

Workers' Compensation Advisory Committee (WCAC)

Wednesday, September 30, 2020



AGENDA

Workers' Compensation Advisory Committee (WCAC)

Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

Zoom meeting

1:00 PM – 3:00

Meeting ID: 949 4091 0592

Password: wcac0930!

Time	Topic	Presenter(s)
1 – 1:10	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions• Safety Message	Joel Sacks Vickie Kennedy Dave Bonauto
1:10 – 1:30	General Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finance Committee• COVID-19• 21-23 Budget proposals• Legislation• WCSM	Joel Sacks Vickie Kennedy Randi Warick
1:30 – 2:00	Rates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New classification considerations	Joel Sacks Mike Ratko
2:00 – 2:10	Break	
2:10 – 2:20	Industrial Insurance State Fund Financial Overview	Rob Cotton
2:20 – 2:30	L&I New Opioid Performance Metric	Jaymie Mai
2:30 – 2:45	Insurance Services Dashboard	Vickie Kennedy
2:45 – 2:55	Board of Industrial Insurance (BIIA) Update	Linda Williams
2:55 – 3:00	Closing Comments & Adjourn	Vickie Kennedy Joel Sacks

Next WCAC Meeting

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Zoom

For more information regarding the WCAC and to view meeting schedules and finalized meeting minutes, please visit the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries Workers' Compensation Advisory Committee Webpages:
www.lni.wa.gov/claims/ins/insurance/learn/wcac



Safety Message

Dave Bonauto

Promoting Flu Vaccination

- CDC: ‘The combination of flu and COVID-19 could overwhelm healthcare setting.’**
- Benefits of flu vaccination – home, work, school.
- Guidance workplace flu vaccination and guidance on flu vaccination during COVID.

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/business/promoting-vaccines-workplace.htm>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pandemic-guidance/index.html>

General Updates



Finance Subcommittee

- 8/18/2020
 - COVID-19 trends update
 - Non-Pension Discount Rate
 - Supplemental Pension Fund refresher & rate scenarios
- 9/15/2020
 - COVID-19 trends update
 - Preliminary rate decision & deep dive on break-even rate
 - Contingency Reserve update
 - New Rating classes

COVID-19 claims by fund

Type	State Fund	Self-Insured	Total
Allowed	2,012	1,071	3,083
Rejected	77	45	122
Pending	436	152	588
Total received	2,525	1,268	3,793

As of Sept. 16, 2020

COVID-19 claims by industry

Industry	Claims	Share
Healthcare-related	2,237	59%
Miscellaneous Services	417	11%
Misc. Professional & Clerical	357	9.4%
First responders	300	7.9%
Government	120	3.2%
Transportation and Warehousing	74	2%
ALL OTHER	288	7.5%
Total	3,793	100%

As of Sept. 16, 2020

What is WCSM?

Business Transformation

WORKERS' COMP
SYSTEMS MODERNIZATION

- L&I's effort toward replacing and modernizing the 1980s-era computer systems that support Washington's workers' compensation program.
- We hope to:
 - Simplify the workers' compensation technology architecture.
 - Replace manual and paperwork processes with electronic features.
 - Enhance and add self-service features for customers.
 - Free up staff to directly serve the needs of injured workers and employers.
- In 2018, L&I produced a business case describing the agency's extensive research, technical plans, and procurement implementation strategies for replacing the existing systems.
- L&I proposed this modernization will have an overall estimated cost of \$309M; legislature approved the agency's request of \$81.9M for the first biennium.

What is WCSM?

Business Transformation

WORKERS' COMP
SYSTEMS MODERNIZATION



Work started in July 2019 after years of planning and research. Here's just some of what we've accomplished:

- Hired a systems integrator to help the infrastructure for existing systems and the new solution(s) to work together.
- Acquiring internal and external change management expertise.
- Hired a quality assurance vendor for independent assessment and advice.
- Creating a high-quality procurement strategy and plan for acquiring a commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) software product and implementer.
- Organized six project teams (COTS Procurement, Systems Integration, Customer Access, Change Readiness, Business Readiness and Program Foundations) and created a governance structure.

An independent look at WCSM

Business Transformation

WORKERS' COMP
SYSTEMS MODERNIZATION



L&I is hiring an outside firm to conduct an independent review of the WCSM program. The review will assess L&I's:

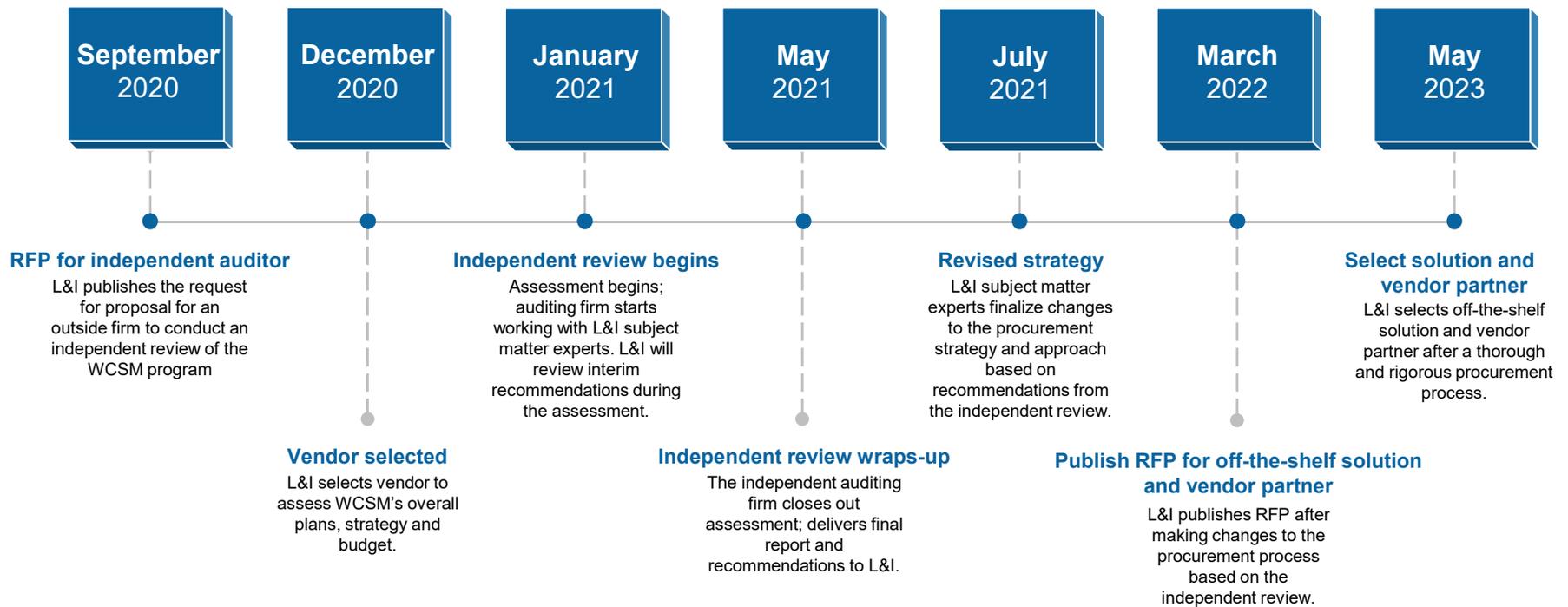
- Strategy to procure and implement a new worker's compensation commercial off-the-shelf solution.
- Plan to move data from existing systems to the new solution.
- Overall WCSM budget.

Timeline of WCSM's independent review

All dates listed are tentative and subject to change

Business Transformation

WORKERS' COMP
SYSTEMS MODERNIZATION





Rates

Joel Sacks

Mike Ratko

L&I's Rate-Setting Philosophy:

- Steady and predictable rates.
- Benchmark against wage inflation.
- Maintain adequate reserves.
- Focus on better outcomes for injured workers to reduce costs.

Proposed Overall Rate Change of 0%

Funds	2020 Average Hrly Rate	2021 Proposed Hrly Rate	2021 Proposed % Change
Accident	\$0.324	\$0.324	0.0%
Medical Aid	\$0.189	\$0.175	(7.8)%
Supplemental Pension	\$0.122	\$0.137	12.0%
Stay-at-Work	\$0.005	\$0.005	0.0%
Overall*	\$0.640	\$0.640	0.0%
Net per \$100 of payroll**	\$1.75	\$1.72	(2.1)%

2021 Break-even Hrly Rate	2021 Break-even Indication
\$0.340	5.2%
\$0.210	11.2%
\$0.163	33.4%
\$0.005	3.8%
\$0.719	12.4%
\$1.93	10.0%

