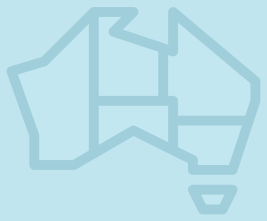


Secondary psychological injury in workers' compensation schemes

Recent studies show that **secondary psychological injury** is pervasive in workers with physical injury claims, but is **not** often identified or **treated**.

In a recent **COMPARE** project study of

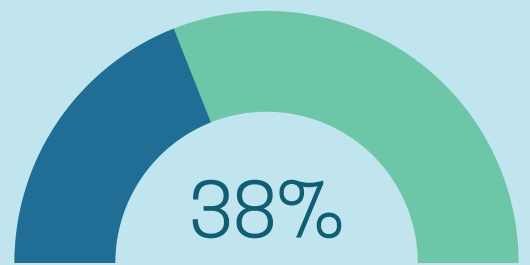


AUSSIE WORKERS

3755



it was reported that

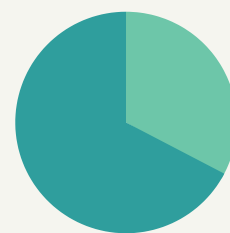


of workers with **musculoskeletal disorder (MSD)** claims reported **moderate** or **severe** psychological distress

with accepted workers' compensation claims

In this group **mental health** service use in the previous **twelve months** was low.

Severe distress
67.4%



Moderate distress
32.6%

The proportion of injured workers with severe psychological distress was **more than**

3x

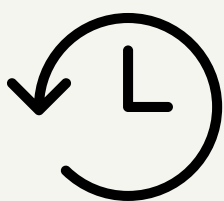
the national average for working age Australians.

GLOBALLY, OTHER STUDIES OF WORKERS WITH MSD CLAIMS REPORTED SIMILAR RESULTS.

- 50.3%** report depressive symptoms
- 29.4%** meet criteria for serious mental illness
- 33%** higher odds of developing depression than workers not making workers' compensation claims
- 24%** with persistently high depressive symptoms report receiving mental health treatment



Evidence suggests that **risk factors** for **secondary psychological injury** include;



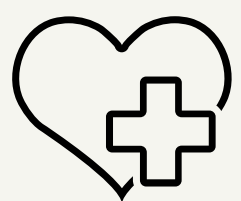
History of mental health problems



Low work ability



Financial stress



Poor general health



There is opportunity to improve..

Multiple studies have observed that **negative** case manager interactions and perceptions of **unfair** claims processes are strong predictors of **subsequent mental health** problems in injured workers.



Mental health **screening** and service delivery in workers' compensation systems.



Improving **fairness** and **communication** in claims processes may reduce the prevalence of secondary psychological injury.

