

# WORK-RELATED INJURIES IN AUSTRALIA, 2005–06

Comparison of  
compensation data  
with all incurred  
work-related injuries

AUGUST 2009



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## Foreword

Safe Work Australia uses workers' compensation claims data as its primary data source to measure occupational health and safety (OHS) performance in Australia. These data are collated as the National Data Set for Compensation-based Statistics (NDS). While the NDS has many strengths, it does not provide information on groups not well-covered by workers' compensation schemes such as the self-employed. Therefore while the NDS can provide good information on the types of circumstances of work-related injury, it cannot provide a total measure of the number of workers injured each year.

To address this situation, Safe Work Australia's predecessor, the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission, partially funded the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Work-Related Injuries, Australia, 2005-06 (WRIS) survey, results from which were published in December 2006. The WRIS collected information over the 2005–06 period on people aged 15 years and over who worked at some time in the last 12 months and experienced a work-related injury or illness in that period. A range of details about the most recent work-related injury or illness were collected.

As the WRIS is based on the personal recall of events, the information collected is not directly comparable to workers' compensation data where a medical certificate from a recognised medical practitioner is required to identify an injury or disease as work-related.

This report has been written to identify areas where the NDS does not represent all serious work-related injuries.



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## Summary of findings

Comparison of the WRIS with published data on serious claims from the NDS indicates that the NDS represents only one in five work-related injuries occurring each year. In addition, this analysis has shown that the NDS collected information on only 63% of the injuries that involved a week or more off work in 2005–06. The analysis in this report, however, shows that the NDS still provides useful information on the characteristics of work-related injuries.

To enable a more robust comparison, the two datasets were scoped to only include injuries with similar periods of time lost (one working week for the NDS and five or more days for the WRIS). The following points were observed.

- The NDS incidence rate for male employees was 80% of the WRIS rate but for female employees the NDS incidence rate was only 60% of the WRIS rate. This indicates that in 2005–06 female workers were less likely to claim workers' compensation than male workers.
- While the two datasets produced similar incidence rates for age groups involving workers over 25 years of age, the NDS recorded only half the incidence rate of the WRIS for workers aged less than 25 years. This indicates that in 2005–06 young people were less likely to claim workers' compensation than older workers.
- Both datasets indicated that the highest incidence rates in 2005–06 were recorded by the Agriculture, forestry and fishing, Manufacturing, Construction, Transport and storage and Mining industries. However, comparison of the two datasets indicates that the NDS underestimated incidence rates in the Retail trade, Health and community services, Education and Government administration and defence industries. These industries had high proportions of employees who were eligible for workers' compensation and hence the data indicates that employees in these industries were less likely to claim workers' compensation than those in other industries.
- Both datasets indicated the highest incidence rates by occupation groups were recorded by Labourers and related workers, Intermediate production and transport workers and Tradespersons and related workers. However, the data show that the NDS underestimates incidence rates for Managers and administrators.
- The way in which injuries occurred was similar between the two datasets, with 42% of injuries due to lifting, pushing and pulling objects.
- The two datasets agreed that the main type of injury was *Sprains and strains*. However, the analysis showed that the NDS only captured one in three injuries involving *Stress or other mental condition* and one in two injuries involving *Fractures, Cut/open wound or Chronic joint or muscle condition*.





## General trends

The Work-related Injury Survey (WRIS) found that of the 10.8 million people who had worked at some time in the last 12 months, 689 500 workers experienced a work-related injury or illness during that period. This equates to 6.4% of workers recalling that they had incurred a work-related injury or illness in 2005–06. Of these, 240 250 said they had lodged a workers' compensation claim and 215 800 said they had received compensation for their injury or illness.

For the same period, the National Data Set for Compensation-based Statistics (NDS) collected information on 255 300 claims that had been lodged with and accepted by the state and territory workers' compensation authorities. This is higher than the number of injuries in the WRIS where the worker said they had received workers' compensation. There are a number of reasons for this. The first is that the WRIS is a sample survey which like all surveys is subject to sampling errors. The survey is also based on a worker's recall of injuries incurred in the last twelve months and it is possible that some workers would not recall filling in a claim form for a minor injury especially if there was no follow-up activity. Finally, the WRIS only collected information on work-related conditions that were first diagnosed in the twelve months prior to the survey. There can be much longer periods in the NDS between first diagnosis and the lodgement of a claim. Taking these factors into account, the WRIS is close enough to the actual number of compensated cases to feel confident in the overall estimate of 689 500 work-related injuries actually occurring in 2005–06.

So that attention is focussed on the more serious injuries, published data from the NDS only includes accepted compensation claims that involved an absence from work of one or more working weeks, a permanent incapacity or fatality. In 2005–06 this amounted to 136 600 claims for serious injury and illness and equated to 1.5% of employees lodging a successful workers' compensation claim.

It could therefore be said that the published data on serious claims represents only one in five work-related injuries, but are the characteristics of these claims similar to all work-related injuries? The following sections will analyse a set of demographics to highlight differences and similarities between the datasets. For the rest of this report, the term injury will be used to include all work-related injuries and illnesses.