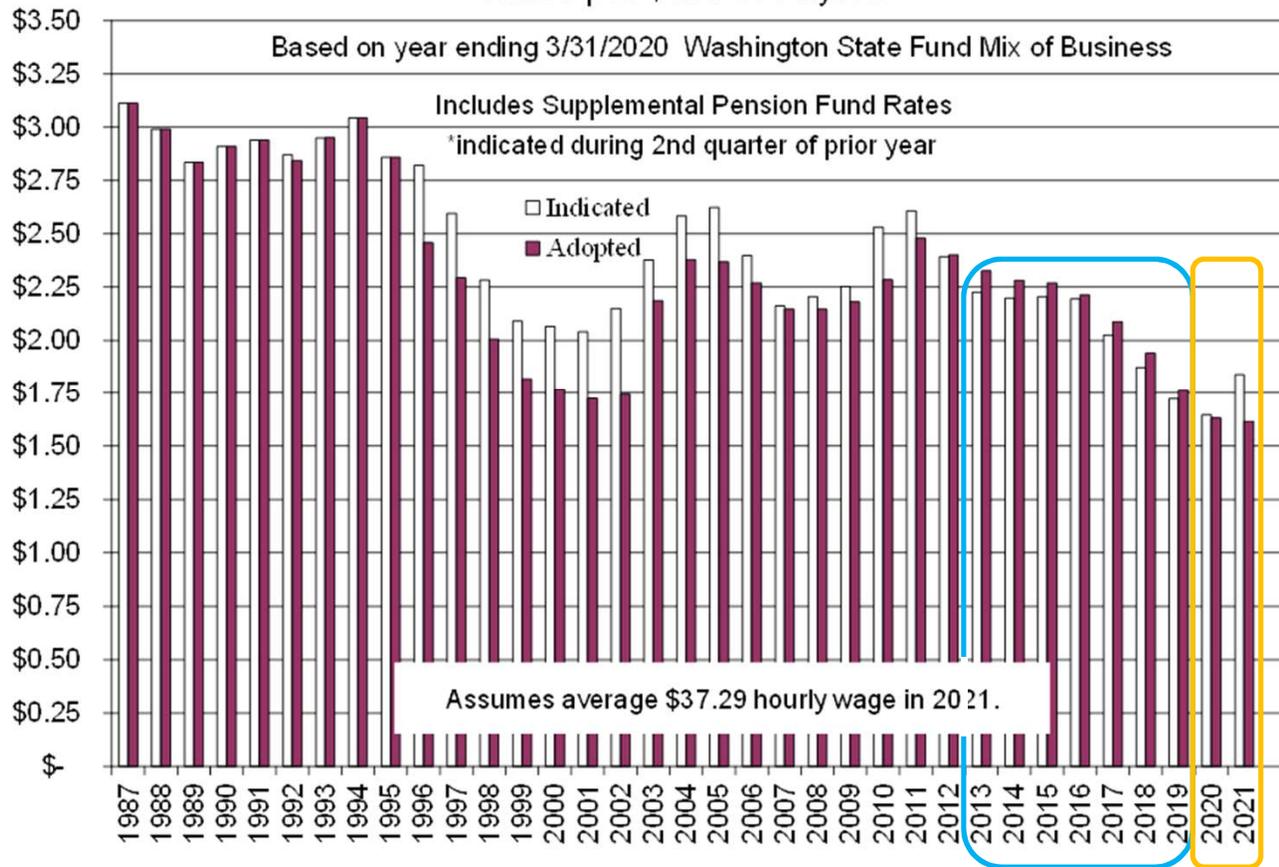
*Before retrospective premium refunds

**Based on year ending March 31, 2020 mix of business and current wage inflation assumptions

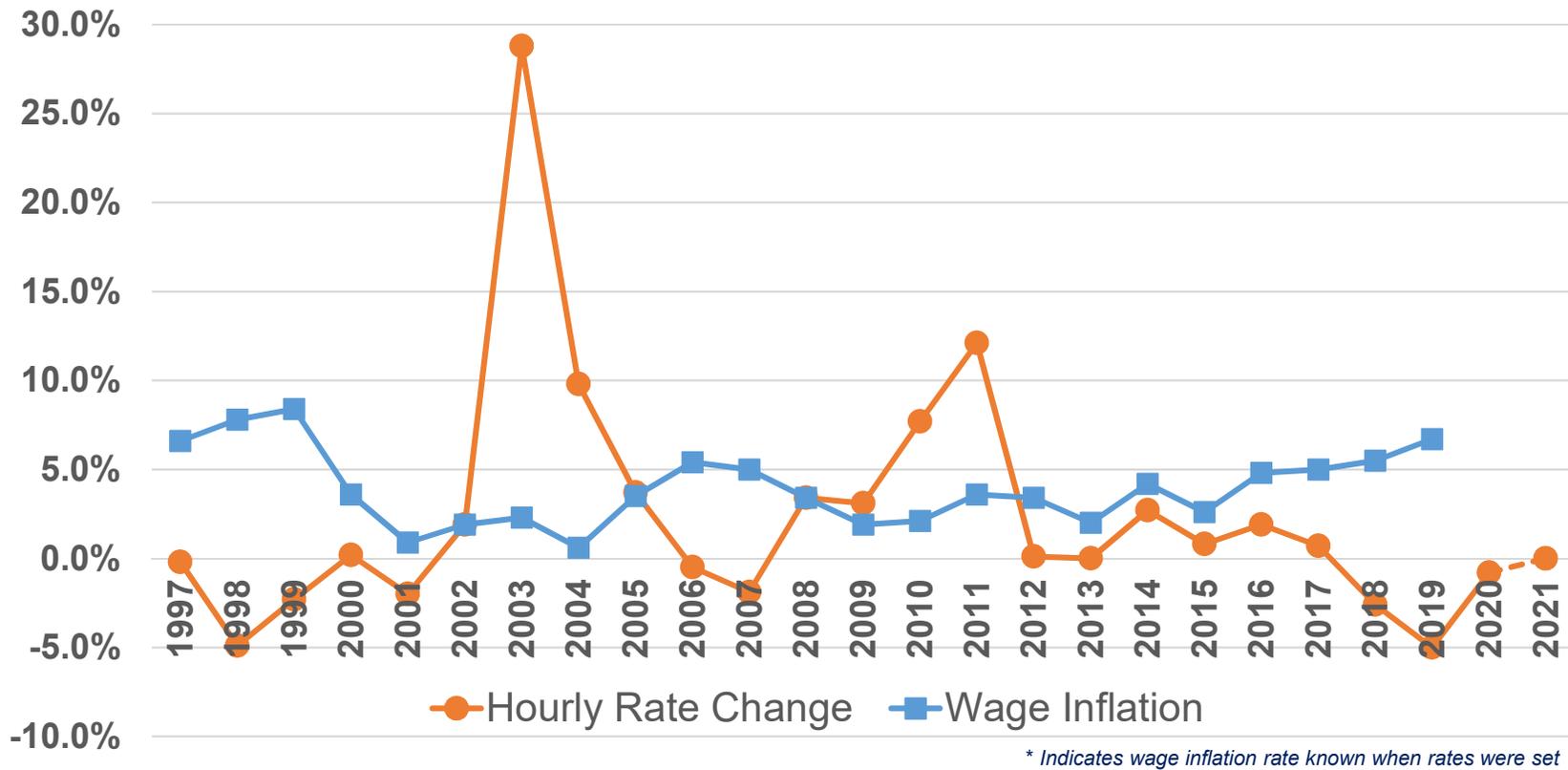
Steady and Predictable Rates

- Supplemental Pension Fund shortfall and recent COLAs required a 12% rate increase to avoid loans.
- Sufficient Medical Aid Fund reserves allow us to offset the SPF increase for a net-zero overall rate increase.
- Fourth consecutive year of no overall hourly rate increase.
 - Tenth consecutive year of no overall rate increase per payroll dollar.

Washington State Fund Past* Indicated Break-even vs Adopted **Net** Premium Rates per \$100 of Payroll

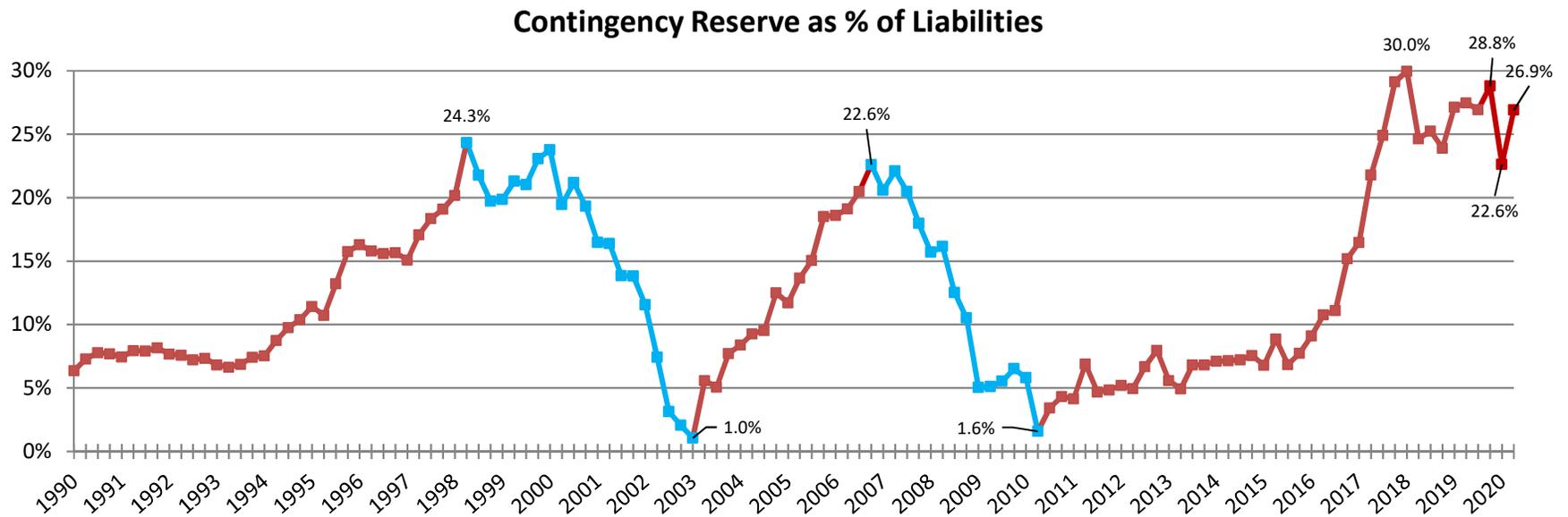


Benchmark Against Wage Inflation

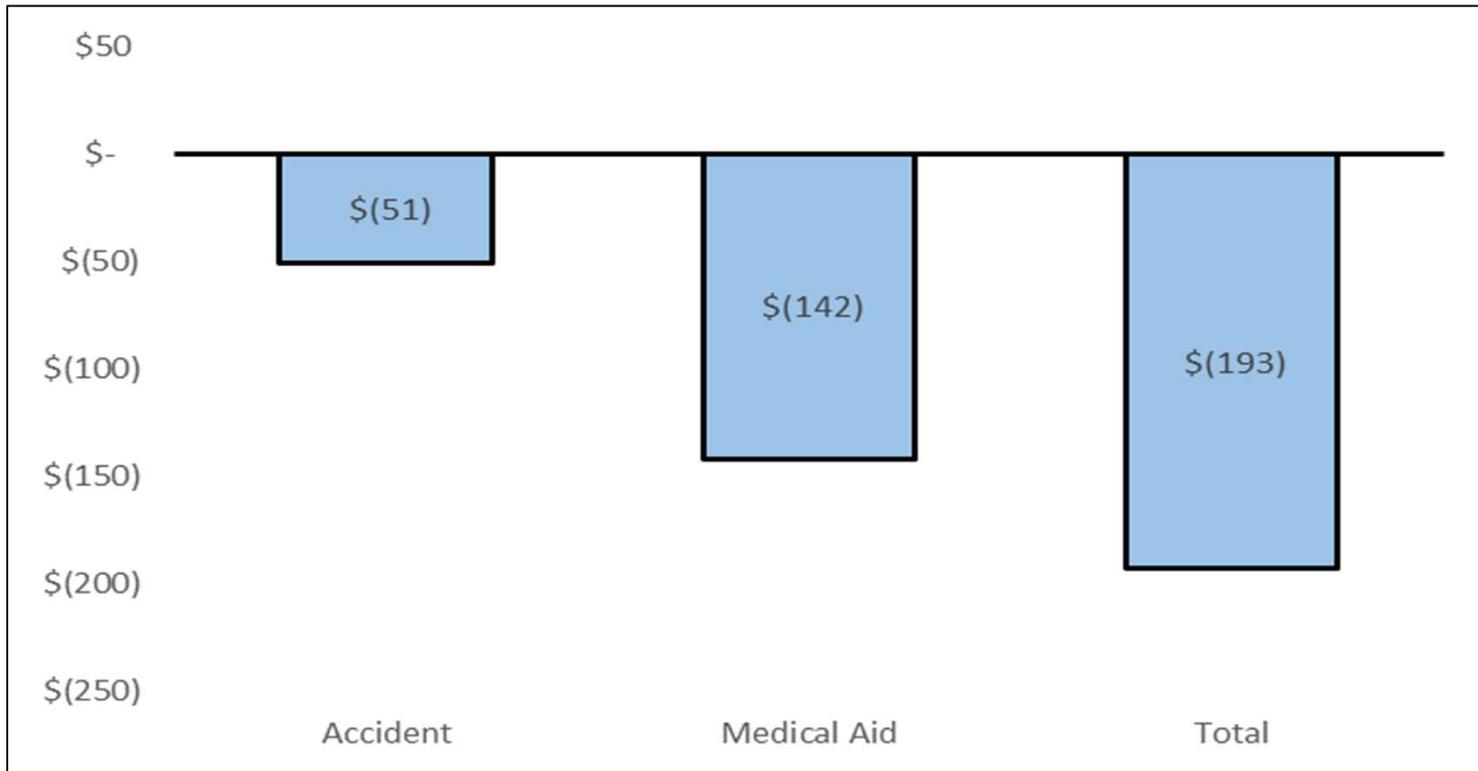


Maintain Adequate Reserves

- **1998 – 2003:** \$1.15B decrease
- **2007 – 2010:** \$1.91B decrease
- 24.3% → 1.0% of liabilities
- 22.6% → 1.6% of liabilities



Anticipated Impact of the 2021 Rate Proposal on the Contingency Reserve (in millions)



Focus on Better Outcomes for Workers To Reduce Costs

- The rate of long-term disability has been reduced through vocational recovery and occupational health best practices, helping drive down costs and keep rates stable.
- Identifying workers at risk of long-term disability and proactively providing appropriate interventions and services may ultimately reduce the financial impact of the current recession.

Key Next Steps in Adopting Rates

1. Two public hearings statewide via Zoom (10/27/2020 – 10/29/2020).
2. Adopt final 2021 rates (11/30/2020).
3. Begin mailing rates to employers (12/7/2020).
4. New rates are effective (1/1/2021).

Supplemental Pension Fund



Supplemental Pension Fund (SPF) [\(RCW 51.32.073\)](#)

- SPF premiums cover the annual Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) in pension and time-loss benefits.
- SPF is allowed to collect only enough premium to make the **current** COLA payments for new and past claims (“pay as you go”).
- Minimal cash in the bank (three months of payments) to absorb a revenue shortfall.
- This differs from the Accident Fund (AF), Medical Aid Fund (MAF), and Stay at Work program (SAW) that aim to collect sufficient premiums to pay for **current and future** benefit payments.
- Premiums are shared equally between employer and employee.

SPF Challenges Due to COVID-19

- **Substantial reduction in revenue** due to a reduction in reported hours and collected premiums.
- **COLA outlays continue to increase** with the state average wage (6.7% for benefits effective July 1).
- If the asset balance is below \$50M at the beginning of a quarter, it would likely require a loan from the Pension Fund.
- Pension Fund loans must be paid back with interest, increasing future SPF rates.

Factors that Influence SPF Rate Changes

- Changes in number of hours worked.
- Changes in wages.
 - COLA based on changes in the State Average Annual Wage.
 - Indicated SPF rate increase: **2 * COLA – 2%**.
- SPF asset level.
 - Goal is to maintain at least three months' worth of benefit payments in the fund.

More on the 2021 SPF Rate Proposal

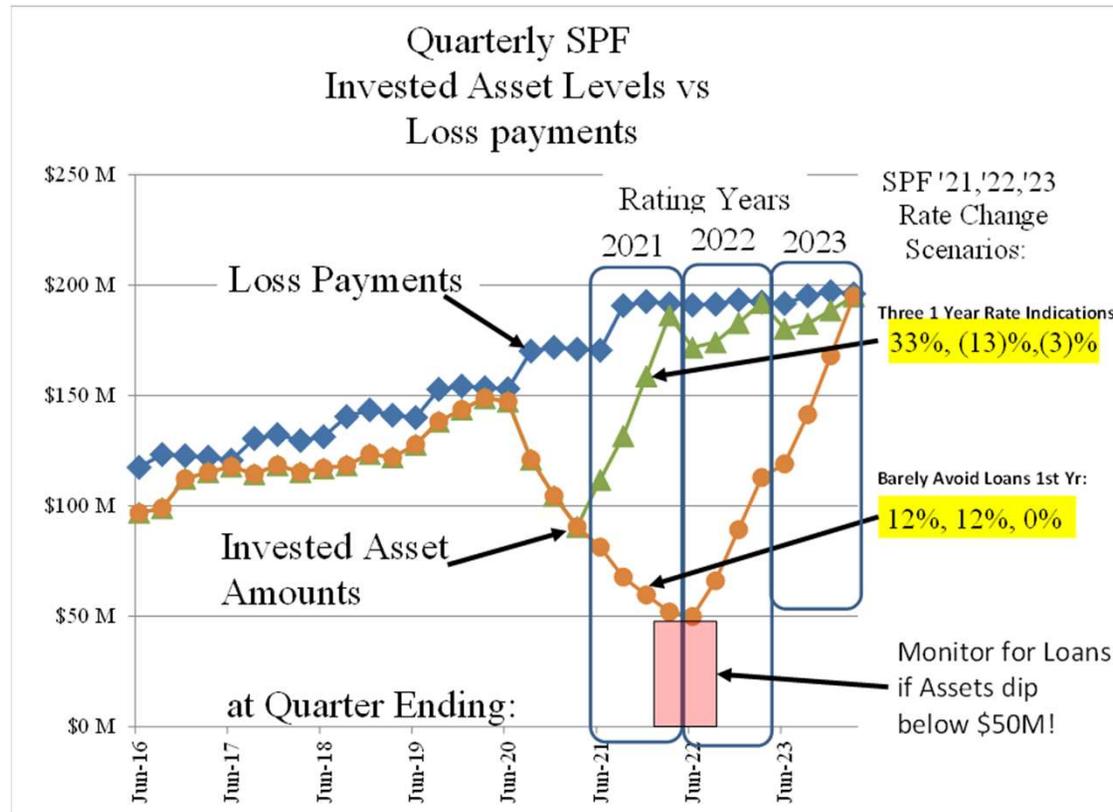
- 33.4% indicated rate increase.
- 12% proposed rate increase to cover benefit inflation & decrease in hours.
- Larger increases to bring SPF assets back to three months worth of payments deferred to future rating years.

