

2025 YEAR-END UPDATE

2023-2028 Fatalities and Serious Injuries STRATEGY



WorkSafeTM
S A S K A T C H E W A N

Work to live.



Work to live.

WorkSafe Saskatchewan is an injury prevention and workplace safety partnership between the Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) and the Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety. Through the partnership, both agencies offer programs and support that help employers and workers develop workplace safety and health programs.

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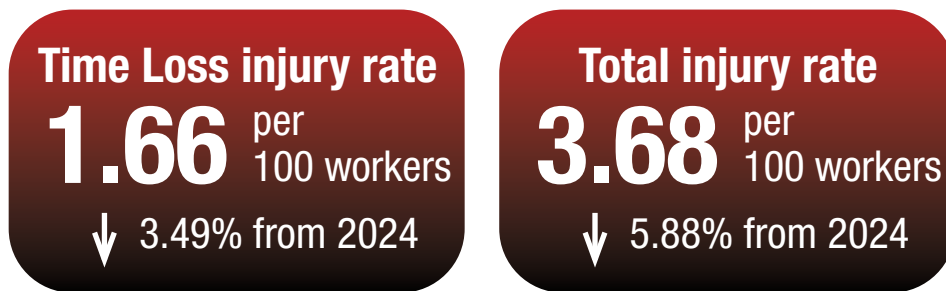
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Introduction

The WorkSafe Saskatchewan steering committee would like to thank all of the participants, labour, partners and safety leaders across Saskatchewan who are working with WorkSafe to advance the objectives of the 2023-2028 Fatalities and Serious Injuries Strategy.

Thanks to efforts by workers, employers and safety leaders across the province:



Our 2025 Total injury rate and Time Loss injury rate were the lowest in the province's recorded history. In 2025, 89 per cent of Saskatchewan workplaces reported zero fatalities and zero injuries.

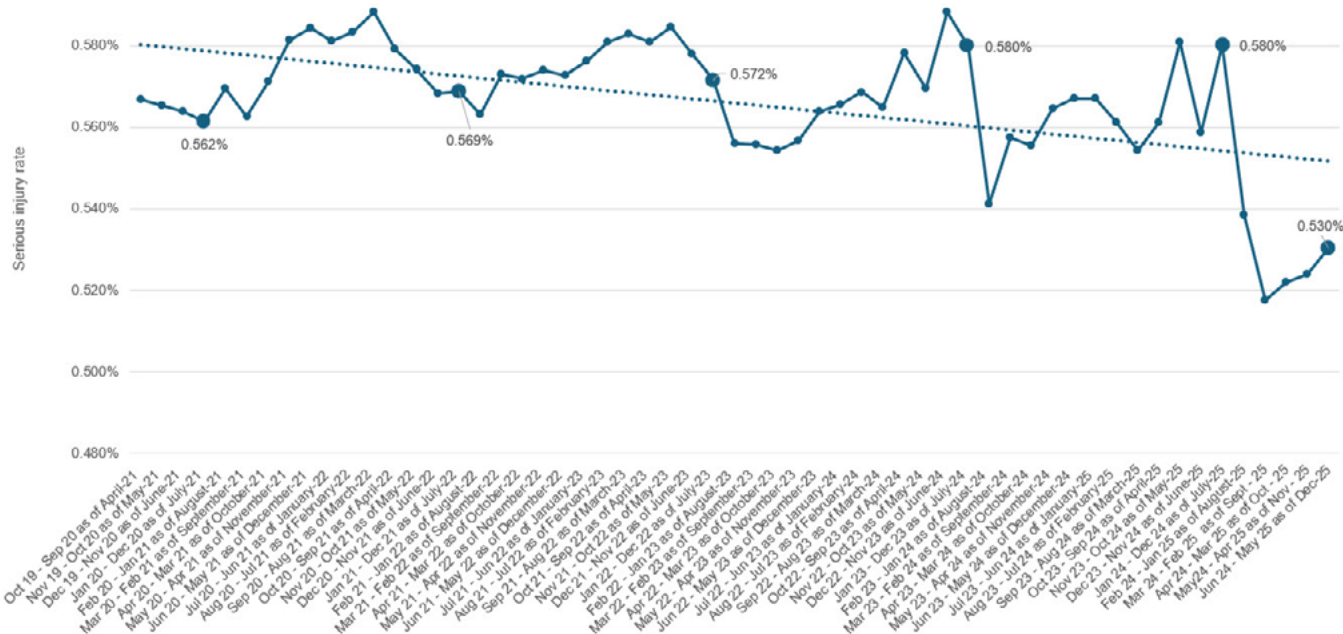
However, 27 workers lost their lives due to workplace injury or illness in 2025, unchanged from 2024. Likewise, the number of serious injury claims in Saskatchewan remains steady at approximately 2,500 each year.

Serious injuries account for approximately **11 to 15 per cent** of total claims in the province, but account for roughly **80 per cent** of the costs in Saskatchewan's workers' compensation system each year.

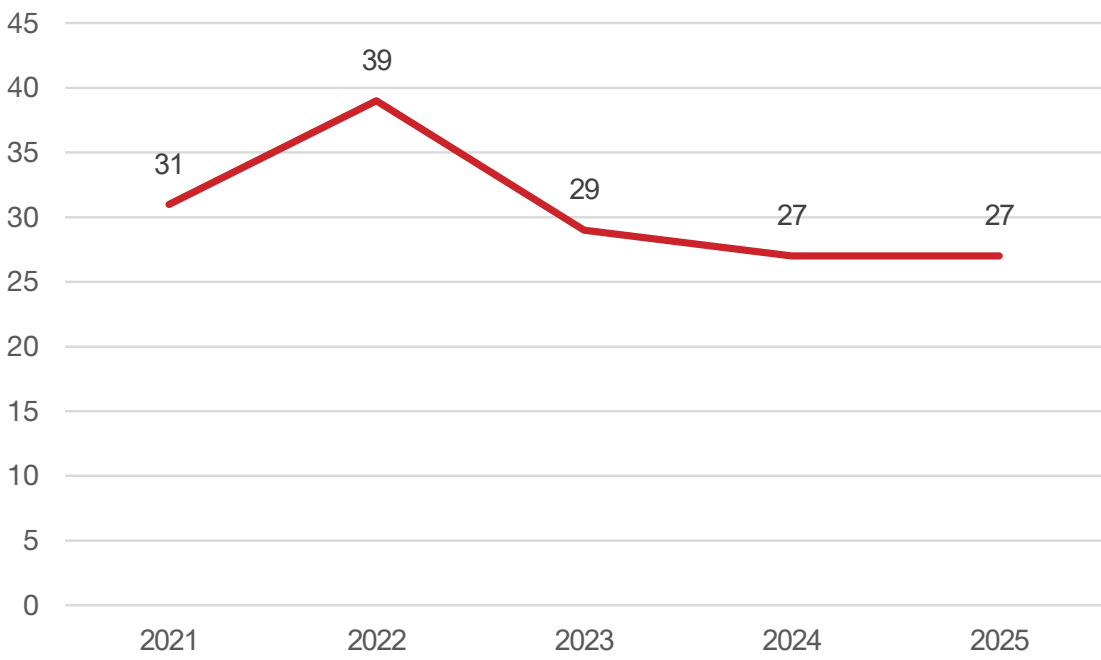
This report outlines the progress we have collectively made to bring our injury and fatality rates down and keep all workers safe on the job.