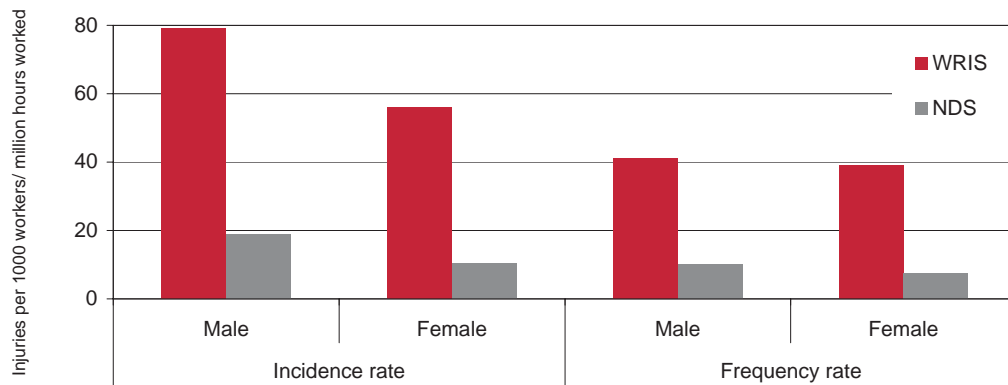
## Sex

Analysis of the two datasets presents similar findings for the percentage of injuries by sex. The WRIS data showed that 63% of workers who experienced a work-related injury or illness were male. This is slightly lower than the percentage of claims for a serious work-related injury lodged by males (68%) as shown in the NDS published data.

As expected, there was considerable difference in the incidence and frequency rates between the sexes and between the datasets. The WRIS data show that in 2005–06, male workers recorded an incidence rate of 79 injuries per 1000 male workers compared to 56 injuries per 1000 female workers. This means that the incidence rate for female workers was 71% of the rate for male workers. In the NDS the incidence of serious claims for female employees was 52% of the rate for male employees, a much greater difference than shown in the WRIS.

However, since the number of hours worked by females and males is substantially different, a more comparable measure can be obtained by the use of frequency rates – injuries per million hours worked. Figure 1 shows that the frequency rate of injuries in the WRIS was quite similar for male and female workers: 41 injuries per million hours worked by male workers compared to 39 for female workers. While closer, the frequency rates in the NDS continue to show a difference, with the female frequency rate 70% of the male rate (10 claims per million hours worked for males compared to 7 claims per million hours worked for females).

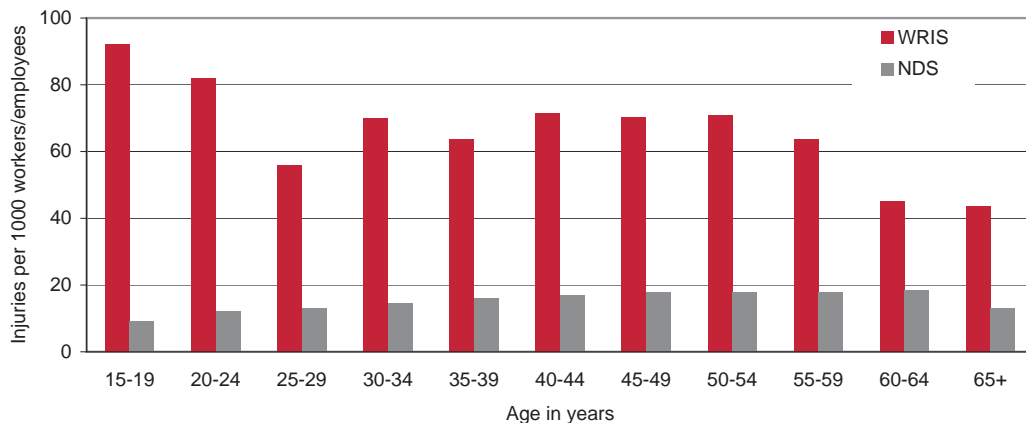
**Figure 1: WRIS injuries and NDS serious claims: Incidence rates (injuries per 1000 workers/employees) and Frequency rates (per million hours worked) by sex, 2005–06**



## Age

Differences between the datasets can also be found in the data by age. Figure 2 shows that in the WRIS data the highest incidence rates were recorded by the youngest age groups with comparatively lower rates in the older groups. This is quite a different pattern to the NDS data for serious claims which in 2005–06 recorded the lowest rates for the youngest age group with rates rising gradually with age.

**Figure 2: WRIS injuries and NDS serious claims: Incidence rates by age\*, 2005–06**



\* Note that the WRIS data for 65+ has a relative standard errors (RSEs) greater than 25% and should be treated with caution

## Mechanism of injury

In the NDS, the Mechanism of injury classification is used to identify the action, exposure or event which was the direct cause of the most serious injury. The WRIS classification *How the most recent work-related injury or illness occurred* is similar to the NDS *Mechanism* classification but with fewer categories. Table 1 shows the percentage of injuries by category for the two datasets. The categories have been grouped to enable more direct comparison.

These data show the mechanisms with the highest percentage of injuries/claims are the same and are also those that have been identified as mechanisms to receive priority attention under the *National OHS Strategy 2002-2012*. The greatest percentage of injuries/claims, accounting for 42% of injuries in both datasets was due to *Lifting, pushing or pulling object* in the WRIS or *Body Stressing* in the NDS.

The biggest difference between the datasets was in relation to falls where the WRIS data indicates that 13% of injuries were the result of falls, whereas the NDS data has 20% of serious claims relating to falls. In contrast to this the WRIS data has a greater percentage of injuries due to *Hitting or being hit by objects* compared to the NDS (27% compared to 22%).

While only accounting for a small number of injuries, *Contact with chemical or substance* accounted for considerably more injuries in the WRIS compared to the NDS (5% compared to 1%).