SPF Break-Even Rate Indication

Factor	% Rate Increase Relative to 2020
Benefit inflation (wages)	11.0%
SPF asset level	15.4%
SF & SI hours	7.0%
Total indicated change	33.4%

Invested Asset Projections

Indicated vs. proposed rates



New Rating Classes

Mike Ratko



Fulfillment Centers Risk Classification

- Concerns from businesses in the warehouse classification prompt actuarial and industry analysis.
- Fulfillment Centers determined to be higher hazard operations compared to rest of industry class.
- Developed a separate classification for Fulfillment Centers with a 2021 rate of \$2.17 (a 15% increase).
- Warehouse rate is a proposed \$1.51/hour (a 20% decrease).

Department of Energy (DOE) Hanford Site Classification System

- Workers of DOE contractors currently covered under special insuring agreement (RCW 51.04.130).
- DOE operates like a self-insurer paying all claim costs and L&I administrative assessments, and utilizing a TPA to manage claims.
- At the request of DOE, effective January 1, 2021, all DOE contractors will report hours and premiums to the state fund.
- Actuaries developed a 10 classification system and rates for DOE contractors.
- DOE contractors rates will not be experience rated and Hanford premium and losses will not be used in retrospective rating.
- There will be intermittent premium evaluations that result in premium being owed or refunded.

Industrial Insurance (State) Fund Financial Overview

Statutory Financial Information
Fiscal Year 2020 through Fourth Quarter (July 2019 – June 2020)

Rob Cotton, Chief Accounting Officer



Significant Financial Highlights

The contingency reserve increased \$25 million, from \$3,954 million on July 1, 2019 to \$3,979 million on June 30, 2020.

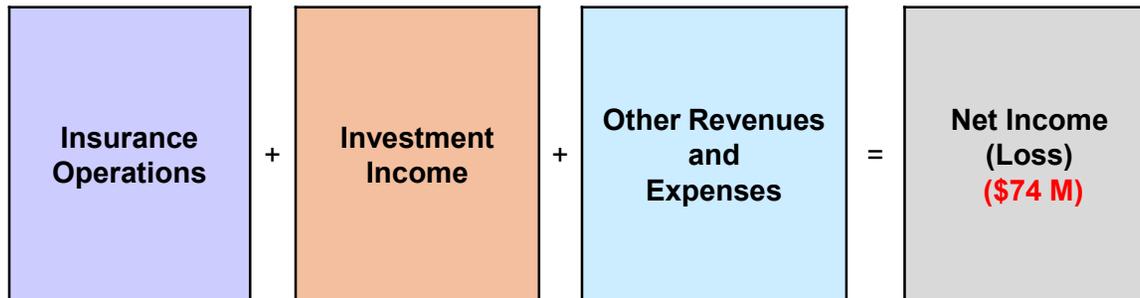
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Net Unfavorable development on prior year liabilities<ul style="list-style-type: none">↓ Medical Aid: mainly due to an increase in number and cost of new and replacement hearing aids↓ Accident: increase in duration due to the pandemic and changes in the economy↓ Structured Settlements: increase in the number of settlements↑ Partial Permanent Disability: fewer awards↑ Total Permanent Disability: a reduction in claim frequency• ↓ Decrease in the non-pension discount rate from 1.5 to 1%• Gains on investments• Premiums and investment income are adequate to pay for actual costs
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Change in contingency reserve by quarter for fiscal year 2020.

- July 1st to September 30, 2019 – a decrease of \$16 million
- October 1st to December 31, 2019 – an increase of \$289 million
- January 1st to March 31, 2020 – a decrease of \$832 million
- April 1st to June 30, 2020 – an increase of \$584 million

State Fund Results

“Net Income”
July 2019 through June 2020



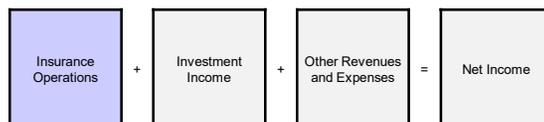
Insurance Operations

July through June 2020
(in millions)

Twelve Months Ended

		June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019
We took in (Premiums Earned)	+	\$ 1,892	\$ 1,927
We spent (Expenses Incurred)			
Benefits Incurred		2,384	1,707
Claim Administrative Expenses		251	312
Other Insurance Expenses		96	101
Total Expenses Incurred	-	2,731	2,120
Net Income (Loss) from Insurance Operations	=	\$ (839)	\$ (193)

Net loss from insurance operations is normal for workers compensation insurers who routinely rely on investment income to cover a portion of benefit payments.



Premiums Earned

July through June
(in millions)

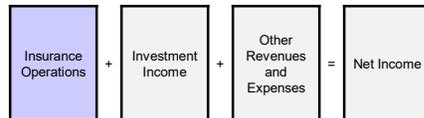
	Twelve Months Ended		Difference
	June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019	
Standard Premiums Collected	\$2,120	\$2,216	
Less Retrospective Rating Adjustments	(210)	(253)	
Less Ceded Reinsurance Premiums	(12)	(5)	
Net Premiums Collected	1,898	1,958	
Changes in future Premium Amounts To Be Collected	(12)	(45)	
Changes in future Retrospective Rating Adjustment Refunds	6	14	
Net Premiums Earned	\$ 1,892	\$ 1,927	\$ (35)



Benefits Incurred

July through June
(in millions)

	Twelve Months Ended		Difference
	June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019	
Benefits Paid	\$ 1,669	\$ 1,635	\$ 34
Change in Benefit Liabilities	*715	**72	643
Total Benefits Incurred	\$ 2,384	\$ 1,707	\$ 677



*Due to net unfavorable development (see Significant Financial Highlight slide)

** The \$72 million change in benefit liabilities would have been \$424 million without the positive claim trends.

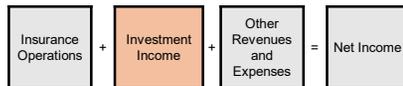
Investment Income

July through June
(in millions)

Twelve Months Ended

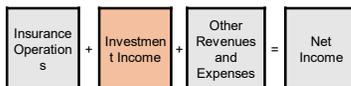
		June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019
Investment Income Earned from Interest on bonds	+	\$ 497	\$ 498
Realized Gain/(Loss) from Fixed Income Investments Sold	+	269 *	(26)
Realized Gains from Stocks (Equity Investments) Sold	+	3	3
Total Investment Income	=	\$ 769	\$ 475

*Resulting from the sale of bonds in order to transfer assets from the accident account to the pension reserve account to cover the pension reserve deficit that existed at the end of FY19, rebalancing the investment portfolio in March 2020, and in June 2020, shorter term fixed income investments were sold and longer term purchased in order to align duration with the asset allocation policy.



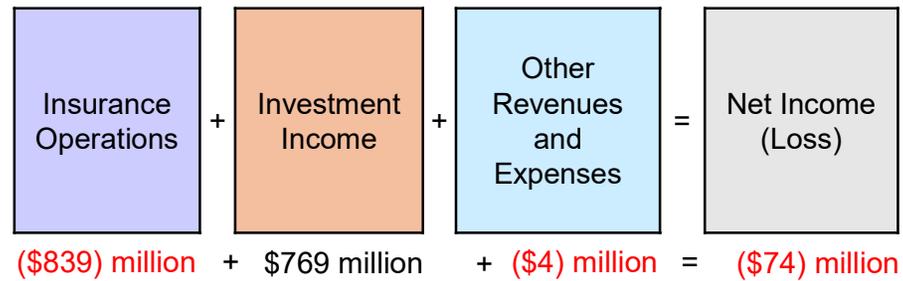
Total Investments

(rounded to billions)



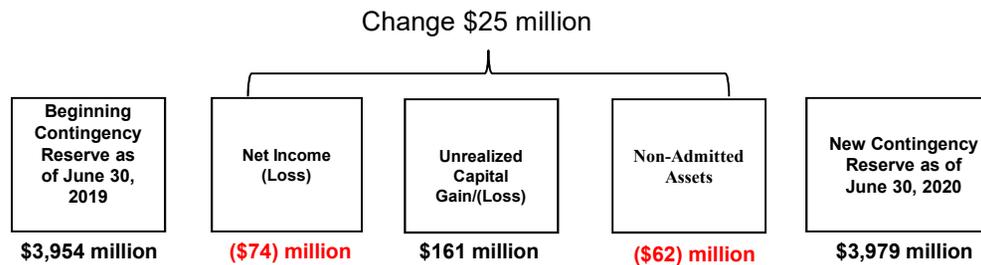
Results of Operations

July 2019 through June 2020

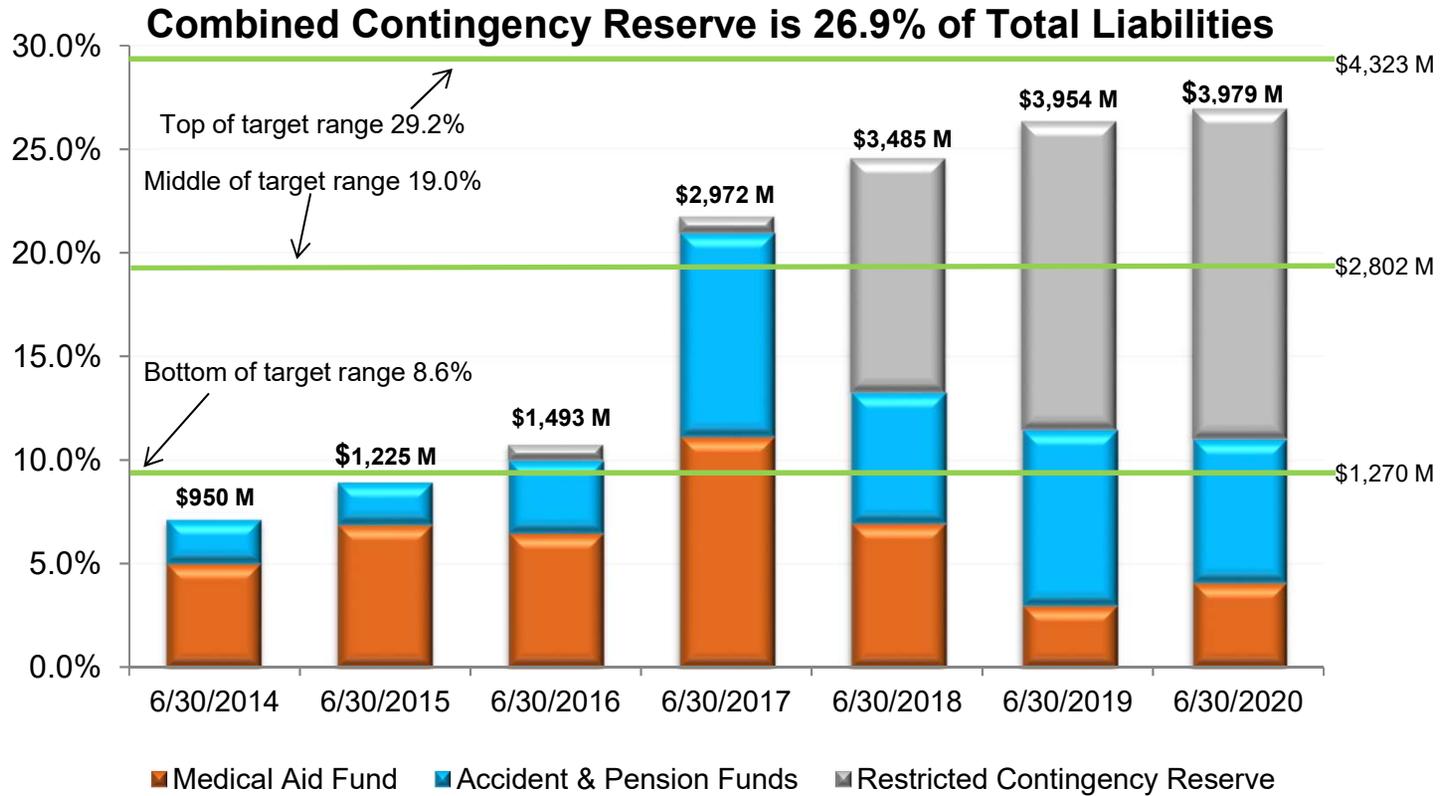


How did the contingency reserve perform?

