

# NWISP Committee Survey



## Summary of Survey Results



AWCBC Online Data  
Community (AOC)



# NWISP Survey - Summary of Results

## Overview and Background

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The AWCBC acquired the management of the NWIS program in 1996. Since then, with the input of the NWSIP Committee, the Association has continued to fine tune the program and work to ensure consistency of data across the country. Going forward, there is opportunity to further identify areas where there may be improved consistencies between jurisdictions or in the least, help us understand the differences we need to highlight to users interpreting the national data. To this end, AWCBC developed a national survey, the results of which are included in this report. Further surveys are also planned to explore other variables such as reporting standards, data suppression for privacy purposes, gender definition and reporting age. All survey findings are important to evaluating the current program, making enhancements, and planning for the future to provide an optimized program for everyone.

For the topics covered, please see the list of [survey questions](#) below. Following that, you will find detailed summaries of the [survey results](#) for each topic.

## Survey Questions

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Please see the summary of survey results below on the following topics:

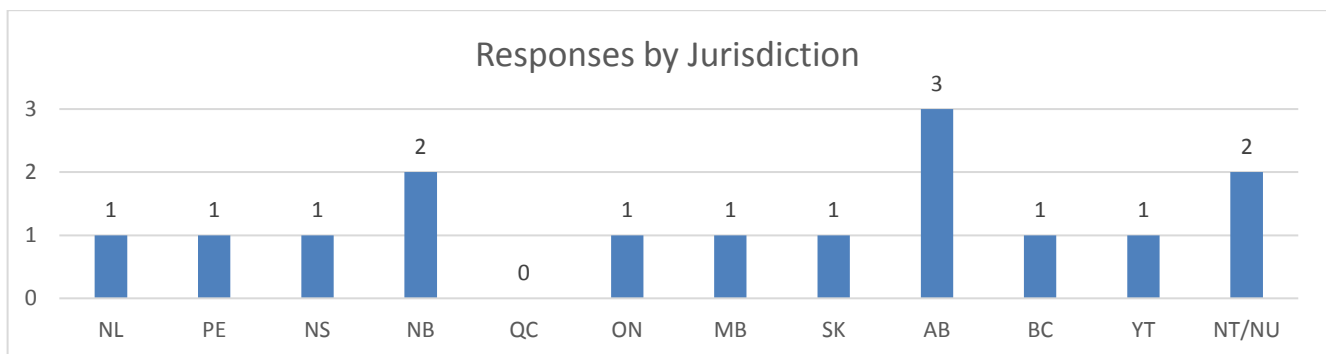
- [Industry Standard](#)
  - Are you considering moving to a new Industry Standard?
  - If yes, what standard?
  - Is there another industry standard that should be added to the system?
- [Occupation Standard](#)
  - Are you considering moving to a new Occupation Standard?
  - If yes, what standard?
  - Is there another occupation standard that should be added?
- [Lost Time Claims – Permanent Disability](#)
  - Do you include claims where there is no lost time but compensation is received for a permanent disability?
  - If yes/partial, please list what type of claims are included.
  - If permanent disability claims are not included in your NWISP submission, why are they not included?
  - Do you have any additional comments about permanent disability claims that you would like to add?
- [Lost Time Claims that become Fatalities](#)
  - Do you count a Lost Time Claim that becomes an accepted Fatality as both a LTC and a Fatality?
  - If not, why not?
  - Do we still need the caveat for underreporting of fatality/LTC combos?
  - Do you have any additional comments about Lost Time Claims that become Fatalities that you would like to add?

- [Interjurisdictional Agreement \(IJA\) Claims](#)
  - What IJA claims do you include in your NWISP submission?
  - Do you have any additional comments about IJA Claims that you would like to add?
- [Disallowed Claims](#)
  - Should the definitions for Lost Time Claims and Fatalities be clarified to say that past years' data is not adjusted for subsequent disallowed claims?
  - How does your jurisdiction handle disallowed claims in your NWISP submission?
  - Do you have any additional comments about disallowed claims that you would like to add?
- [Reporting – NWISP Publication – Interpretation](#)
  - What should be included in the NWISP Publication to assist users in interpreting data?
  - Do you have any additional comments about interpretation of NWISP data for public users in the NWISP Publication that you would like to add?
- [System Improvements](#)
  - What system improvements would you like to see on the AWCBC Online Data Community (AOC)?
- [General Comments](#)
  - Do you have any general comments or improvement suggestions regarding the National Work Injury Statistics Program (NWISP)?