**Table 1: WRIS injuries and NDS serious claims: Percentage by mechanism of injury, 2005–06**

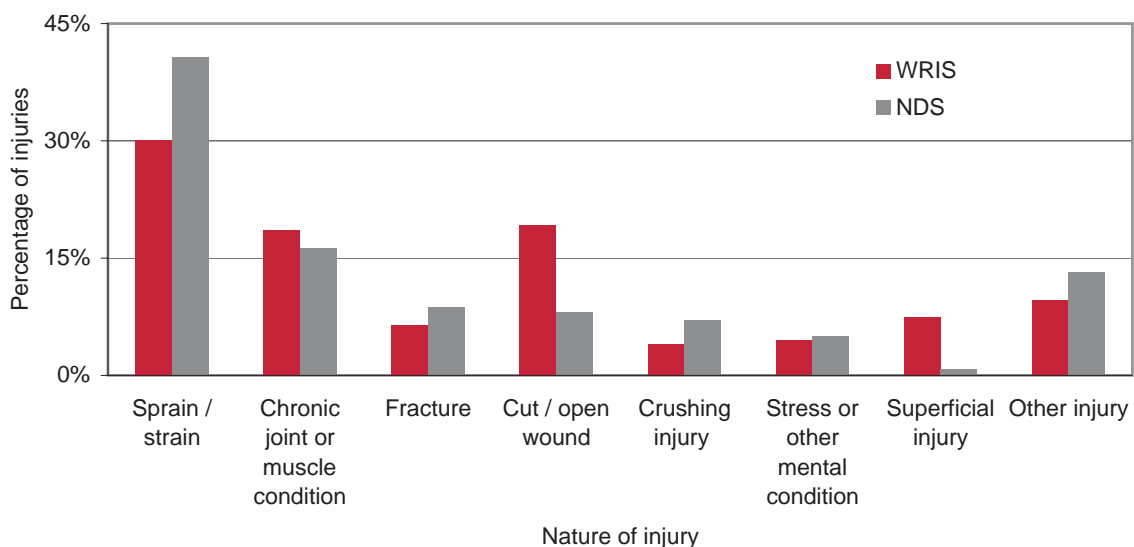
WRIS - How most recent work-related injury occurred	% of all injuries	NDS - mechanism of injury/disease	% of serious claims
Lifting, pushing or pulling object Repetitive movement Prolonged standing, working in cramped or unchanging position	42%	Body stressing	42%
Hitting or being hit or cut by an object	27%	Hitting objects with a part of the body Being hit by moving objects	22%
Fall on same level (including slip or fall) Fall from height	13%	Falls, trips and slips of a person	20%
Exposure to mental stress	5%	Mental Stress	5%
Contact with chemical or substance	5%	Chemicals and other substances	1%
Vehicle accident Long term exposure to sound Other	9%	Heat, radiation and electricity Biological factors Sound and pressure Other and unspecified mechanisms (includes vehicle accidents)	10%
WRIS TOTAL	100%	NDS TOTAL	100%

## Nature of injury

In the NDS, the *Nature of injury* classification identifies the most serious injury sustained by the worker. The WRIS classification *Work-related injury or illness* is similar to the NDS Nature classification but with fewer categories. Figure 3 shows the percentage of injuries by category for the two datasets. Categories have been grouped to enable more direct comparison.

Figure 3 shows that the types of injuries were generally similar in the two datasets with the exception of *Cut/open wound* and *Superficial injury* which accounted for much greater percentages of injuries in the WRIS than the NDS. In contrast, the WRIS recorded a lower percentage of injuries due to *Sprain/strain* than the NDS.

**Figure 3: WRIS injuries and NDS serious claims: Percentage of injuries by nature of injury, 2005–06**



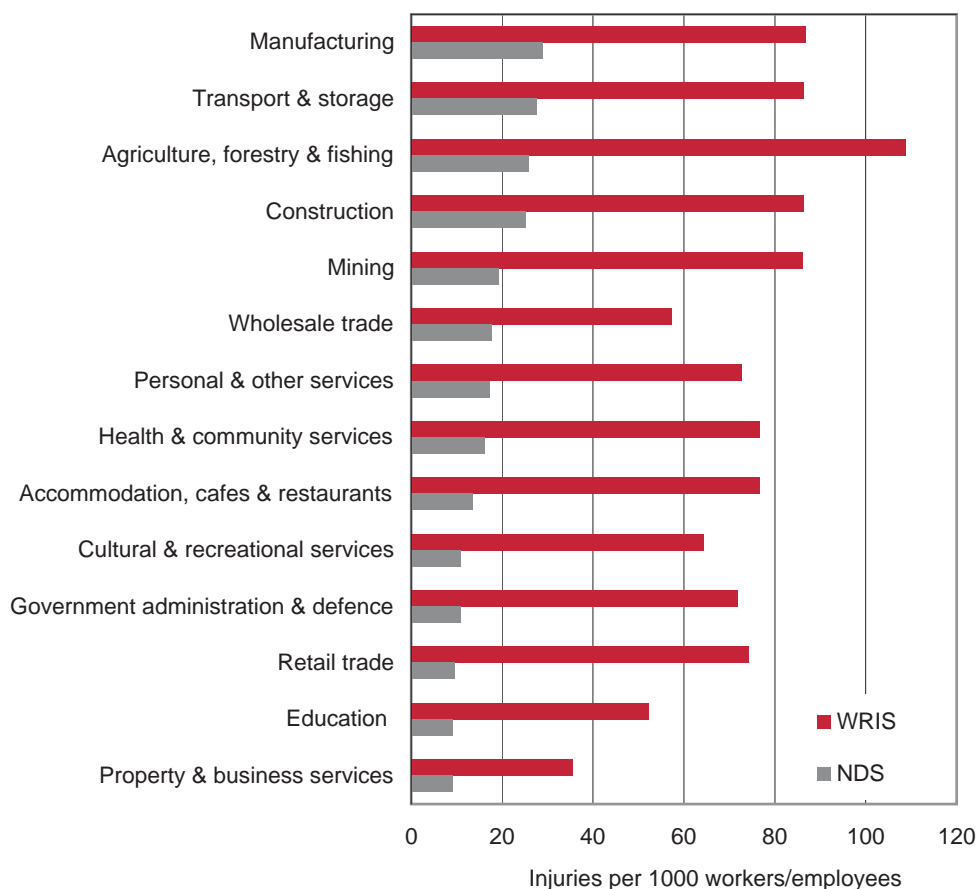
## Industry

The industries that recorded the highest work-related injury rates in the WRIS were the Agriculture, forestry and fishing (109 per 1000 workers), Manufacturing (87), Construction (86), Transport and storage (86) and Mining (86) industries. Figure 4 shows that while in a different order, these industries were also the highest in the NDS. These industries are receiving priority attention under the *National OHS Strategy 2002–2012*.