July 2019 through June 2020

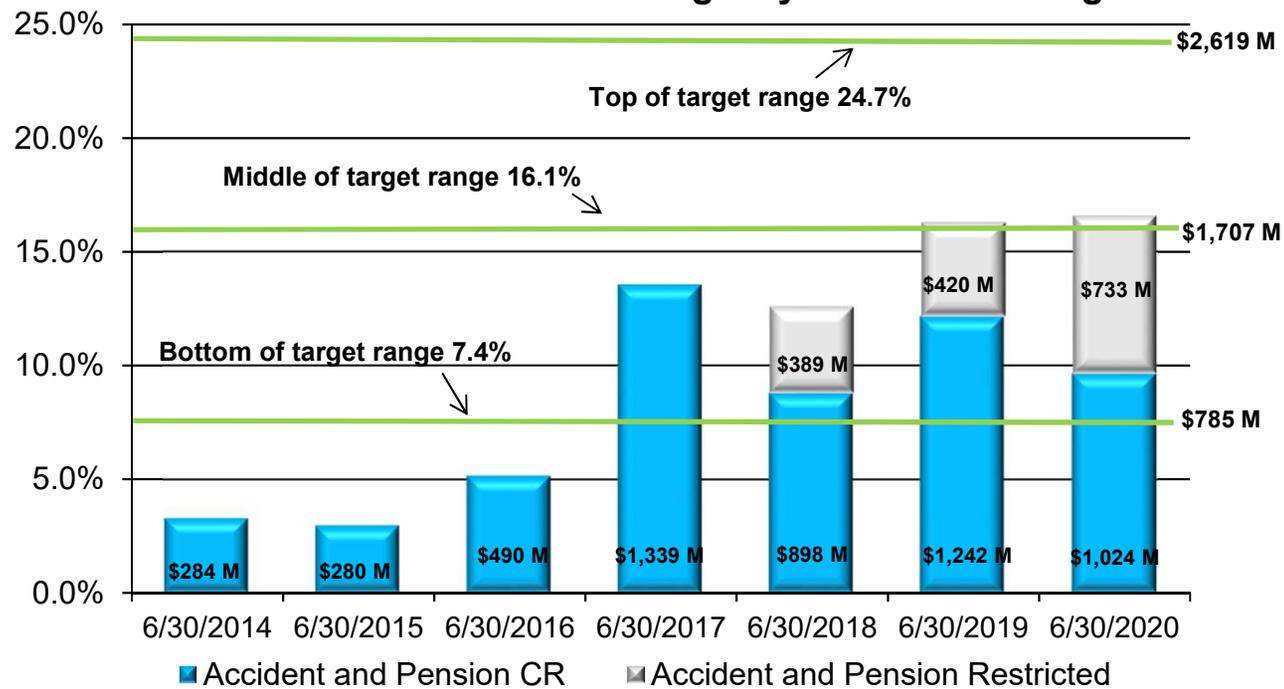


Combined Contingency Reserve vs. Targets



The WCAC Target has historically been the midpoint between the bottom and middle target.

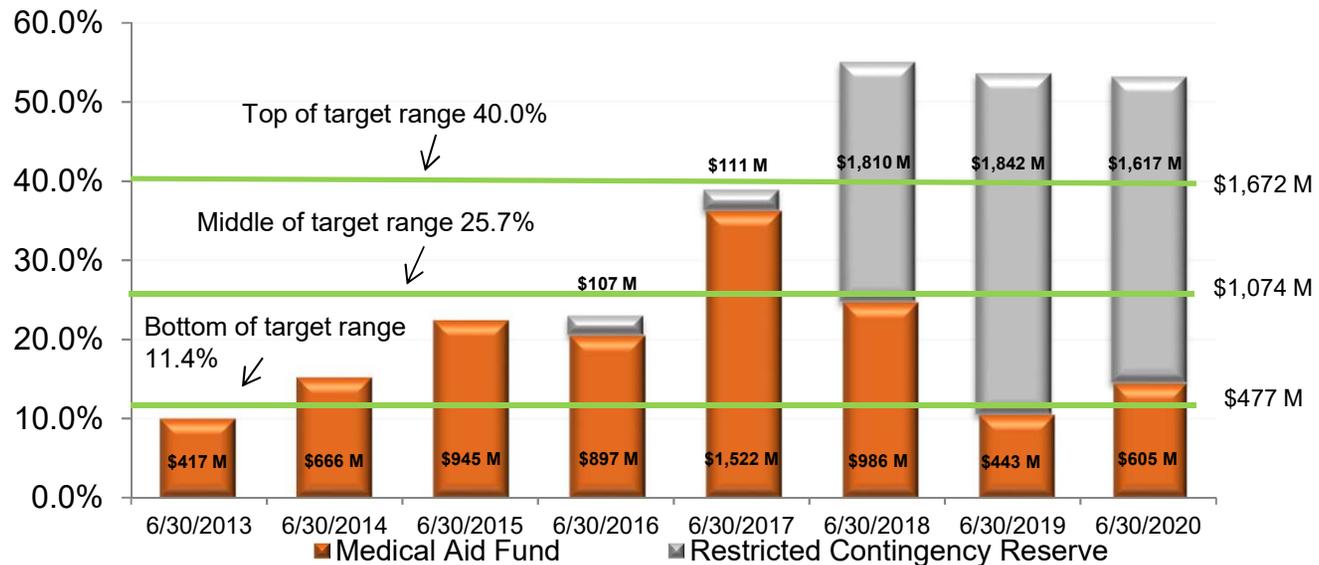
Accident, Pension & Restricted Contingency Reserve is 16.6% of Liabilities Accident & Pension Contingency Reserve vs. Targets.



The WCAC Target has historically been the midpoint between the bottom and middle target.

Medical Aid & Restricted Contingency Reserve is 53.2% of Liabilities.

Medical Aid & Restricted Contingency Reserve vs. Targets.



Restricted is based on final June 30, 2020 financial information and investment earnings through 6-30-20.

The WCAC Target has historically been the midpoint between the bottom and middle target.

* Effective June 1, 2020, \$371M was transferred from the Medical Aid Account's restricted contingency reserve to unrestricted. This was done to ensure the unrestricted medical aid account has a positive balance at fiscal year-end 2020.

Key Financial Ratios

as a percentage of premium earned

Ratios	Quarter Ended June30, 2020		Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019	Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018
	State Fund	Industry Forecast		
Current Year Benefit (Loss Ratio)	91.8%		83.7%	77.8%
Prior Year Benefit (Loss Ratio)	34.2%		4.9%	17.1%
Total Benefit (Loss Ratio)	126.0%	43.9%	88.6%	94.9%
Current Year CAE Ratio	11.5%		10.3%	9.0%
Prior Year CAE Ratio	1.8%		5.8%	2.3%
Total Claim Administration Expense (CAE) Ratio	13.3%	14.1%	16.2%	11.3%
Sub-Total: Benefit and Claim Administration Expense Ratios	139.3%	58.0%	104.8%	106.2%
Underwriting Expense Ratio includes all insurance administrative expenses except CAE	5.1%	28.4%	5.3%	4.6%
Combined Ratio (Industry omits dividends)	144.4%	86.4%	110.2%	110.8%
Investment Income Ratio	26.3%	19.9%	25.9%	22.9%
Operating Ratio	118.1%	66.5%	84.3%	87.9%

Questions & Comments

Rob Cotton

Chief Accounting Officer

- Phone: 360-902-5743
- Email: cotr235@lni.wa.gov.

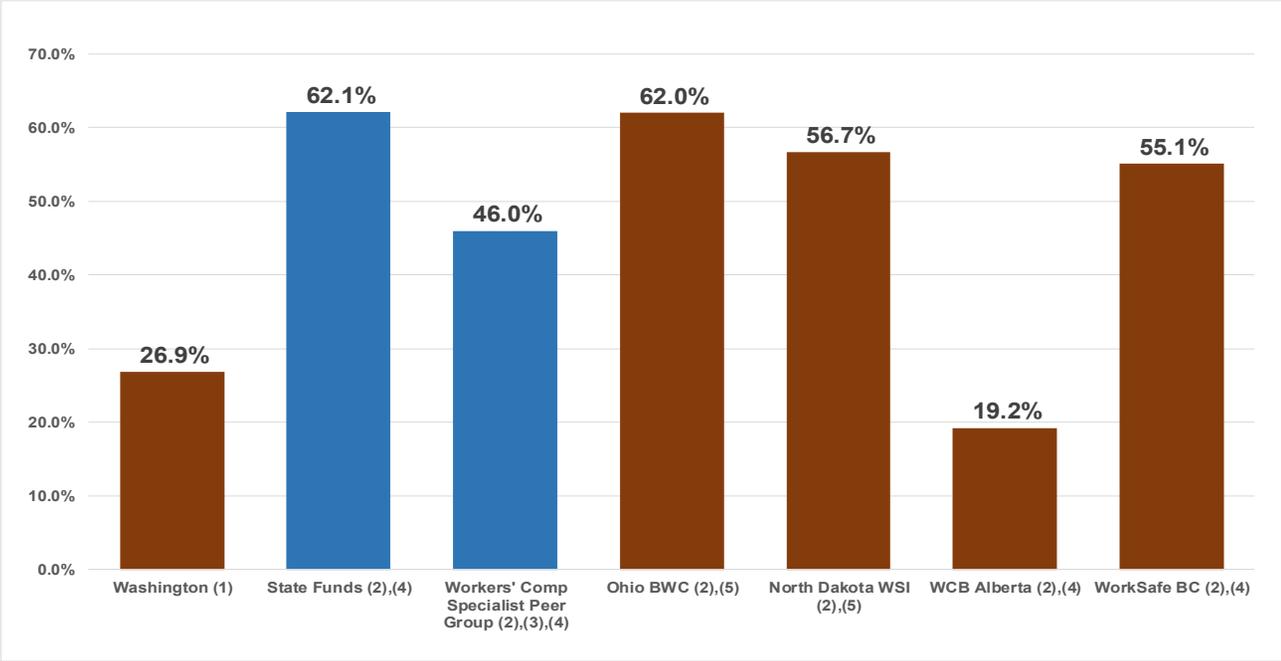
Thank You!

Reconciliation of Change in Benefit Liabilities

(In \$1,000s)

July 1, 2019 Benefit Liability Beginning Balance	\$13,163,053
Prior Year Benefit Payments	(\$1,386,960)
Prior Year Development and Model Change (Unfavorable)	\$259,589
Self Insurance Prefunded Pension Transfers	\$26,104
Regular reserve discount reduction	\$362,027
Net Total Prior Year Benefit Liability as of June 30, 2020	<u>\$12,423,813</u>
New Current Year Benefit Liabilities	\$1,454,787
June 30, 2020 Benefit Liabilities Ending Balance	<u><u>\$13,878,600</u></u>
Change Between Beginning and Ending Balance	\$715,547

Washington's CR is below most other funds as a percent of liabilities



(1) Preliminary as of 6/30/2020
 (2) Source: Conning Peer Analysis, August 19, 2020
 (3) Worker's Comp Specialist Peer Group—workers' compensation specialist insurers including some state funds
 (4) As of 12/31/2019
 (5) As of 6/30/2019

Historic Results of Operations

July through June
(in millions)

As of Quarter Ended June 30,	Insurance Operations	+	Investment Income	+	Other Revenues & Expenses	=	Net Income (Loss)
2020	(839)		769		(4)		(74)
2019	(14)		347		16		349
2018	440		491		36		967
2017	119		387		45		551
2016	(219)		462		43		286
2015	(475)		420		40		(15)
2014	(470)		597		43		170
2013	(579)		427		26		(126)
2012	(620)		394		52		(174)
2011	(540)		416		53		(71)

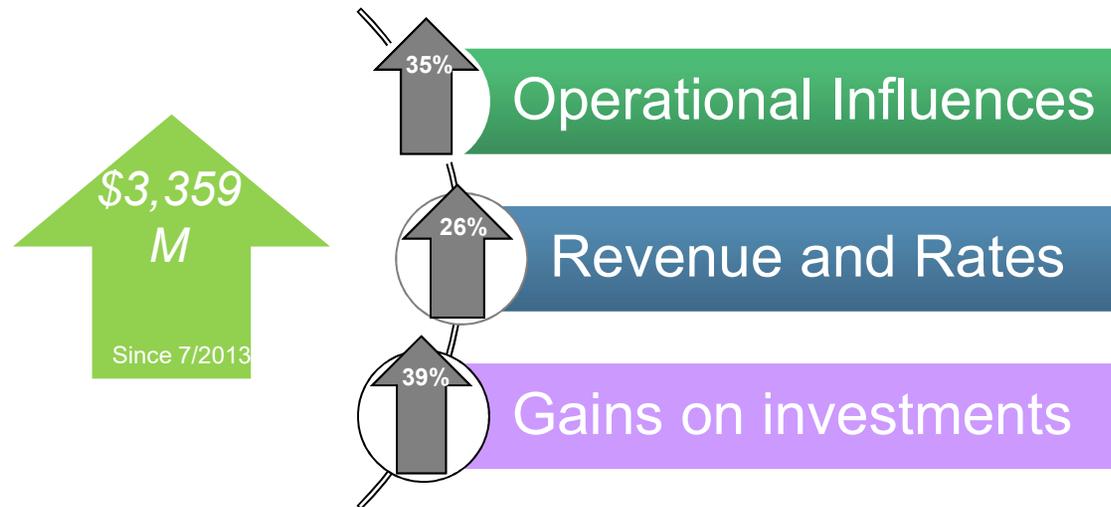
Historical Investment Performance

Fiscal Year Ended

	Quarter Ended June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019	June 30, 2018	June 30, 2017	June 30, 2016	June 30, 2015
Investment Income	496,981,000	498,626,000	481,048,000	478,130,000	498,499,000	493,408,000
Realized Gain (Loss)	272,266,000	(23,498,000)	1,092,446,000	102,540,000	137,988,000	58,660,000
Unrealized Gain (Loss)	161,264,000	151,820,000	(812,942,000)*	380,183,000	(181,830,000)	23,691,000
Total Invested Assets	17,992,984,000	17,443,448,000	16,728,166,000	15,815,997,000	14,593,530,000	14,003,302,000

***Unrealized gains in prior years that increased the contingency reserve were removed from unrealized and included in realized gains when equities were sold in fiscal year 2018.**

Contingency Reserve Drivers



As of 6/30/2020 the CR is at \$3,979 M.

