

On April 28

REMEMBER

National Day of Mourning
for Workers

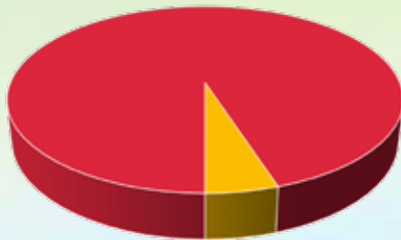
2019
DAY OF MOURNING

Workers Health
& Safety Centre

BEYOND WSIB STATISTICS

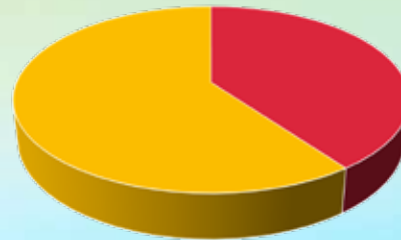
A more accurate picture of work-related injuries, illnesses and deaths in Ontario

60,000² Ontario workers are estimated to have died between 2008–2017 as a result of harmful workplace exposures.



- WSIB allowed worker death claims – 3,013¹ (traumatic injuries and occupational disease)
- Represents the overwhelming majority of worker deaths never reported to or recognized by the WSIB.

3,130,000³ Ontario workers are estimated to have been injured or made ill between 2008–2017 as a result of harmful workplace exposures.



- WSIB allowed injury/illness claims – 1,877,886¹
- Represents the many work-related injuries and illnesses never reported to or recognized by the WSIB.

¹ [By the Numbers: 2017 WSIB Statistical Report](#) – allowed claims for the 10 year period 2008-2017 (schedule one and two).

² More than 30 years ago Dr. Annalee Yassi estimated almost 6,000 work-related deaths annually in Ontario from cancer, cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases (source – *Occupational Disease and Worker Compensation in Ontario*, 1983 report for Paul C. Weiler in his study of Workers' Compensation of Ontario; pg. 17). A growing body of research supports this troubling truth. For instance, studies suggest between five and 16 per cent of all cancer deaths are work-related. Based on these percentages and cancer death estimates provided by the [Canadian Cancer Society](#) between 1,529 and 4,892 Ontarians died in 2018 from work-related cancer. Of course these statistics don't include the thousands more who die annually from diseases of the lungs, circulatory system, liver, kidneys and other organs and systems of the body.

³ Estimates of underreporting of occupational injuries and illness to compensation systems range from 20 per cent to upwards of 70 per cent. The lower end estimate was suggested by [Ontario's WSIB](#) in a 2013 report. In the middle of this spectrum is a 2002 Canadian study entitled, *How many injured workers do not file claims for Workers' Compensation Benefits*, that suggested 40 per cent of workers injured at work did not submit a claim. This pie chart is an estimation based on this 40 per cent underreporting.