Serious injuries and fatalities

12-month rolling serious injury rate



Fatalities by claim registration year



Three main workplace sectors and areas of focus

The WCB and WorkSafe continue to prioritize fatality prevention under the 2023-2028 Fatalities and Serious Injuries Strategy, with targeted outreach in the sectors where fatalities most commonly occur.

Health care



Objective: Reduce serious injuries in the Saskatchewan health-care sector by 10 per cent by Dec. 31, 2028.

Since 2019, when WorkSafe launched the first three-year fatalities and serious injuries strategy, there have been some indicators of progress. In 2019, 12.52 per cent of full-time equivalent workers were in the health-care sector, which accounted for 23.27 per cent of all serious injuries. In 2024, while the percentage of health-care workers remained steady at 12.51 per cent, the percentage of serious injuries in health care decreased slightly to 22.78 per cent.

WorkSafe engaged four new health-care facilities to participate in the priority employer program. Seven health-care employers outside of the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) also participated in the priority employer program. Six of these employers graduated from the program before the end of 2025.

Transportation



Objective: Reduce serious injuries by 10 per cent in Saskatchewan's transportation sector by Dec. 31, 2028.

In transportation, in 2019, 2.6 per cent of all workers were in transportation, which accounted for 6.84 per cent of all serious injuries. In 2024, while transportation increased to 2.82 per cent of full-time equivalent workers, the percentage of serious injuries decreased to 6.16 per cent.

Motor vehicle collisions increased by 17 per cent to 559 in 2025 from 470 in 2024.

WorkSafe continued to work with industry to promote and evaluate the driver safety assessment as well as identify high energy hazards and opportunities to implement effective controls to eliminate these hazards. WorkSafe partnered to support a provincial worker fatigue and lifestyle survey to establish a baseline for employers to evaluate their internal risk of fatigue. WorkSafe will share results in 2026.

Construction



Objective: Reduce injuries due to falls by 30 per cent in Saskatchewan's construction industry by Dec. 31, 2028.

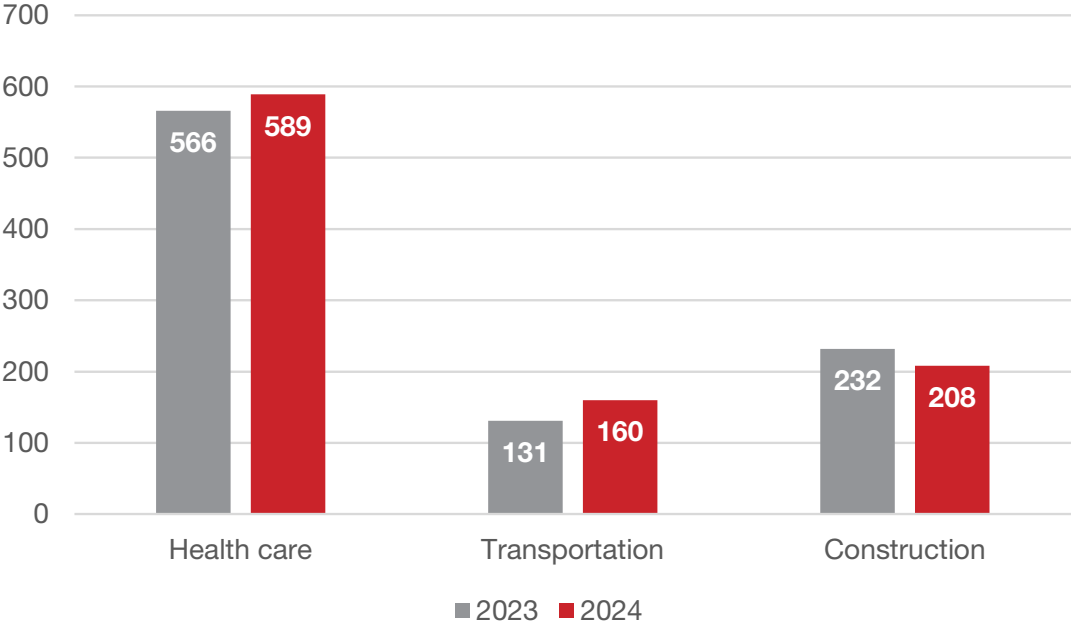
In construction, while it represented 5.90 per cent of all workers in 2019, it accounted for 8.99 per cent of all serious injuries. In 2024, the percentage of full-time equivalent workers increased to 6.30 per cent while the percentage of serious injuries from the total serious injuries decreased to 8.00 per cent.

Progress was made with the learning collaborative focus on preventing falls from ladders by developing a ladder assessment tool in partnership with the Saskatchewan Construction Safety Association (SCSA) and industry experts. The objective was to increase awareness of ladder-related risks, promote consistent pre-use inspections, enable proactive hazard identification and implement controls to address the direct and indirect causes of injury.

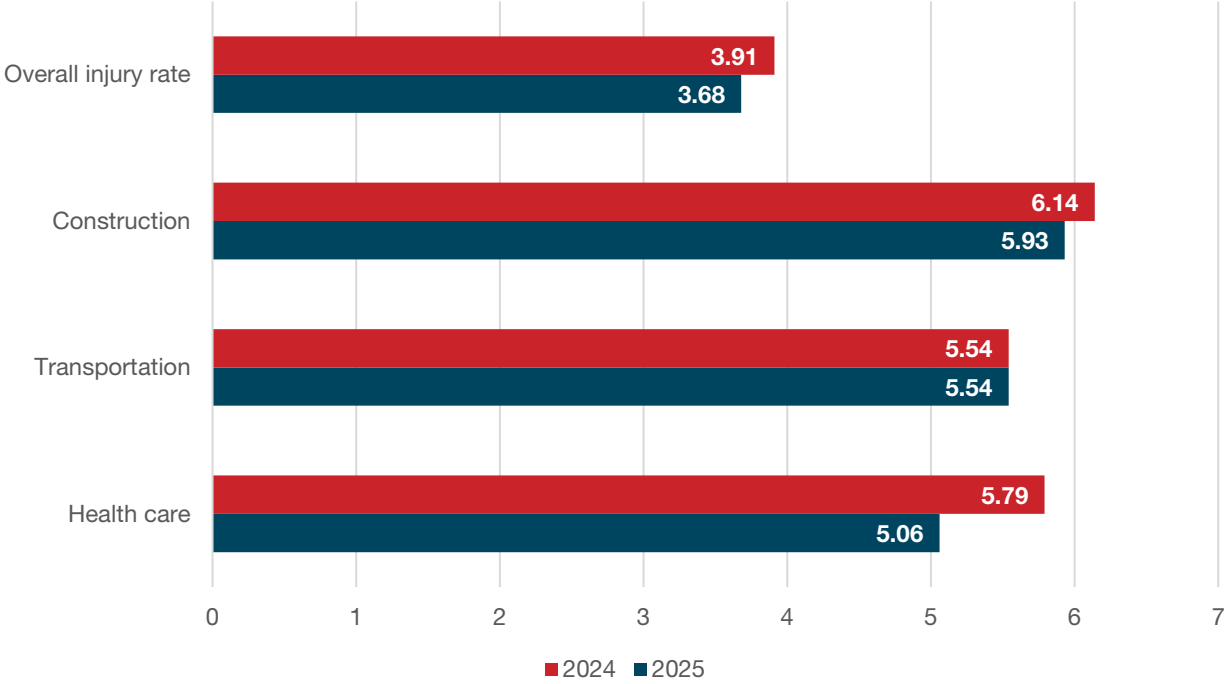
Three main workplace sectors and focus

In 2025, two of the three sectors showed improvement in their injury rates. Health care's Total injury rate declined 12.6 per cent, construction declined three per cent and transportation remained at 5.5 per cent.