Figure 4 shows that the two datasets display broadly similar patterns by industry. Not all industries have been shown in this figure due to the relative standard errors in the WRIS data being too high to reliably use the information.

While the WRIS incidence rates were generally five times the NDS incidence rates, the ratio in the Retail trade industry was eight times, and in the Government administration and defence industry, seven times.

**Figure 4: WRIS injuries and NDS serious claims: Incidence rates (injuries per 1000 workers/employees) by industry, 2005–06**



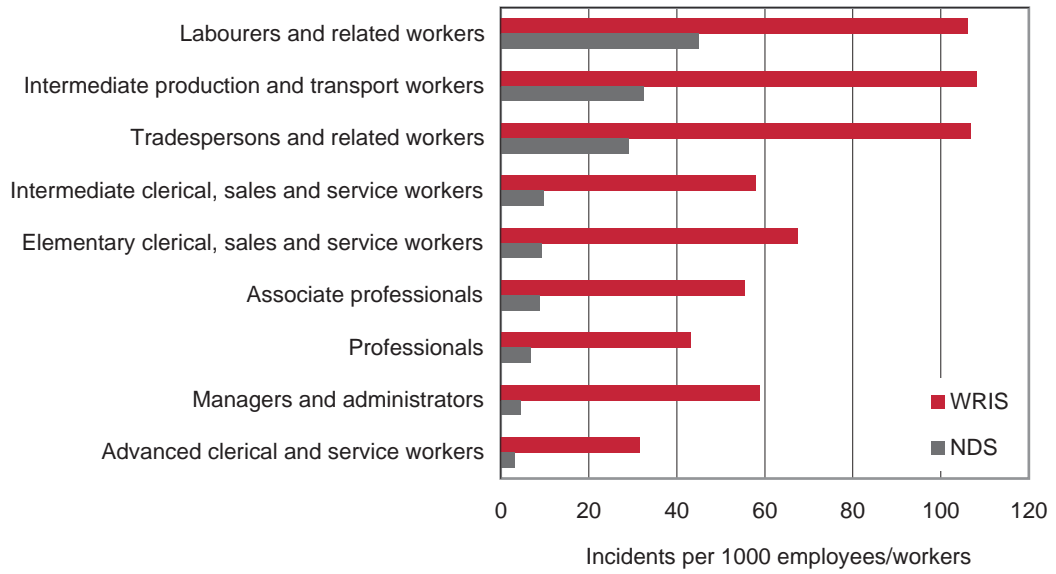
## Occupation

Figure 5 shows that the occupation groups identified through the WRIS as having the highest rates of work-related injury or illness were Intermediate production and transport workers (108 per 1000 workers), Tradespersons and related workers (107) and Labourers and related workers (106). Though in a different order, these occupation groups also had the highest incidence rates in the NDS.

While the WRIS generally had five times the NDS incidence rate for serious claims, the ratio for Managers and administrators was thirteen times. Part of this difference can be explained by the fact that 24% of workers in this group are Own Account Workers or Employers and are therefore not eligible for workers' compensation. Many of these workers would be self-employed farm managers.

Advanced clerical and service workers also recorded a very high ratio, with WRIS data indicating an incidence rate ten times the rate of serious claims in the NDS. While this group of workers had only a slightly higher proportion of non-employees compared to the other occupations, it had one of the highest proportions of Owner managers of incorporated enterprises. More information on these groups can be found in other reports in this series.

**Figure 5: WRIS injuries and NDS serious claims: Incidence rates (injuries per 1000 workers/employees) by occupation, 2005–06**



## Comparison based on similar period of time lost

On face value it would appear that the WRIS results indicate injuries occurred at four times the NDS published rate. However a valid comparison requires the WRIS to be scoped to exclude injuries that occurred on a journey to or from work and to only include injuries/illnesses with the same range of time lost as the NDS. While journey cases only represented 3.7% of all injuries/illnesses in the WRIS and can easily be removed, undertaking a valid comparison using similar periods of time lost is more complex. The NDS in 2005–06 collected time lost from work in terms of working weeks while the WRIS collected time lost based on set periods of time lost (i.e. 1 to 4 days, 5 to 10 days). In order to undertake the analysis it is necessary to assume that the NDS standard of 'one or more working weeks' of time lost is similar to 'five or more days' of time lost in the WRIS.

Table 2 shows that 70% of the cases in the WRIS involved less than five days off work. Removing these injuries together with those involving a journey, results in an incidence rate of 20 injuries per 1000 workers compared to 64 per 1000 workers if all injuries were used.

**Table 2: Workers with injury or illness: number and percentage by time lost, 2005–06**

Days or shifts absent from work	Number ('000)	%
None	287.8	41.7
Part of a day/shift	51.4	7.5
1– 4 days	143.2	20.8
5 – 10 days	83.0	12.0
11 days or more	107.3	15.6
Had not returned to work since injury or illness occurred	16.9	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>689.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: WRIS

An adjustment is also required to the NDS data to only include those claims which involved 'one working week or more off work'. Under the NDS definition, claims for permanent disability are included regardless of time lost. This means that claims for disabilities, like permanent hearing loss, which typically involve no time lost need to be removed. Fatalities also need to be removed. The removal of these claims resulted in a slight reduction in the incidence rate from 15.2 claims per 1000 employees to 14.5.

