

When your Work Causes Harm

Study Information Sheet

The purpose of this study is to better understand how and why injured or ill workers file claims (or not) for compensation. This issue is an important part of a bigger concern with meeting the needs of people harmed by their work. This study is expected to tell us more about the injured and ill workers' point of view – what they go through, the people they talk to, the problems they face, and so on. It is hoped that information from this study will help to increase reporting of injury and disease in the workplace.

This study will involve interviews with people who have been diagnosed with or think they have a work-related disease or injury. In these interviews, participants will be asked to talk about their experiences related to work-related injury and disease, their experiences with the compensation process and with the responses of co-workers, employers, health care providers and people at the compensation board. Interviews will last 1.5 to 2 hours and will take place at the University or a quiet location of the participant's choice. With permission, the discussion will be audio recorded and transcribed to help the researcher remember what is said. If you do not wish to have the discussion recorded, written notes will be taken.

There are no physical risks related to your participation in this study. You may, however, find that you are uncomfortable talking about your work related injury or illness because you've had a difficult time or because you have concerns about others knowing that you have participated. Your participation in an interview would be completely voluntary and you could end the interview at any time. Your participation would also be confidential; your decision to do an interview (or not) and anything you say as a study participant would remain confidential. What you say to me will never be linked to you as a person or to your real name. Real names will not be used and findings will be reported in general terms so they cannot be traced to any participant or organization. If, as a result of participating in this study, you decide that you want to report your occupational condition or speak to someone about your options, I can refer you to someone for help.

While there are no direct benefits related to your involvement in this project, your participation will help increase our understanding of this very important issue.

An honorarium of \$20 will be provided to help cover costs related to your participation.

If you are interested in getting more information about this study, and/or are interested in participating in an interview, please call the study's phone line: 416-978-7545 and leave a message, or contact the researcher by email: dana.howse@utoronto.ca

You can also contact the researcher's supervisor with any questions or concerns:
Dr. Joan Eakin, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto.
Phone: 416-978-8502 (Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm), Email: joan.eakin@utoronto.ca

If you have any questions about your role and rights as a research participant, please contact Rachel Zand, Director, Office of Research Ethics, rachel.zand@utoronto.ca or 416-946-3389.