Serious injury counts¹ by high-risk sector



Total injury rates by high-risk sector (per 100 workers)



¹ We report serious injuries on a one-year lag because claims need time to mature into serious injuries.

Common issues affecting most Saskatchewan workplaces

Despite the unique risks and hazards present across different rate codes, many of the root causes contributing to serious injuries and fatalities in Saskatchewan workplaces are strikingly similar. These issues represent persistent barriers to making Saskatchewan workplaces safer.

Common issues affecting most Saskatchewan workplaces

2025 update

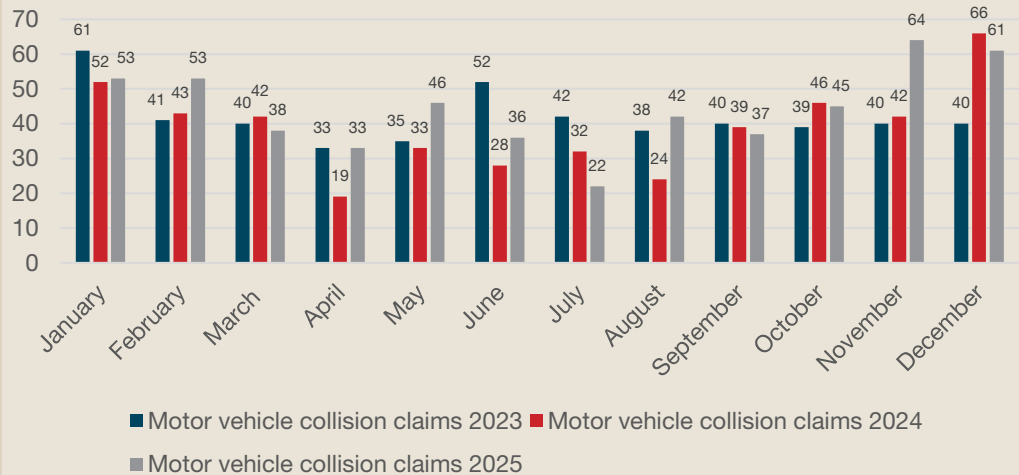


Motor vehicle collisions

2025 update: There were 559 motor vehicle collisions in 2025, an increase of 17 per cent from 2024.

The learning collaborative selected a driving risk assessment to experiment with four employers in transportation. This assessment helps identify an individual's strengths and workplace-relevant areas of risk so the implementation of specific controls, including individualized training, can reduce the risk of a motor vehicle collision.

Motor vehicle collision claims



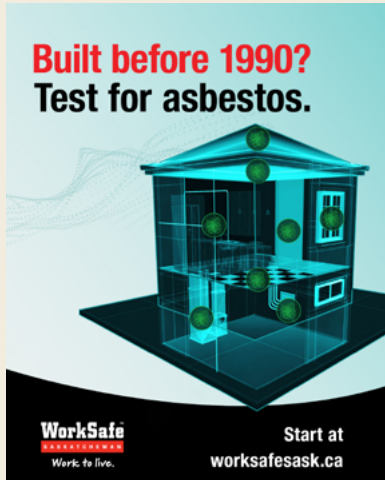
Upcoming work: Continue to assess the effectiveness of the driver safety assessment, customized training, safe driving habits and monitor the results.



Asbestos

2025 update: In 2025, eight fatalities were from asbestos exposure.

Recognizing that asbestos remains the leading cause of occupational death in the province, WorkSafe ran an asbestos educational marketing campaign aiming to reduce and eventually eliminate work-related fatalities caused by asbestos exposure. The campaign sought to shift the public's perception of asbestos from a historic concern to a present-day hazard. By highlighting that asbestos-related lung diseases are entirely preventable through proper identification and handling, the initiative strives to foster a proactive "culture of safety" where testing becomes a standard preliminary step for any project.



The occupational health and safety for asbestos workers training standard outlines the minimum training requirements necessary for the WCB to approve a training provider’s program. WorkSafe has approved three training providers that meet the requirements of the standard. In 2025, the program held five training sessions and trained 46 workers.

Please visit worksafesask.ca/asbestos for free resources and training on asbestos awareness.

In 2025, the Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety’s Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) branch received 501 high-risk asbestos notifications and completed 170 asbestos-related worksite visits, issuing 58 contraventions. The top six contraventions issued on asbestos-related worksite visits were:

Regulation number	Description	Total
OHS Reg 23-5	Identification of asbestos-containing materials	9
OHS Reg 23-8	Asbestos processes	6
OHS Reg 21-1	General duties of employers	6
OHS Reg 7-3	Respiratory protective devices	5
OHS Reg 22-13	Availability of asbestos-containing materials	3
OHS Reg 23-6	Labelling, placarding, etc.	3

Upcoming work: WorkSafe will continue to promote the asbestos training standard to training providers across the province and ensure that employers provide workers with high-quality, consistent safety and health training about asbestos exposure.

WorkSafe will also continue to run an educational marketing campaign in 2026.



2025 update: There were 170 falls from ladders in 2025 (57 were designated as serious injuries). Of these, 61 were in the construction industry (26 were designated as serious injuries).

The learning collaborative, led by industry and safety association participants, implemented a ladder assessment tool. Sixty-five construction companies completed the tool on more than 200 ladders. The results showed improved awareness, which led to better inspections and more peer discussions about ladder safety.

The ladder assessment tool increases awareness of pre-job planning to ensure that workers choose a ladder that fits the task at hand, secure and stabilize the ladder before work begins and use the ladder properly. The learning collaborative expects improvements in ladder selection, use and maintenance, as well as an overall reduction in incidents and injuries.

In 2025, the OHS branch completed 1,255 worksite visits in the construction industry, issuing 1,105 contraventions and wrote 28 summary offence tickets in the construction sector (B11, B12 and B13 rate codes).

The top five contraventions issued were:

Regulation number	Description	Total
OHS Reg 9-2	Protective against falling	246
OHS Reg 7-6	Protective headwear	194
OHS Reg 9-3	Fall protection plan	80
OHS Reg 7-11	Footwear	58
OHS Reg 3-6	Supervision of work	53

The OHS branch also completed 620 worksite visits to residential construction (B12) employer locations, issuing 661 contraventions to these employers. The top five contraventions issued were:

Regulation number	Description	Total
OHS Reg 9-2	Protective against falling	146
OHS Reg 7-6	Protective headwear	132
OHS Reg 12-25	Aerial devices and elevating work platforms	46
OHS Reg 9-3	Fall protection plan	45
OHS Reg 3-6	Supervision of work	35

Outside of the construction sector, the OHS branch also issued an additional 104 contraventions for Reg 9-2 and additional 36 contraventions for Reg 9-3.

Upcoming work: The learning collaborative team will review assessment tool feedback and data, and determine additional countermeasures to enhance awareness of the injury trend, and how to prevent fall-from-ladder injuries.

WorkSafe will conduct a ladder safety and fall protection marketing campaign in the first six months of 2026.



Industrial ergonomics (Musculoskeletal injuries)

2025 update: Musculoskeletal injuries continue to be the number one cause of serious injuries in Saskatchewan.

The WCB’s research project with the University of Moncton, the University of New Brunswick and the University of Saskatchewan has concluded. The research study aimed to measure the physical demands of health-care providers working in long-term care. The deliverable report will help guide the development of new interventions and strategies to reduce musculoskeletal injury risks.