The 'one working week' definition of the NDS means that an employee who worked a four-day week of five hours per day (total of 20 hours per week) and incurred an injury requiring 21 hours off work, would be included in the published NDS data as they had been off for more than a working week whereas they would not be included in the WRIS as they had not had five or more days off work. It is more difficult to remove the NDS claims which involved one or more working weeks of time off from work but did not involve five or more days. Analysis of the NDS data indicates these extra inclusions could be around 0.5 claims per 1000 employees. Therefore making the NDS data comparable to the WRIS definition would generate an incidence rate of 14 claims per 1000 employees which is only 70% of the WRIS incidence rate.

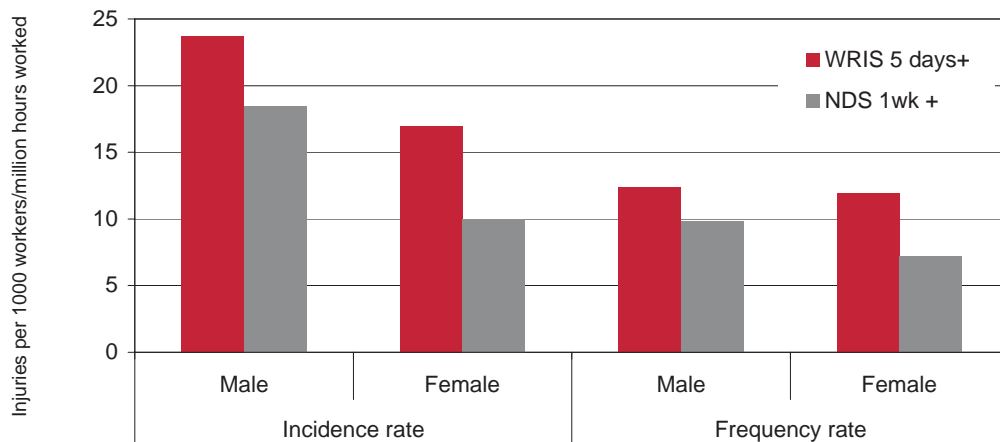
Looking at actual numbers of injuries shows that in 2005–06 the NDS collected information on only 63% of the work-related injuries that involved five or more days off work.

The WRIS shows that 42% of workers who experienced a work-related injury that involved five or more days off work did not apply for workers' compensation. This means that of the 20 injuries per 1000 that involved five or more days off work, 8 did not apply for workers' compensation. Factors impacting on whether a worker applied for workers' compensation are explored in another report in this series.

## Sex

Figure 6 shows that adjusting the datasets had little impact on the ratio of incidence and frequency rates by sex within each dataset compared to the unadjusted data shown in Figure 1. Of course, the ratio across the datasets has been altered. The adjusted figures show that the NDS incidence rate for male employees was 80% of the WRIS rate but for female employees the NDS incidence rate was only 60% of the WRIS rate. This clearly demonstrates that female employees are less likely to claim workers' compensation than male employees.

**Figure 6: WRIS five days or more and NDS one week or more: Incidence (injuries per 1000 workers/employees) and Frequency rates (injuries per million hours worked) by sex, 2005–06**



## Age

As was shown in Figure 2, in the WRIS the youngest age group had the highest incidence rate when all injuries were considered. This higher incidence rate can be partially explained by the much larger proportion of short-term claims reported by this age group. Table 3 shows that 56% of the injuries reported by workers in the 15–19 years age group involved less than one day off work compared to the average for all age groups of 49%. These injuries would not be reported in NDS publications. In addition injuries involving between one and four days off work would only be included in the NDS where there was a part-time worker who was unable to work for the whole of one of their normal working weeks.



**Table 3: Work-related injuries: Percentage of injuries by age and time lost from work**

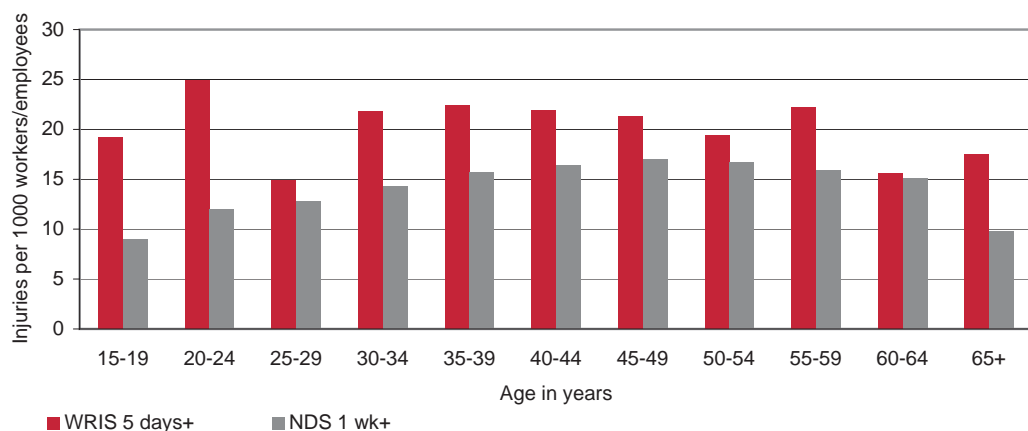
Age group	Time lost from work		
	<1 day	1 to 4 days	five or more days
15 to 19	56%	23%	21%
20 to 24	51%	19%	30%
25 to 29	46%	27%	27%
30 to 34	41%	28%	31%
35 to 39	45%	20%	35%
40 to 44	52%	18%	31%
45 to 49	51%	19%	30%
50 to 54	54%	18%	27%
55 to 59	51%	14%	35%
60 to 64	40%	25%	35%
65 +	33%	27%	40%
<b>Total</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>30%</b>

Source: WRIS

Restricting the WRIS data to only include those injuries that involved five or more days off work (Figure 7), shows that the incidence rates for the two datasets were similar for workers aged 25 years and over, but there remains substantial differences for the youngest age groups. This indicates that the NDS captures only one in two injuries involving five or more days off work for workers aged less than 25 years. This issue is explored more in other reports in this series.