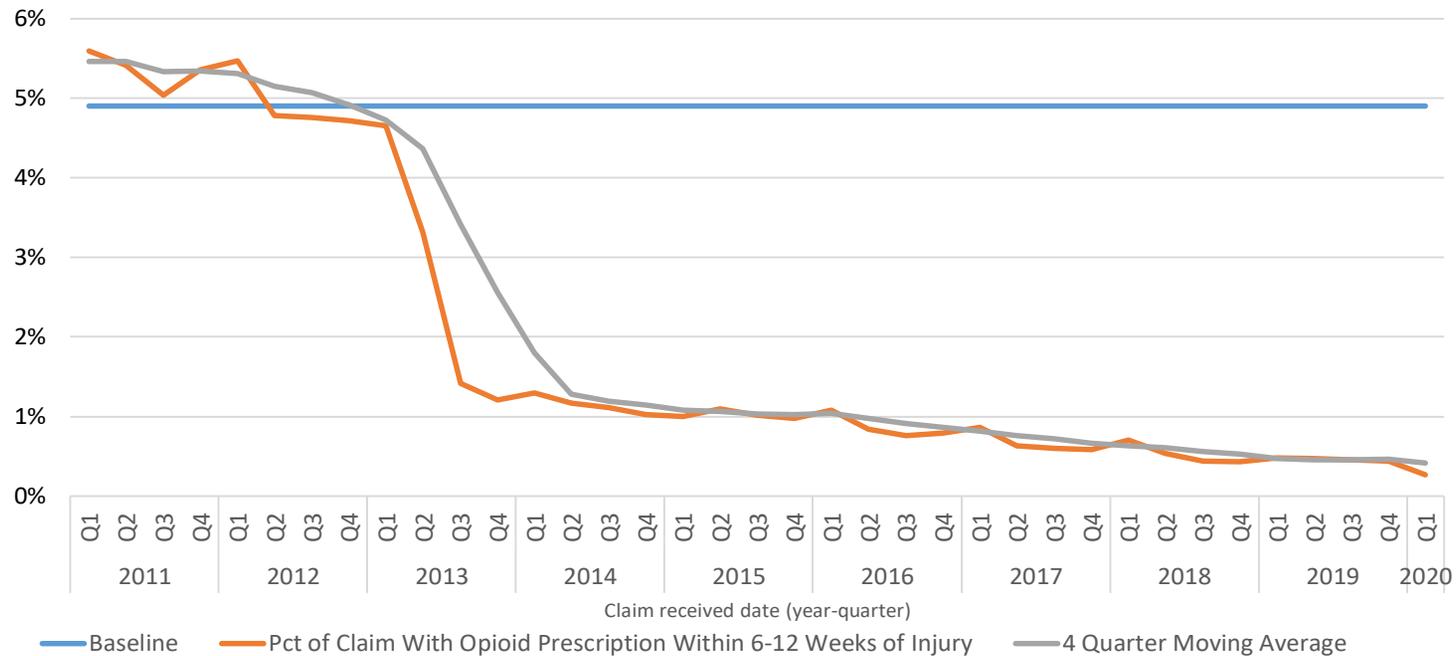
New Opioid Performance Metric

Jaymie Mai
Pharmacy Director



Background

- L&I's opioid guidelines were implemented July, 2013.
- Results from the workers' compensation billing system show a significant decline in opioid use.
- Data is limited to State Fund claims with opioid billings within 6 to 12 weeks of injury.



Background

Need to evolve our opioid measure to incorporate current opioid trend and the overall injured worker population, and to better coordinate with external efforts

- As a state agency, L&I is able to access the state's Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) Database
 - About 4,500 workers with open claims, including medical only cases, are on chronic opioids
 - Some workers are on chronic opioid therapy at the time of injury
- Existing opioid measures, in addition to the prior chart
 - Performance and operational measures
 - Top Tier, COHE and Surgical Quality Care Program
 - Opioid prescribing reports

New performance measure on opioids

- New opioid measure
 - Workers transitioned to chronic opioid therapy. Threshold ≤ 1.5 per 1,000 claimants
- Includes all State Fund claims, not just compensable claims
- Includes all prescriptions, not just those billed on claim
- Focus on preventing disability and long-term adverse outcomes of chronic opioid therapy
- Tracked on a quarterly basis with one quarter lag to ensure data stability
- Consistent with external groups and potential for benchmark



Dashboard – Help Injured Workers Heal and Return to Work

Vickie Kennedy

Assistant Director for Insurance Services

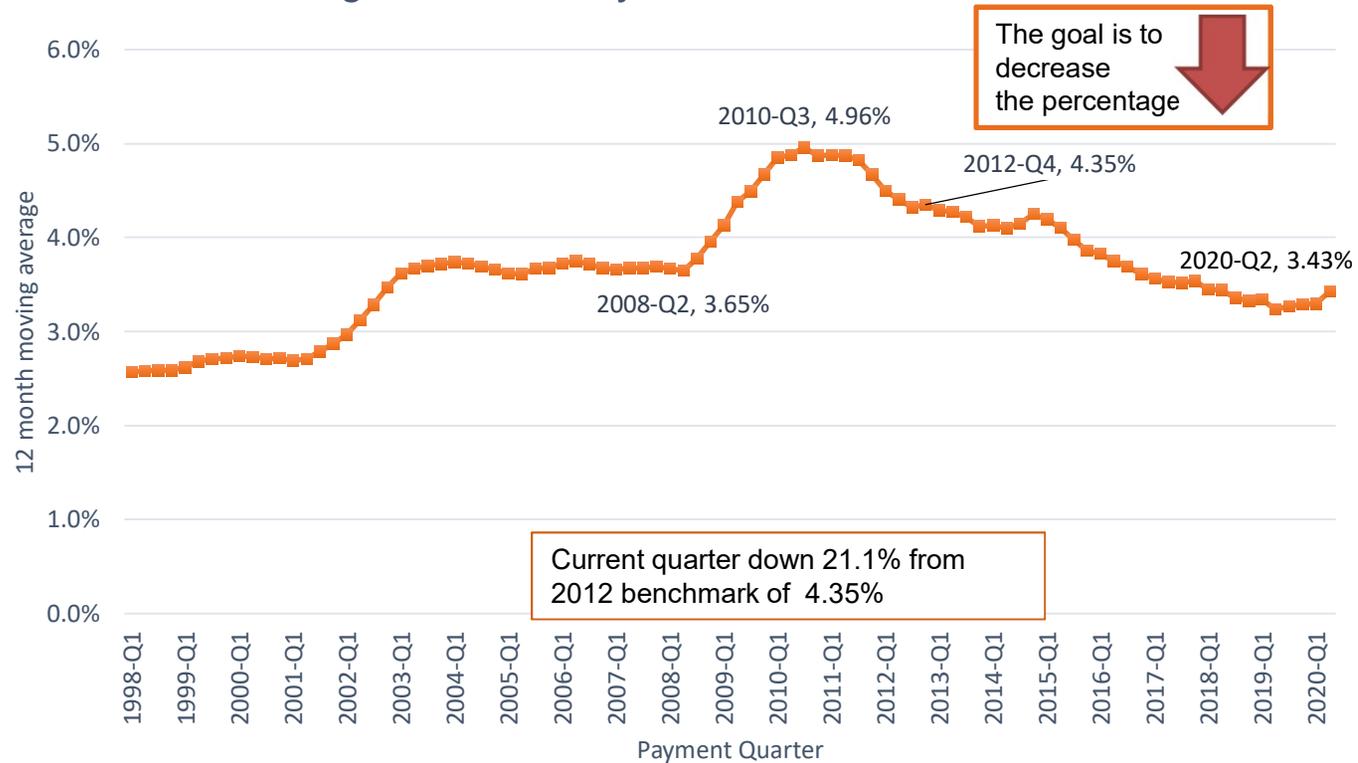
Dashboard Summary

Measure	Change from 2012 (unless otherwise noted)		Highlights
Long Term Disability – share that received a TL payment in the 12 month post injury	Down 21.1 %	↓	
Estimated Ultimate Pensions 2004 - 2016	Down 18.8% (From 2012 Estimates)	↓	
Resolution rate - time-loss claims at 6 months	Down .9%	↓	
Auto adjudication of claims	Up 75.7% from 2014	↑	
High risk claims – share return to work at 12 months	Up 6.2%	↑	
Median time-loss days paid at first vocational service	Down 70.7%	↓	
% RTW outcomes - all first vocational service referrals	Up 192%	↑	
WSAW participation	Steady utilization	↔	
COHE utilization	Up 89.8%	↑	

* Earliest year for which measurement is available

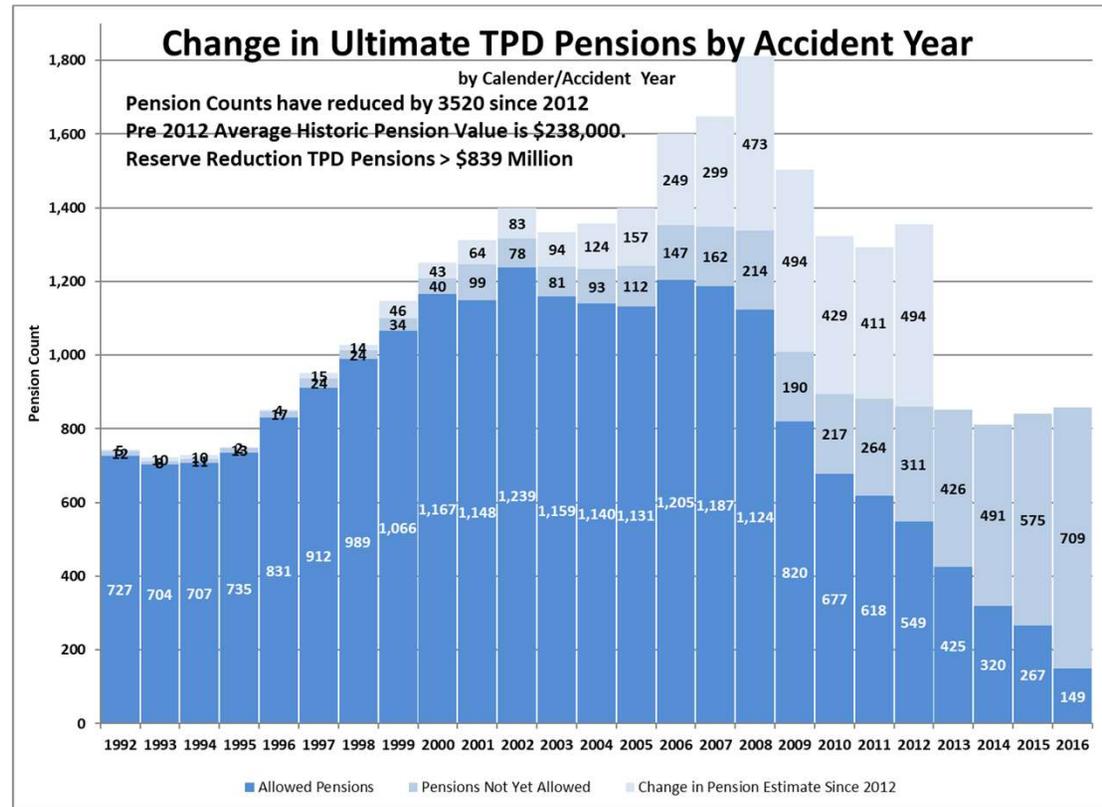
Long term disability percent

Share of injured workers with time-loss paid in the 12th month post injury: *smaller percentage indicates less long-term disability*



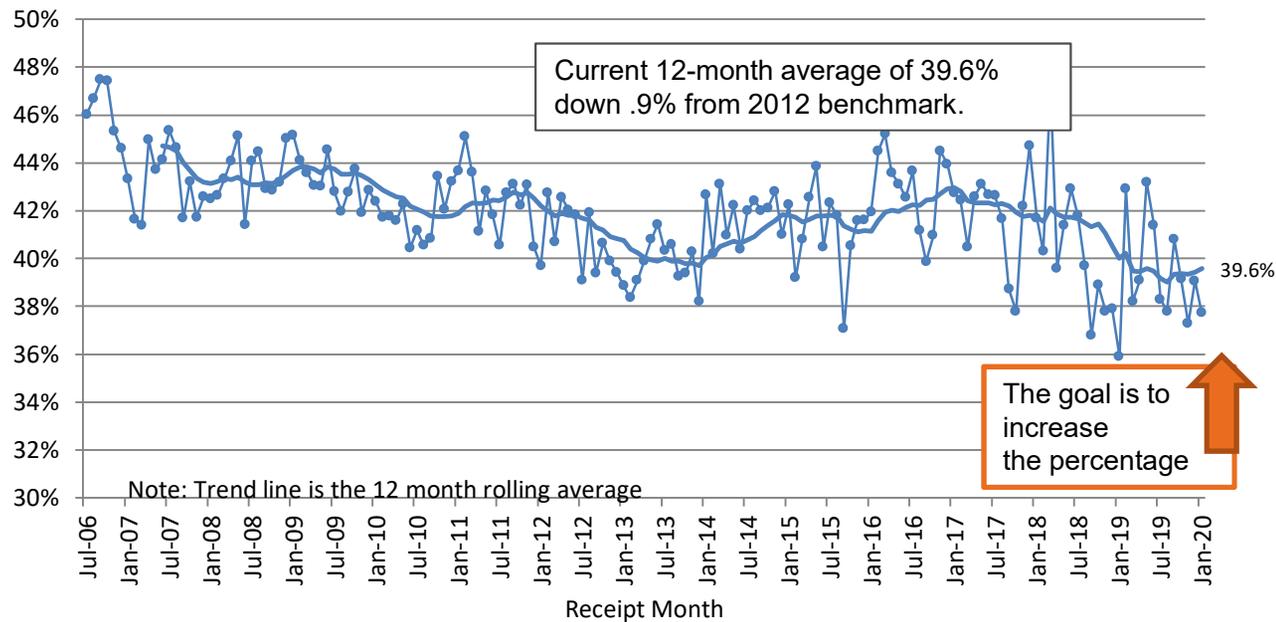
Pensions by accident year

Latest estimates compared to prior estimates.

