vs. 3.7%).
 - 12.5% of accepted HRI claims occurred during the first week of work, compared to 2.2% of all accepted State Fund claims.
- Accepted HRI claims occurring in the first two weeks of work were most common in the Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services (23.5%), Construction (21.9%), and Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (19.5%) industry sectors.
- New workers may be more likely to develop HRIs during the first two weeks if their bodies are not acclimatized² to working in the heat.

1. For HRI claims from 2018-2021, case identification and case validation methods were similar to those described for 2006-2017 in Hesketh M, et al. *Am J Ind Med*, 63(4):300-311. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajim.23092>.

2. Acclimatization is the body's gradual temporary adaptation to work in heat that occurs as a person is exposed to it over a period of seven to 14 days. For more information on acclimatization, see: [Heat Stress Acclimatization | NIOSH | CDC](#).