

# Automotive Industry

These are the most common injuries and hazards for people working in the automotive industry, as shown by injury claims.

## Ear

Hearing loss from exposure to noisy machinery.

## Arm

Muscle stress/strain from heavy lifting, or repetitive movement/use of equipment.

## Abdomen

Traumatic muscle injury or strain from heavy lifting, twisting or repetitive movements, falling off machinery/equipment, or slipping or tripping.

## Hand/Fingers

Wounds/lacerations from being caught, crushed, or cut by machinery.

## Shoulder

Muscle stress/strain from heavy lifting, twisting, or repetitive movements. Traumatic joint/muscle injury from falling off machinery/equipment.

## Back

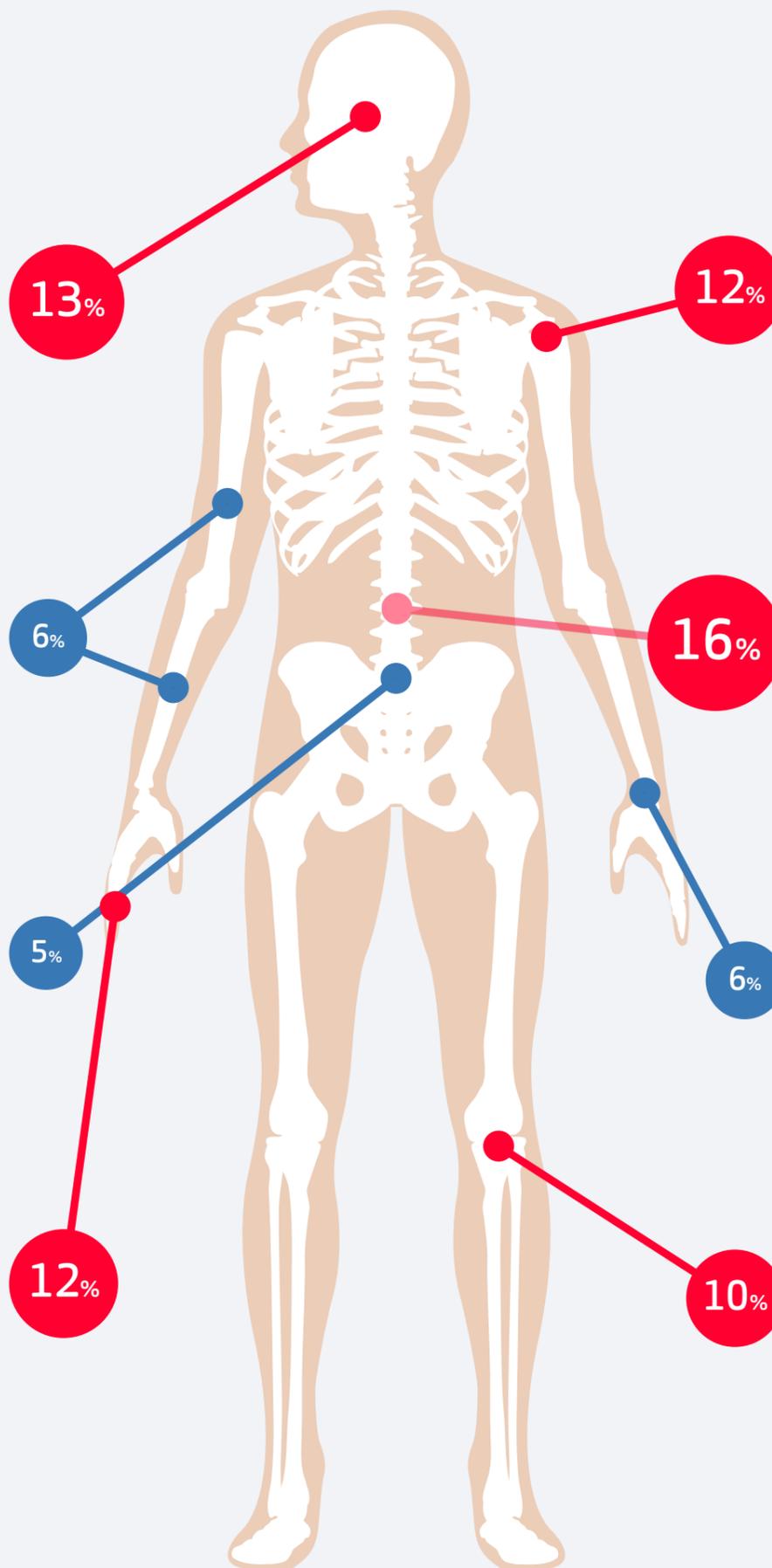
Muscle stress/strain from heavy lifting, bending, or pushing/pulling.