Incidence rates were the closest in the 25 to 29 years age group due to a comparatively low WRIS rate. It is possible that survey design issues were partially responsible for this low rate. The low NDS rate for the 65 years and over group, however, can be explained by the fact that workers' compensation is generally not available to employees over 65.

**Figure 7: WRIS five days or more injuries and NDS one week or more: Incidence rates (injuries per 1000 workers/employees) by age, 2005–06**



## Mechanism of injury

Comparison of Table 4 with Table 1 shows that when the data were restricted, the percentage of injuries due to *Body stressing* remained about the same as in the unadjusted data. The biggest change was in the percentage of injuries which involved *Mental stress*. The unadjusted data had equal percentages from the two datasets (5%) but when the data were adjusted there was little change to the NDS percentage but the WRIS percentage increased to show that 11% of injuries which involved five or more days off work were due to *Exposure to mental stress*. This difference between the datasets possibly indicates that there was a high percentage of injuries that were not claimed under workers' compensation.

Adjusting the WRIS data also indicates that a large percentage of *Hitting or being hit or cut by an object* involved short periods of time lost. While this category accounted for 27% of injuries involving all periods of time lost this dropped to 16% of the injuries which involved five or more days off work.

**Table 4: WRIS five days or more injuries and NDS one week or more injuries: Percentage of cases by mechanism of injury, 2005–06**

WRIS - How most recent work-related injury occurred	% of all injuries	NDS - mechanism of injury/disease	% of serious claims
Lifting, pushing or pulling object Repetitive movement Prolonged standing, working in cramped or unchanging position	45%	Body stressing	43%
Hitting or being hit or cut by an object	16%	Hitting objects with a part of the body Being hit by moving objects	23%
Fall on same level (including slip or fall) Fall from height	15%	Falls, trips and slips of a person	21%
Exposure to mental stress	11%	Mental Stress	5%
Contact with chemical or substance	3%*	Chemicals and other substances	1%
Vehicle accident Long term exposure to sound Other	8%	Heat, radiation and electricity Biological factors Sound and pressure Other and unspecified mechanisms	8%
WRIS TOTAL	100%	NDS TOTAL	100%

\* Estimate subject to RSE above 25% and should be used with caution

## Nature of injury

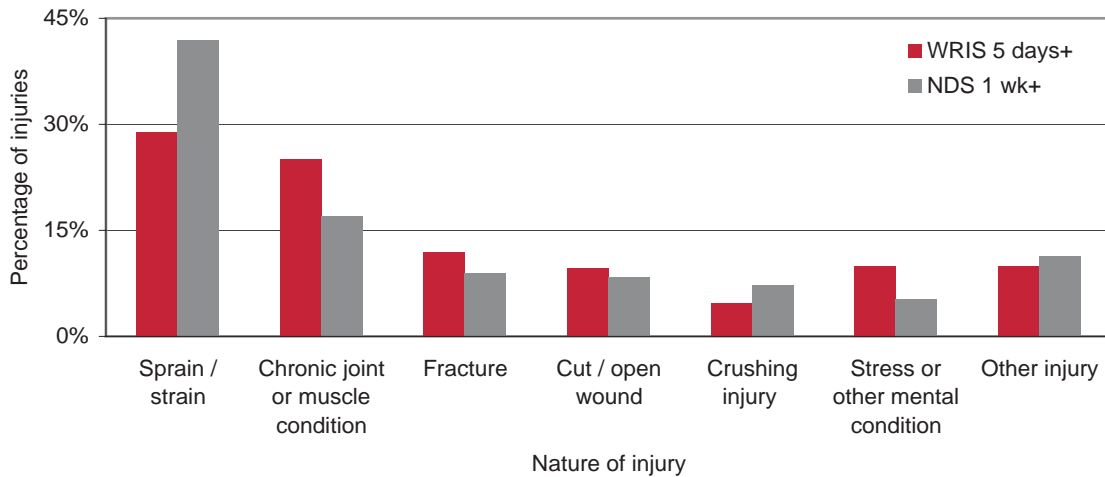
Comparison of WRIS data in Figure 8 with the unadjusted data in Figure 4 shows that a substantial percentage of *Cut/open wound* resulted in less than five days off work. The removal of the short-term injuries from the WRIS resulted in greater comparability with the NDS for this category.

There were very cases of *Superficial injury* which involved five or more days and hence the data cannot be shown separately but has instead been included in the *Other* category.

The adjustment, however, has brought out greater differences in the two datasets for injuries involving *Chronic joint or muscle condition* and *Stress or*

