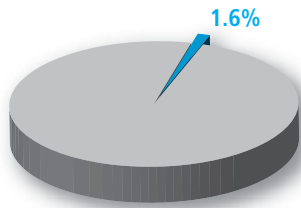




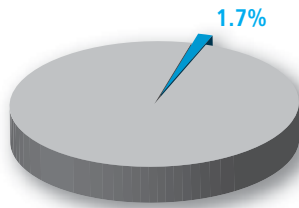
ICIS Injury Series SCORE CARD

Other Diagnoses of Musculoskeletal Systems

Top Work Injury Categories



Other Diagnoses of Musculoskeletal Systems as a Percent of All Injuries



Other Diagnoses of Musculoskeletal Systems as a Percent of All Payments

Injury Category	% Injuries	% of Payments
Medical Back Problems w/o Spinal Cord Involvement	21.7%	31.1%
Shoulder, Arm, Knee, Lower Leg Sprains	13.4%	10.0%
Spine Disorders w/Spinal Cord or Root Involvement	2.0%	8.3%
Ruptured Tendon, Tendonitis, Myositis & Bursitis	5.1%	6.4%
Degenerative, Infective & Metabolic Joint Disorder	3.0%	5.9%
Carpal Tunnel Syndrome	1.1%	2.9%
Other Diagnoses of Musculoskeletal Systems	1.6%	1.7%
Subtotal	47.9%	66.4%

This scorecard focuses on California workers' compensation injuries in which the primary diagnosis was Other Diagnoses of Musculoskeletal Systems ("other soft tissue" injuries). It is the last in a series of analyses that provide data from CWCI's Industry Claims Information System (ICIS) database on 7 of the top work injury categories, which together encompass 1/2 of all job injuries in the state and 2/3 of all claim payments. "Other soft tissue" injuries account for 1.6% of work injury diagnoses in California, and 1.7% of all workers' compensation claim payments.

Injured Worker Profile

2002 – 2005 Claimants

	Other Soft Tissue	All Claims
Average Age (Years)	37.2	36.7
Average Tenure (Years)	3.9	3.6
Gender		
Male	70.1%	65.3%
Female	29.9%	34.7%
Location of Residence		
Northern California	44.0%	41.1%
Southern California	56.0%	58.9%

The profile of other soft tissue injury claimants differs slightly from that of all injured workers. Their average age is slightly older than the average for all injured workers, and their average job tenure is slightly longer. Males account for 70% of other soft tissue injuries vs. 65% of all injuries, and 44% of other soft tissue claimants live in Northern California vs. 41% of all claimants.

Diagnoses

Other Diagnoses of Musculoskeletal Systems

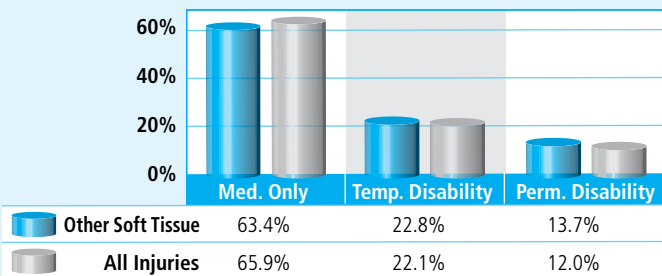
ICD9 Descriptions	% of Claims	% of Total Paid
Other/ill-defined Sprains & Strains - Other Specified Sites	25.6%	5.3%
Myalgia and Myositis, Unspecified	12.0%	25.6%
Other/ill-Defined Sprains and Strains - Unspecified Sites	7.3%	2.6%
Plantar Fascial Fibromatosis	6.4%	8.5%
Rheumatism, Excluding the Back - Spasm of Muscle	4.6%	3.0%
Residual Foreign Body in Soft Tissue	4.4%	1.1%
Nonallopathic Lesions Not Elsewhere Classified, Lumbar	3.4%	8.1%
Nonallopathic Lesions Not Elsewhere Classified, Cervical	3.3%	7.6%
Mallet Finger	3.1%	1.3%
Other Musculoskeletal Symptoms Referable To Limbs	2.6%	1.8%
Unspecified Site of Sprain and Strain	2.4%	0.4%
Other	24.9%	34.7%

"Other Diagnoses of Musculoskeletal Systems" include a wide range of often non-specific diagnoses. More than 1/3 are related to ill-defined sprains and strains of specified or unspecified sites, while 17% are related to muscle pain (myalgia), inflammation (myositis) or muscle discomfort (rheumatism). The payment distribution for this group differs from the claim distribution, suggesting that average claim costs for different diagnoses in this category vary dramatically.