## Summary of Responses

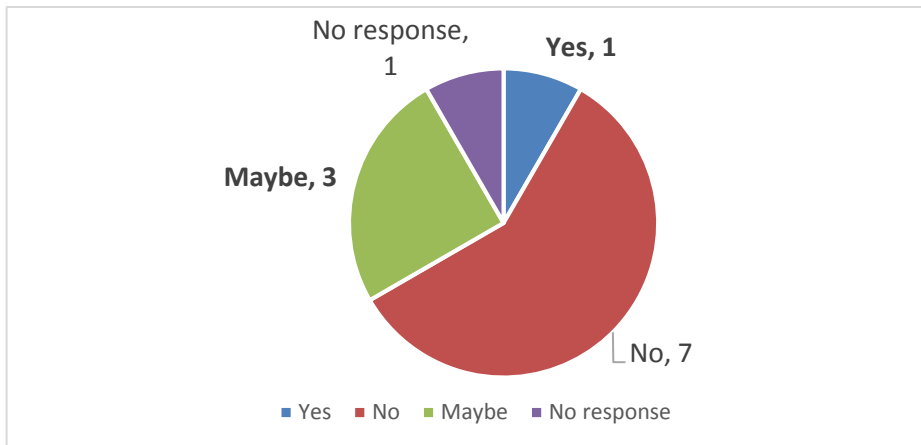
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The survey was sent out to 28 individuals. 15 responses were received, from 11 different jurisdictions.



## Industry Standard

### Are you considering moving to a new Industry Standard?



Juris	Response
NL	No
PE	No
NS	No
NB	No
QC	No response
ON	Yes
MB	No
SK	No
AB	Maybe
BC	Maybe
YT	No
NT/NU	Maybe

### If yes, what standard?



Juris	Response
ON	NAICS 2012
AB	NAICS 2001/2002
NT/NU	NAICS 2012

### Is there another industry standard that should be added to the system?

#### Responses

#### NAICS 2002

Our system has NAICS 2001 which I think we can update to 2002. I'll have to see how easily we can move to 2012, as I'd like to.

#### Probably the more updated versions of NAICS

I have never heard of NAICS 1980. The first version of NAICS (NAICS Canada 1997) was released March 1998. Subsequent revisions include NAICS 2002, NAICS 2007 and NAICS 2012. Currently, the YWCHSB classifies businesses according to a custom industry classification that does not correspond well to any Statistics Canada classification, whether SIC or NAICS. YWCHSB industry codes must be converted (crudely, at that) to SIC or NAICS.

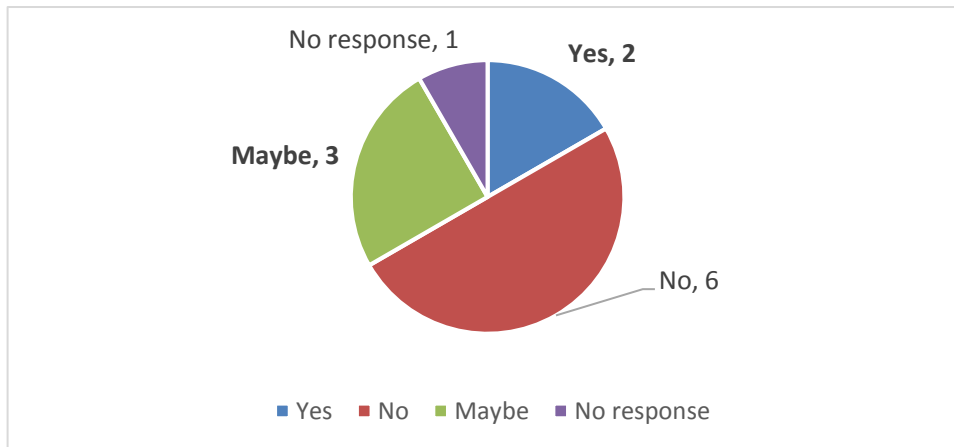
*\*The online system currently has the following industry standards: NAICS 1980; SIC 1970; SIC 1980; SASK 1980; YUKON 1980; NWT 1980.*