The WCB and the Saskatchewan Association for Safe Workplaces in Health continue to lead a learning collaborative to support safety solutions that reduce the risk of musculoskeletal injury in Saskatchewan.

Research supports the use of an automated patient turning system. System partners will continue to take action to implement a technological solution that will support injury reduction in health care.

In 2025, the OHS branch completed 775 worksite visits relating to ergonomics, issuing 239 contraventions. The top five contraventions issued were:

Regulation number	Description	Total
OHS Reg 4-4	Frequency of meetings	28
Act 3-22	Establishment of committees	23
OHS Reg 6-18	Musculoskeletal injuries	22
OHS Reg 4-9	Training of representatives, committee members	15
OHS Reg 4-5	Minutes	13

Upcoming work: WorkSafe will continue to strengthen relationships to support safety in the health-care sector and support the implementation of countermeasures to reduce musculoskeletal injuries.

The WCB will progress the work of the mechanical turning system collaborative with the goal of bringing this technology into Saskatchewan in 2026/2027.

WorkSafe is developing a health-care ergonomics campaign slated to begin in 2026.



Machinery

2025 update: The WCB continues to support employers with education and resources on guarding scale assessments.

The guard safety scale is a comprehensive tool that measures compliance with CSA standard Z432-16 and evaluates the effectiveness of machine guarding systems. When applied properly, it helps ensure guards and barriers are designed and adjusted to protect workers from accidental contact with mechanical hazards. For more information, visit worksafesask.ca/prevention/safeguarding-machinery-and-equipment.

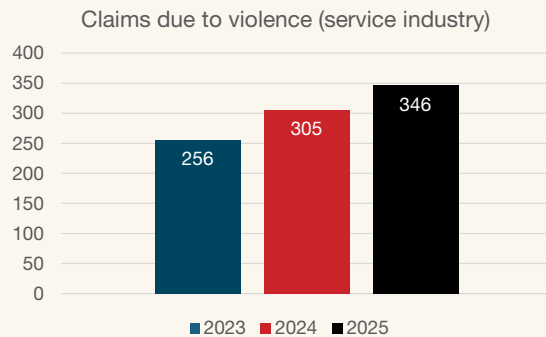
In 2025, the OHS branch issued 148 contraventions on safeguards (regulation 10-4), making it the fifth most common contravention issued.

Upcoming work: WorkSafe will look to start a learning collaborative to address injuries caused by contact with machinery in 2026.



Violence

2025 update: Within the service industry, claims due to violence in 2025 have increased 30 per cent from 2023.



WorkSafe facilitates a learning collaborative with a focus on reducing injuries relating to interventions and improving safety for workers in community living facilities. Employers participated in a root cause analysis session in June 2025 to identify causes of injuries due to violence and determine areas to implement safety solutions. The learning collaborative will implement safety solutions in 2026 and establish metrics to monitor progress and assess the impact of these changes.

WorkSafe is a member of the violence prevention advisory group to support the SHA in rolling out their violence prevention program over the next two to three years.

Provincial transit operations also partnered with WorkSafe to support a violence prevention public awareness campaign in October 2025.

In 2025, the OHS branch completed 1,015 worksite visits where staff discussed violence policy and issued 195 contraventions.

The only two contraventions issued were:

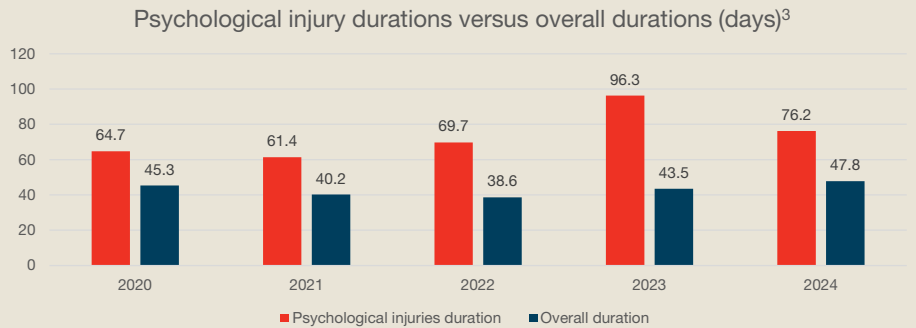
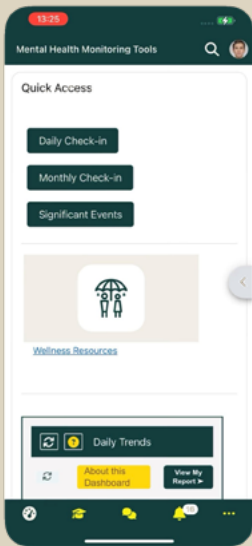
Regulation number	Description	Total
Act 3-21	Duty re policy statement on violence and prevention plan	126
OHS Reg 3-26	Violence Policy	69

Upcoming work: WorkSafe will launch a campaign in the first half of 2026 aimed at reducing violence in health care.



Psychological health

2025 update: Psychological injury claims have increased since 2021 and are expected to continue to rise. The number of accepted claims for primary psychological injuries in 2025 was 28 per cent higher than in 2021. The total number of claims submitted has also increased by 31 per cent between 2021 and 2025. In addition, psychological injury claim durations are higher than overall claim durations.



Several first responder organizations across Saskatchewan are currently implementing the psychological health monitoring app through a partnership with Dr. R. Nicholas Carleton, lead researcher of the Psychological Trauma and Stress Systems Lab.

The app provides a system that offers near real-time supports to help manage occupational stress and psychological health challenges. The Psychological Trauma and Stress Systems Lab and WorkSafe invite and encourage Saskatchewan organizations to invest in this homegrown solution for protecting the psychological health and well-being of public safety personnel.

The WCB launched its new psychological health and safety consulting model for employers to support the integration of psychological safety within their existing safety management system. Work is ongoing to reach employers and provide support and resources that integrate psychological health and safety into existing safety management systems.

WorkSafe continues to facilitate a psychological health and safety community of practice for first responders on a quarterly basis with a goal of sharing best practices that leaders and communities need to prevent psychological injuries.

WorkSafe also facilitates a psychological health and safety community of practice for all industries on a quarterly basis.

Upcoming work: WorkSafe will continue implementing the self-monitoring app with interested parties in 2026 and will assess it for effectiveness.

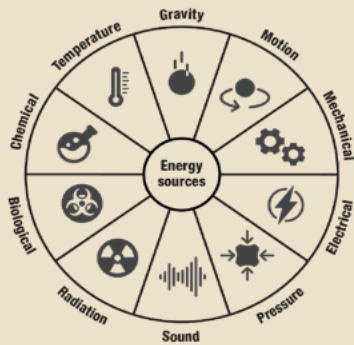
WorkSafe will continue to facilitate quarterly community of practice meetings for first responders and all industries. For more information, visit worksafesask.ca/resources/worksafe-saskatchewans-communities-of-practice.

³The relatively small number of psychological injuries means that durations can be volatile and affected by longer periods of disability on only a few claims. Psychological and other serious injuries have a much higher likelihood of resulting in long periods of time loss than the majority of cases and have a disproportionate impact on the overall duration of claims.

Initiatives

WorkSafe continues to advance the work of programs and processes to support the 2023-2028 Fatalities and Serious Injuries Strategy.