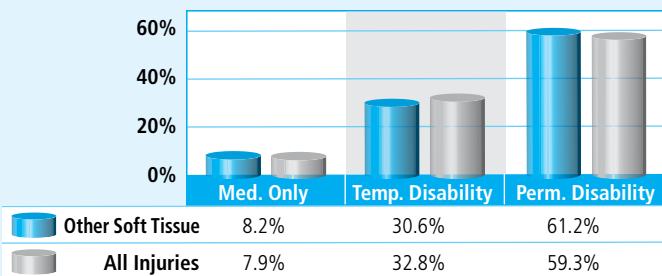
Claim and Payment Distribution by Claim Type

Other Soft Tissue vs. All Injuries (AY 2002 – 2005)

Percent of Claims



Percent of Payments



More than 36% of other soft tissue injuries result in lost time, slightly above the 34% lost time rate noted for all injuries. Almost 1 in 7 other soft tissue injuries end up as a permanent disability -- compared to about 1 in 8 claims for all injuries. Thus, PD cases consume a relatively high proportion of other soft tissue claim payments (61% vs. about 59% for all claims), though TD cases represent less than 31% of other soft tissue claim payments vs. nearly 33% of all claim payments.

Distribution by Industry Sector

Other Diagnoses of Musculoskeletal Systems

Industry Sector	% of Other Soft Tissue Injuries by Sector	Other Soft Tissue Injuries as % of Injuries in Sector
Manufacturing	16.5%	1.6%
Construction	15.9%	1.4%
Mercantile	14.4%	1.8%
Professional and Clerical Services	12.3%	1.8%
Agriculture	8.1%	1.8%
Restaurants	4.1%	1.3%
Parcel Delivery Companies	3.5%	2.2%
Hospitals	3.1%	2.1%
Trucking	1.7%	1.8%
Nursing Homes	1.3%	1.5%
Other	19.1%	1.7%
TOTAL	100.0%	1.6%

Workers in the manufacturing, construction, mercantile and professional and clerical service sectors account for nearly 60% of "other soft tissue injuries" in California. Overall, these injuries account for only about 1 out of every 62 work injuries in the state, but they are most prevalent among parcel delivery workers (1 in 45 job injuries) and hospital workers (1 in 48 job injuries).



Average Benefits by Injured Worker County of Residence

Other Soft Tissue vs. All Claims (Select Counties AY 2002 - 2005)

County	% of Other Soft Tissue	% of All Claims	Avg. Paid Per Claim		Avg. Paid As % of Statewide Avg.	
			Other Soft Tissue	All Claims	Other Soft Tissue	All Claims
Los Angeles	20.1%	21.8%	\$9,882	\$11,025	102%	119%
San Diego	7.1%	8.0%	\$8,745	\$8,417	91%	91%
San Bernardino	5.5%	5.5%	\$12,085	\$9,872	125%	107%
Orange	5.4%	6.2%	\$9,091	\$10,575	94%	114%
Riverside	4.9%	5.0%	\$9,518	\$10,320	99%	112%
Fresno	4.2%	3.8%	\$8,839	\$6,916	91%	75%
Alameda	4.2%	3.8%	\$12,233	\$10,231	127%	111%
Sacramento	4.1%	4.2%	\$9,346	\$7,856	97%	85%
Santa Clara	3.4%	3.8%	\$13,248	\$9,275	137%	100%
Contra Costa	3.0%	2.4%	\$16,340	\$9,983	169%	108%
San Joaquin	2.8%	2.5%	\$5,005	\$6,689	52%	72%
San Francisco	2.6%	1.7%	\$8,710	\$7,653	90%	83%
Other Counties	32.7%	31.3%	\$8,743	\$8,278	88%	87%
Statewide	100.0%	100.0%	\$9,663	\$9,253	100%	100%

More than 1 in 5 injured workers in California lives in Los Angeles County, which also has the highest concentration of other soft tissue injuries. However, a relatively high proportion of other soft tissue injuries come from Northern California counties.