#### **\*\*FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION\*\***

*Is there appetite for more jurisdictions to move to NAICS internally within their jurisdictions? Stats Canada recently released [NAICS 2017](#). Is anyone considering NAICS 2017 in their jurisdiction? Should we consider publishing NWISP data in NAICS instead of SIC 1980?*

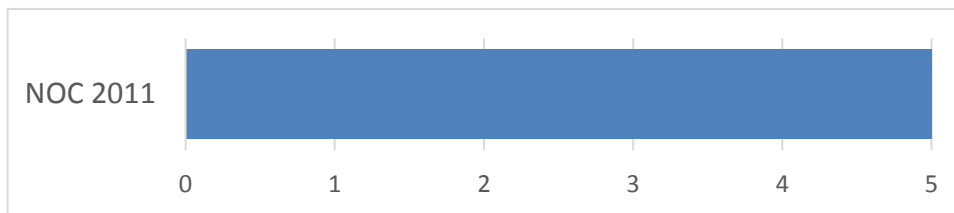
## Occupation Standard

### Are you considering moving to a new Occupation Standard?



Juris	Response
NL	Yes
PE	No
NS	No
NB	No
QC	No response
ON	Yes
MB	Maybe
SK	No
AB	No
BC	No
YT	Maybe
NT/NU	Maybe

### If yes, what standard?



Juris	Response
NL	NOC 2011
ON	NOC 2011
MB	NOC 2011
YT	NOC 2011
NT/NU	NOC 2011

### Is there another occupation standard that should be added?

#### Responses

We are using NOC 2011

Happy to see that NOC 2011 is being added. Maybe we should also keep in mind that NOC 2016 could be released soon (although there is no set date yet).

The YWCHSB codes occupation according to NOC-S 2006, which is different than NOC 2006. NOC-S was published by Statistics Canada, whereas NOC 2006 was maintained by HRDC. Code format in NOC-S 2006 is different than NOC 2006 and some occupations are located in a different part of the occupation structure/hierarchy. NOC-S 2006 must be converted for submission to NWISP.

*\*The online system currently has the following occupation standards: CCDO 1980; NOC 1991; NOC 2001; NOC 2006; NOC 2011 (in the process of being implemented); OCM 1971; PEI 1980; SOC 1980; SOC 1991.*

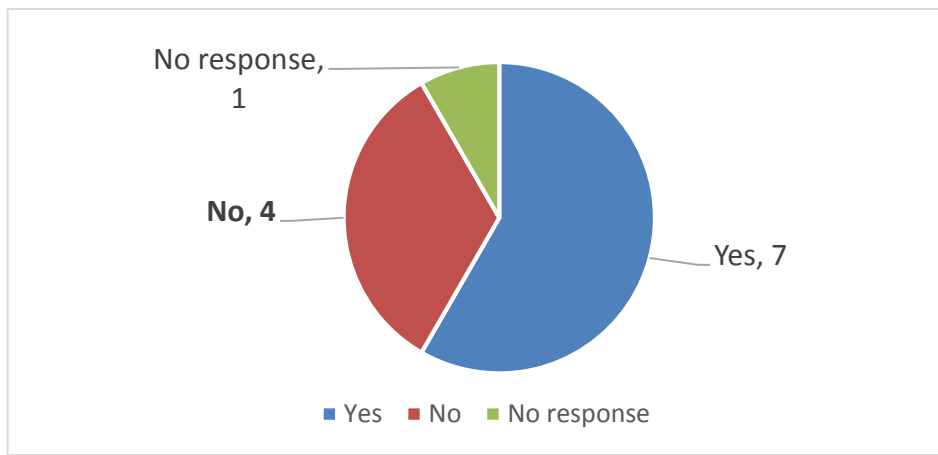
#### **\*\*FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION\*\***

*Is there appetite for more jurisdictions to move to NOC 2011 internally in their jurisdictions? Stats Canada recently released [NOC 2016](#). Is anyone considering NOC 2016 in their jurisdiction? Should we consider publishing NWISP data in NOC 2011 instead of NOC 2006? Also, NOC 2011 conversion tables need to be reviewed by Committee before being finalized on the system.*

## Lost Time Claims – Permanent Disability

*Lost Time Claim Definition: An injury where a worker is compensated for a loss of wages following a work-related injury (or exposure to a noxious substance), **or receives compensation for a permanent disability with or without any time lost in his or her employment** (for example, if a worker is compensated for a loss of hearing resulting from excessive noise in the work place).*

