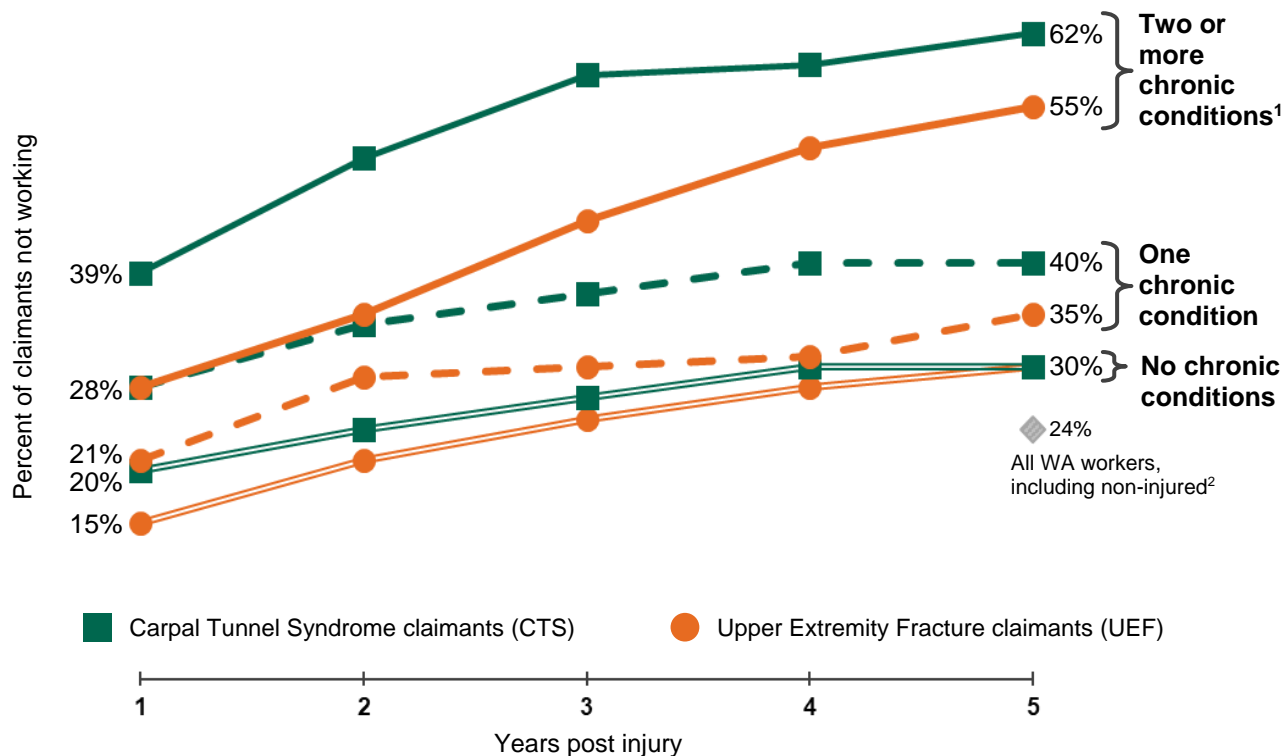


Workers' Compensation Claimants with Chronic Conditions Not Working after Injury
Carpal Tunnel Syndrome vs Upper Extremity Fracture Claimants



Previous research showed CTS claimants had greater long-term earnings losses than the comparison group (UEF claimants) after their work-related injury (Foley 2007)³.

The current study found:

- The same proportion of CTS claimants and UEF claimants were not working five years after their injury if they had no chronic conditions.
- Claimants with chronic conditions were more likely to be not working post injury. Having multiple chronic conditions increased the risk of not working.
- Chronic conditions affected CTS claimants the most, with more CTS claimants not working post injury than UEF claimants with a similar number of chronic conditions.

1. Chronic Conditions include: arthritis, degenerative disc disease, depression, diabetes, obesity, and asthma. For a full list of included conditions, see Marcum et al (2018). CTS claimants were only classified as having chronic conditions if they had additional conditions other than CTS.
 2. All workers covered by Washington unemployment insurance, followed for 5 years.
 3. Foley, M., Silverstein, B., and Polissar, N. 2007. The Economic Burden of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome: Long-Term Earnings of CTS Claimants in Washington State. *Am J Ind Med* 50:155-172.

For more information: The Economic Effect of Chronic Comorbidities in Carpal Tunnel Syndrome Workers' Compensation Claimants, Washington State, *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, 2018. Jennifer Marcum PhD; A McHugh MPH; MP Foley, MA; DA Adams, BA; DK Bonauto, MD, MPH. <https://doi.org/10.1097/jom.0000000000001451>