

Workers' Compensation

U.S. Government Printing Office

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U.S. Government Printing Office

- GPO is a government agency under the legislative branch. On the day that Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated President, March 4, 1861, the GPO opened its doors on North Capitol Street. It consists of approximately 2,000 employees mostly in Washington, D.C., but we have several small regional offices around the U.S.
- The OIG has 22 employees (8 in Investigations) all in D.C. The OIG was created in 1981 and we get our authority from Title 44.

Workers' Compensation

■ HISTORY:

President Theodore Roosevelt signed legislation in 1908 to provide workers' compensation for certain federal employees in hazardous positions.

Eight years later in 1916, the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) had its origins in an organization established to administer claims under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (5 U. S.C. 8101). Benefits are available under this Act to more than three million federal employees.

Workers' compensation is a beneficial program, but a costly one – as of 2005, FECA was costing the federal government over \$2.3 billion per year!

Workers' Compensation Activities at the GPO

- Spring 2003, I asked OIG mgmt. if I could proactively look at the GPO claimants on the long term periodic rolls as well as the new claimants.
- At that time, GPO was spending \$6,346,000 per year on wc and an additional \$400,000 in continuation of pay per year.

Workers' Compensation Activities at the GPO

- 1. Visited GPO Health Unit and GPO Office of Workers' Compensation to make friends, discuss owcp problems, and plan.
- The plan - meeting weekly to discuss claimants and obtain a list of who filed a CA 1 or CA 2 the week before. (A CA 1 is a claim of traumatic injury. A CA 2 is a claim of occupational illness or disease.)

Workers' Compensation Activities at the GPO

- 2. Every week – I review the CA 1s and CA 2s of employees who filed a claim the week before.
- These forms are submitted to our Health Unit normally. I then visit or call the supervisor of the claimant and ask about the injury, the witnesses, and the status of the claimant.
- I remain in contact with the supervisor and our Office of Workers' Comp until the employee returns. I maintain a database of all these short term cases.

Workers' Compensation Activities at the GPO

- 3. Read everything you can find on federal workers' compensation. Must readings are DOL's Publication CA 810 *Injury Compensation for Federal Employees* and Publication CA 550 *Questions and Answers*.
- Read case files and research cases on DOL's Agency Query System (AQS).
- Also, have agents read and become familiar with all of the DOL forms.

Workers' Compensation Activities at the GPO

- Some of the important forms are:
- CA-1 – Federal employee's Notice of Traumatic Injury and Claim for Continuation of Pay/Compensation
- CA-2- Notice of Occupational Disease and Claim for Compensation
- CA-7 – Claim for compensation
- CA-17 – Duty Status Report
- CA-20 – Attending Physician's Report
- EN1032 – Yearly claimant income and employment disclosure form

Workers' Compensation Activities at the GPO

- 4. Make friends outside your agency. Attend wc courses and symposiums, talk with agents in other OIGs, and contact DOL Claims Examiners and Regional Directors with specific questions and problems.

Workers' Compensation Activities at the GPO

- **Have your agents prioritize your cases:**
- Look at claimants with high compensation and low medical costs
- Look at younger employees before older employees because they are more likely to be working
- Look at newer claims before older claims.
- **MOST IMPORTANTLY – Stay on top of all new cases!**

Workers' Compensation Activities at the GPO

- 5. Hire external assistance when needed.
- In 2004, GPO OIG mgmt. decided that it would be cost-effective to hire a company to conduct wc investigations.
- I called several OIGs. Most did not use contractors.
- I wrote a Statement of Work requesting a nationwide company to perform wc investigations on an hourly basis.

Workers' Compensation Activities at the GPO

- US Investigations Service won the contract in 12/04 because their costs were similar to local companies, are on the GSA schedule and have investigators nationwide.
- They have performed hourly surveillance work for us, as well as set price cases.
- “Claims Credibility Case” - minimal investigation where they speak to claimant’s friends and neighbors undercover and conduct various database searches to look for income and professional licenses. This costs \$400.
- “Dependency and Life Status” - investigations consist of a few undercover interviews of neighbors and database searches of death records. These are \$250.

Workers' Compensation Cases at the GPO

- Canady – Administrative worker – altered her medical documents. Subject was interviewed and admitted to falsification. She said she did it because “the doctor didn’t know what he was talking about.” She had her COP hours taken and was suspended for three days.
- Vest – Printing Plant Worker –Subject told others he had a trip planned to Disney World before he was allegedly hurt. Subject was interviewed and stated he was really hurt, but had already planned the trip to Disney. He said “I didn’t go on any rides. My back and my heart wouldn’t let me.” He had his COP hours taken.
- The most important note on these two cases and many others we have investigated early on is that they never went on long term workers’ comp.

