

CHSWC Mandated Reports and Other Studies Status for 2026

This report provides an update on the status at quarterly intervals for current mandated reports and other studies that the Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation (CHSWC) staff are responsible to provide as determined by the legislature or CHSWC Commission. The color coding represents the current status for projecting completion by the established deadline.

Color Codes	Green	Yellow	Red
Status	On track	May not be able to meet goal	Target date is delayed

Title	Legislative Section/Reference	Status	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
CHSWC Annual Report	Per Labor Code Section 77(a) "The commission shall issue an annual report on the state of the workers' compensation system, including recommendations for administrative or legislative modifications which would improve the operation of the system. The report shall be made available to the Governor, the Legislature, and the public on request."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 annual report production kicked off in early May. • Data requests were sent to various entities within Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) and to outside partners and DIR divisions. • DIR divisions and external entities are providing data and information for the 2025 annual report. • Staff have incorporated the data and information received into the report and have been working on assigned sections of the draft report. • Staff presented the draft report for the Commissioners' approval at the December 11, 2025 CHSWC public meeting and CHSWC Commissioners approved posting the draft for the 30-day public comment period after the report has been updated with the final numbers. • Staff worked to incorporate remaining data into the 2025 CHSWC Annual Report during the first quarter of 2026 and posted the draft for the 30-day public comment on the CHSWC website. • Staff will incorporate any public comments received during the public comment period and will present the report for Commissioners' final approval at the April 8, 2026 meeting. 				

Title	Legislative Section/Reference	Status	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Worker Occupational Safety and Health Training and Education Program (WOSHTEP) Advisory Board Annual Report	Per Labor Code Section 6354.7(g) "The advisory board shall annually prepare a written [WOSHTEP Advisory Board Annual] report evaluating the use and impact of programs developed."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHSWC staff is collecting information from the University of California (UC) Centers that will ultimately be included in the 2025 annual report. • CHSWC staff have incorporated information from UC Centers into the draft advisory board report and sent the report to advisory board for approval in Q4 of 2025. • Staff presented a draft report for the Commissioners' approval at the December 11, 2025 CHSWC public meeting and CHSWC Commissioners approved posting the draft report for the 30-day public comment period after the report has been updated with the final numbers. • Staff have incorporated the final year-end numbers into the report and have posted the report for the 30-day public comment period on the CHSWC website. • Staff presented the report for Commissioners' final approval at the February 18, 2026 meeting and the CHSWC Commissioners approved the final report at this meeting. • The WOSHTEP 2025 Advisory Board Annual Report was posted on the CHSWC website. <p><u>Status: Complete</u></p>				

Title	Legislative Section/Reference	Status	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Identifying, Characterizing and Mitigating Cancer and other Occupational Health Risks Among Mechanics and Cleaners of Firefighting Vehicles	<p>Assembly Bill (AB) 1400 added Section 77.7 to the Labor Code requiring the Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation, in partnership with the County of Los Angeles and relevant labor organizations to submit a study by January 1, 2021, to the Legislature, the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board, and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, on cancer and other health risks associated with exposure to toxic materials among mechanics who repair and clean firefighting vehicles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHSWC received a scientific study from a multidisciplinary scientific consulting firm. However, the study was not accepted by CHSWC. • A Request for Information (RFI) was issued on December 7, 2023 to solicit comments on the scope of work that could be used to develop a new Request for Proposal (RFP) for the study. • RFI responses were due by March 11, 2024; no responses were received. • RFP was issued on September 12, 2024. • CHSWC withdrew the AB 1400 RFP that was issued on September 12, 2024, because of several flaws. • CHSWC staff redrafted the scope of work for a new study in coordination with DIR's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH). • CHSWC provided the draft scope of work for commissioners' input at the August 14, 2025 meeting. • CHSWC Commissioners, after hearing the presentation on the draft scope of work at the August 14th meeting, decided to ask Kevin Riley, Director at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Labor Occupational Safety and Health Program (LOSH), to submit a proposal to conduct this study for their review. • UCLA LOSH presented their proposal for Commissioners' approval at the September 30, 2025 CHSWC public meeting and the CHSWC Commissioners approved the proposal at this meeting. • CHSWC is currently negotiating the details of the contract with UCLA LOSH to execute the contract for the study titled <i>Assessment of Risk of Carcinogens Exposure and Incidents of Occupational Cancer Among Mechanics and Cleaners of Firefighting Vehicles</i> and expects to finalize contract negotiations by the second quarter of 2026. 				

