

# The High Cost of MSDs

Industrial employers spend more on musculoskeletal disorders (MSD) than on any other employee illness or chronic disease, including diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular disease and respiratory illnesses.



**50% of all**  
**AMERICAN ADULTS** have an MSD

**18% of all**  
**HEALTHCARE VISITS** are for MSDs

**\$29,000 – \$32,000**

**PER YEAR**

Workers' Compensation claims per MSD injury <sup>6</sup>

**\$1 OF EVERY \$3**

Worker's Compensation costs are spent on occupational MSDs



**Miss 4.3x More**  
**WORK DAYS**

Employees with a MSD miss 4.3X more work days than people without

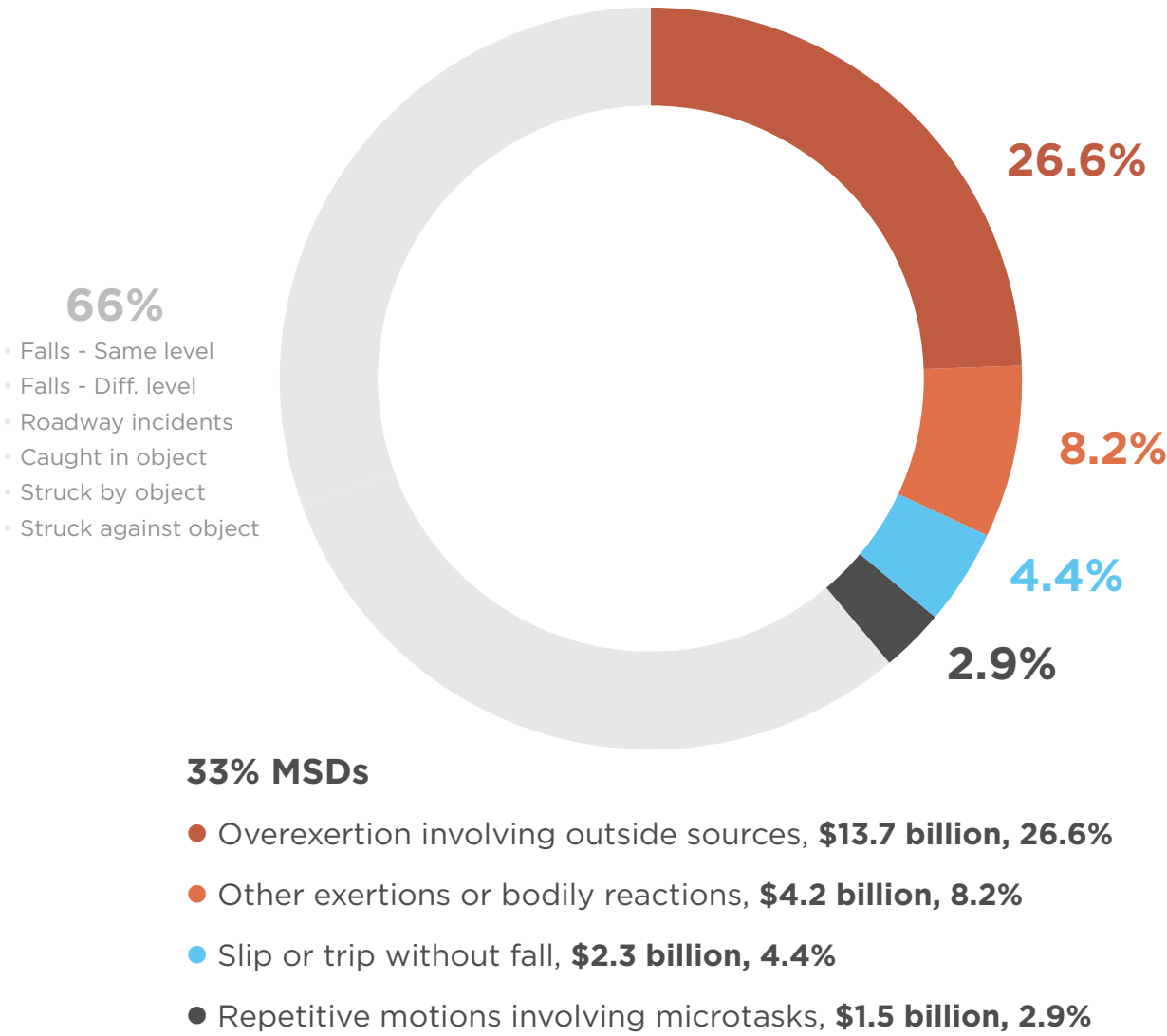
**11 days vs 8 days** **MEDIAN**

MSD injuries required more time off the job than those with other types of workplace injuries and illnesses

**4 out of Top 10**

**Cost of the Top 10 injuries - \$51.4B**

4 of the Top 10 injuries were MSD related, making up 33% of the cost.



**70 Million Office Visits**

Physician office visits annually accounted by MSDs, and 130 million total health care encounters

(outpatient, hospital, and emergency room visits) <sup>3</sup>

**2.6x More Common**

MSDs were 2.6x more common in transportation and warehousing than the national average across all industries



**More than 68% say their job caused or exacerbated their MSD <sup>4</sup>**



**\$8M More in Sales Needed**

Companies need to generate an additional \$8 million dollars in sales to make up for \$260,000 in costs related to MSDs.<sup>5</sup>

## Real Workplace Situation

Sageworks found the avg net profit margin of general freight companies was 6%, meaning fleet owners with \$3M in annual injury costs need additional \$60M in sales to recoup that lost profit.

**Companies implementing effective injury prevention programs, like Healthy Roster, significantly reduce incidents and the associated costs, including Workers' Comp payments, medical expenses, and legal claims.** In addition, employers find these process changes may result in improvements in productivity, increases in employee satisfaction and retention, as well as significant boosts in profitability.

<sup>[1]</sup> Source: US Bone and Joint Initiative, March 2, 2016; <https://www.usbji.org/news/releases/one-two-americans-have-musculoskeletal-condition-costing-estimated-213-billion-each>

<sup>[2]</sup> Top 10 Causes of the Most Disabling Workplace Injuries <https://www.safetynewsalert.com/top-10-causes-of-the-most-disabling-workplace-injuries-2/>

<sup>[3]</sup> National Research Council and the Institute of Medicine <https://www.nap.edu/read/10032/chapter/1>

<sup>[4]</sup> According to a survey of 2,000 workers by Willis Towers Watson

<sup>[5]</sup> Estimated Costs of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses and Estimated Impact on a Company's Profitability Worksheet <https://www.osha.gov/safetypays/estimator>

<sup>[6]</sup> Cost of Injury <https://soundergonomics.com/useful-links/cost-of-injury/>