

Return to work: Differences between work-related psychological and physical injuries



Mental health claimants

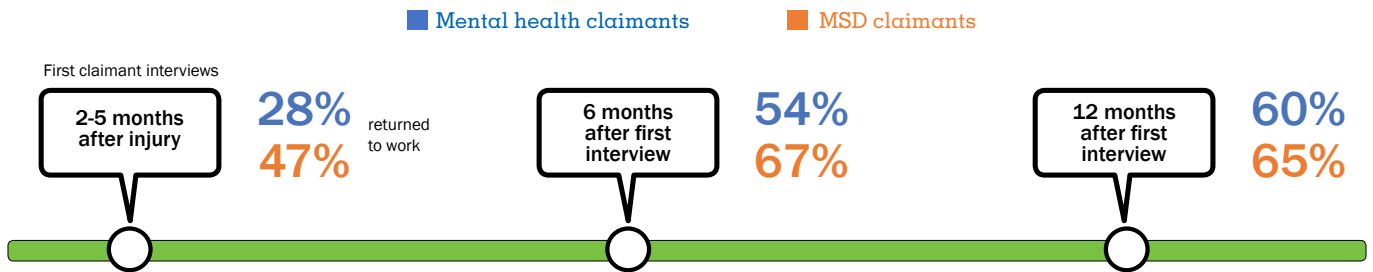
How different is return to work for people with work-related psychological injuries compared to those with work-related musculoskeletal conditions?

To answer this question, researchers at the Institute for Work & Health and Monash University followed 869 injured workers in Victoria, Australia for 12 months. Here's what they found.

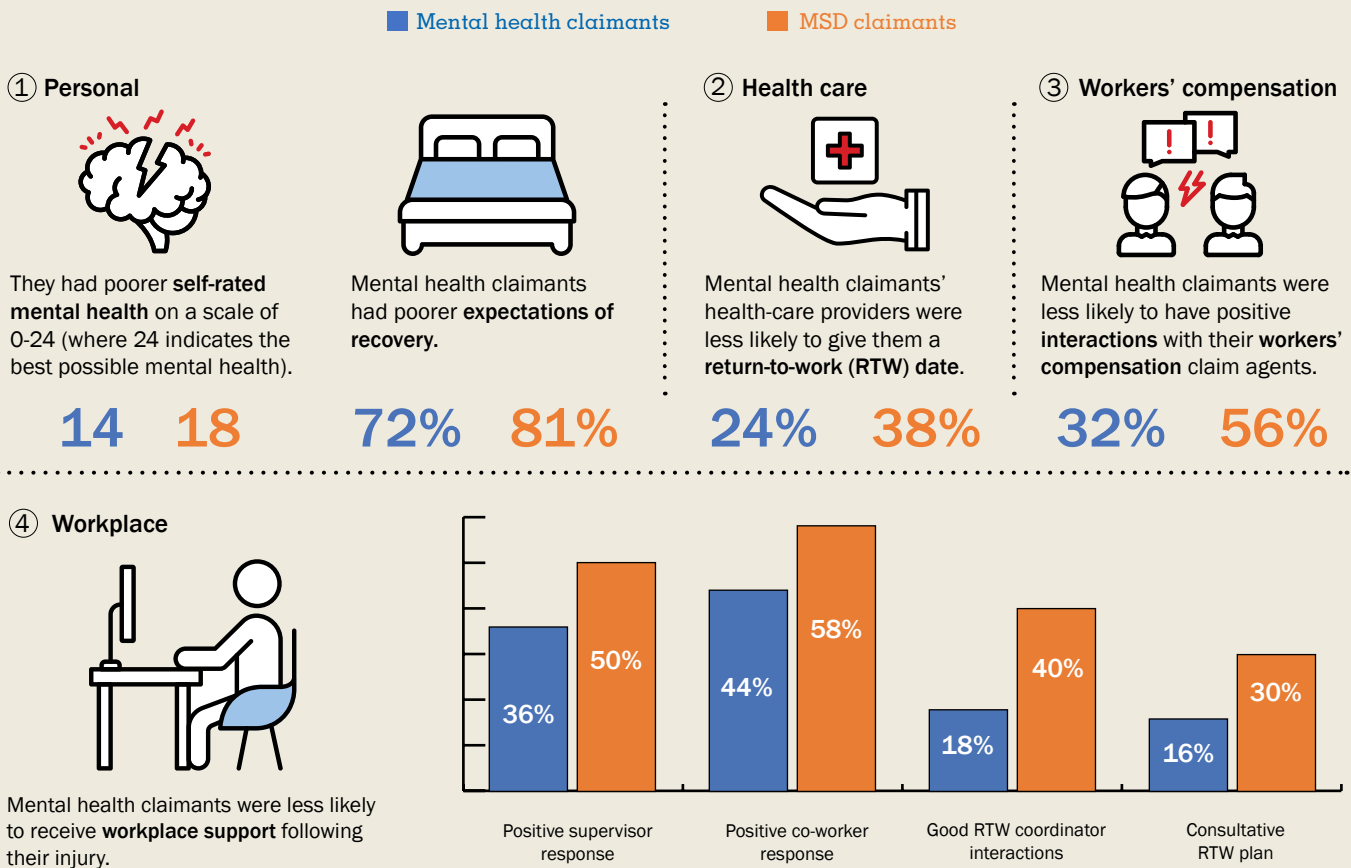


MSD claimants

Mental health claimants were less likely to return to work a year after their injury



Mental health claimants had poorer RTW experiences in four areas



The different experiences of psychological injury claimants did not occur in isolation



Negative supervisor responses were linked with...



more stressful interactions with claim agents



less likelihood of being offered RTW plans or modified duties



less likelihood of having positive recovery expectations

About the study

The study recruited 869 injured workers whose claims had been accepted by WorkSafe Victoria in 2014-2015. Just over a fifth had psychological injuries and the rest had back and upper-body musculoskeletal conditions. Participants were interviewed three times over a 12-month period, the first time at around two to five months after injury. They were asked if they had been able to return to work for at least four weeks.

