

White Construction Workers Injured on the Job Get Higher Comp Awards than Black, Latino Workers

Analysis of ethnic disparities in workers' compensation claims using data linkage

*Lee Friedman, Peter Ruestow and Linda Forst.
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Overview

Researchers from the University of Illinois – Chicago analyzed ethnic disparities in workers' compensation awards for construction workers injured on the job between 2000 and 2005. By linking the Illinois Trauma Registry (ITR), the Hospital Discharge database (HD), and the Illinois Workers Compensation Claims database (IWCC -C), researchers were able to control for injury severity, weekly wage, temporary or partial disability, attorney use, and other potential confounders. Even after controlling for these factors, non-Hispanic white construction workers in the data set were awarded larger monetary workers' compensation awards than their Black and Latino counterparts with similar injuries.

Key Findings

- White, non-Hispanic construction workers in the sample received an average (mean) workers' compensation award of \$60,431, about 25% higher than their white Hispanic (\$48,519) and Black (\$47,935) counterparts.
- White, non-Hispanic construction workers in the sample received an average (median) workers' compensation award of \$33,056, 22% higher than white Hispanic (\$27,121) workers and 25% higher than Black (\$26,385) workers.
- After controlling for injury severity, type of injury, weeks of disability, and other potential confounding factors, non-Hispanic whites claiming workers' compensation after an occupational injury in construction received a median monetary award \$5,824 greater than similarly placed workers from other ethnic groups.

For more information, contact:

Lee Friedman: lfried1@uic.edu

See abstract:

<http://bit.ly/1s6mb86>

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