## Forearm/Wrist

Muscle stress/strain from heavy lifting, or repetitive movement/use of equipment.

## Knee

Traumatic joint/muscle injury or strain from twisting/turning, working while squatting/kneeling, getting off machinery, or tripping or slipping.



## Safety solutions

WorkSafe expects employers to have safety solutions in place to protect workers from injury and illness.

Below are some common solutions known to reduce the risk of injury. Employers should work together with their employees to determine the most effective solutions for their workplace.

### Hotspots

### Solution

#### Falls from machinery and equipment

● Knee

- Install gantries and walkways with barriers on or around high machines.
- Fit self-closing access gates to elevated work platforms to reduce the risk of falling from machinery or equipment.

#### Lifting, bending and twisting while handling materials

● Back  
● Shoulder  
● Knee  
● Arm  
● Forearm/Wrist  
● Abdomen

- Provide appropriate mechanical aids and equipment (e.g. jigs, robots, cranes, vacuum lifters, hoists, height-adjustable workstations) and ensure they are used properly and maintained in accordance with manufacturer specifications.
- Use appropriate equipment when moving pallets.
- Train employees in the selection and use of any mechanical equipment and aids and safe handling methods (e.g. work is done between shoulder and mid-thigh height and with the elbows close to the body, work upright where possible).
- Ensure employees are not exposed to repetitive work for long periods (e.g. by using job rotation, work variation, providing sit-stand stools and anti-fatigue mats) or work that requires a significant amount of high force.
- Design work so that people can maintain upright natural postures as much as possible. Where this is not possible, provide personal protective equipment such as padded knee supports.

#### Noise

● Ear

- Ensure employees are not exposed to noise that exceeds the exposure standard.
- Arrange for a noise assessment if employees are exposed to excessive noise (e.g. workers have to raise their voices to communicate over a distance of one metre) and there is uncertainty as to whether employees exposure may have exceeded the noise exposure standard.
- Eliminate or minimise the source of noise (e.g. enclose or isolate noisy machinery, reduce vibration, use barriers to absorb and screens to block the direct path of sound, use silencers on air exhausts, exhaust pneumatics out of the area, buy the quietest tools/machinery available).
- Place warning signs in areas of excessive and continual noise (e.g. where employees exposure is likely to exceed the exposure standard).
- Warn other workers nearby that you will be undertaking noisy work and advise them to move away or wear hearing protection.
- Provide hearing equipment, ensure it is worn at all times, and provide employees with audiometric testing. Employers should provide a choice of different types of hearing protection appropriate to the noise level in the workplace.

#### Pushing and pulling

● Back  
● Shoulder  
● Abdomen

- Provide appropriate mechanical aids and equipment (e.g. forklifts, trolleys, dollies, tugs, or conveyors for shifting heavy loads) and ensure they are used properly and maintained in accordance with manufacturer specifications.

## Slips and trips

- Shoulder
- Knee

- Ensure floor surfaces are level, non-slip or slip-resistant and kept dry and clear of clutter and obstructions.
- Regularly tidy and remove clutter so it does not accumulate.
- Ensure materials, processing aids, tools and equipment are handled and positioned carefully to avoid tripping hazards.

## Using tools and machinery

- Hand/Fingers

- Provide appropriate tools and machinery (e.g. ergonomically designed handheld power tools that are lightweight, low vibration, noise restricted and fitted with over-torque clutches) and ensure they are used properly and maintained in accordance with manufacturer specifications.
- Fit machinery guards that provide the highest practicable level of protection (e.g. fixed guarding or interlocked guarding where access is required).
- Provide appropriate personal protective equipment (e.g. hard hats, gloves that absorb impact energy, protection from sharp edges that is puncture resistant, hearing protection, respiratory protection, suitable eyewear).
- Ensure employees wear appropriate personal protective clothing (e.g. long pants, boots).
- Ensure employees do not wear gloves while operating rotating machinery.
- Ensure employees don't use gloves where there's a risk they will catch on moving machinery.

Visit [www.injuryhotspots.com.au](http://www.injuryhotspots.com.au)

**WorkSafe Advisory Service** Toll-free 1800 136 089

Your health and safety contact is:

*You must consult with the people who will be affected by changes before any changes affecting their occupational safety or health are put in place. If someone is injured at work, their employer must ensure they receive proper care and support their safe return to work. WorkSafe Victoria is a trading name of the Victorian WorkCover Authority.*