WorkSafe initiatives	2025 update
<p data-bbox="334 569 557 638">New worker injury prevention</p> <div data-bbox="168 709 496 863"><p>OVER 17% UNDER AGE 25</p></div> <div data-bbox="168 930 496 1083"><p>6 WITHIN THE FIRST MONTHS ON THE JOB</p></div> <div data-bbox="168 1150 496 1304"><p>RECENT IMMIGRANTS 1.6x MORE LIKELY</p></div>	<p data-bbox="618 569 1510 699">WorkSafe is developing a new worker and young worker injury prevention program. The need is significant as new and young workers in Saskatchewan are nearly twice as likely to experience injuries on the job, even after considering job type.</p> <p data-bbox="618 720 1487 850">In 2025, 15.8 per cent of all workplace injuries in Saskatchewan involved workers under 25. That amounted to 2,758 injuries among workers aged 15 to 24, meaning young workers accounted for slightly less than one in six injuries in the province.</p> <p data-bbox="618 871 1507 1001">Risk is also highest in a worker’s first six months on the job. Workers with less experience, and those in sectors with high turnover or precarious employment, face greater risk because they are more likely to be new to their role or workplace.</p> <p data-bbox="618 1022 1490 1152">Recent immigrant workers are also more vulnerable. Research shows that they are 1.6 times more likely than Canadian-born workers to face occupational health and safety vulnerability, including exposures to hazards without adequate protection.</p> <p data-bbox="618 1173 1390 1199">To address these risks, WorkSafe is exploring action in three areas:</p> <ol data-bbox="618 1209 1490 1419" style="list-style-type: none">1. targeted outreach for workers new to Saskatchewan workplaces,2. creating new education, tools and resources for employers and supervisors in sectors that frequently hire new workers, and3. assessment of workplace vulnerability factors such as hazards, policies and procedures, safety awareness and worker confidence in speaking up.
<p data-bbox="334 1484 550 1596">Serious incident and fatality prevention model</p>	<p data-bbox="618 1484 1507 1719">In partnership with the National Safety Council and local industry partners, the WCB completed the development of a serious incident and fatality prevention model. The model is a framework to identify, understand and manage complex risks that can cause life-altering harm. While traditional safety programs focus on reducing all injuries, this model focuses on severity potential. In this way, it helps workplaces prevent the incidents most likely to cause death or serious injury.</p> <p data-bbox="618 1740 1479 1835">WorkSafe’s serious incident and fatality prevention model blends the plan-do-check-act framework with human and organizational performance principles. It helps organizations understand where their most serious risks</p>



exist, verify that controls work and continuously learn from what happens at work.

WorkSafe has piloted the model with one large employer and is looking for additional employers that are interested in a partnership to implement the model in 2026. Learn more about the model at worksafesask.ca/serious-incident-and-fatality-prevention-model.

Approved training provider program

The approved training provider program has added several new training providers to expand access for employers to these courses. There are now seven training providers approved to deliver OHC Level 1 training, seven approved for OHC Level 2 training, five approved to deliver Supervision and Safety training and three approved to deliver occupational health and safety for asbestos workers. In 2025, approved training providers issued 915 training certificates.



Priority employer program

The priority employer program supports employers with higher injury rates and a high number of serious injury claims.

In 2025, an independent review by Dr. Sean Tucker found firms participating in the program had lower injury rates than comparable firms not in the program. The evaluation identified a 2.5 percentage-point difference in Time Loss injury rates and a 0.49 percentage-point difference in serious injury rates, reinforcing the program's value in improving safety outcomes among higher-risk employers.

In 2025, WorkSafe supported 66 employers through the program. A total of 15 employers graduated after completing most of their action plans and achieving an average 35 per cent reduction in serious injuries from their initial baseline.

WorkSafe plans to implement recommendations to improve the program in 2026.

Learning
collaboratives

WorkSafe advanced several learning collaboratives and industry partnerships in 2025 to help reduce serious injuries and improve worker well-being across Saskatchewan.

In health care, two long-term care facilities reduced musculoskeletal injuries by replacing cloth soaker pads with safer repositioning products. WorkSafe hopes to expand to additional sites and continue to focus on reducing musculoskeletal injuries.

In construction, a new ladder assessment tool improved hazard awareness and inspection practices. In transportation, collaboration with industry led to the implementation of driver safety assessments and helped identify high-energy hazards.

In 2025, organizations advanced psychological supports for first responders by launching an evidence-based psychological health screening application and implementing it across the province.

WorkSafe also supported violence prevention efforts in provincial transit systems through a public awareness campaign and recommendations to improve operator safety.

Other collaboratives in construction and mining, community living and return to work also advanced evidence-based prevention.

A pilot in construction and mining introduced a risk-focused safety model supported by microlearning modules. The microlearning modules can be found at worksafesask.ca/education/training.

The community living collaborative continued to address injuries related to interventions in group homes.

Return-to-work efforts helped employers identify avoidable work disability through job demand analyses and job banks that support health recovery at work.

A province-wide work zone safety campaign, developed with safety associations, Crown corporations and government agencies, also helped raise awareness of roadwork risks throughout the construction season.

Together, these initiatives strengthened prevention efforts and supported safer workplaces across Saskatchewan.

Performance measures and targets

Twice a year, WorkSafe Saskatchewan will report publicly on the success of the strategy by posting information at worksafesask.ca.

“Although workplace injuries and fatalities in Saskatchewan are declining, each loss has a profound impact on families, workplaces and communities,” said the WCB’s CEO Phillip Germain. “That reality reinforces the need to keep working toward safer workplaces for every Saskatchewan worker.”

Performance measure	2025 update
Decrease in Total injury rate	The 2025 Total injury rate decreased by 5.88 per cent to 3.68 per 100 workers from 3.91 per 100 workers in 2024, setting a new provincial low for the fourth consecutive year.
Decrease in Time Loss injury rate	In 2025, the Time Loss injury rate dropped by 3.49 per cent to 1.66 per 100 workers from 1.72 per 100 workers in 2024.
Decrease in fatalities	Every workplace fatality is a tragedy. In 2025, 27 workers lost their lives due to workplace injury or illness (the same number as 2024). While the long-term trend is declining, each death reinforces the urgency of prevention.
Decrease in serious injuries	In 2025, the WCB’s prevention department conducted 334 consulting engagements with a focus on reducing serious incidents and fatalities. The WCB provided 19 presentations on the identification and control of high-energy hazards and assisted customers with effective implementation of 265 controls in the field.
Ongoing inspections and risk-based enforcement actions in high-risk sectors	<p>WorkSafe continued working with priority employers who were identified based on their injury profile. Priority employers receive increased focus from the ministry’s OHS branch, the WCB and, if applicable, their funded safety associations to assess their safety systems, receive training and improve their safety performance.</p> <p>In 2025, 66 employers participated in the priority employer program, which included 163 priority employer meetings.</p> <p>In addition to working with the WCB through the WorkSafe partnership to administer the priority employer program, the ministry’s OHS branch also conducts other targeted work through its directed worksite visit program and targeted field campaigns. Directed employers, like priority employers, are selected based on their injury profiles. The OHS branch completes targeted field worksite visits annually. They are often focused on high-risk industries such as construction and health care, type of work such as asbestos removal or type of injury such as musculoskeletal.</p> <p>In 2025, OHS officers conducted 163 worksite visits at priority employer locations. In addition, officers conducted 1,352 directed and 1,508 targeted field campaign worksite visits for a total of 3,023 targeted worksite visits.</p>

Participant feedback

Building a safer community

The R.M. of Corman Park partners with the WCB to strengthen prevention



James Burkell
Human resource manager, R.M. of
Corman Park

As the Rural Municipality (R.M.) of Corman Park grows and diversifies, its leaders have taken a deliberate step to strengthen workplace safety across all operations.

