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CRUISING BEYOND COMPLIANCE PAGE 16

MEET CARNIVAL'S NEW CMO PAGE 20

OPTIMIZE YOUR FLEET ... TODAY PAGE 50

COST OF MARINER HEALTHCARE PAGE 61 **STATISTICS** 

Stats

## **The Cost of Mariner Healthcare**

eafarers are a vulnerable population, working far from home under stressful and dangerous working conditions, putting them at risk for a different range of illness and injury than land-based employees. In May 2013, the Yale University School of Medicine and Future Care published a preliminary study based on data obtained from six years of medical incidents managed under Future Care, Inc.'s "Caring for the Crew Program." Goals of the study included characterization of medical events and services provided, cataloguing and analyzing medical expenses, determining risk factors for the development of medical events and developing intervention strategies to reduce injury and illness.

#### 6 years of the Future Care Database:

106 companies	6,724 on-board inquiries		
1,500 ships	3,537 independent claims (injury, illness)		
>5,600 seafarers	16,711 billed events		

**Data Delivered, Conclusions Made:** The preliminary study revealed interesting trends. Overall, 54.4% of the Future Care cases were due to illness, 32.6% were the result of injury, and 13.0% were dental issues. Age, gender and nationality stratified distributions of diagnoses, along with their associated costs, were calculated. Results of these analyses revealed that Asians accounted for the greatest percentage of medical events (46.3%) and, not surprisingly (the vast majority of mariners are male), 97.5% of all medical events occurred to males.

The vast majority (76.7%) of medical claims were incurred by seafarers 50 years of age or less. Injury and musculoskeletal claims accounted for more than half of all medical events (50.3%) with an associated direct cost of almost 14 million dollars. Cardiovascular disease, while accounting for only 4.8% of claims, had an associated direct cost of well over 5 million dollars. With regard to point of service, inpatient services accounted for only 2.4% of bills, but 40% of all charges. Among older seafarers (aged 51 through 60 years of age), cardiovascular disease predictably accounted for a much greater percentage than it did among younger seafarers (under 30 years of age).







### Various Shipowners: Average Cost Per Case Report:

Shipowner	A Shipowner	B Shipowner	C Shipowner	D Shipowner	E Shipowner	Total
Total Number of Vessels enlisted in program	74	120	54	54	11	313
Average Case Management fee per case	\$ 530.79	\$ 470.62	\$ 332.70	\$ 719.04	\$ 287.21	\$ 499.49
Total Number of Crewmember medical requests	575	750	183	234	81	1823
Number of Male medical requests Number of Female medical requests	574 1	742 8	182	234 0	81 0	1813 10
Mean Age of Crewmember	39.11	39	41.08	39.58	38.1	39.37
Predominant Nationality	Indian	Filipino	Indian	US	Ukrainian	Indian

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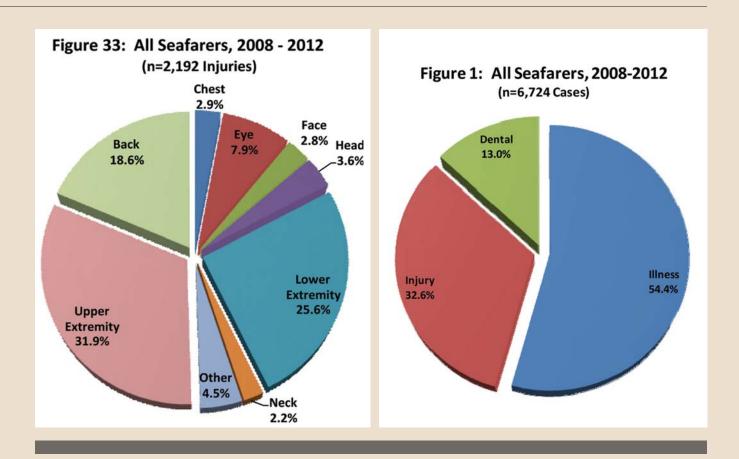
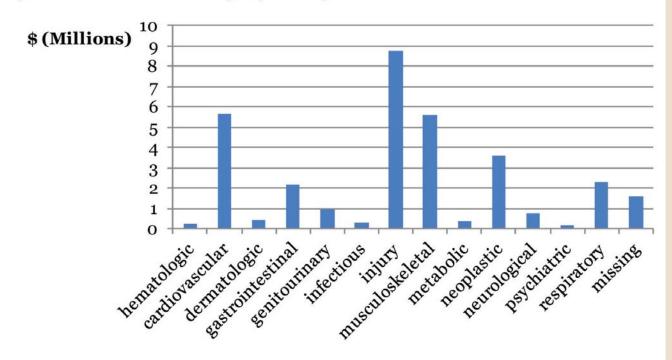
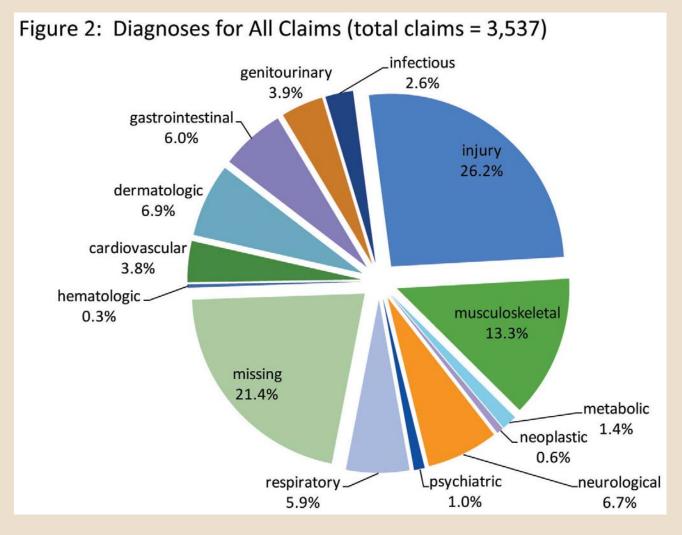


Figure 8: Total Claim Charges per Diagnosis



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Fine Tuning the Data: and finding more: The study, owing to the lack of complete numbers for all crew, before and after they boarded the vessel, had its limitations. For example, assuming that 50 percent (a fictitious number) of the mariners who experience medical alerts are Filipino, the study could not determine whether that number or percentage represents the workforce. That's because if a ship or fleet is populated to 70 percent of all mariners being Filipino, and only 50 percent of injuries / illnesses are Filipino, then they are probably doing better than other groups. On the other hand, if Filipinos represent just 30 percent of the total crew but account for 50 percent of injuries, then perhaps we have a problematic trend that we can point to. So far, the preliminary studies haven't been able to find significant differences between the nationalities in terms of illness or injury. In terms of job types, certain job descriptions experienced more bodily injuries and clearly, different kinds and levels of risk

are associated with different kinds of on board jobs. With more study, and incorporating an occupational background and preventative medicine approach, both Future Care and Yale believe that they will be able to prevent some of these things from happening.

The study's release preceded last year's ratification of the 2006 Maritime Labour Convention (MLC). The report, as good as it was, was only the first step. That's because while it included a treasure trove of data taken from a wide cross-section of mariners, it lacked underlying data typically only available to shipowners and P&I Clubs that would provide clues about pre-employment health and predictors of future events. Recently, Future Care and Yale were fortunate to obtain additional medical statistics covering 10,000 Filipino seafarers to add to the data. Once collated and analyzed, new conclusions will be released to industry.

Read the Report on the Web: www.Futurecareinc.com

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