**Do you include claims where there is no lost time but compensation is received for a permanent disability?**



Juris	Response
NL	Yes
PE	No
NS	No
NB	Yes
QC	No response
ON	No
MB	Yes
SK	No
AB	Yes
BC	Yes
YT	Yes
NT/NU	Yes

**If yes/partial, please list what type of claims are included.**

Juris	Response
NL	We no longer have any new PPD (Permanent Partial Disability) claims since 1984 due to the implementation of our new EEL (Extended Earnings Loss) legislation. We count all accepted Lost Time claims regardless of whether or not they become an EEL claim in the future so the answer would be yes. Note that an injury may immediately be envisioned to be an EEL claim (e.g. sever injuries) but the claim is still code initially as a Lost Time claim.
NB	Hearing loss, mesothelioma
MB	Predominantly Hearing Loss claims
AB	Hearing loss primarily, maybe some occ disease with NELP awards with no time loss
BC	For example: hearing loss, cancer, silicosis etc.
YT	All claim types with any permanent disability are included.
NT/NU	Hearing loss, industrial disease

**If permanent disability claims are not included in your NWISP submission, why are they not included?**

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Juris	Responses
PE	No actual time missed from work
NS	We only count claims as time loss where STD has been paid on the claim and the worker has missed > 2/5ths of their standard work week.
ON	This is in line with our internal reporting and corporate policy.
SK	Because we don't consider them time loss.

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**Do you have any additional comments about permanent disability claims that you would like to add?**

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Responses
Permanent disability claims should be reported separately in my view because they represent a unique group/cohort of workers. It might be worthwhile to see if the trends are different between true "Lost Time" claims and permanent disability claims.
I understand that there are some jurisdictions that do not include these types of claims as part of their time loss counts. Should we modify the definition of time loss to exclude these claims?

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***\*\*FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION\*\****

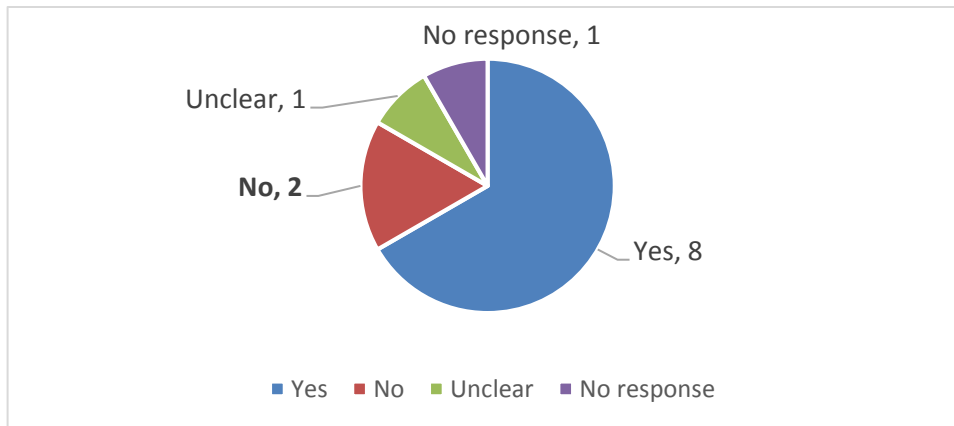
*Some jurisdictions include permanent disability claims that receive compensation in their NWISP Lost Time Claims and some do not. Also, some jurisdictions that do include permanent disability claims may not include all types of permanent disability claims. This can be confusing for users of data to know what is included as a "Lost Time Claim". Also, data may be misleading (see example below).*

Example: If we pulled a NWISP report for "deafness, hearing loss or impairment", it may show many claims in one jurisdiction (that includes PDs) but little or no claims in another jurisdiction (that doesn't include PDs), even though there may be a comparable number of actual hearing loss claims in each jurisdiction.

