

# Impact of CHSWC Research Studies, Reports & Projects

CHSWC Report • 2016–2026 • Prepared June 2026

Over the past decade (2016–2026), the Commission on Health and Safety and Workers’ Compensation (CHSWC) has produced 31 distinct reports, research studies, and projects spanning workers’ compensation policy, occupational health and safety, and workplace injury prevention. This analysis examines the documented downstream impact of CHSWC’s compilation of research, identifying reports that informed legislation, regulatory action, media coverage, and organizational decision-making across California’s workers’ compensation system.



Researchers identified 45 discrete impact entries across all reports. Of these, 13 (29%) were classified as Direct Impact—meaning the report directly informed or was cited in a specific bill, regulation, or policy action—while 25 (56%) were Indirect Impact, typically citations in media, industry blogs, or secondary research. Seven entries (16%) could not be clearly classified. The breakdown is illustrated in Figure 1 below.

Impact Classification  
(45 Total Impact Entries)

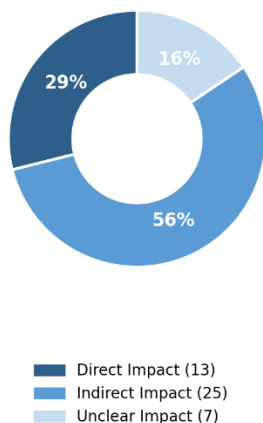


Figure 1: Impact Classification

Research Impact by Source Type

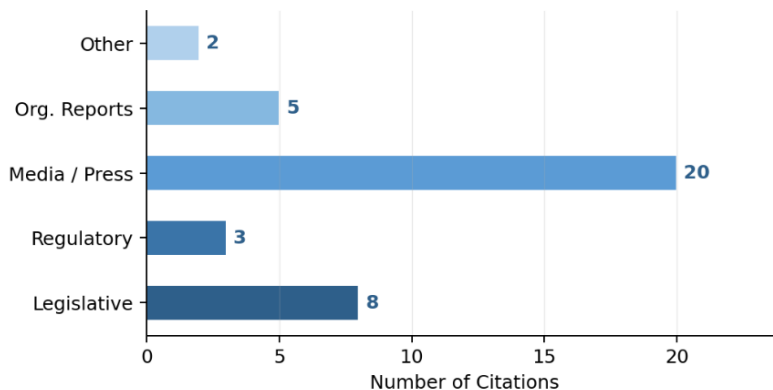


Figure 2: Citations by Source Type

## Key Findings

- **Legislative Reach:** CHSWC research directly informed at least eight pieces of California legislation, including Assembly Bill (AB) 1116 (First Responder PTSD), AB 2364 (Janitorial Workload), AB 1683 (Prepaid Card Program) and AB 1244 (Anti-Fraud Reforms), and Senate Bill (SB) 1160.
- **Regulatory Influence:** Three CHSWC reports were explicitly cited in regulatory proceedings, most notably in the DWC Medical-Legal Fee Schedule rulemaking, where both the [Qualified Medical](#)

[Evaluators: Updating Trends in Evaluations, Availability, and Equity](#) report and the RAND [Medical Care Provided to California's Injured Workers: Monitoring System Performance Using Administrative Data](#) study appears in the Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR).

- **Media & Industry Amplification:** The largest share of documented impact (20 citations) came through media and industry publications—WorkCompCentral, WorkCompWire, and the California Lawyers Association blog—evidence that CHSWC research shapes public discourse and professional understanding of the system.
- **Sustained Annual Reporting:** The CHSWC Annual Report and the WOSHTEP Advisory Board Annual Report together form a consistent, mandated body of work cited by legislative analyst’s independent researchers and government entities.
- **High-Impact Contracted Studies:** The following studies collectively cost over three million dollars and generated the most substantive policy and regulatory citations in the period reviewed.