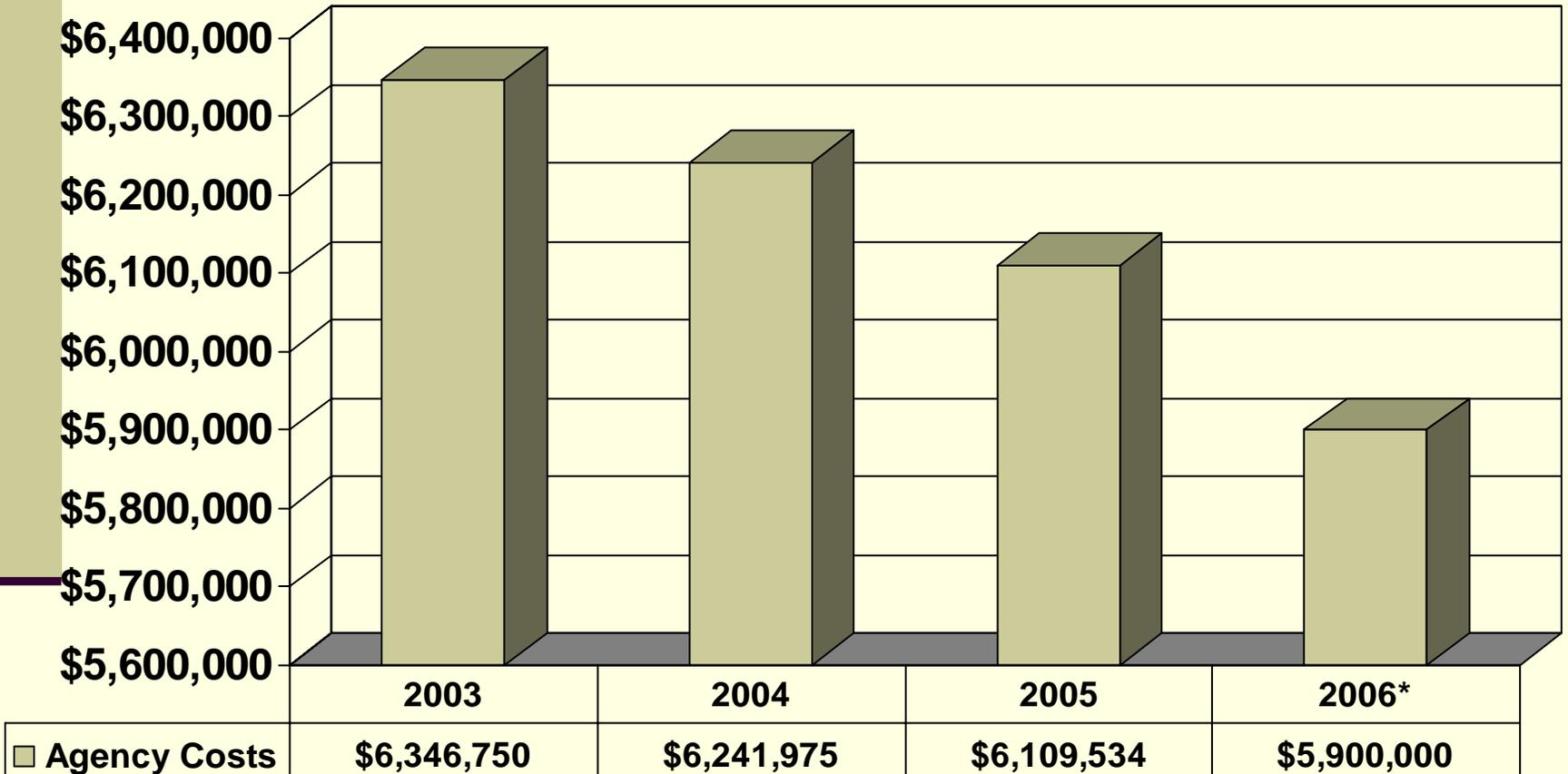
Workers' Compensation Cases at the GPO

- Jackson/Ford – Both GPO employees. Claimant was listing girlfriend as his wife and her children as his on the DOL Form CA-7 to get 75% instead of 66 2/3% of his income in wc. Girlfriend was delivering these documents to GPO OWCP.
- Claimant was terminated at GPO and removed from the periodic rolls for not completing paperwork and submitting to an IME at a savings of \$45k per year to the GPO. Girlfriend received a 30 day suspension that she is currently appealing.

Workers' Compensation Cases at the GPO

- Current cases: Subject Claimants have been found to be working as: a real estate agent, landscaper, truck driver, a newspaper writer, a printer, a barber and a preacher.
- (All of these claimants claimed no work activity on their EN 1032 filed yearly so they could be charged with 18 USC 1001 – False Statements as well as 18 USC 1920 FECA fraud if accepted by an AUSA for prosecution.)