In late 2025, the R.M., which surrounds Saskatoon and serves more than 9,000 residents, formalized a partnership with the Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) to enhance safety programs, improve return-to-work processes and support worker well-being.

For James Burkell, the R.M.'s human resource manager, the move reflects organizational maturity and a commitment to prevention.

"As our organization is growing and dynamically changing, we needed to ensure that we are becoming a best-practice organization rather than a follower of the times," Burkell said. "This became an opportunity for us to lead within the province and lead within our industry."

Managing complex and high-risk work

Corman Park's operations span administration, policing and construction. Each carries distinct hazards. Office staff face ergonomic risks. Police officers respond to unpredictable calls. Heavy equipment operators grade roads, clear snow and work alongside live traffic and heavy transport vehicles.

"All of it in some sense is high risk," Burkell said.

Operators often work on range roads where dust plumes can obscure visibility. Police officers encounter unknown risks working with the

public. In these environments, serious injuries can occur in seconds.

Through its partnership with the WCB, the R.M. has gained access to safety assessments, occupational therapy expertise and guidance on strengthening field-level risk assessments.

"Safety has been significantly improved through this partnership," Burkell said. "Having access to resources that we didn't even know were possible has been immensely important to us in moving the needle as a best-practice organization."

The collaboration ensures occupational documentation aligns with current standards and helps supervisors identify high-risk tasks before incidents occur.

Prevention over reaction

For Burkell, preventing serious injuries is a moral and an operational imperative.

"We want to ensure that every one of our workers goes home at the end of the day safe," he said. "There is no point in us ever making a concession that increases risk just to get a task done faster."

Prevention also strengthens operational performance. The R.M. tracks reductions in short- and long-term disability claims after investing in updated policies, equipment and training.

"When we invest in product and policy and standard, we are seeing fewer claims being submitted," Burkell said.

Simple interventions, such as

“ This became an opportunity for us to lead within the province and lead within our industry.”

James Burkell, RM of Corman Park



improved hazard lighting, better signage or appropriate step ladders, can reduce the risk of serious injuries in the workplace. Consistent pre-operation inspections and safety meetings protect workers and the public.

“Taking that extra five minutes to do a proper walk-around could result in significant savings,” Burkell said. “But more importantly, it prevents serious harm.”

Listening to front-line experience

A core element of the R.M.’s strategy is drawing on the experience of longtime operators and constables. Many have decades of service and deep knowledge of local hazards.

The municipality works to translate that knowledge into updated procedures and standards, which WCB expertise supports.

“For us to make things safer, you need to tell us what isn’t safe,” Burkell said.

Leaders reinforce that message

through consistent engagement. Senior management attends orientations and safety meetings. Human resources staff regularly visit worksites to build trust and close historical gaps between administration and operations.

“If we don’t follow through, it leads to mistrust,” Burkell said.

Creating a culture where workers feel comfortable raising concerns is essential to preventing serious injuries.

Strengthening return to work

The partnership has also strengthened the R.M.’s return-to-work framework.

With WCB support, the municipality gathers clearer medical information, conducts follow up check-ins and develops meaningful accommodations tailored to each worker’s functional abilities.

Rather than assign token duties, the municipality focuses on productive work that supports recovery and preserves dignity.

“It doesn’t make sense for us to put someone in a compromised position because we’re not willing to work with them,” Burkell said.

Accommodations range from modified start times to ergonomic equipment adjustments. The goal remains consistent: keep workers connected to meaningful work while they recover.

Safer workers, stronger communities

Corman Park directly links safety to service delivery. The R.M. relies on a relatively small workforce to maintain roads, provide policing services and support a rapidly developing region.

“If we don’t have the people to do the work, the work does not get

done,” Burkell said.

Preventing serious injuries protects operational capacity, reduces downtimes and strengthens public confidence.

The R.M. encourages other municipalities to explore similar partnerships.

“Do it,” Burkell said. “You don’t know what type of resources are available until you do something like this.”

As WorkSafe Saskatchewan continues to advance serious injury prevention across the province, the collaboration with the R.M. of Corman Park demonstrates how prevention, partnership and proactive leadership can reduce risk in complex municipal environments.

Safety is not a one-time initiative. It is an ongoing discipline.

“We don’t become industry leaders by being complacent,” Burkell said. “We have to stay proactive.”

For Corman Park, that proactive approach is already shaping a safer future for workers and for the communities they serve.

“We want to ensure that every one of our workers goes home safe at the end of the day. There’s no point in us ever making a concession that increases risk just to get a task done faster.”

James Burkell, RM of Corman Park



The R.M. logo on one of the municipality's trucks

Participant feedback

Engineering a safer future

Low-cost rollover protection structure project targets tractor rollover fatalities

Tractor rollovers remain one of the leading causes of farm fatalities in Canada. According to the latest Canadian Agricultural Injury Reporting (CAIR) data, between 2011 and 2020, machinery caused 66 per cent of the 624 agriculture-related fatalities in Canada, and rollovers were the leading cause of injury.

For Dr Niels Koehncke, principal investigator, and Jim Wassermann, lead engineer of the rollover protection structure program from the Canadian Centre for Rural and Agricultural Health, that statistic is unacceptable.

“My goal is to have zero,” Wassermann said. “There’s no reason rollover fatalities in Saskatchewan and Canada can’t become a thing of the past.”

Wassermann is leading a collaborative project between the University of Saskatchewan, industry partners and WorkSafe Saskatchewan to design and verify a low-cost rollover protection structure for older tractors. While rollover protection structures have been mandatory on new tractors for decades, an estimated 30 to 40 per cent of tractors in Canada still operate without them.

The gap exists largely because of cost. Commercial rollover protection structures can exceed \$2,000, often more than an older tractor is worth.

“That’s the conundrum,” Wassermann said. “Tractor manufacturers are doing their part to minimize pricing, but for many farmers with older tractors, it’s still hard to justify. And for others, there

is no rollover protection structure available.”

Yet the effectiveness of rollover protection structures is clear. According to Wassermann, certified rollover protection structures and seatbelts make tractors 99 per cent effective at preventing fatal injuries. Countries such as Sweden, where rollover protection structure installation is mandatory, have reduced rollover fatalities to near zero.

The Saskatchewan-based project takes a different approach. Instead of purchasing a factory-built system, farmers can fabricate their own rollover protection structure using standard materials and everyday tools. The design intentionally reduces reliance on advanced welding skills, which is a common concern raised early in the project.

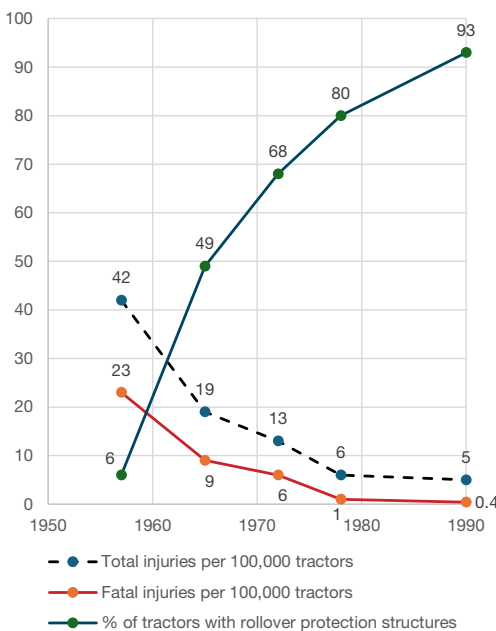
“We didn’t want farmers to have to rely on a perfect weld at the highest stress point,” Wassermann said. The engineering team redesigned the mounting system so the posts pass through steel plates above and below the axle, reducing weld stress.

