



Workplace Injuries Predict Long-Term Income Loss

Economic consequences of workplace injuries in the United States: Findings from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth

Xiuwen Sue Dong, Xuanwen Wang, Julie A. Largay, and Rosemary Sokas. American Journal of Industrial Medicine, February 2016.

Overview

Researchers examined the impact of work-related injuries on workers' wage and salary income and family net worth using data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (1979 Cohort, N=12,686).

Key Findings

- American workers who incurred an occupational injury between 1988 and 2000 severe enough to cause days away from work lost an average \$3,715 (in 2000 dollars) in annual income growth during the ten years post-injury, when compared with their non-injured counterparts.
- For workers who reported an occupational injury, but one that did not cause days away from work, the average annual income loss was about \$1,200 per year (in 2000 dollars).
- Striking income inequities existed among race/ethnicity, gender, educational attainment, and occupations; work-related injuries significantly exacerbate income disparities.
- Lost wages and disability following injury contributed to income loss for injured workers, but the loss was moderated by union membership.
- The long-term impact from workplace injury on family net worth was not significant.
- These findings are of special concern for the construction industry, which suffers from both an above-average occupational injury rate and below-average wage growth.

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See abstract:

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