University California, Berkeley-conducted research:

- [Qualified Medical Evaluators: Updating Trends in Evaluations, Availability, and Equity](#)
- [Safe and Respectful Workplaces: Preventing Sexual Harassment and Abusive Conduct in the Janitorial Industry Worker Training Guide](#)

RAND-conducted research:

- [Benefits and Earnings Losses for Permanently Disabled Workers in California: Trends Through the Great Recession and Effects of Recent Reforms](#)
- [Evaluation of California Senate Bill 863 Medical Care Reforms](#)
- [COVID-19 in the California Workers’ Compensation System: A Study of COVID-19 Claims and Presumptions Under Senate Bill 1159](#)
- [Evaluation of the Return-to-Work Fund in California’s Workers’ Compensation System: Performance to Date and Options for Modification](#)
- **2026 Activity:** The [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](#) published in February 2026 has prompted the introduction of AB 1683 and garnered media coverage within weeks of release.

Figure 3 below illustrates how report production varied across the decade, with peak output in 2017–2018 and 2022, years that coincided with significant workers’ compensation reform activity in California.

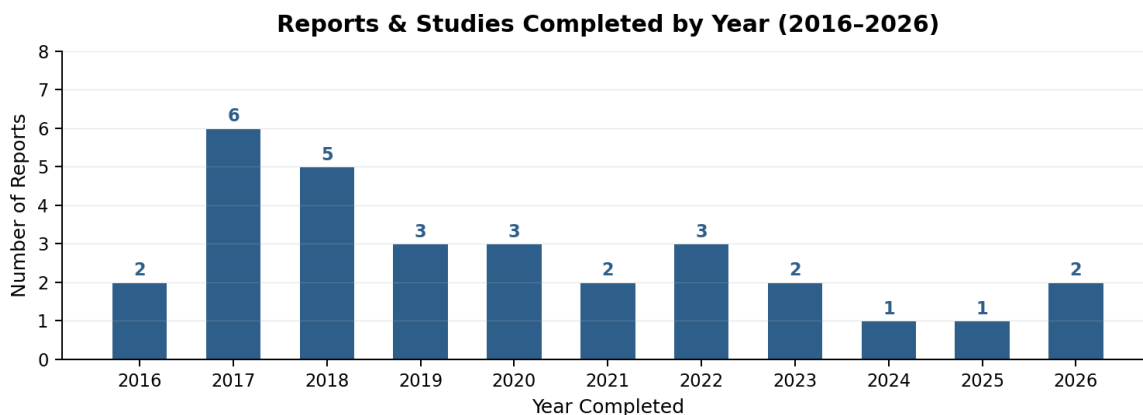


Figure 3: Reports & Studies Completed by Year (2016–2026)

## Legislative Policy Area Highlights

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Report / Year	Impact Type	Outcome / Legislative or Regulatory Action
First Responder Behavioral Health (2017–18)	Direct – Legislative	Informed AB 1116 (2019); Assembly Member Grayson directly requested and used the findings
Fraud Prevention White Paper (2017)	Direct – Legislative	Informed SB 1160 and AB 1244 anti-fraud reforms
QME Trends Report (2017)	Direct – Regulatory	Cited on p. 3 of DWC Medical-Legal Fee Schedule ISOR (2020)
RAND Medical Care Study (2018)	Direct – Regulatory	Cited in DWC Medical-Legal Fee Schedule rulemaking ISOR
Janitorial Safety Study (2017 & 2023–25)	Direct – Legislative	Informed AB 2364; Principal Investigator served on DIR's AB 2364 Advisory Committee
Janitorial Sexual Harassment Training (2019)	Direct – Regulatory	Adopted by Labor Commissioner, effective July 2020 (LC §1429.5)
CHSWC Annual Report (2021)	Direct – Legislative	Cited in bill analysis for SB 623 (2023 Senate Floor)
Prepaid Card Program Report (2026)	Direct – Legislative	Prompted introduction of AB 1683 to extend prepaid card authorization indefinitely

*Source: CHSWC Master Report on Impact of Research Studies, Reports and Projects (April 2025). Analysis covers calendar years 2016–2026. Impact classification based on documented citations in legislation, regulation, organizational reports, and media.*