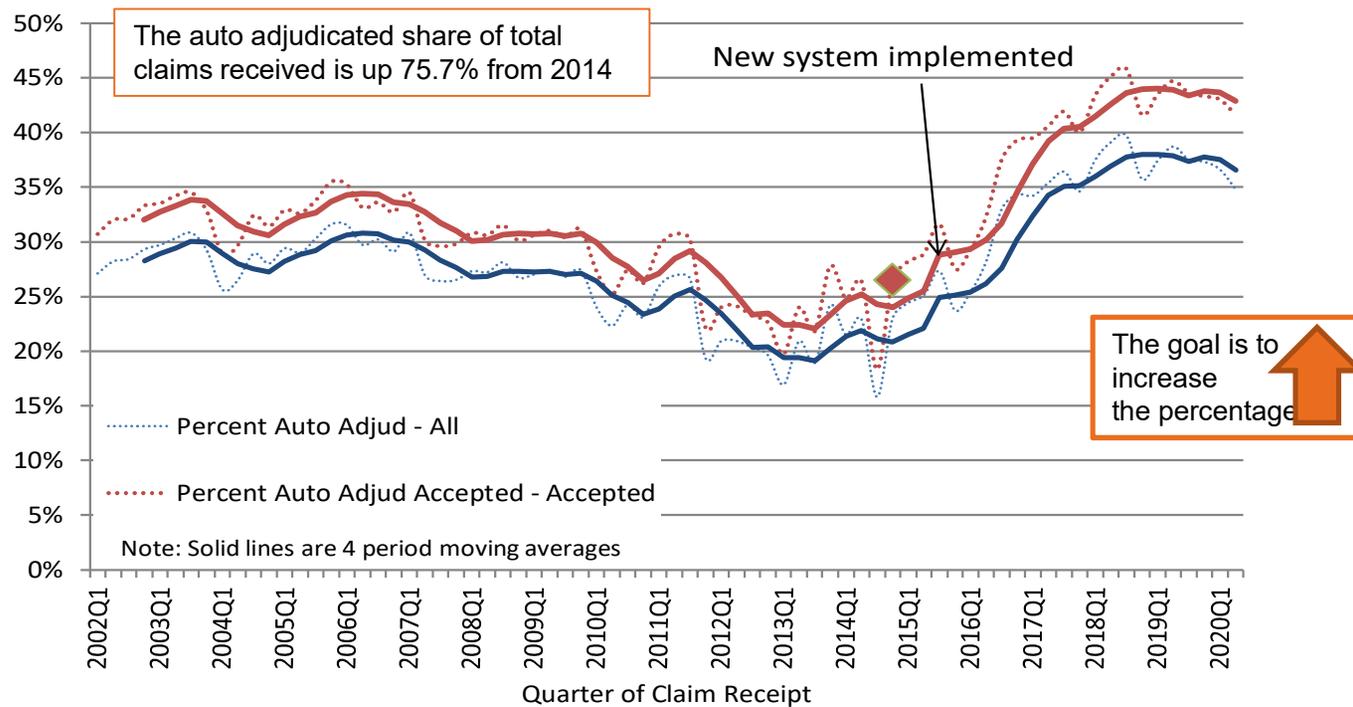


The share of time-loss claims resolves six months after claim receipt

Share of time-loss claims resolved six months after claim receipt

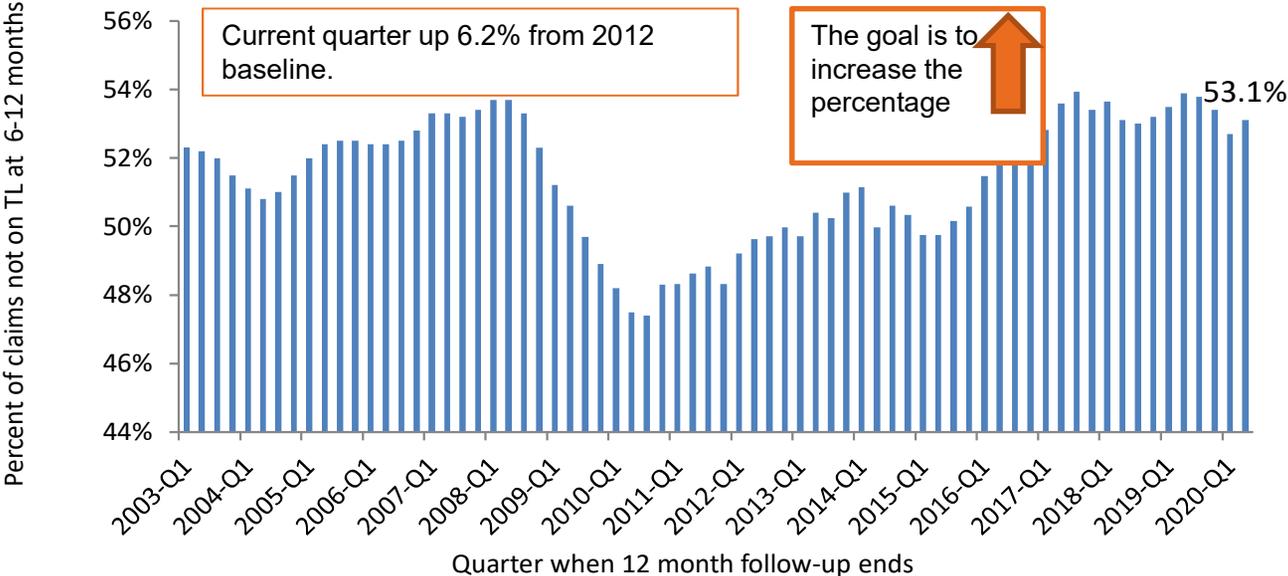


A new auto-adjudication was implemented in 2015 and is showing results



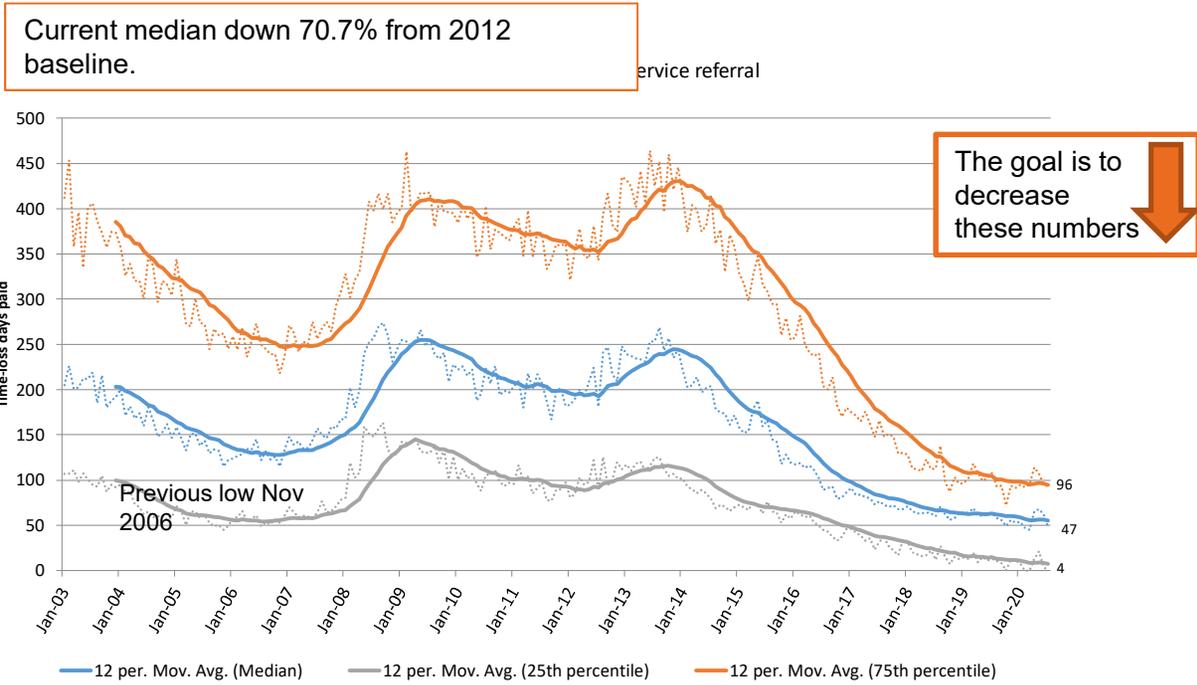
High Risk Claims (initiatives in the first year are improving return-to-work outcomes)

The share of injured workers off work 40 days after claim receipt who are likely to have returned to work: Note: 12-month rolling average

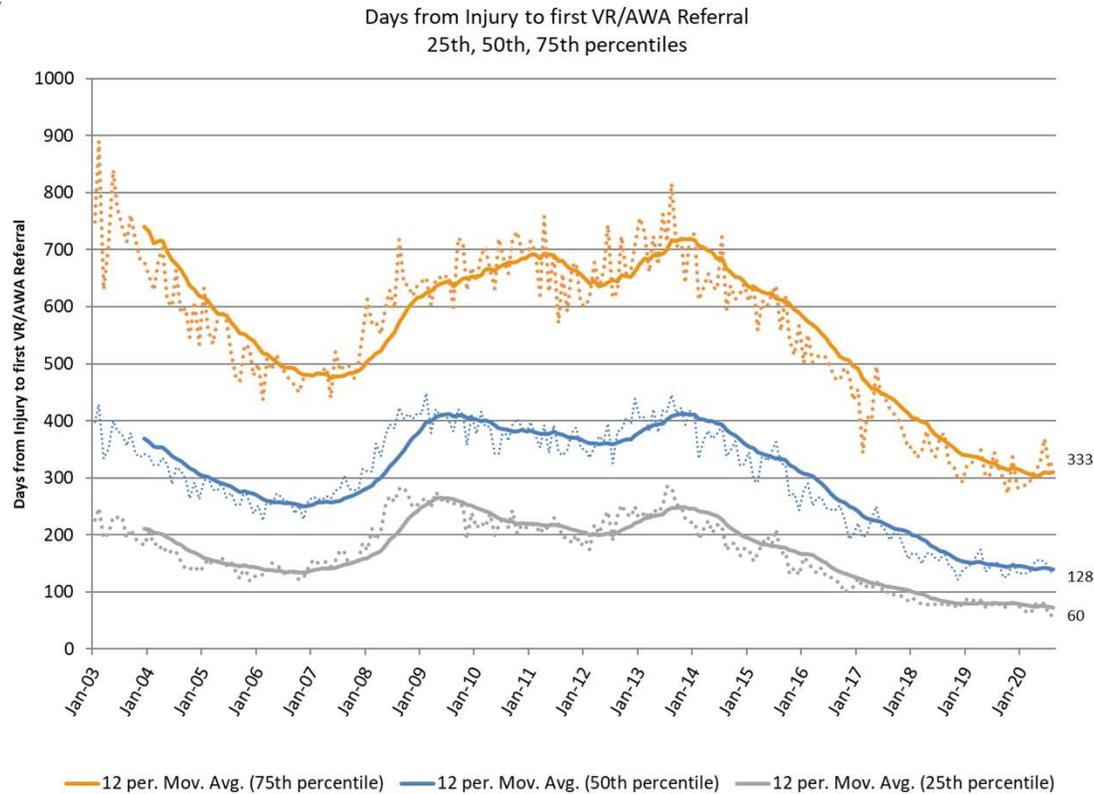


High risk workers are defined as those being disabled on the 40th day following claim receipt, about 1,540 claims per quarter. RTW is defined as the status of not receiving disability benefits between 7 and 12 months

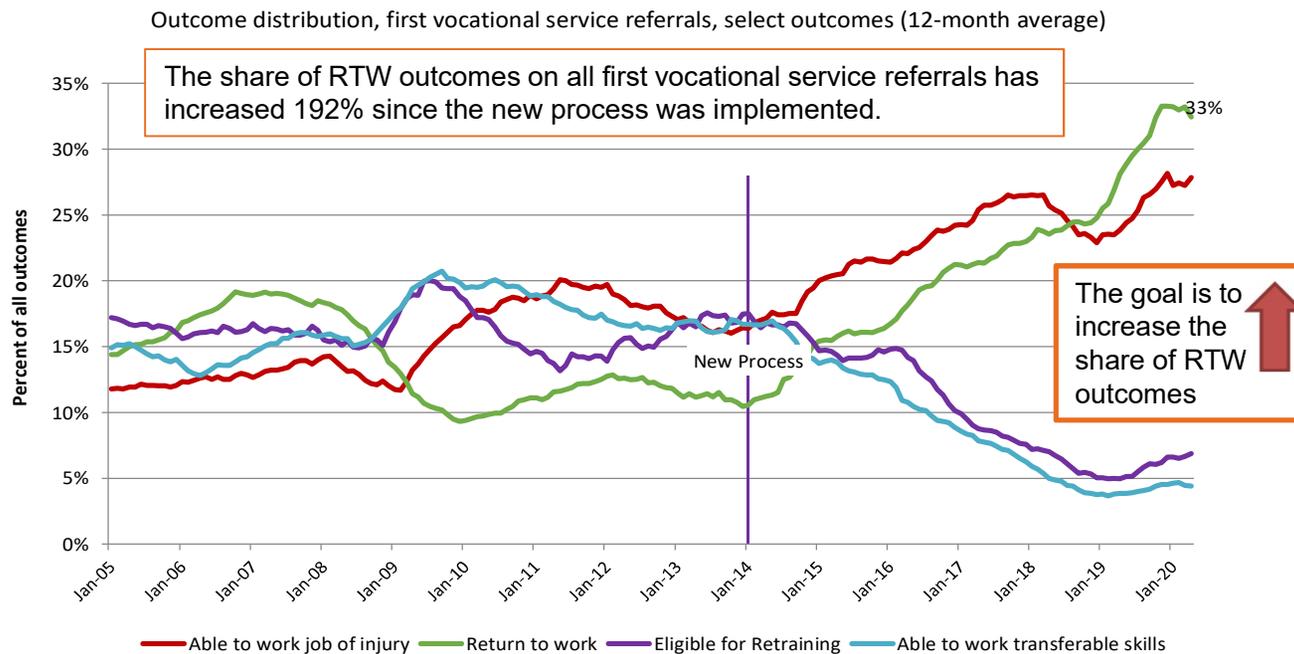
Referrals are now targeted to address the onset of disability