Unlike the other injury categories examined in the past six scorecards, the counties with the highest average payments per "other soft tissue" claim are in the Bay Area rather than Southern California – led by Contra Costa County where payments in other soft tissue claims average 169% of the statewide average; followed by Santa Clara (137% of the state average) and Alameda (127% of the state average). By far the lowest payments for soft tissue claims are in rural San Joaquin County, where payments average \$5,005 – just over half the statewide average for claims involving these types of injuries.

PPO/MPN Utilization

% of Visits to Network Providers By Type of Service
Other Soft Tissue Injuries vs. All Injuries (AY 2002 - 2005)

Type of Service		PPO				MPN			
		2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005
E&M	Other Soft Tissue	53.7%	49.8%	56.6%	73.4%				
	All Injuries	56.7%	56.0%	61.6%	74.0%				
Surgery	Other Soft Tissue	46.7%	48.9%	46.7%	70.9%				
	All Injuries	51.7%	52.6%	55.7%	69.5%				
Radiology	Other Soft Tissue	45.3%	40.7%	41.4%	60.3%				
	All Injuries	45.9%	45.9%	47.2%	58.5%				
Medicine Section	Other Soft Tissue	36.5%	31.4%	36.9%	56.4%				
	All Injuries	39.9%	40.0%	49.3%	70.1%				
Physical Therapy	Other Soft Tissue	21.8%	16.8%	25.4%	39.1%				
	All Injuries	23.3%	23.5%	36.7%	50.3%				
Chiropractic Manipulation	Other Soft Tissue	12.9%	7.0%	8.4%	20.0%				
	All Injuries	8.1%	7.9%	11.2%	32.0%				
Total Visits	Other Soft Tissue	29.0%	23.4%	35.7%	53.7%				
	All Injuries	32.1%	32.6%	47.6%	63.2%				

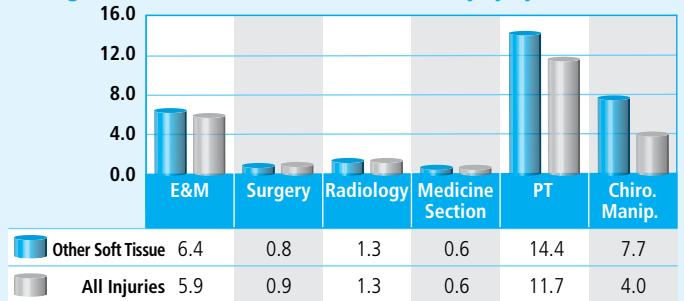
Use of networks to treat injured workers increased following the reforms, almost doubling from 32% of all visits for AY 2002 injuries to 63% of all visits for AY 2005 injuries. During the same period, network provider use for other soft tissue injuries rose from 29% to nearly 54% of all treatment visits.

These increases coincided with the 2005 introduction of Medical Provider Networks (MPNs) which featured medical control for the life of the claim, a significant change from the pre-reform 30-day medical control window. The highest network utilization rates for treatment of other soft tissue injuries were for evaluation and management services (73% of the visits) and surgery (nearly 71% of the visits), while the network utilization rate was lowest for chiropractic manipulation (20% of the visits) and physical therapy (39% of the visits).

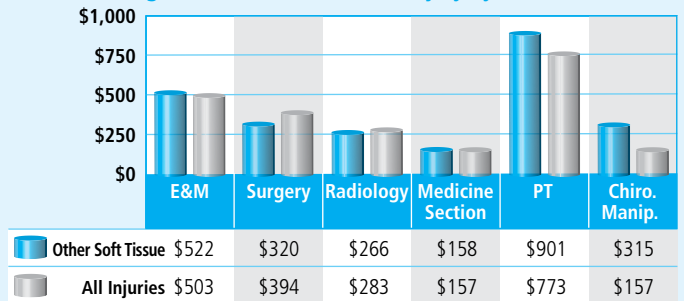
Medical Development at 24 Months

Other Soft Tissue Injuries vs. All Injuries (AY 2002 – 2003)

