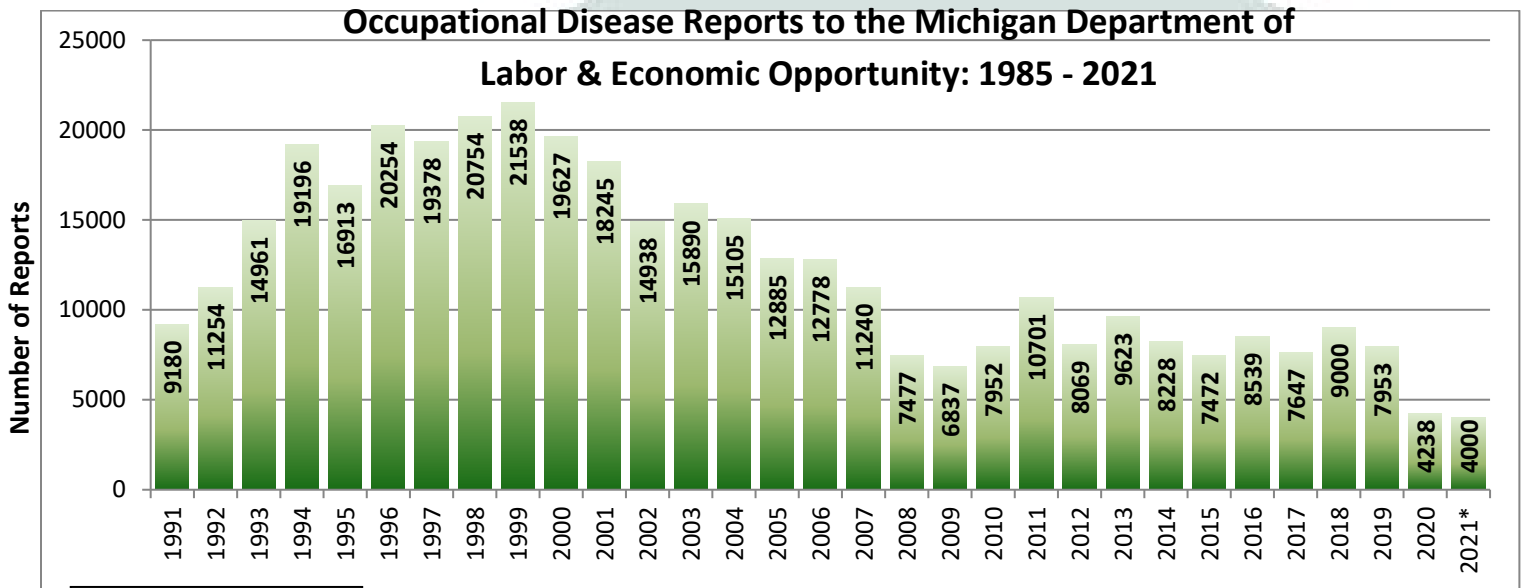


# Tracking Work-Related Diseases in Michigan

Additional Information Available at: [www.oem.msu.edu](http://www.oem.msu.edu)

## Summary Statistics



\*Data is provisional.

The above figure shows the number of occupational diseases reported by doctors, clinics, hospitals and employers; there were an estimated 4,000 reported cases for 2021 to the MI Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (data is preliminary).

According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics survey of employers there were 34,700 non-fatal occupational diseases including COVID-19 and 72,700 injuries in Michigan in 2020, of which 69,800 involved days away from work, job transfer or restriction (most recent survey year available).

In 2020, the Workers' Disability Compensation Agency reported 17,452 newly paid claims for lost work time over seven days. Adding individuals still being paid for in prior years, a total of 145,082 people received a workers' compensation payment in 2020. Total payout in workers' compensation benefits and medical care in 2019 was just under \$800 million.

There is overlap in the three reporting systems but because of confidentiality restrictions, the amount of overlap cannot be determined.

## Background

In 1988 Michigan instituted a tracking program for work-related diseases with financial assistance from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. This is a joint project of the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Michigan State University Department of Medicine. The mandatory reporting of patients with work-related diseases provides data to identify trends across industries and within occupations, and direct prevention and intervention programs to help other workers from getting sick from exposures in their jobs.

