

## Heat-related Illness by Temperature

### Heat-related illness claims by maximum daytime temperature

Percent of accepted Washington State Fund workers' compensation heat-related illness (HRI) claims occurring below different temperatures, by industry sector, 2006–2021<sup>1</sup>

Industry Sector	# HRI Claims	Cumulative Percentage <sup>2</sup>				
		<75 °F	<80 °F	<89 °F	<95 °F	<100 °F
Construction	214	7%	16%	46%	77%	91%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	142	4%	9%	35%	58%	82%
Public Administration	134	22%	33%	61%	79%	93%
Administrative, Support and Waste Mgmt and Remediation Services	74	12%	24%	53%	68%	85%
Manufacturing	71	8%	13%	31%	51%	83%
All Others	215	11%	16%	40%	61%	81%
<b>All Industry Sectors</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>86%</b>

- In all industry sectors, 44% of accepted HRI claims occurred below the current threshold set to trigger worker protections for occupational heat exposure (89 °F).<sup>3</sup>
  - In the public administration sector, 61% of claims occurred below 89 °F, in part due to occupational heat exposures to firefighters. Excluding firefighters, 51% of public administration claims occurred below 89 °F.
- Approximately one-quarter of accepted HRI claims occurred at or above 80 °F but below 89 °F.
- 18% percent of accepted HRI claims occurred below 80 °F, however, this percentage varied across industry sectors.

1. For HRI claims from 2018-2021, methods for case identification, case validation, and assignment of daily maximum air temperature to the day and location of the HRI case followed those described for 2006-2017 in Hesketh M, et al. Am J Ind Med, 2020 63(4):300-311.  
<https://doi.org/10.1002/ajim.23092>

2. A cumulative percentage is the proportion of claims below each temperature, including claims below lower temperature thresholds (for example, the percentage of claims occurring below 80 °F also includes claims occurring below 75 °F).

3. See Washington Administrative Code [296-62-09510](#) and [296-307-09710](#), which establish an Outdoor Temperature Action Level of 89 °F for workers wearing work clothes that are not double layer and not nonbreathable clothing. Please note outdoor and indoor claims are included in this analysis.