Average Number of Visits at 24 Months Post Injury by OMFS Section



Average Paid at 24 Months Post Injury by OMFS Section

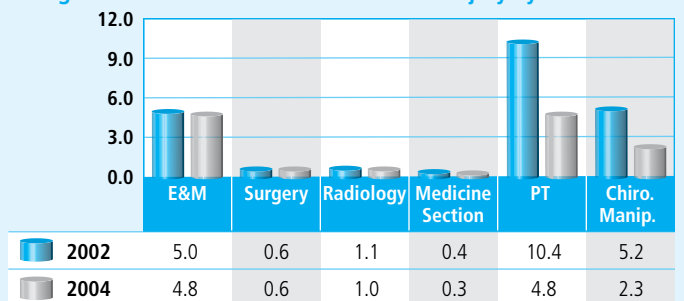


Using AY 2002 and 2003 claims, CWCI calculated the average number of visits and payments in 6 fee schedule sections for all claims and for other soft tissue claims at 24 months post injury. Averages included med-only and indemnity claims and were not limited to those involving a specific type of care. Compared to average treatment levels for all injuries, other soft tissue injury treatment plans rely heavily on evaluation and management and physical medicine, so average payments per claim for these services in soft tissue injury cases are relatively high.

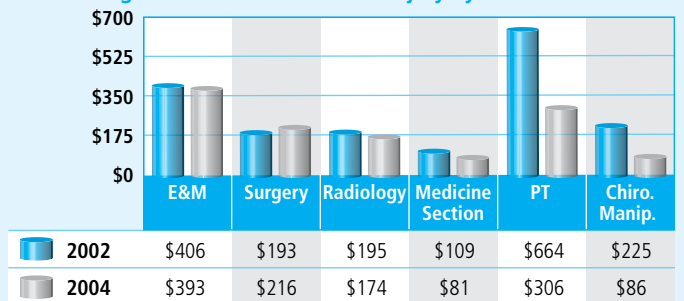
Medical Utilization & Payments: Pre- vs. Post-Reform

Other Soft Tissue Claims – Pre-Reform (AY 2002) vs. Post-Reform (AY 2004)

Average Number of Visits at 12 Months Post Injury by OMFS Section



Average Paid at 12 Months Post Injury by OMFS Section



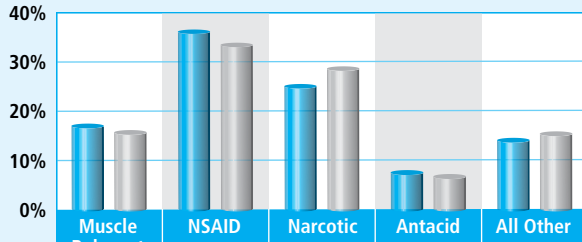
Comparing AY 2002 and 2004 data at 12 months post injury shows that following reform implementation, the average number of medical visits and payments in other soft tissue injury claims fell in 5 of 6 fee schedule treatment categories, the exception being surgery, where there was no change. PT and chiropractic had the most notable reductions. The average number of PT visits in the first year fell 54% from 10.4 to 4.8 visits, yielding a similar reduction in average PT payouts, which fell from \$664 to \$306. The average number of chiropractic visits in the first year fell 56% from 5.2 to 2.3 visits, yielding a similar reduction in average payouts, which fell from \$225 to \$86.



Prescription Drugs

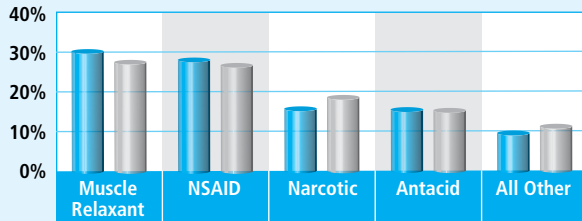
Other Soft Tissue Injuries vs. All Injuries (AY 2005)

Distribution of Prescriptions by Drug Category



Drug Category	Other Soft Tissue	All Injuries
Muscle Relaxant	16.9%	15.6%
NSAID	36.5%	33.7%
Narcotic	25.1%	28.8%
Antacid	7.4%	6.6%
All Other	14.0%	15.3%

Distribution of Paid Dollars by Drug Category



Drug Category	Other Soft Tissue	All Injuries
Muscle Relaxant	30.7%	27.9%
NSAID	28.5%	27.1%
Narcotic	15.8%	18.7%
Antacid	15.5%	15.1%
All Other	9.5%	11.2%

The Institute classified a total of 1.1 million prescriptions from calendar year 2005 into 5 drug categories. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) comprised 36% of other soft tissue injury prescriptions and 28% of the payments. Narcotics were the second most common type of prescription and represented 1/6 of all prescription dollars paid for other soft tissue injuries. Muscle relaxants accounted for more than 15% of the prescribed drugs and 31% of the payments.