Title	Legislative Section/Reference	Status	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<p>Report on Employer Use of Prepaid Card Account Programs for Disability Indemnity Payments</p>	<p>In 2018, the California Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 880. The purpose was to conduct a pilot program to transmit workers' compensation disability indemnity benefits via prepaid card, rather than a paper check. SB 880 amended Labor Code Section 4651 and required CHSWC to issue a report to the Legislature regarding payments made to those prepaid card accounts and for employers that use prepaid card programs to provide all necessary aggregated data requested by CHSWC. The pilot program authorized by SB 880 was due to sunset on January 1, 2023 but there were several extensions to the program. Any CHSWC research based on the usage of a prepaid card for indemnity payments was impacted by Assembly Bill (AB) 2148 (2022) and the extension of the pilot program to January 1, 2024. Another bill, Assembly Bill (AB) 489 in 2023, extended the pilot again an additional year to January 1, 2025, and necessitated an extension of the timeframe for any report. Once again, Assembly Bill (AB) 1239 (2024) extended the pilot to January 2027</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHSWC staff worked with the Workers' Compensation Insurance Rating Bureau (WCIRB) and DIR's Office of Self-Insurance Plans (OSIP) to obtain contact lists of indemnity payers for the Senate Bill (SB) 880 study. • Staff contacted indemnity payers in the system (third-party administrators, Self-Insureds, and Insurers based on lists from WCIRB and OSIP) to ascertain which employers and/or workers' compensation disability insurers implemented a pilot program in accordance with SB 880. • Staff developed a follow-up inquiry letter to be used with payers depending on whether or not they have implemented the prepaid debit card. • Staff presented a draft report on September 30, 2025 and Commissioners asked CHSWC staff to provide responses on a few additional questions. Research for answers was completed and the draft report updated. • The revised draft report was presented and approved to post for 30-day public comment period at the December 11, 2025 public meeting. • CHSWC received one public comment from an insurance association during the comment period. The report was presented for Commissioners' final approval at the February 18, 2026 CHSWC public meeting and the CHSWC Commissioners approved the final report at this meeting. • The <u>Report on Employer Use of Prepaid Card Account Programs for Workers' Compensation Disability Indemnity Payments in California: California Senate Bill 880 (2018) and California Labor Code 4651</u> was posted on the CHSWC website. • The CHSWC Executive Officer submitted the final report to the legislature as required by SB 880 and subsequent extensions. <p><u>Status: Complete</u></p>				

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Report on PTSD Injury Claims Filed by Public Safety Employees (SB 623 reports)	Senate Bill (SB) 623 amended Labor Code Section 3212.15 and requires CHSWC to submit two reports to the Legislature: (1) A report analyzing claims filed for PTSD injury for which compensation is claimed by public safety dispatchers, public safety telecommunicators, and emergency response communication employees, from January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2023. The report is required to be provided to the Senate Committee on Labor, Public Employment and Retirement and the Assembly Committee on Insurance no later than January 1, 2025.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate Bill (SB) 623 was signed by the Governor on October 8, 2023. • A Budget Change Proposal was issued to request funding appropriation for this study and was approved in May 2024. • The RFI was issued on November 27, 2024 and response was received in March 2025. • CHSWC shared the results of the RFI on May 30, 2025 with commissioners. • CHSWC plans to procure services to conduct the study through an interagency agreement method based upon Commissioners' input at the August 14, 2025 CHSWC public meeting. • CHSWC staff held exploratory discussions with UC's Centers for Occupational and Environmental Health (COEHs). regarding the SB 623 Study. 				
	(2) A report on the effectiveness of the PTSD presumption. The report shall review data from PTSD injuries for which compensation is claimed under the Labor Code Section 3212.15 from January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2025. The report needs to be provided to the Senate Committee on Labor, Public Employment and Retirement and the Assembly Committee on Insurance no later than January 1, 2027.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COEHs at UC Irvine, UCLA, and UC Berkely submitted a joint proposal for this study. • Dr. Marizen Ramirez from UC Irvine presented the COEHs' joint proposal for Commissioners' approval at the December 11, 2025 CHSWC public meeting and the CHSWC Commissioners approved the proposal at this meeting. • CHSWC is currently reviewing the details of the proposed contract with UC Irvine and expects to start the study by the second quarter of 2026. 				

