2023

Work Related Injuries Workshop

Welcome & Overview to the Provider Community

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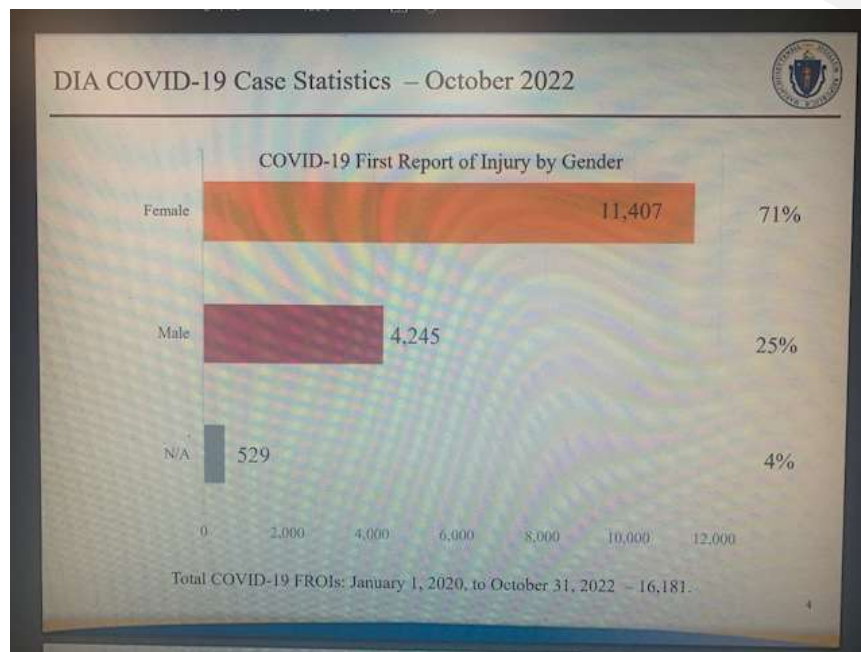CMO of Workplace Health & Wellness

Mass General Brigham

What is the new frontier of workplace health and safety?

- Any major changes in workers' compensation?

- What we have learned from the Covid pandemic?

- How do we resolve a new identity crisis involving our occupational health role in workplaces?
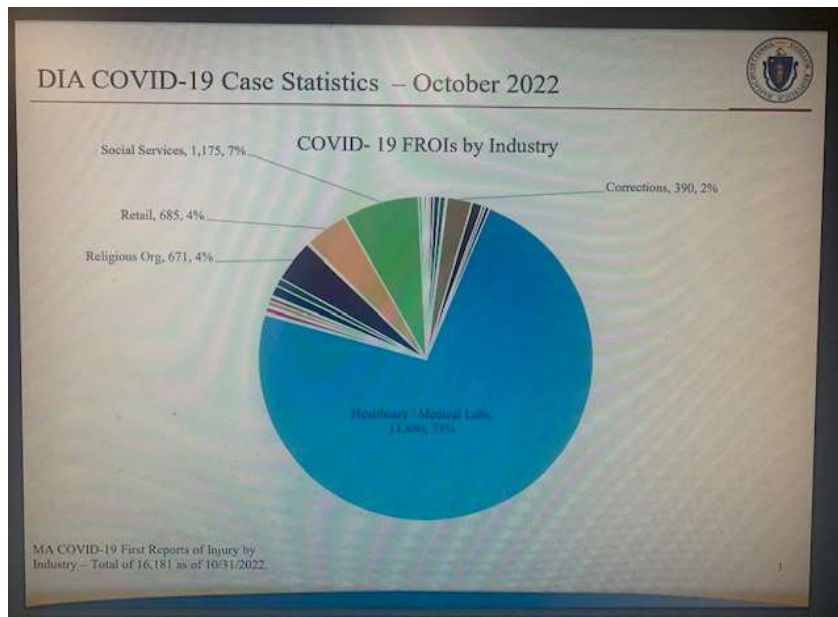
Workplace Health

- Relatively stable workers' compensation system
  - Small decreases in WC costs nationally last year with a general decrease in New England including a 3.5% decrease in Massachusetts

- Current issues relate to workplace changes from Covid pandemic and include:
  - Remote work
  - Potential future increase in workplace injuries
  - Covid cases particularly involving hospital employers
  - Wellness and well-being
  - Burn out and job turnover

Massachusetts Covid workers' compensation claims

DIA COVID-19 Case Statistics — October 2022

COVID-19 First Report of Injury by Gender

Gender	Count	Percent
Female	11,407	71%
Male	4,245	25%
N/A	529	4%

Total COVID-19 FROIs: January 1, 2020, to October 31, 2022 — 16,181.

Massachusetts Covid workers' comp claims by industry

DIA COVID-19 Case Statistics – October 2022

COVID-19 FROIs by Industry

Social Services, 1,175, 7%

Corrections, 390, 2%

Retail, 685, 4%

Religious Org, 671, 4%

Healthcare / Medical Labs, 11,886, 73%

MA COVID-19 First Reports of Injury by Industry – Total of 16,181 as of 10/31/2022.

Identity crisis: What is our new role in workplace health programs?

- Can we shrink back to the pre-pandemic services?
  - Continuing demands related to Covid: e.g., respirator fit testing program
  - Are all the pre-pandemic services necessary or doable?

- Does occupational health have a substantial role regarding new workplace challenges?
  - Immense and important issues such as employee wellness/burnout, remote work, low-wage workers, etc.
  - The difficulty of too much responsibility with insufficient resources
  - The Great Resignation's impact on occupational health services
  - The challenges of establishing an appropriate role within an organization with other demanding and competing departments

Mass General Brigham Occupational Health Services: Our future plans

- Role definition based on emphasizing clinical expertise
    - Greater focus on workers compensation at clinics
    - Clinical consultant on workplace accommodations and safe patient handling

- Leveraging technology
    - Transforming Covid Pass system to an occupational health tool
    - Establishing a new employee on-boarding portal

- Establishing a centralized model reliant on remote workers
    -
    Remote services through centralized handling of new employee clearance, return to work, off-hours paging coverage
    - Local clinic sites for workers' compensation and specialized services that require an on-site presence

Thank you!