## Lost Time Claims that become Fatalities

*Fatality Definition: A death resulting from a work-related incident (including disease) that has been accepted for compensation (payment) by a Board or Commission. A Lost Time Claim resulting in an accepted Fatality is reported as a Lost Time Claim and as a Fatality.*

### Do you count a Lost Time Claim that becomes an accepted Fatality as both a LTC and a Fatality?



Juris	Responses
NL	No
PE	Yes
NS	Yes
NB	Yes/No
QC	No response
ON	Yes
MB	Yes
SK	Yes
AB	Yes
BC	Yes
YT	Yes
NT/NU	No*

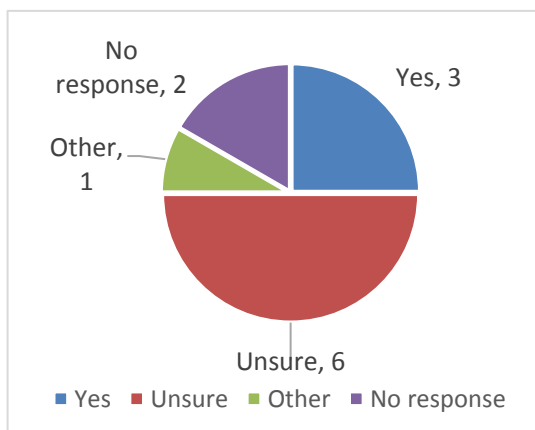
### If not, why not?

#### Responses

A claim can only be counted as one type in a given reporting period (Lost Time or Fatality). The only way a claim can be counted as both relates to claims who become a fatality after the claim has been reported. For example, an Occupational Disease claim may turn into a fatality in a subsequent year and would in that scenario be counted as both but in different reporting years.

If a lost time claim becomes a delayed fatality within the reference year, counting it as both a lost time claim and a fatality would double-count the claim. We count the claim only once, and take the claim status as of the time of reporting (fatality).

### Do we still need the caveat for underreporting of fatality/LTC combos?



Juris	Responses
NL	Unsure
PE	Unsure
NS	Unsure
NB	Unsure
QC	No response
ON	Yes
MB	We haven't come across the caveat. Please send.
SK	Unsure
AB	Yes
BC	Yes
YT	No response
NT/NU	Unsure



## Do you have any additional comments about Lost Time Claims that become Fatalities that you would like to add?

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### Responses

It would be helpful to come up with a national standard definition of a fatality. What's included, what's excluded. The rationale for the criteria, etc. The current NWISP definition is too generic and could be interpreted in many ways.

Maybe we should emphasize this combo claim (LTC and fatal) are infrequent.

Double-counting is not a significant issue for the Yukon. Our thinking is that it is better for fatalities to be counted, even if the original claim was previously counted as a timeloss case. We also recognize the definitional and timing differences between "timeloss" fatalities and accepted fatalities, and realize these are for different purposes.

The idea underlying the "timeloss" counts is to capture all events that have resulted in serious disability or impairment; thus, "timeloss" includes permanent impairment, earnings loss and fatalities. This concept should not be abandoned.

Number of accepted fatalities for the Yukon is typically quite small. There can be a timing variation between the Lost-time extract and the Accepted Fatality extract that often produces counter-intuitive results (e.g. no fatality in the lost-time file but a fatality in the accepted fatality file; and vice versa).

There has been a push by OHS and departments of labour to "integrate" fatality numbers. This results in "published" fatality numbers (e.g. annual reports) differing from WCB accepted fatality counts, sometimes substantially as the "harmonized" fatality counts include fatalities that fall outside the scope of workers' compensation, may not be compensable even if they did, and may not even be occupational in nature. Accepted fatality counts appear to have taken a backseat to the "harmonized" or "integrated" fatality numbers. While the harmonized numbers help to shed light on total occupational fatalities, they open the door to the prospect of manipulation and politicization. E.g. If a self-employed prospector dies of a heart attack while hiking in the bush, is this an occupational fatality regardless of our uncertainties about the event?

We should be careful to ensure that we do not lose sight of the importance of keeping track of accepted or compensable fatalities as these are what matter from a workers' compensation perspective.

Not sure how/why this would be different than a NTLSS claim that becomes TL during the reference period: in this case, the claim would be counted once, as TL, when we do our reporting. Why wouldn't a TL that becomes a Fatality be treated the same way? Counting a single claim as both TL and a Fatality results in that claim being double-counted in our stats.

