

OPIOID-RELATED HARMS

Risks by occupation among formerly injured Ontario workers

This study examined the risk of opioid-related harms by occupation among 1.7 million formerly injured workers. Workers in various occupational groups were compared to all other workers.

Workers in the following broad occupational groups had higher risks of both opioid-related poisonings and mental & behavioural disorders:



Forestry and logging



Construction and trades



Materials handling



Processing (mineral, metal, chemical)



Processing (food, wood, textile)



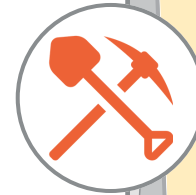
Machining

Workers in other occupational groups had a higher risk of only one of the harms:

Workers in **transport equipment operating** had a higher risk of **poisonings**.

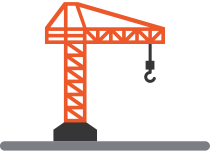




Workers in **mining and quarrying** had a higher risk of **mental & behavioural disorders**.



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However, results were not always consistent within some of these broad occupational groups. In fact, workers in certain specific occupations within these groups had lower risks of experiencing opioid-related harms.

	Specific occupations with higher risk of harm	Specific occupations with lower risk of harm
 Construction and trades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ Excavating, grading, paving ↑ Other construction trades 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ Electrical power, lighting, & wire communications
 Machining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ Metal shaping and forming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ Metal machining
 Transport equipment operating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ Motor transport ↑ Water transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ Air transport

Workers in other specific machining and transport occupations, namely **wood and other machining**, and **rail and other transport**, did not have either an increased or decreased risk of harm.

For other broad occupational groups (service, medicine & health, clerical, sales), no association was seen with opioid-related harms. However, for workers in specific occupations within these groups, higher risks of harms were observed:



SERVICE

- Security guards
- Lodging & accommodations
- Apparel and furnishing service
- Janitors
- Food preparation
- Personal service



MEDICINE & HEALTH

- Nursing aides and orderlies



CLERICAL

- Tellers and cashiers



SALES

- Service station attendants

Key message: Results provide additional evidence that **certain occupational groups are most affected by opioid-related harms**. Although further research is needed to understand the specific workplace risk factors involved, findings point to subgroups of the workforce where prevention and harm reduction efforts should be targeted to reduce opioid-related harms.



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