To test the concept, engineers intentionally introduced welding weaknesses into prototypes. Even with sub-optimal welds, the structures passed the Canadian Standards Association’s (CSA) M5700 ROPS Static Test Standard, which applies force from the rear, top, side and again from the top to simulate a rollover.

“It can bend,” Wassermann explained. “In fact, it’s designed to bend, like the front end of a car,

“There’s no reason rollover fatalities in Saskatchewan and Canada can’t become a thing of the past.”
Jim Wassermann, engineer

Injuries in Sweden due to tractor rollovers



Sweden’s Thirty-year Experience with Tractor Rollovers
B. Springfeldt, Journal of Agricultural Safety and Health, 1998

because that absorbs energy. But it has to maintain the operator's protective zone."

Farmers require only four basic tools: a cut-off wheel, a drill, a welder and standard wrenches. Material costs range from \$500 to \$1000. After fabrication, they submit photos and a checklist for review. Once verified, they receive a CSA-compliant rollover protection structure label.

WorkSafe Saskatchewan is supporting the initiative with funding, regulatory collaboration and outreach. Agreements are currently in place in Saskatchewan and Newfoundland, with hopes of expanding nationally.

The collaborated project has already produced three completed designs, with 10 Saskatchewan-built rollover protection structures tested and additional builds underway. Presentations at national and international safety conferences are helping build awareness.

Wassermann believes early adopters will drive momentum.

"Why not be one of those early adopters who can set the example?" he said. "Luck is not a good safety practice."

The collaboration has also strengthened safety culture. Farmers involved in fabrication report greater awareness of seatbelt use and hazard prevention.

"When a farmer is involved in the solution, they buy into it," Wassermann said.

Looking ahead, partners are exploring whether the same model involving engineers, users, and WCB could address other high-risk machinery hazards in agriculture and beyond.

Kevin Mooney, the WCB's vice-president of prevention and employer services, sees broader potential.

"This project shows what's possible when engineers, workers and prevention partners collaborate to remove barriers," Mooney said. "If we can apply this model to other serious hazards in agriculture, construction or heavy industry, we

can accelerate prevention across Saskatchewan and beyond."

For Wassermann, the objective remains clear.

"Any farmer who has gone through a rollover with rollover protection structure says the same thing, thank goodness," he said.

With a proven, affordable solution now within reach, the goal of zero rollover fatalities is no longer theoretical. It is achievable.

More information about the low-cost rollover protection structure program is available at agropscanada.ca or by emailing agropscanada@usask.ca.



Rollover protection structure on a tractor



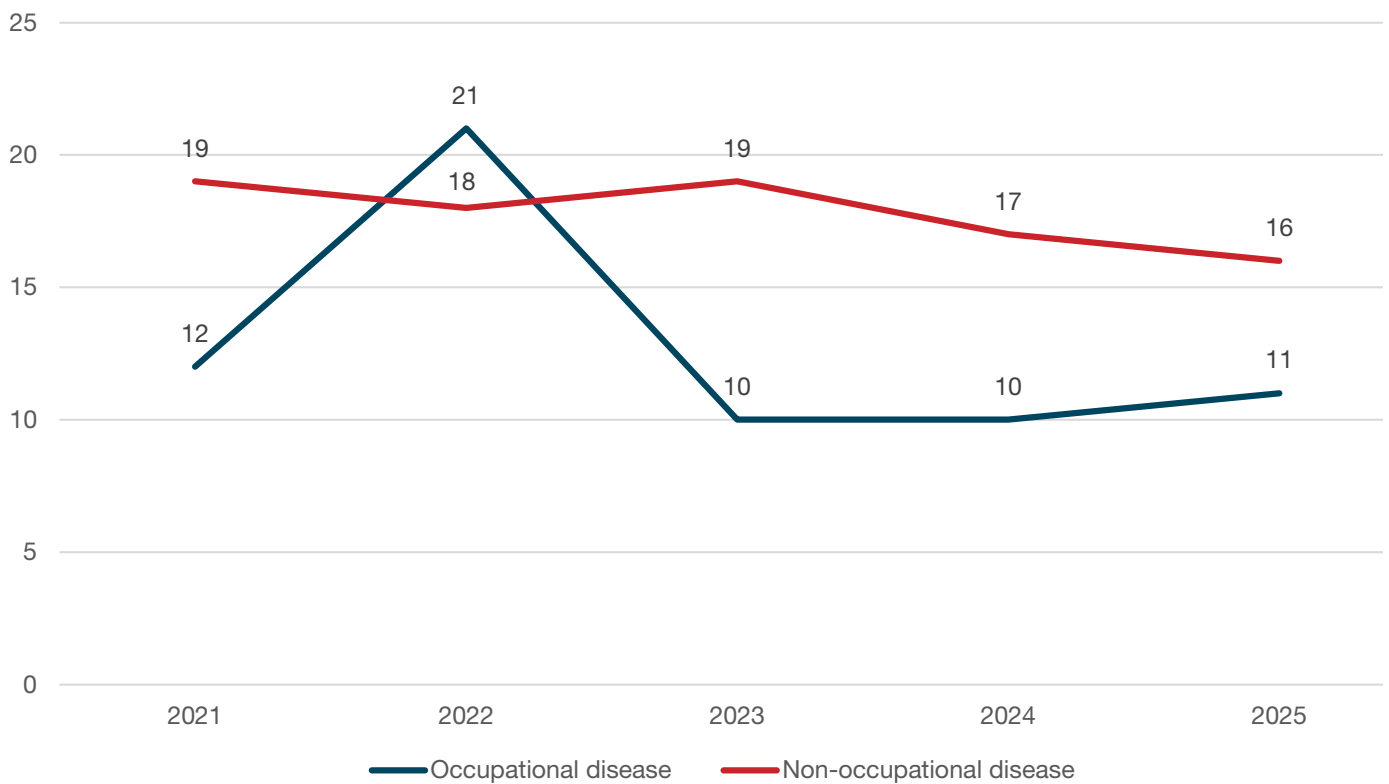
The design of the structure means that the weld acts as a placeholder rather than having a primary structural role.



