



BULLETIN

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Healthcare workers accounted for nearly 39 percent of all COVID-19 workers' compensation claims in California in the first seven months of accident year (AY) 2020, and the latest iteration of CWCI's COVID-19/Non-COVID-19 Interactive Data App reveals that workers in skilled nursing facilities, hospitals, and physician practices/outpatient clinics accounted for a disproportionate share of the health care industry's COVID-19 claims.

CWCI's data app tracks COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 claims in the California workers' compensation system using data from DWC's Workers Comp Information System (WCIS) database, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and CWCI's own Industry Research Information System (IRIS) database. The initial version of the app released two weeks ago, was based on claims reported to WCIS as of July 6 for the first 6 months of AY 2019 as well as comparable data on claims from the first 6 months of AY 2020. The update, released this week, features data on 710,224 claims from the first 7 months of AY 2019 and AY 2020, including all 31,612 COVID-19 claims from AY 2020 recorded by WCIS as of August 10.

Among the key findings, the app shows the continued growth of COVID-19 claims in California workers' compensation, as the August 10 tally noted 9,515 COVID-19 claims reported for the month of July, bringing the total for the year to 31,612 claims, or 10.2 percent of all California job injury claims reported for AY 2020. Those COVID-19 claims included 140 death claims, up from 66 reported as of July 6. The updated counts for May and June also showed sharp increases in COVID-19 claims for each of those months, as the number of COVID-19 claims with June injury dates more than doubled from 4,438 claims as of July 6 to 10,528 claims as of August 10, while COVID-19 claims with May injury dates rose from 3,889 cases to 4,606 claims (+18.4 percent), indicating a time lag in the filing, reporting, and recording of many COVID-19 claims. Using claim development factors, CWCI projects there could ultimately be 29,354 COVID-19 claims with July injury dates and 56,082 COVID-19 claims with January through July injury dates.

As in the initial version of the app, the new data show that the healthcare industry continues to account for the largest share of COVID-19 claim volume, with 11,716 (38.7 percent) of the COVID-19 cases coming from healthcare workers. The overall distribution of COVID-19 claims by industry shifted slightly, which is to be expected as various sectors open up, though the top 5 industries based on COVID-19 claim volume were unchanged, with the public safety/government sector ranking second with 15.8 percent of the COVID-19 claims reported this year, followed by the retail sector with 7.9 percent, manufacturing with 7.0 percent, and the transportation sector with 4.7 percent. Though many of the state's farm regions have been hard hit by the pandemic, at this point the agriculture sector ranks 8th in terms of COVID-19 workers' comp claim volume, with agriculture workers accounting for just 2.9 percent of the claims reported for the first 7 months of this year.

One unique feature of the CWCI app allows users to see the distribution of COVID-19 claims within a sector by employee class code. Self-insured employers are not required to report employee class codes to WCIS, so this section of the app focuses on data from insured employers, but the results help pinpoint the types of jobs where COVID-19 claims have been most prevalent and shows whether the proportion of COVID-19 claims for a job category is high or low relative to the proportion of non-COVID-19 claims. For example, in the healthcare sector this breakdown reveals that 32.8 percent of the COVID-19 claims were filed by skilled nursing facility workers (employee class code 8829), which was about twice their proportion of non-COVID-19 claims from the same

period of AY 2019 (15.8%) and AY 2020 (16.6%). Hospital workers (employee class code 9043) accounted for 20.2 percent of the COVID-19 claims in this sector (vs. 16.8 percent and 18.9 percent of non-COVID-19 job injury claims in healthcare from the same period of AY 2019 and 2020), and workers in physician practices and outpatient clinics (employee class code 8834) accounted for 17.7 percent of the health care sector COVID-19 claims (vs. 16.0 percent and 15.7 percent of the non-COVID-19 healthcare claims from January through July of 2019 and 2020). As shown in the table below, a total of 11 healthcare job categories accounted for at least 1 percent of the sector's COVID-19 claims recorded as of August 10 for the first 7 months of 2020:

**Distribution of Calif WC Healthcare Claims by Employee Class Code
COVID-19 vs. Non-COVID, Jan-July AY 2019 and AY 2020**

Job Description	Employee Class Code	% of 2020 Healthcare COVID-19 Claims	% of 2019 Healthcare Non-COVID Claims	% of 2020 Healthcare Non-COVID Claims
Skilled Nursing Facility Workers	8829	32.8%	15.8%	16.6%
Hospital Workers	9043	20.2%	16.8%	18.9%
Physician Practice/Outpatient Clinic	8834	17.7%	16.0%	15.7%
Residential Care – Elderly	9070	10.8%	12.5%	13.0%
Home Care Service Workers	8827	4.1%	7.0%	7.3%
Clerical Office Employees	8810	2.9%	3.8%	3.9%
Residential Care - Develop. Disabled	9085	1.7%	2.3%	2.1%
Ambulance Services	7332	1.7%	1.6%	2.0%
Dentists/Dental Surgeons	8839	1.1%	5.0%	4.1%
Day Care Centers	8823	1.0%	5.2%	3.3%
Residential Care – Children	9059	1.0%	1.9%	2.4%

Source: CWCI COVID-19 Interactive Data Tool. WCIS Jan-July AY 2019 & 2020 Claim Counts as of 8/10/20

The data application's regional functions also allow users to examine the distribution of COVID-19 claims within an industry sector by region or by county. For example, the app's regional detail for the healthcare sector shows that 36.2 percent of California's COVID-19 claims by healthcare workers reported through July of AY 2020 came from Los Angeles County (vs. 25.0 percent of non-COVID-19 claims by healthcare workers). Another 21.0 percent of the healthcare industry's COVID-19 claims came from the Inland Empire/Orange County (vs. 16.9 percent of the non-COVID healthcare sector claims); while 19.6 percent of all COVID-19 claims by California healthcare workers came from the Central Valley (vs. 17.8 percent of the non-COVID claims from this sector) and 12.1 percent of the healthcare sector COVID-19 claims came from the Bay Area (vs. 19.6 percent of the healthcare industry's non-COVID-19 claims).

More details and breakdowns by employee class code for the healthcare sector and other industries can be found in the interactive data application's "Breakouts" tab. CWCI will continue to add new features and update the COVID-19 interactive application regularly as more data becomes available. In the meantime, the data app is available to the public and can be accessed from the CWCI website [here](#).

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