Prescription Drugs by Volume and Payment

Other Soft Tissue Claims vs. All Claims (AY 2005)

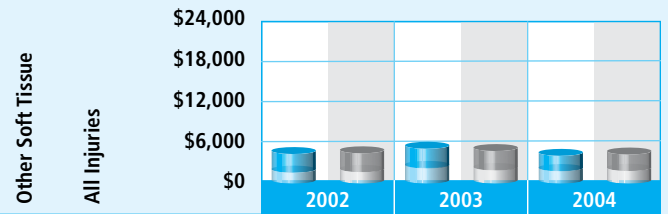
Drug Grouping	Drug Class	% of Total Prescriptions		% of Total Paid	
		Other Soft Tissue	All Claims	Other Soft Tissue	All Claims
Ibuprofen	NSAID	11.9%	10.9%	2.9%	3.6%
Hydrocodone	Narcotic	10.9%	13.3%	4.4%	7.4%
Carisoprodol	Muscle Relax	7.7%	7.1%	16.0%	17.8%
Naproxen	NSAID	7.1%	6.9%	5.2%	6.7%
Ranitidine	Antacid	5.6%	4.7%	9.4%	11.1%
Propoxy	Narcotic	3.4%	3.7%	1.8%	2.3%
Cyclobenzaprine	Muscle Relax	3.3%	3.2%	1.6%	2.1%
Tramadol	Narcotic	3.2%	2.7%	2.7%	2.9%
Piroxicam	NSAID	2.1%	1.8%	3.0%	3.2%
Etodolac	NSAID	1.8%	1.5%	2.2%	2.2%
Banalg Liniment	Pain Relief Ointment	1.6%	1.9%	0.3%	0.5%
Acetaminophen w/ Codeine	Narcotic	1.5%	1.7%	0.4%	0.7%
Acetaminophen	Non Narc. Analgesic	1.2%	1.5%	0.1%	0.2%
Cephalexin	Antibiotic	1.1%	1.9%	0.8%	2.1%
Glucosamine	Dietary Supp.	1.0%	0.6%	0.8%	0.6%
Top 15		63.4%	63.4%	51.6%	63.4%

Generic drugs were grouped with their brand equivalents to identify the most commonly prescribed drugs and associated payments. The NSAID ibuprofen topped the list of most prescribed drugs for other soft tissue injuries. The muscle relaxant Carisoprodol consumed more of the paid dollars for other soft tissue injuries (16.0%) than any other drug, followed by the antacid Ranitidine (9.4%).

Loss Development

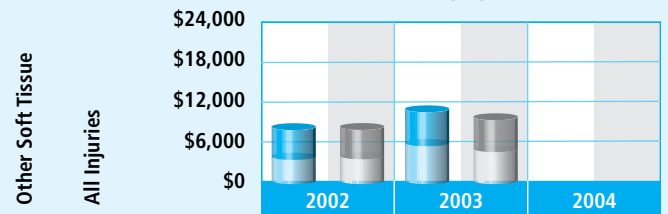
Other Soft Tissue Injuries vs. All Injuries

All Claims 12 Months Post Injury



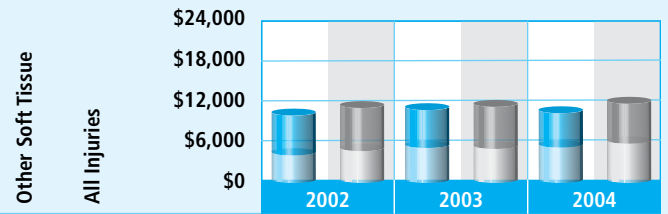
Year	Other Soft Tissue Medical	All Injuries Medical	Other Soft Tissue Indemnity	All Injuries Indemnity
2002	\$2,859	\$2,867	\$1,665	\$1,816
2003	\$2,999	\$2,954	\$2,398	\$2,081
2004	\$2,359	\$2,493	\$1,917	\$1,979