Other Related Studies with oversight/control external to CHSWC (Non-CHSWC)

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<p>DIR/Office of the Director AB 2364 Janitor Study</p>	<p>Assembly Bill (AB) 2364 added Labor Code Section 1429.6 and requires the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) to contract with UCLA’s Labor Center to conduct a study evaluating opportunities to improve worker safety and safeguard employment rights in the janitorial industry. The report is required to be issued by May 1, 2026.</p> <p>As part of the study, DIR is required to convene an advisory committee by June 15, 2025 comprised of representatives from DIR, DOSH, DWC, the Civil Rights Department, a recognized or certified collective bargaining agent that represents janitorial workers throughout the state, employers and labor management groups in the janitorial industry, the UCLA Labor Center, and other relevant subject matter experts to make recommendations regarding the scope of the study.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DIR’s Office of the Director staff reached out to CHSWC staff for input on advisory committee members. • List of the study’s advisory committee members can be viewed at: https://www.dir.ca.gov/DirectorsOffice/Meetings/2025/AB-2364/AB-2364-Advisory-Committee-Members-June-9-2025.pdf • The Assembly Bill (AB) 2364 Janitorial Study Advisory committee meetings were held in 2025 on June 20, 2025, June 25, 2025, and July 18, 2025. • Minutes of the June 20, 2025 and June 25, 2025 committee meetings are posted on the DIR website and can be viewed at: https://www.dir.ca.gov/AB-2364-Janitorial-Study-Advisory-Committee.html • The legislatively mandated Janitorial Study Advisory Committee concluded its work on July 18, 2025. The group met three times to advise the UCLA Labor Center on the scope and research methods of the study. • The UCLA Labor Center received approval from the UCLA Institutional Review Board in August of 2025 to proceed with the study. • The Labor Center, and its contractors, will begin field research once DIR and UCLA finalize the study contract. • DIR and UCLA signed the study contract in September 2025. • UCLA researchers are currently: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -in the field surveying janitors -working with DWC, Cal/OSHA and DLSE to secure data for analysis -obtaining contracts with labor unions and between employers/employees. • UCLA expects to send a draft study report to DIR’s Office of the Director in May. • A final report is due to the Legislative committees by May 15, 2026. 				

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DIR/DWC Medical Access Study	<p>Labor Code Section 5307.2 requires the administrative director of the Division of Workers' Compensation to contract with an independent consulting firm to perform an annual study of access to medical treatment for injured workers.</p> <p>The study will assess injured workers' access to quality medical care, track trends in physician availability, geographic proximity to providers, and the timeliness of treatment after an injury, and will highlight potential barriers to care</p> <p>If the assessment identifies significant access problems, the DWC is authorized to adjust medical fee schedules to attract more providers to the system</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWC issued an RFP on October 21, 2025 to solicit competitive proposals from contractors to conduct the Medical Access Study and the contract for the study was awarded to RAND. • DWC held a kickoff meeting on 02/02/2026. • The study covering 2025 data will be due by June 30, 2026; the study covering 2026 data will be due by June 30, 2027; the study covering 2027 data will be due by June 30, 2028. • Annual Reports of the four studies are due as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 30, 2026: Calendar Year 2025 Data • June 30, 2027: Calendar Year 2026 Data • June 30, 2028: Calendar Year 2027 Data • June 30, 2029: Calendar Year 2028 data • Final Summary Report for the study is due in October 2029. 				
DIR/DWC Utilization Review Study	<p>Senate Bill (SB) 1160 and Assembly Bill (AB) 2848 amended Labor Code Section 4610 and requires the Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) to contract with an outside independent research organization to evaluate and report on the impact of provision of medical treatment within the first 30 days after a claim is filed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study will evaluate if workers who receive prompt unrestricted treatment in the first 30 days returned to work faster. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWC issued an RFP on February 6, 2025 to solicit proposals from contractors to conduct the Utilization Review Study and the contract for the study was awarded to RAND. • The study is currently in data analysis mode. • The report is anticipated in the summer of 2026. 				

Title	Legislative Section/Reference	Status	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
DIR/DWC Utilization Review Study (Cont.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Did early treatment reduce the duration of temporary disability? ○ Did early treatment lead to better long-term functional recovery and less permanent disability? ● Was the treatment provided in the first 30 days consistent with the MTUS? ● Were there patterns of inappropriate or unnecessary treatment being rendered without UR oversight? 					
DIR/DWC QME Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The main objective of the study is to evaluate the efficacy of California's Medical-Legal Evaluation Process (Medical-Legal Process) which is used to resolve disputes regarding an injured worker's entitlement to compensation benefits. ● The study results will help inform future decisions about the program. ● The study will review data concerning the Medical-Legal Process and respond to three overarching questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the current Medical-Legal Process satisfy the purpose of the systems as it was initially envisioned by the Legislature? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DWC issued an RFP on February 20, 2024 to solicit proposals from contractors to conduct the study and the contract for the study was awarded to RAND. ● The study report is anticipated in the summer 2026. 				

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DIR/DWC QME Study (Cont.)	2. Is the Medical-Legal Process, as it currently stands, sustainable? 3. In what ways can the Medical-Legal Process be improved?					