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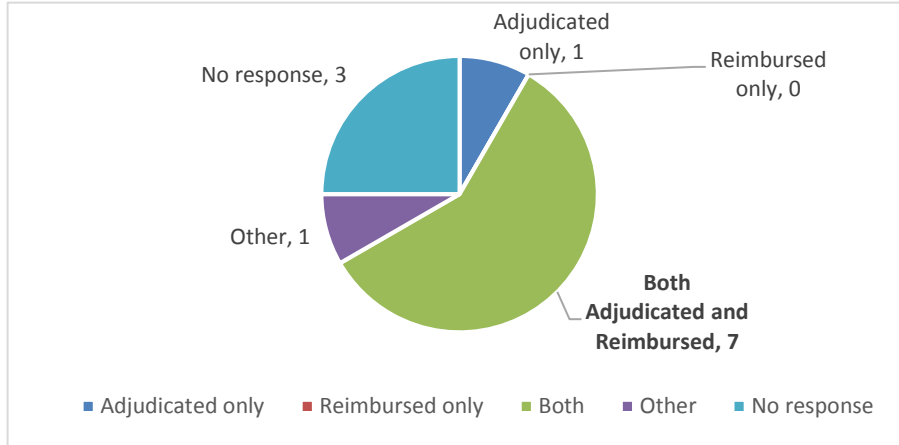
### **\*\*FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION\*\***

*There should be a discussion about the definition of Fatality, whether everyone is including Lost Time Claims that become Fatalities, and how these differences between jurisdictions should be highlighted to users of NWISP data.*

# Interjurisdictional Agreement (IJA) Claims

*Protocol: IJA claims are to be submitted by the adjudicating jurisdiction.*

## What IJA claims do you include in your NWISP submission?



Juris	Responses
NL	Both
PE	Both
NS	Both
NB	Both
QC	No response
ON	No response
MB	Both
SK	Both
AB	Adjudicated only
BC	Other
YT	Both
NT/NU	No response

## Do you have any additional comments about IJA Claims that you would like to add?

### Responses

Adjudicated ones are only included if compensation costs are greater than \$0 (not fully reimbursed by another Board)

In my view, there could be duplicate counting of IJA claims.

Number of IJA claims, either payable or receivable, for the Yukon are quite small. The numbers do not justify the effort required to track these for NWISP purposes. YWCHSB recognizes that this may not be true for larger jurisdictions and double-counting of IJA claims is definitely a legitimate issue.

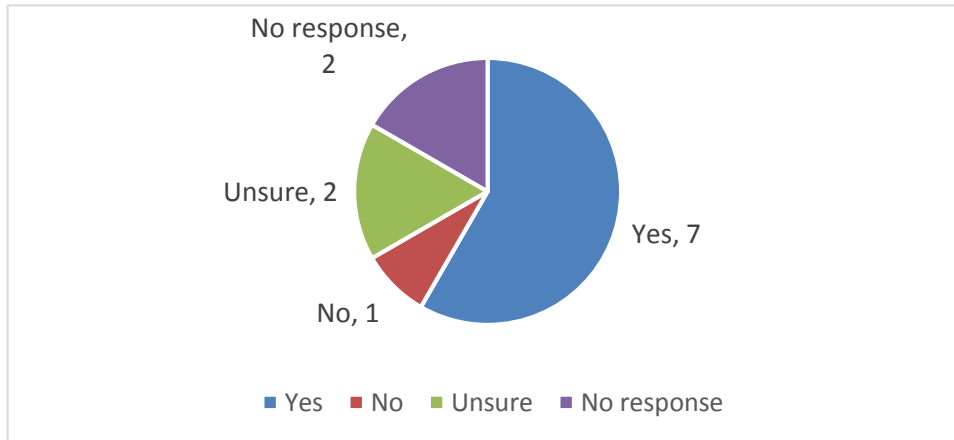
### **\*\*FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION\*\***

*It appears most jurisdictions include IJA claims that they both adjudicate and reimburse, indicating there is double counting of most IJA claims in NWISP data.*

## Disallowed Claims

*Protocol: There is no actual wording related to disallowed claims in the definitions for Lost Time Claims or Fatalities.*

**Should the definitions for Lost Time Claims and Fatalities be clarified to say that past years' data is not adjusted for subsequent disallowed claims?**



Juris	Responses
NL	Yes
PE	Yes
NS	No
NB	Yes/No
QC	No response
ON	Yes
MB	Yes
SK	Yes
AB	Yes
BC	Yes
YT	Unsure
NT/NU	No response