### MICHIGAN LAW REQUIRES THE REPORTING OF KNOWN OR SUSPECTED OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES

Reporting can be done by:

#### WEB

[www.oem.msu.edu](http://www.oem.msu.edu)

#### E-MAIL

[ODREPORT@msu.edu](mailto:ODREPORT@msu.edu)

#### FAX

(517) 432-3606

#### TELEPHONE

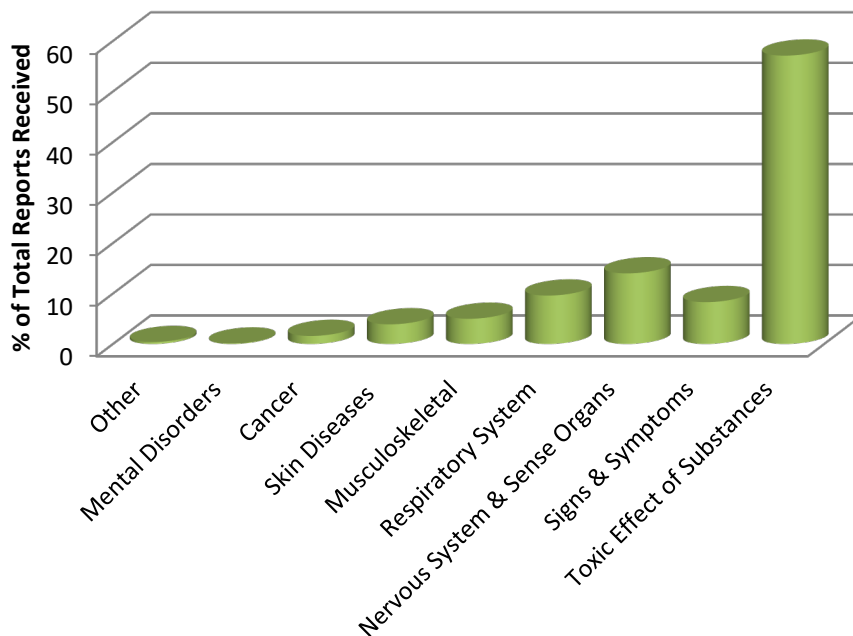
1-800-446-7805

#### MAIL

Michigan Occupational Safety & Health Administration (MIOSHA)  
Technical Services Division  
P.O. Box 30649 Lansing, MI  
48909-8149

January 10, 2022

## Occupational Diseases: 2020



**RAYNAUD'S DISEASE FROM WORK IN THE FROZEN GOODS DEPARTMENT AT A SUPERMARKET.**

## Program Highlights

- In 2020, 40% of the occupational disease reports sent to the state were from employers or their contracted medical clinics. The other 60% were reported from non-company health care professionals. In 2019 the percentages were reversed; the percentages shifted in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic with the larger companies with medical departments shutting down for significant periods of time.
- The most frequently reported occupational disease types are: poisonings, especially lead poisoning, noise-induced hearing loss, respiratory diseases, and musculoskeletal diseases from repetitive motion.
- Less than 1% of all hospitalizations in Michigan are paid for by Workers' Compensation each year.
- Seventy-three percent of the occupational disease reports are for men.

## Comparison of Workers' Compensation Claims

	Workers' Compensation	OD Reports
	Year Reported	
<b>Disease Category</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2020</b>
Skin Disease	0.1	4.8
Dust Disease of Lung	0	6.7
Respiratory Due to Toxic Agents	47.7	17.9
Poisoning	<0.1	39.5
Disorders Due to Physical Agents	0.1	2.1
Repetitive Trauma Conditions	47.4	6.4
All Other Occupational Illnesses	4.6	22.8

This table illustrates how the category of disease will vary by data source and the importance of having a tracking system that is not dependent on a single source. The "respiratory due to toxic agents" category includes 5,930 COVID-19 cases in WC, resulting in a much higher percentage for this category than usual.

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