

# Database of Workers' Compensation Claims Filed with the Social Security System, 1997- 2000

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### **Abstract**

Generally, the Philippine data on work-related injuries and illnesses are sourced from surveys and research of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE); this includes the Work Accident/Illness Report (WAIR) and Annual Medical Report (AMR) of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). The Bureau of Labor Employment Statistics (BLES) of DOLE provides the Integrated Survey on Occupational Injuries and Illnesses data (BITS).

In 2003, the joint Governing Board of the ECC and OSHC recognized the importance of analyzing the databases of claims approved by the GSIS and SSS for work-connected illnesses and injuries.

The present study provides an analysis of claims for work-related injuries and illnesses approved by the SSS for workers in the private sector from 1997-2000. The study is an integral part of medium-term efforts of the OSHC to establish, in cooperation with other stakeholders, a comprehensive OSH data base for policy formulation and program development purposes.

Out of a total of 45,146 claims the study only considered only 12,779 cases which had been approved for compensation by SSS during the period 1997-2000. In the absence of ICD-10 coding for 1997-2000 SSS records, information on diseases and illnesses were coded on the basis of the

International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10<sup>th</sup> Revision.

Taking 12,779 claims as the basis, 86.7% of claimants were male. A majority of claims were for injuries (92%) acquired while at work, while 8% were claimed for work-related illnesses. While the mean age of all claimants was 39 years, the mean age of claimants for compensation of work-related sickness was significantly higher with 49 years.

Young workers of below 24 years of age accounted for an insignificant share in claims for both illness and injury. The next age groups of 25-34 and 35-45 year olds accounted for a substantial 31.7% and 36% share of all approved claims. What stands out is a fairly high share of the young 25-34 age group in claims for injury.

Older workers of 55-64 accounted for only 7.3% of all claims but their health claims recorded a significant 22.2% share of all claims. On the other hand the share of older workers in claims for injury (5.9%) was only somewhat higher than that of young workers of 24 and below.

A little more than half of the workers originated from the manufacturing sector (56%), followed, as distant second and third, by workers from the construction industry (14%) and agriculture (8%).

Of the 1,070 claims for illness, 24% (or 257 cases) related to diseases of the genito-urinary system, followed by circulatory system illnesses 21% (222) and infectious/parasitic diseases at 17% (178).

Of the 11,709 compensated claims for injury, most frequently injured body parts most injured were the wrist and hand (1st), ankle and foot (2<sup>nd</sup>), and head (3rd). Claims for injury were primarily originating from workers in manufacturing, construction, agriculture, other community services and transportation.

The survey provided valuable information on injuries and illnesses in different sectors of industry and occupations. These data must of course be seen in relation of other databases generated by the social insurance system, and other sources on work-related injuries and illnesses like DOH, DOLE, professional associations and academe.

Generally, there is a need to improve occupational injury and disease surveillance and analysis by improving full compliance with established reporting systems and procedures. It is recommended that pro-active surveillance methods be explored and applied; compliance, by establishments, with established reporting procedures should be rigorously enforced and in case of failure, be adequately sanctioned.