**How does your jurisdiction handle disallowed claims in your NWISP submission?**

Juris	Responses
NL	Our disallowed (i.e. denied) claim rate has always been historically low. Decisions on claims result in a claim being accepted/denied which happens in a timely manner (i.e. on average less than 17 days). It is unrealistic to think that a decision on a claim would change to be denied in a subsequent year so the definition should reflect that it is indeed not adjusted.
PE	PEI does not look at the Status of the claim but whether there is lost time paid out on each particular claim.
NS	Excluded from consideration in query logic.
NB	Claims that are accepted lost time as at reporting date are included. Anything disallowed after that date is not reported.
MB	When submitting our NWISP files we adhere to the status of claims as at March 31 of the following reference year. We do not adjust our submitted data for claims maturing.
SK	Disallowed claims are not included in the NWISP Submission.
AB	Fatality data is "locked in" as of December 31, LTC data is locked in as of March 31. Data is not adjusted for any changes in decision status after this period.
BC	Claims disallowed in the same injury year are totally (both +1's and -1's) omitted. Claims disallowed in a later injury year: the original +1's are not re-stated; the -1's in the later injury year are omitted.
YT	We count cases that have valid indemnity schedules (note: fatalities are reviewed manually as they may not have survivors or indemnity), regardless of the current "decision status" of the case. The final decision status of the case may relate only to the most recent decision, and not to the original claim entitlement.

**Do you have any additional comments about disallowed claims that you would like to add?**

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**Responses**

NWISP Submission pulls claim status as of March 31st. We do not go back to restate.

It appears to me that Lost-time claims are defined with reference to "payments", while fatalities are defined with reference to "decisions"...

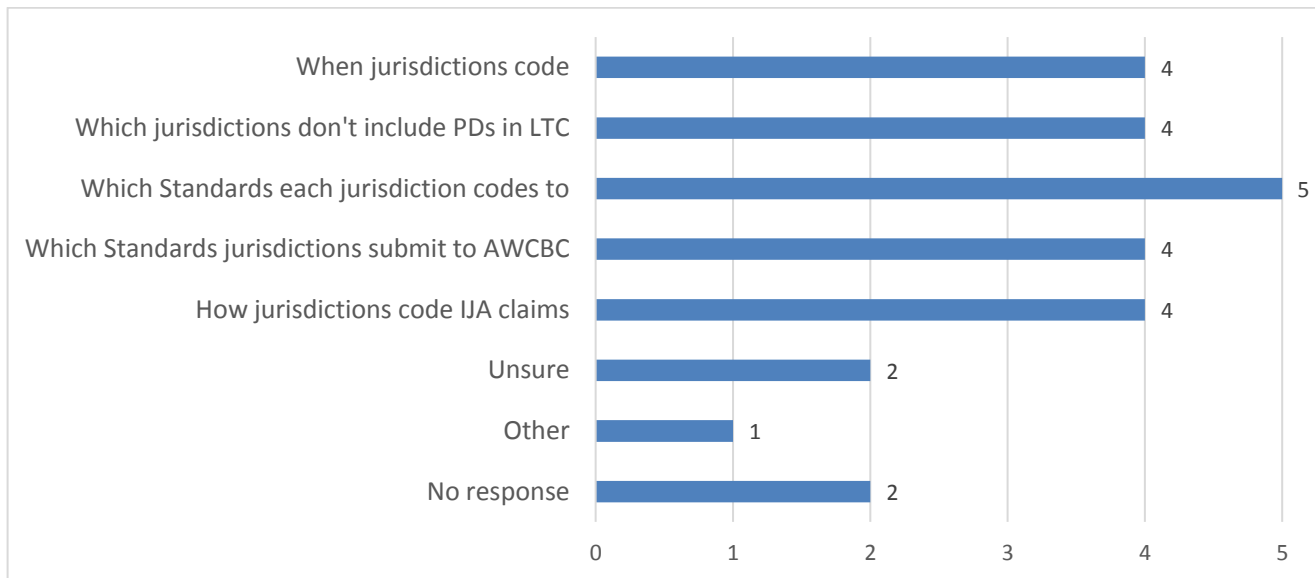
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***\*\*FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION\*\****

*This issue arises in the current year submission where a past year's Fatality (or Lost Time Claim) has been disallowed. The question is whether that Fatality (or Lost Time Claim) should be deducted from the current year's submission (since past year's data is not restated). Should the definition explicitly state that data is not adjusted to reflect disallowed Fatalities (or Lost Time Claims)?*

## Reporting – NWISP Publication – Interpretation

### What should be included in the NWISP Publication to assist users in interpreting data?



*\*Other: Probably a caveat would work better than showing the details.*

### Do you have any additional comments about interpretation of NWISP data for public users in the NWISP Publication that you would like to add?

