**Using contingent valuation to measure the economic costs of accidents**

**Abstract**

The direct costs of workplace accidents often rest only on short-term direct expenditures, first by the employees who are required to manage recovery after the accident, second by the employers in modifying workplace settings and processes, and third by the payout compensation. However, personal impacts and the sequelae of the accident are often dominant for the worker and should be included in any estimate of the costs of workplace accidents. The current research does not usually present comprehensive measures of these costs. This study examines the full cost of workplace accidents, occupational illness, and death in Manitoba over the last 5 years, using information on fatalities, time lost from work, duration of the absence, and large sample survey (n=2813) of injured Manitoba workers . It presents estimates of the non-economic and indirect costs associated with workplace accidents by implementing four innovations. Primary data (survey information) were linked to administrative data to increase the reliability of the estimates. We included a "significant other" (secondary respondent) in the analysis to increase the accuracy of recall. Dimensions accident impacts were identified using dyadic interviews (depth interviews) of 16 pairs of primary and secondary respondents. Survey based contingent valuation methods placed a monetary value on the quality of life changes triggered by the workplace accident.