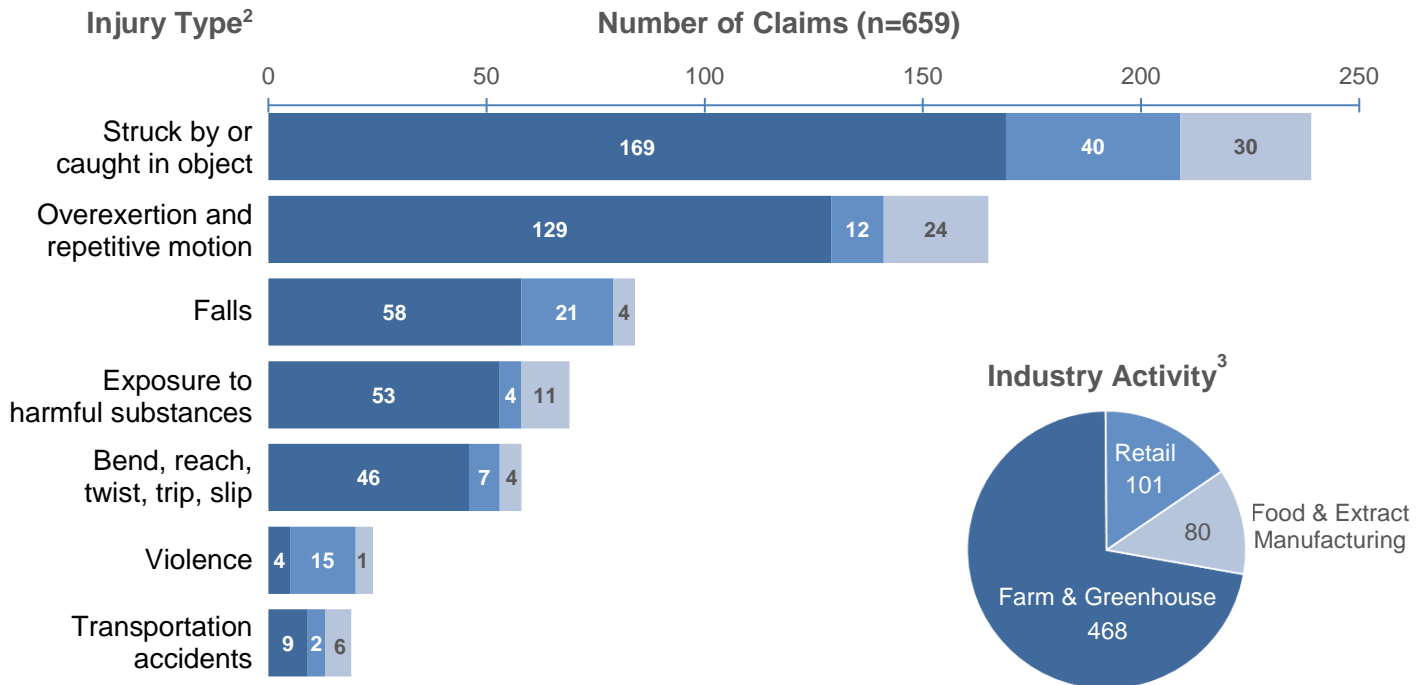


Injury and Illness in the legal cannabis industry¹

Washington State Workers' Compensation Claims, July 2014 through December 2018



Cannabis greenhouse workers were injured at a rate similar to non-cannabis greenhouse workers performing comparable work⁴. The claim rate for cannabis greenhouse workers was 41.1 claims per 10,000 Full Time Equivalent⁵ workers compared to 48.8 for non-cannabis greenhouse workers.

For all cannabis industry workers:

- Struck By or Caught In an Object was the leading injury type (36%). These included cuts and lacerations (n=89), contusions (35), fractures (15), and concussions (10).
- There were 5 fingertip amputations and 1 avulsion at bud trim saws.
- Overexertion & Repetitive Motion (25%) and Bend, Reach, Twist, Trip, or Slip (9%) were common. Nearly 60% of these injuries involved 'sprain, strain, or tear' (133).
- Exposure to Harmful Substances (10%) predominantly involved inhalation injuries from exposure to pesticides (8) and allergens including cannabis dust and mold (7). Other harmful exposures included burns from chemicals (7) and hot candy (5), and UV radiation to eye/skin (3).
- Violence (3%) occurred primarily in retail stores and included homicide (1), armed robbery (8) and 10 physical assaults (7 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.

334 unique businesses filed the 659 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. 10 claims in Other industry activities not shown.

4. Using WA State Risk Class 'Greenhouses NOC' compared for State Fund filed claims in 4-year period of 2015 – 2018.

5. 1 FTE = 2000 hours worked.