#### Responses

Public users should understand the differences that may exist across all jurisdictions.

To make the publication more visual, perhaps consider using maps to display the information, instead of using a ton of tables. Just a thought.

We should clarify to user of this publication what coding standards are used.

I believe all the interpretive points are valid user points.

Notes re: caveats, disclaimers and limitations are good things to have. In my view, the more, the merrier. PR/communication folks don't like this, and the general public may ignore notes, but the NWISP publications are primarily statistical tabulations intended for a different audience.

However, as is, the statistical "data" lacks much context. Changing legislation, changing notions of work-relatedness, changing economy, changing workforce, changing technology, changing understanding of injury and disease, and inter-jurisdictional differences are not readily understood by users of NWISP data.

#### **\*\*FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION\*\***

*What caveats should be included in the NWISP Publication introduction, AWCBC website, and public ad hoc requests, to assist users in interpreting data? And in what format?*

## System Improvements

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### What system improvements would you like to see on the AWCBC Online Data Community (AOC)?

#### Responses

Seems to serve its purpose at present.

AWCBC is working with CTC for CTC recommendations.

I've seen a number of discussions made within the CTC and to me it seems that a lot of the comments are opinion-based instead of fact-based. While consensus is important in arriving in a decision/directive, it also needs to be accompanied by evidence, research, professional input, etc.

The coder training (currently working with AWCBC). Add links for coding standards ie. NOC, NAICS and member contact list for NWISP and KSMs. Update the roster of experts.

KSM submission/saving could be faster.

It's still somewhat clumsy to pull data. I'd like to see summary statistics on the homepage, maybe Canadian overall numbers/averages. Can we disclose/summarize significant NWISP data uses, highlighting how the data was used?

Invalid code combination lookup could be improved to be more intuitive.

#### **\*\*FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION\*\***

- 1. At the next committee meeting, an AOC System Improvements Plan will be discussed. Also, AWCBC can summarize recent AOC enhancements and scheduled enhancements.*
- 2. AWCBC working with CTC to implement various coding-related system improvements.*
- 3. Online Coder Training is being reviewed to make the tool more user-friendly (Phase 1). A plan for ongoing content enhancement of the Online Coder Training tool will be presented at the next meeting (Phase 2).*
- 4. Invalid Code Combination enhancements are planned and can be reviewed at next meeting.*
- 5. Data extraction/presentation improvements can be discussed.*

## General Comments

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### Do you have any general comments or improvement suggestions regarding the National Work Injury Statistics Program (NWISP)?

#### Response

I think the committee is doing an outstanding job and forging along in the right direction.

Should we increase the awareness of the NWISP program through media?

Ongoing review of Coding Manual to ensure currency and quality.

Review of code conversion tables to ensure accuracy (it appears that the source of those tables is not known). There are also extra codes in some tables that do not belong to the standards.

Coding exercise submission samples should be decreased, currently 10 samples sent per jurisdiction, which results in approx. 120 questions having to be reviewed - very time consuming.

Need to update codes as a result of new codes being added and made valid. As opposed to them being added to the "other" category.

To be relevant, I think NWISP needs to do more to publish results to the CEOs and other committees (e.g. emerging trends, the importance of up-to-date and uniform coding standards, ensuring uniform definitions).

Keep up the great work!

#### **\*\*FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION\*\***

- 1. Conversion tables should be reviewed, including the new NOC 2011 conversion tables. Jurisdictions will be consulted ahead of the May meeting.*
- 2. Updating of the Coding Manual should be discussed. Jurisdictions will be consulted ahead of the May meeting to assess capabilities to add new codes internally.*
- 3. Review of the Coding Manual is taking place and can be discussed (spelling / formatting / searches / equivalent terms).*
- 4. Presentation of NWISP data should be discussed.*