All Claims 24 Months Post Injury



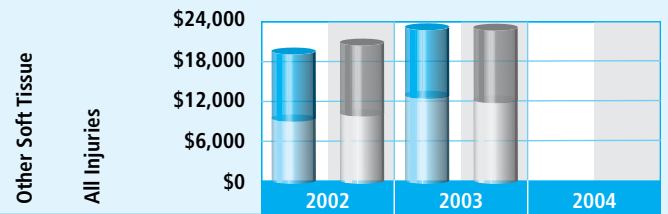
Year	Other Soft Tissue Medical	All Injuries Medical	Other Soft Tissue Indemnity	All Injuries Indemnity
2002	\$4,565	\$4,477	\$3,743	\$3,824
2003	\$5,194	\$4,874	\$5,857	\$4,904
2004	\$5,229	\$6,091	\$5,455	\$6,028

Indemnity Claims 12 Months Post Injury



Year	Other Soft Tissue	All Injuries
2002	\$6,095	\$6,578
2003	\$5,748	\$6,394
2004	\$5,229	\$6,091

Indemnity Claims 24 Months Post Injury



Year	Other Soft Tissue	All Injuries
2002	\$10,220	\$10,791
2003	\$10,459	\$11,048
2004	\$23,564	\$23,433

The loss development data across all study years at both the 12- and 24-month valuation points show that overall, average benefit payments for other soft tissue injury claims tend to be relatively close to the average for all claims. Among lost-time (indemnity) claims, average medical payments associated with other soft tissue injuries were below the average for all claims across all years and at both valuation points, though there was no consistent pattern evident for indemnity payments.

During the second year of the claim, the increase in average benefit payments in other soft tissue claims exceeded the increase for all claims. For example, between the 12- and 24-month valuation points, average benefit payments for AY 2003 other soft tissue indemnity claims climbed 112% to \$23,564, while average payments for all indemnity claims rose 101% to \$23,433. Among the AY 2003 claims, indemnity payments were the major cost driver in the second year following the injury, accounting for 62% of the overall increase in other soft tissue claims and 60% of the increase among all injury claims.



Nature of Injury

Claim Distributions for Other Soft Tissue Injuries vs. Other Injuries & All Injuries (AY 2002 - 2005 Claims)

Nature of Injury	Percent of Claims		
	Other Soft Tissue	Other Types of Injuries	All Injuries
Strain	47.3%	29.2%	29.5%
All Other Cumulative Injuries	14.6%	11.7%	11.8%
All Other, (not otherwise classified)	11.0%	8.5%	8.6%
Contusion	4.6%	8.2%	8.2%
Sprain	4.4%	6.3%	6.3%
Puncture	3.0%	3.4%	3.4%
Inflammation	2.6%	1.6%	1.6%
Multiple Physical Injuries Only	2.6%	2.7%	2.7%
Laceration	2.4%	13.5%	13.4%
Fracture	2.1%	3.4%	3.4%
All Other	5.4%	11.5%	11.2%

"Strains" are the number one nature of injury category in California workers' compensation, accounting for nearly 30% of all injuries and almost half of other soft tissue injuries. Strains are often cumulative injuries that occur over time. One in 7 other soft tissue injuries are other types of cumulative injuries vs. 1 in 9 work injuries overall. However, specific injuries such as contusions, lacerations, and fractures are far less common as other soft tissue injuries.

Cause of Injury

Claim Distributions for Other Soft Tissue Injuries vs. Other Injuries & All Injuries (AY 2002 - 2005 Claims)

Cause of Injury	Percent of Claims		
	Other Soft Tissue	Other Types of Injuries	All Injuries
Strain/Injury: Lifting	23.4%	11.9%	12.1%
Strain/Injury: (not otherwise classified)	13.2%	8.6%	8.7%
Misc. Causes: Other Injury (not otherwise classified)	7.3%	6.3%	6.3%
Strain/Injury: Pushing or Pulling	7.0%	3.6%	3.7%
Misc. Causes: Cumulative Injury (not otherwise classified)	4.6%	2.7%	2.8%
Fall/Slip: Miscellaneous	4.0%	5.2%	5.2%
Repetitive Motion (Carpal Tunnel Syndrome)	4.0%	2.8%	2.8%
Strain/Injury: Holding or Carrying	2.7%	1.7%	1.7%
Fall/Slip: On Same Level	2.3%	3.1%	3.1%
Struck/Injured by: Fall or Flying Object	1.7%	3.7%	3.6%
All Other	29.8%	50.4%	50.0%

Most other soft tissue injuries are caused by some type of strain, with more than 23% caused by strains from lifting, 7% caused by pushing or pulling, nearly 3% resulting from holding or carrying, and 13% caused by not otherwise classified strains. A high proportion of other soft tissue injuries list no specific cause, with 12% noting that the injury resulted from "miscellaneous" causes (compared to 9% for all injuries).