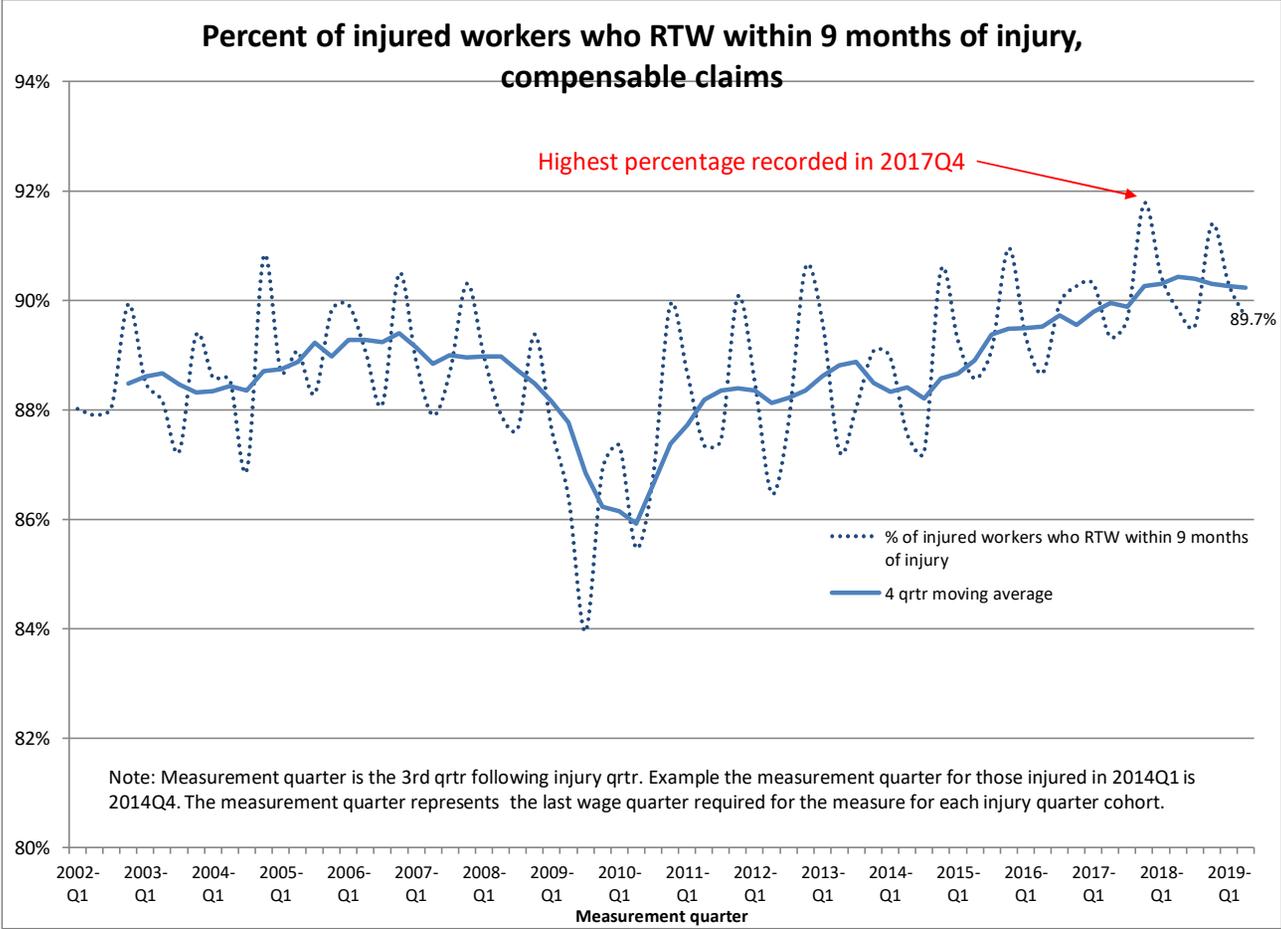


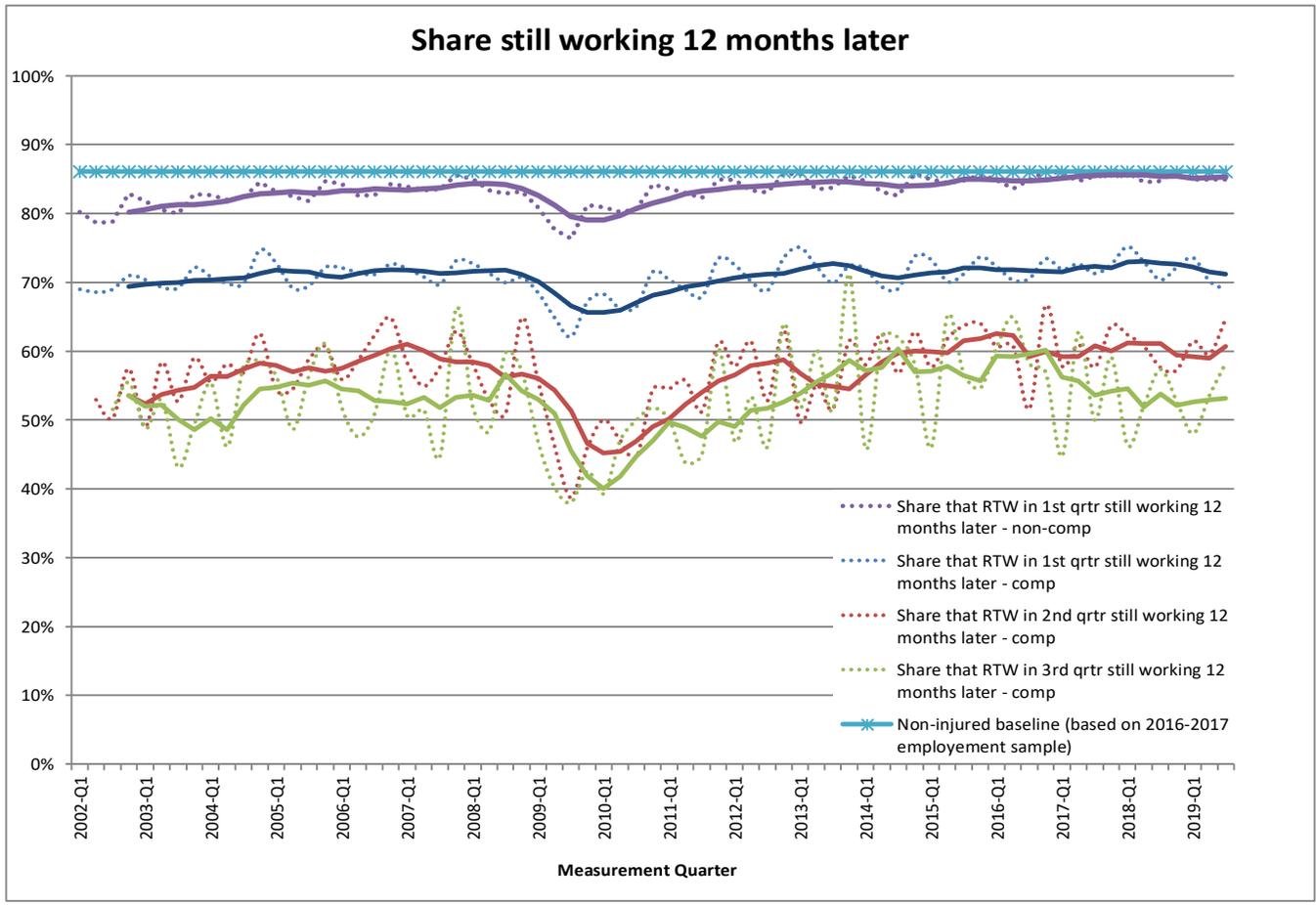
Referrals are now targeted to address the onset of disability



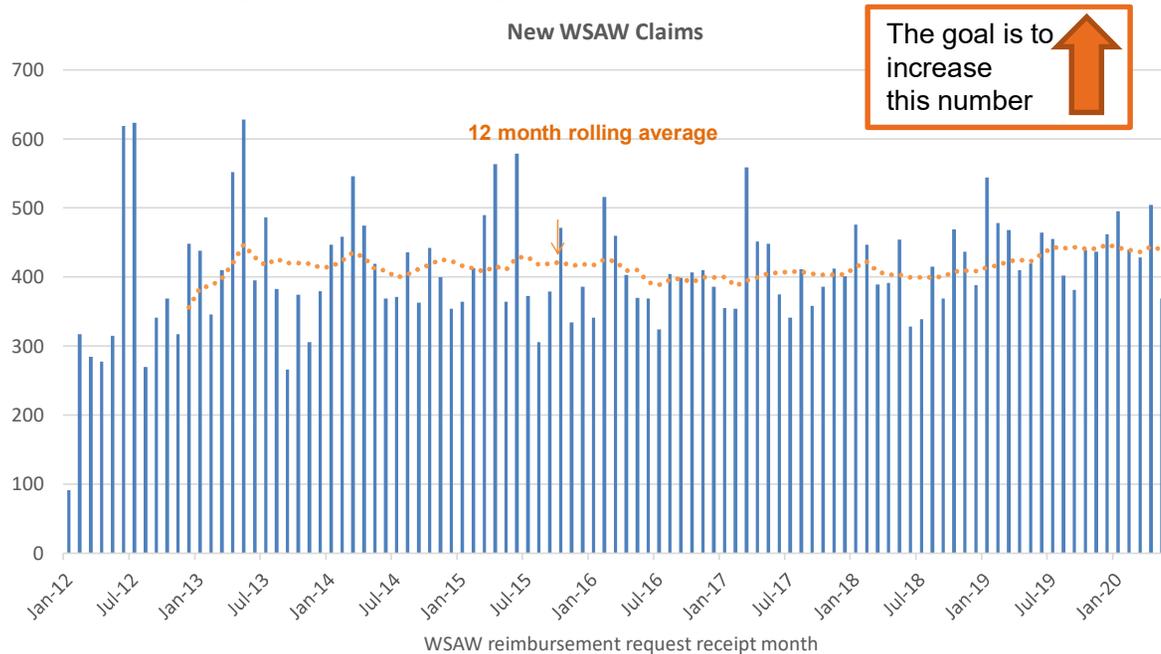
New focus on return to work has increased positive employable outcomes for all first vocational service referrals



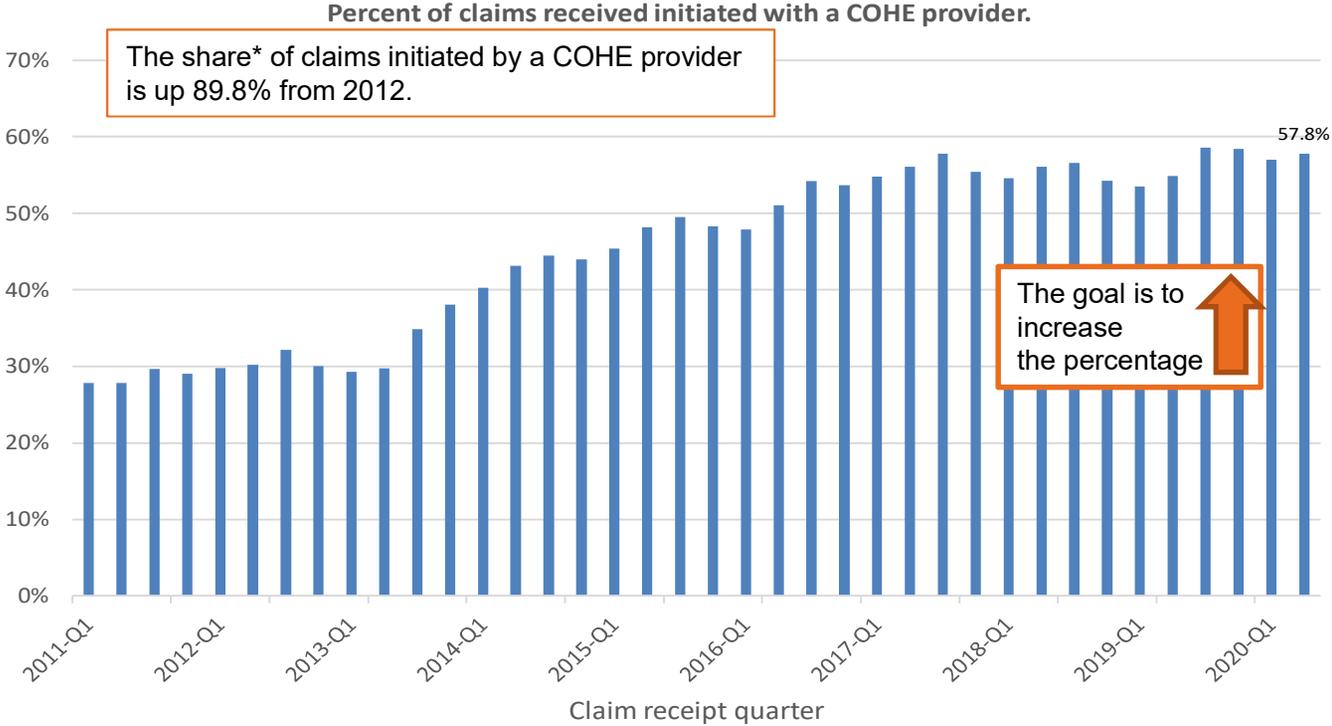




Participation in light duty job assignments helps maintain the employer/injured worker relationship



Percentage of claims for injured workers initiated with a COHE provider



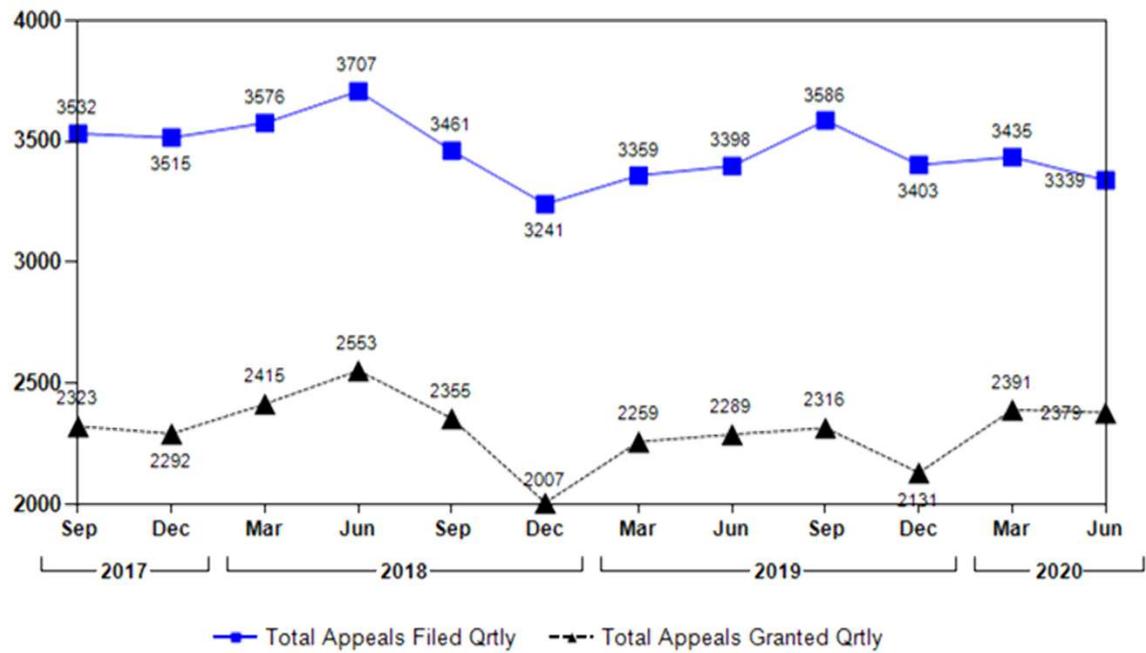
*Average share for most recent 4 quarters.



