

Post-Injury Wage Loss: A Quasi-Experimental Design

Work-related injuries can have significant monetary and social impacts on a worker's life. Although most research focuses on the direct medical costs of injuries, we propose that it is also important to analyze the effect injuries have on the potential loss of future wages by job type. This project will use a combination of low-cost administrative databases, including a file of workers' compensation claimants, to examine how injuries vary in lost wages by occupation and industry. It will then be determined which occupations are most in danger of an injury that results in a large loss of earnings. Because mining and construction are important industries in Wyoming and several other Western states in terms of employment, this analysis will focus on occupations found in those industries. The results of this research can then be translated into a surveillance and prevention strategy that directs training at the workers who are most at risk for high-cost injuries.