Time Lags

Date of Injury to Employer Notice, Carrier Notice & First Treatment Other Soft Tissue Injuries vs. All Injuries (AY 2002 vs. 2004)

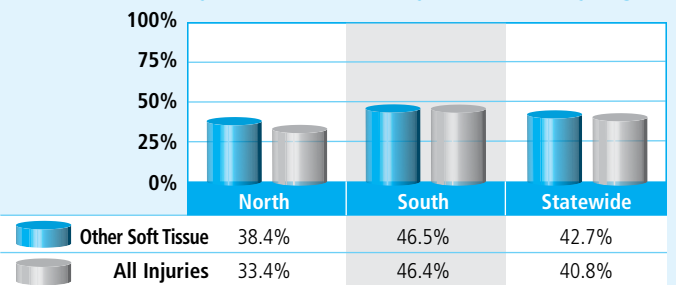
		Median # of Days	
		2002	2004
Employer Notification	Other Soft Tissue	0.0	0.0
	All Claims	0.0	0.0
Carrier Notification	Other Soft Tissue	7.5	7.0
	All Claims	7.0	6.0
Time to First Treatment	Other Soft Tissue	7.0	5.0
	All Claims	3.0	2.0

To gauge how long it takes for the initial stages of a claim to unfold, and how this has changed recently, CWCI compared the median number of days from the injury date to employer notice, carrier notice, and initial treatment for other soft tissue claims and all claims from AY 2002 and 2004. A median is the midpoint in a series of numbers, where half the data values are above the median, and half are below. For both the AY 2002 and AY 2004 claims, the median time to employer notice was 0 days for soft tissue injuries and for all claims, reflecting same-day notice. The median time to first treatment for other soft tissue claims improved from 7 days in AY 2002 to 5 days in AY 2004, though that is still 3 days longer than the median for all claims.

Attorney Involvement

Other Soft Tissue Injuries vs. All Injuries (AY 2002 – 2005 Claims)

Percent of Indemnity Claims with Attorney Involvement by Region

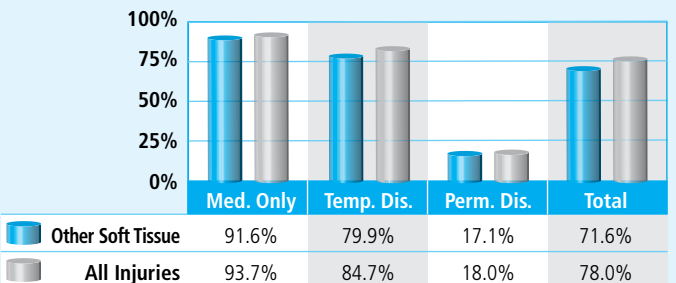


Statewide, attorneys are involved in nearly 43% of other soft tissue indemnity claims vs. about 41% of all indemnity claims. Attorney involvement is greater in Southern California than in Northern California, although the regional difference is less pronounced among other soft tissue claims because of the relatively high rate of attorney involvement (38% of indemnity claims) in Northern California.

Claim Closure Rates

Other Soft Tissue Injuries vs. All Injuries (AY 2002 – 2003)

Closure Rates by Claim Type at 24 Months Post Injury



At 24 months, the overall claim closure rate of nearly 72% for other soft tissue claims is below the 78.0% closure rate for all claims. This is due in part to differences in the mix of claims by claim type, as other soft tissue injuries are more likely to involve permanent disability and cumulative injuries.

ICIS Injury Scorecards are based on Industry Claims Information System data, compiled and maintained by the California Workers' Compensation Institute, 1111 Broadway, Suite 2350, Oakland CA 94607, (510) 251-9470. CWCI members and subscribers may access additional injury scorecard data in the Member/Subscriber section of the Institute's website (www.cwci.org).

About CWCI: The California Workers' Compensation Institute, incorporated in 1964, is a private, non-profit organization of insurers and self-insured employers conducting and communicating research and analyses to improve the California workers' compensation system.