Cost Trends for Labor Chargeback Years 2003-2006

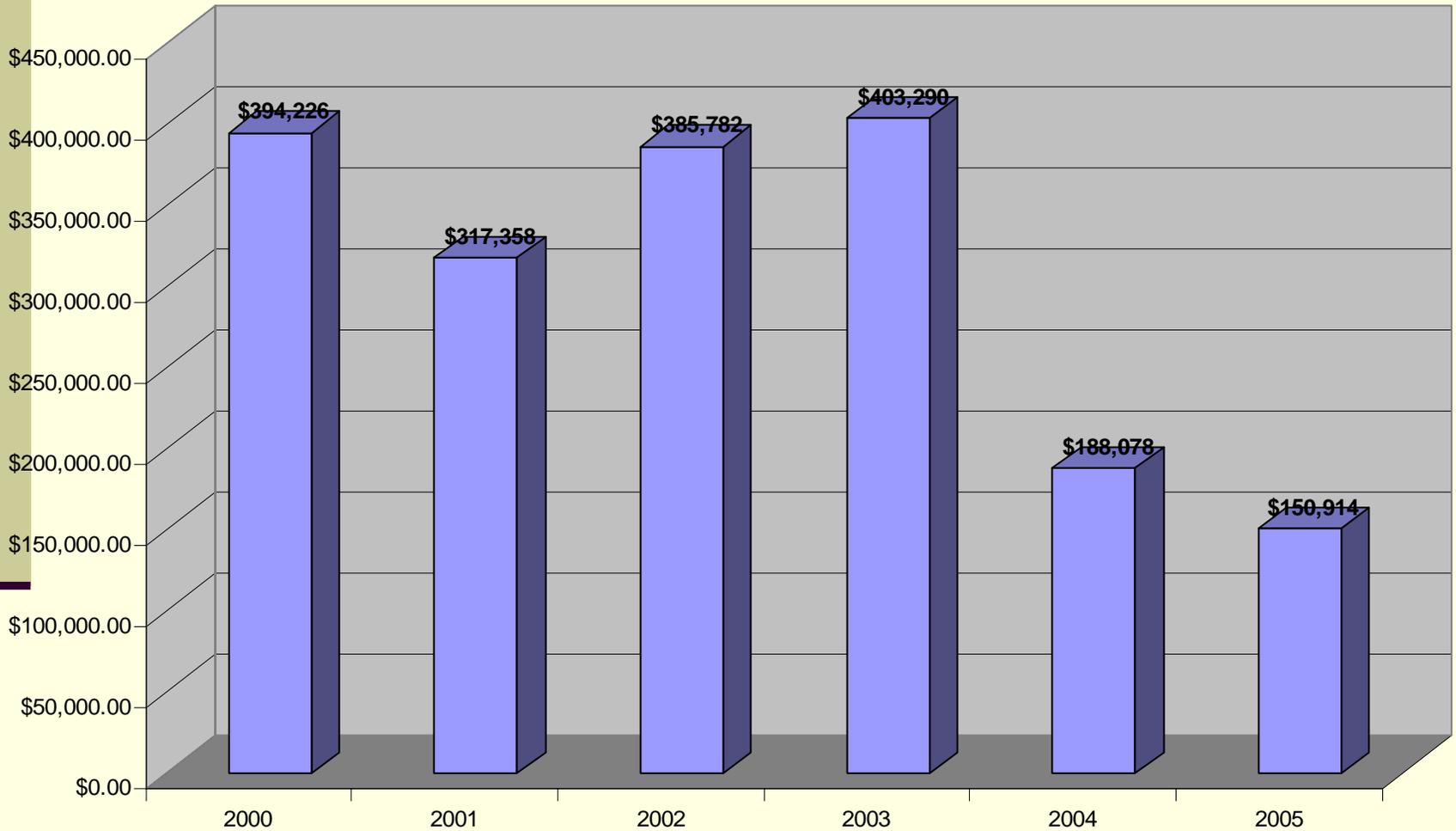


* 2006 Projected Agency Cost

SIA/COP #s – May 2003 – July 2004

■ Months	Claims	SIA Hrs	SIA Amt
■ May-03	38	1963	46,649
■ Jun-03	27	1418	33,143
■ Jul-03	23	1035	24,395
■ Aug-03	16	966	22,268
■ Sept.- 03	16	855	19,638
■ Oct-03	23	901	20,716
■ Nov.- 03	13	514	12,571
■ Dec.- 03	19	865	21,337
■ Jan-. 04	16	872	18,807
■ Feb.- 04	15	742	18,541
■ Mar-04	12	581	15,903
■ Apr.- 04	5	41	1,009
■ May-04	10	499	10,676
■ Jun-04	9	616	14,232

Fiscal Year Comparison of SIA Dollars



Thank You PCIE / ECIE!

- Thanks for the invite and call me / e-mail me if you have any questions!

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