APPENDIX A

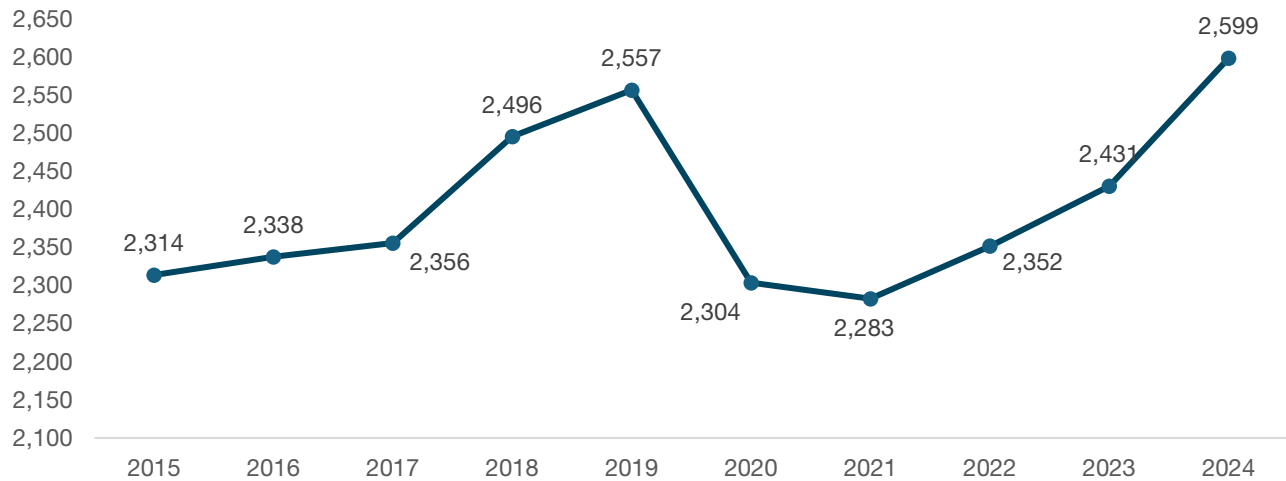
Saskatchewan workplace injury data

Occupational disease vs non-occupational disease fatalities



Saskatchewan workplace injury data

Serious injury count by registration year



A serious injury is defined as a claim meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- The claim is a fatality.
- The claim has 50 or more compensation days paid (full or partial).
- The claim includes a permanent functional impairment of 10 per cent or more.
- The claim is a primary psychological/mental health claim.
- The claim has a Ministry of Labour Relations Workplace Safety referral flag. The injuries reported shall be within the parameters of Section 2-2 of *The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020*. The WCB may report the following types of injuries to the minister, including but not limited to:
 - o fracture (skull, spine, pelvis, femur, humerus, fibula, tibia, radius or ulna)
 - o head injury
 - o neck injury
 - o serious eye injury
 - o amputation or near amputations

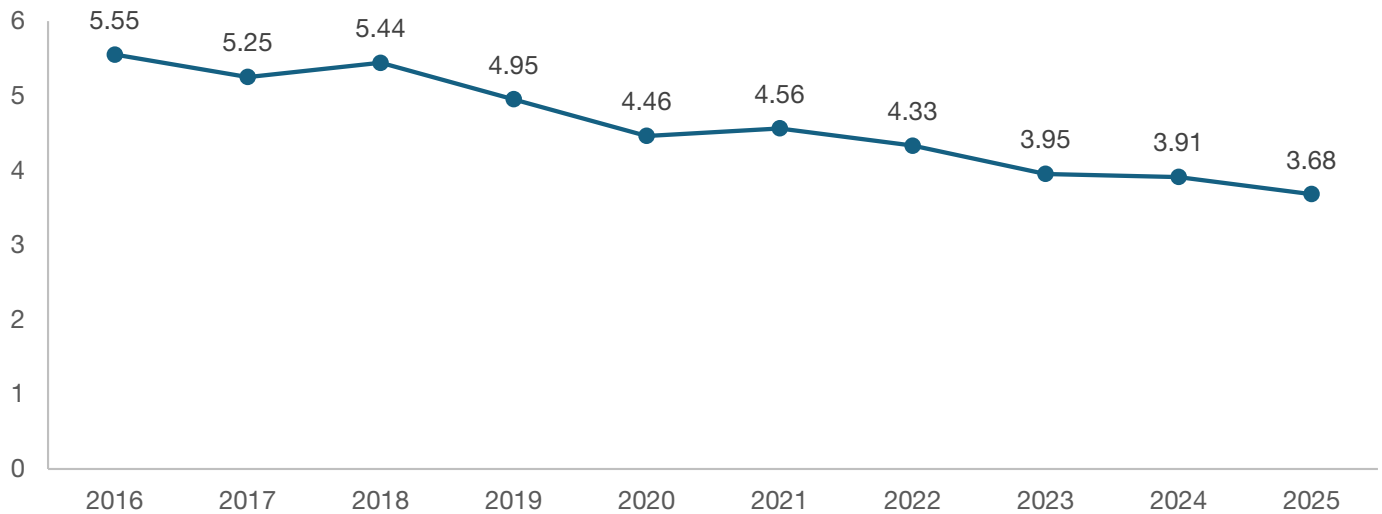
- o wound to the torso
- o electrical burn
- o third-degree burn
- o exposure to radiation
- o injury causing internal hemorrhage
- o injury caused by an explosion (directly or indirectly)
- o asphyxiation
- o poisoning and serious toxic effects from exposure to chemicals
- o severe infection (HIV, HBV, HCV or tuberculosis)

If a claim satisfies one or more of the above criteria, we classify it as a serious injury claim under the 2023–2028 Fatalities and Serious Injuries Strategy. This new and expanded definition has been laid over traditional data, indicators and validated lines of thought. It also indicates new areas of focus and better indicators for targeting, awareness and education, partnership and enforcement/inspection activities.

¹ 2024 is the most recent data available for serious injuries. We report serious injuries on a one-year lag because claims need time to mature into serious injuries.

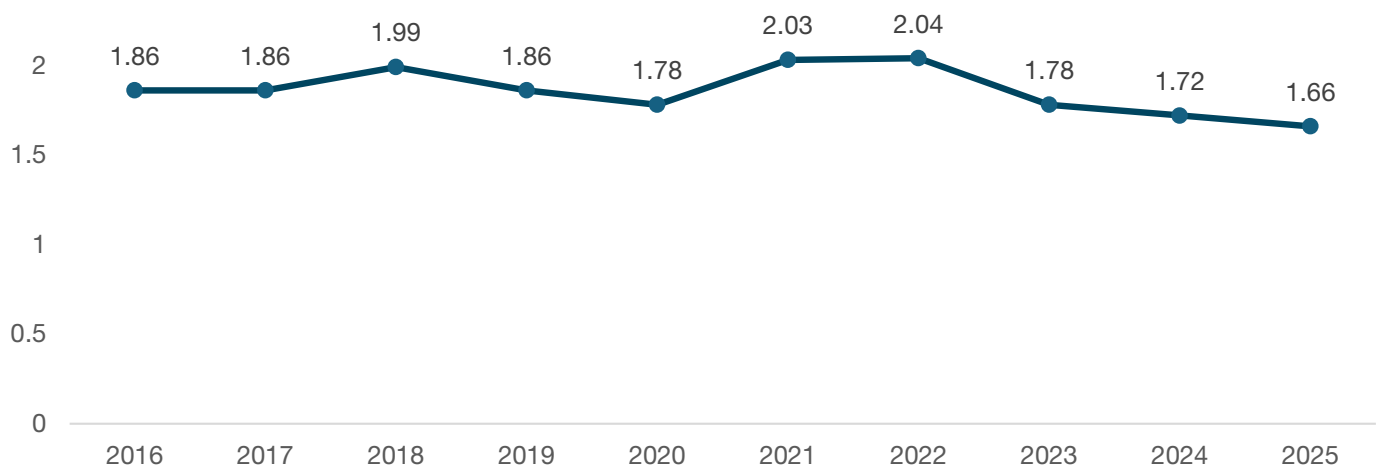
Saskatchewan workplace injury data

Total injury rate (per 100 workers)



The Total injury rate includes accepted No Time Loss (no time off work), Time Loss (time off work) and fatality claims.

Time Loss injury rate (per 100 workers)



A time loss claim is when a worker misses work because of a work-related injury. The Time Loss injury rate definition includes Time Loss and fatalities.



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