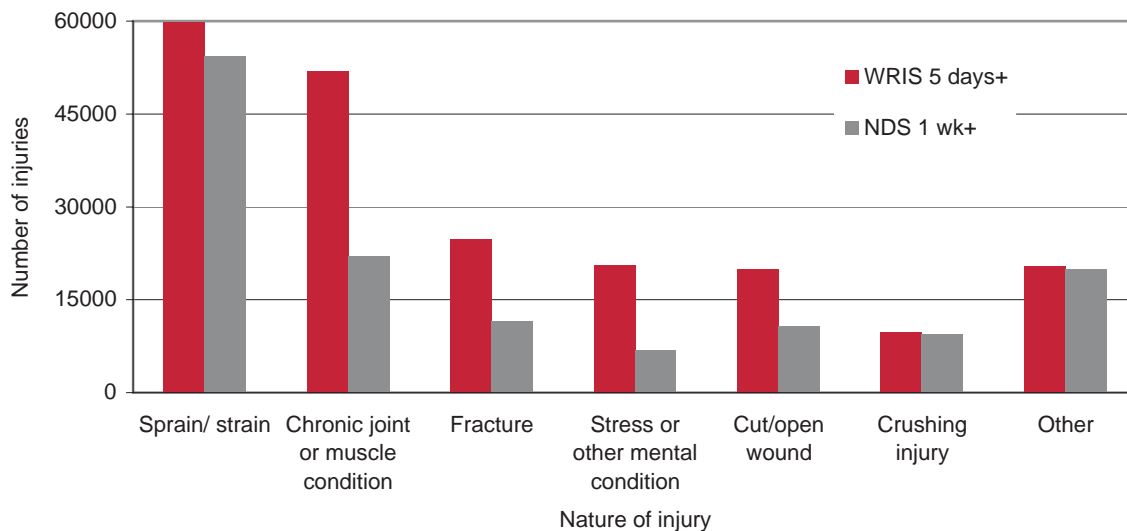
*other mental condition.* These differences possibly indicate a reluctance to claim or difficulty in claiming workers' compensation for these conditions. This issue is explored more in other reports in this series.

**Figure 8: WRIS five days or more injuries and NDS one week or more injuries: Percentage of injuries by nature of injury**



Looking at actual injury and claim numbers (Figure 9) shows that the NDS only captures one in three injuries involving Stress or other mental condition and one in two injuries for Fractures, Cut/open wound and Chronic joint or muscle condition. While it can be difficult to prove the connection to work for the first and last of these conditions, the reason for the substantially lower numbers of workers' compensation claims for the other two conditions is not known. The data possibly indicates that it is easier to claim workers' compensation for Sprain/strain, Crushing injury and Superficial injury.

**Figure 9: WRIS five days or more injuries and NDS one week or more injuries: Number of injuries by nature of injury**

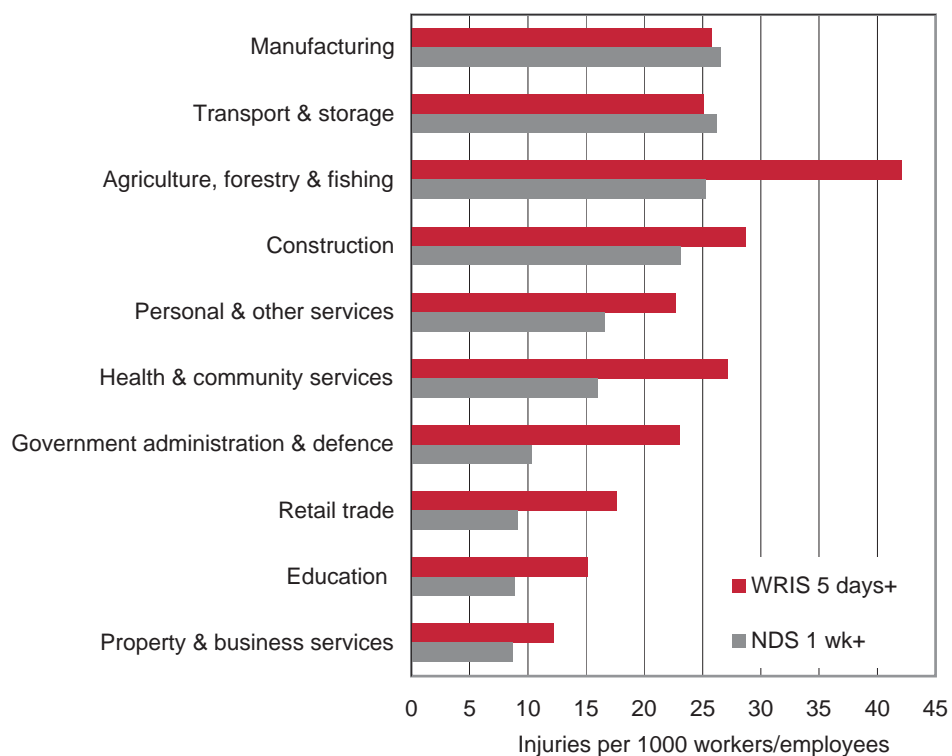


## Industry

Figure 10 shows that when the datasets were adjusted, the WRIS recorded much higher incidence rates than the NDS in the Retail trade, Health and community services, Education and Government administration and defence industries. As these industries all had high proportions of workers who were employees in 2005–06 and hence eligible for workers' compensation, it can be concluded that employees in these industries were less likely to claim workers' compensation than employees in other industries. This issue is explored further in other reports in this series.

The Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry also showed a large difference in incidence rates between the two datasets. While around half of the workers in this industry were not employees and therefore not eligible for workers' compensation, it is not possible to tell from these data whether the non-employees had a higher rate of injury or that the employees did not claim workers' compensation for their injuries. This issue is explored further in other reports in this series.