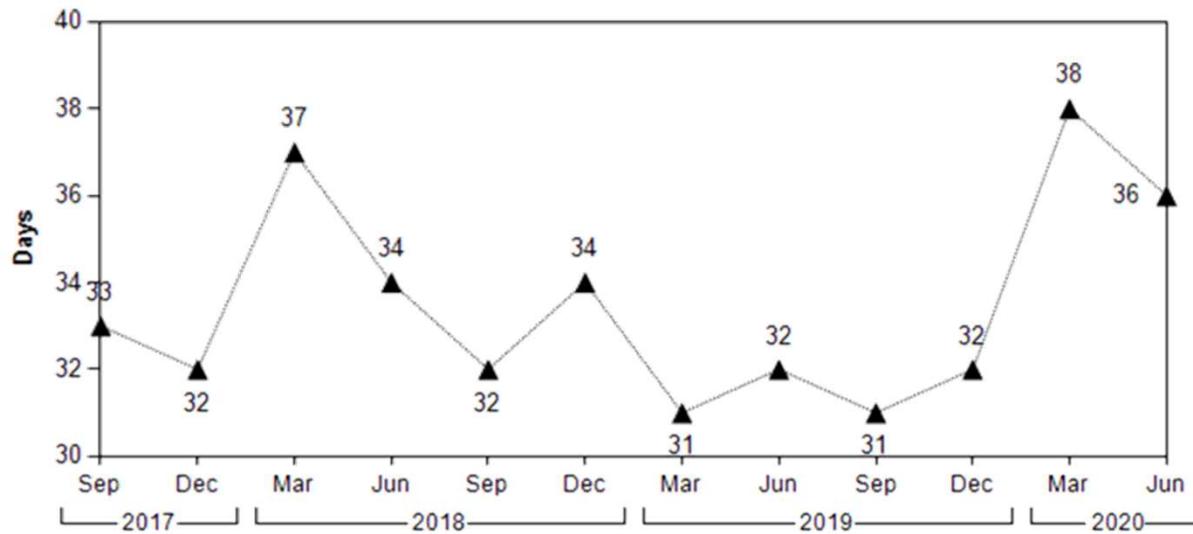
Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals (BIIA) Update

Linda Williams, Chair

Total Appeals Filed and Granted

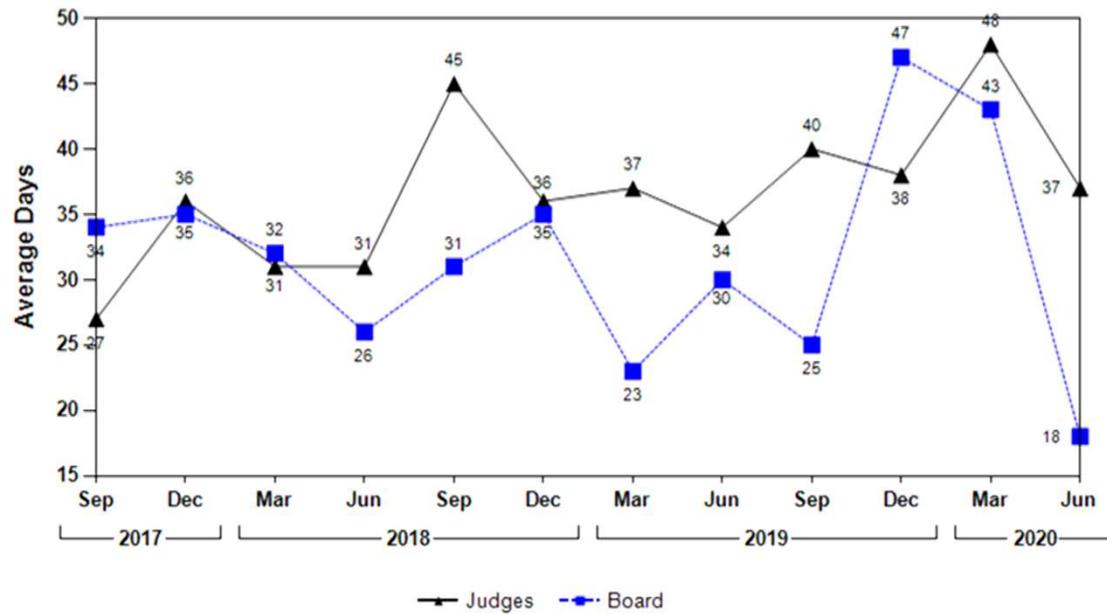


Average PD&O* Time-lag by Quarter for Hearing Judges

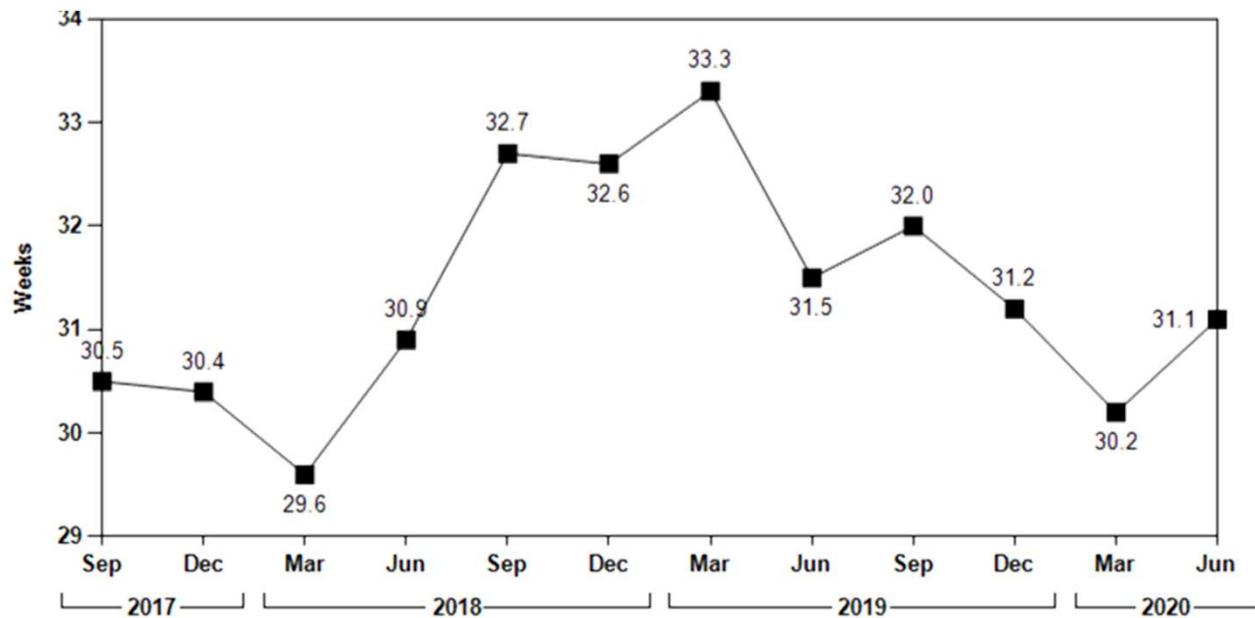


*Proposed Decision and Order

D&O* Time-lag by Quarter

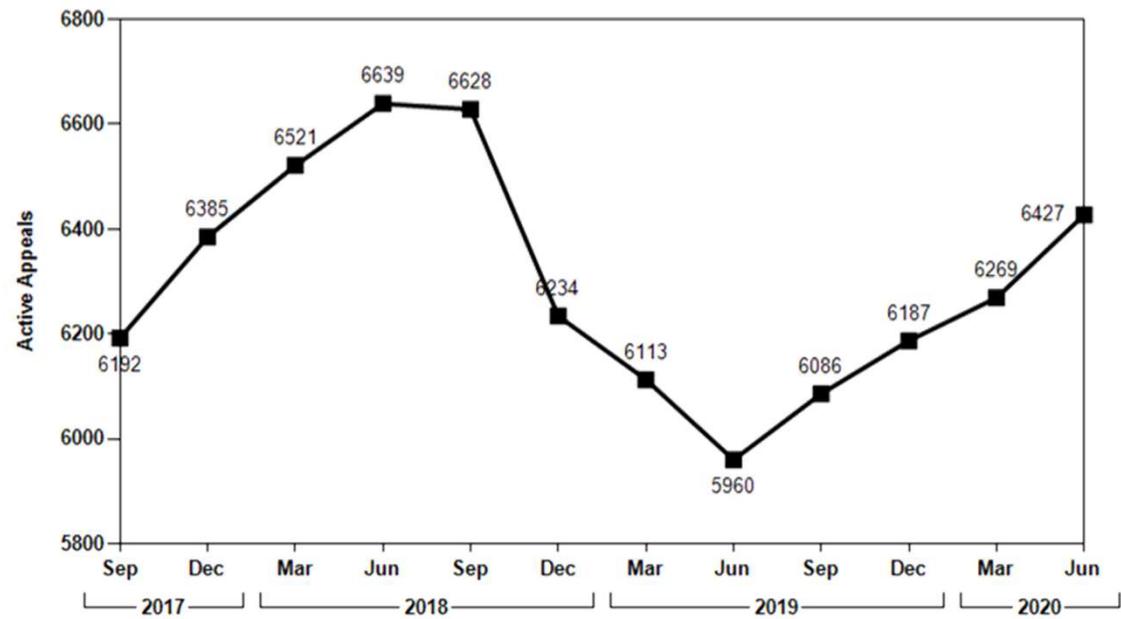


Quarterly Average Weeks to Completion

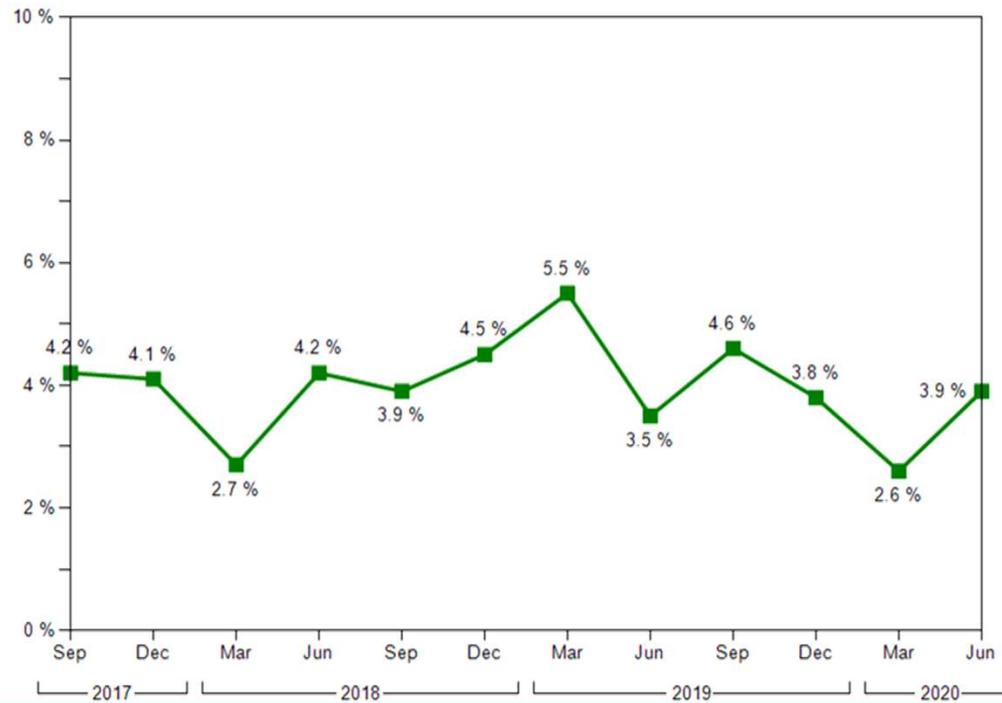


All orders issued by quarter from date filed to date of final order
(Excludes Reassumed and Denied Appeals)

Caseload at End of Quarter



Percentage of Final Orders Appealed to Superior Court - Quarterly





Closing Comments & Adjourn

Vickie Kennedy, Assistant Director for Insurance Services
Joel Sacks, Agency Director