**Figure 10: WRIS five days or more injuries and NDS one week or more injuries: Incidence rates (injuries per 1000 employees/workers) by industry\*, 2005–06**



*\* A lot of industries have not been included in this graph due to high relative standard errors (RSEs) in the WRIS data making the information unreliable*

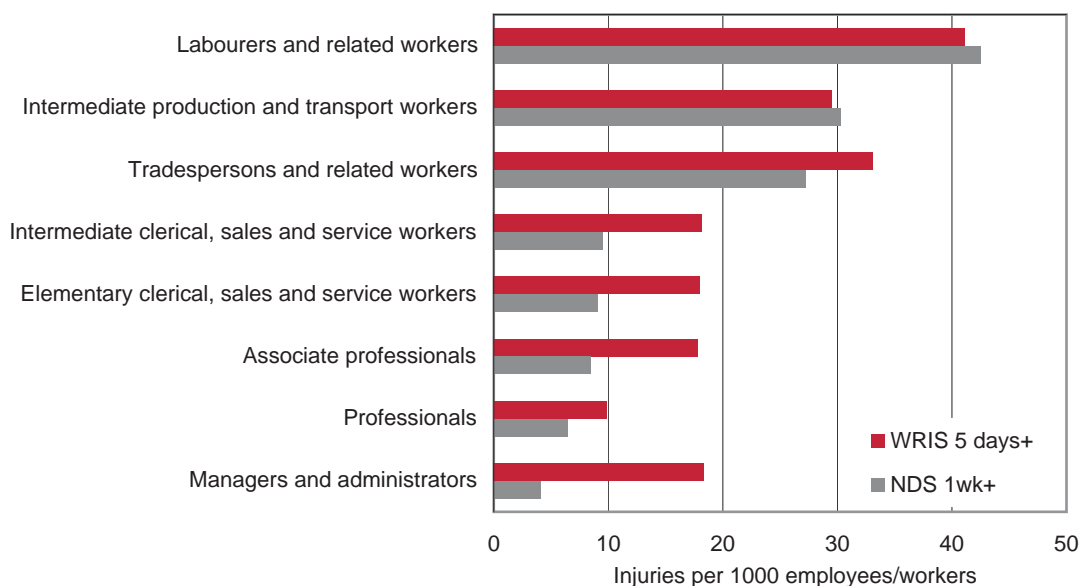
## Occupation

While the unadjusted data showed considerable difference in the rates for the two datasets, once the datasets were adjusted for the same period of time lost from work, the incidence rates for the two datasets became similar.

Figure 11 shows that when the two datasets were adjusted, the highest incidence rates were recorded by the same occupation groups with Labourers and related workers recording 41 claims per 1000 employees in the NDS and 42 injuries per 1000 workers in the WRIS where the time lost from work was one week or more.

However, as was the case with the unadjusted data, the adjusted data shows that Managers and administrators have considerably higher incidence rates in the WRIS data compared to the NDS. This indicates that the difference is not just related to short-term claims. There are two main possibilities to explain the difference. The first is that many of the Managers and administrators that were employees did not claim workers' compensation. The second option is that the self-employed Managers and administrators experienced much higher injury rates than employees. This issue is explored in other reports in this series.

**Figure 11: WRIS five days or more injuries and NDS one week or more injuries: Incidence rates (injuries per 1000 employees/workers) by occupation\*, 2005–06**



\* Information for Advanced clerical and service workers has not been shown due to the high relative standard errors (RSEs) in the WRIS data

## Conclusion

This analysis has shown that while the published data on serious claims from the NDS represents only one in five work-related injuries occurring each year, it provides useful information on the characteristics of work-related injury.

Users of the data need to be aware that actual counts of claims should not be used to represent the actual number of serious injuries occurring each year as this analysis has shown that the NDS published data only counts 63% of injuries involving one or more working weeks off work.

Despite this the NDS continues to provide useful information on the demographics of injured workers (sex, age etc) and the characteristics of work-related injury (type of injury and how it occurred) that can be reliably used to inform policy on OHS issues. Policy makers however need to take note of the areas where the NDS has been shown to undercount work-related injuries. These include injuries to our youngest workers and injuries and illnesses where the connection to work is harder to prove such as mental stress and chronic joint or muscle conditions.

## Explanatory Notes

### Industry classification

The industry of the worker has been classified in accordance with the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 1993 edition (ABS Cat. No. 1292.0).

### Mechanism of injury classification

The mechanism of injury is the action, exposure or event that was the direct cause of the injury, or how the injury was sustained. The mechanism of injury classification used with the NDS data is from the Type of Occurrence Classifications System (TOOCS). More information on this classification can be found on the Safe Work Australia website. The WRIS survey used a reduced version of the TOOCS Mechanism classification details of which are in Appendix 1 of the WRIS publication.

### National Data Set for Compensation Based Claims (NDS)

For information on the scope and coverage of the NDS, please refer to the Appendixes of the *Compendium of Workers' Compensation Statistics* available on the Safe Work Australia website.

### Nature of injury classification

The nature of work-related injury refers to the type of injury sustained. The nature of injury classification used with the NDS data is from the Type of Occurrence Classifications System (TOOCS). More information on this classification can be found on the Safe Work Australia website. The WRIS survey used a reduced version of the TOOCS Nature classification details of which are in Appendix 1 of the WRIS publication.

### Occupation classification

The occupation of the worker has been classified in accordance with the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO), Second Edition, July 1997, (ABS Cat. No. 1222.0)

### Relative Standard Errors (RSEs)

All WRIS data presented in this report conform with the ABS guidelines regarding data quality. Unless otherwise marked, all data presented have RSEs below 25%. Data with RSEs above 50% have not been published. Comprehensive information about RSEs can be found in the WRIS publication.

### Serious claims

The data included in this report from the NDS are workers' compensation claims classed as serious. Serious claims are those lodged in the reference year and accepted for compensation by the relevant jurisdiction and involve a death; a permanent incapacity; or a temporary incapacity with an absence from work of one working week or more. One working week is defined as being lost when the number of hours an employee was absent from work was equal to or greater than the number of hours they usually worked per week. Serious injuries in the WRIS are those that involved five or more days off work.

### Work-related Injuries Survey (WRIS)

The Australian Bureau of Statistics as part of its Multi-purpose Household survey collected data on work-related injuries from July 2005 to June 2006. Statistics from this topic were published in *Work-related Injuries* (Cat No. 6324.0). The publication presented information about persons aged 15 years or over who worked at some time in the last twelve months and experienced their most recent work-related injury or illness in that period.

## **Inquires**

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