

ASBESTOS LITIGATION:

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

KCIC Industry Report

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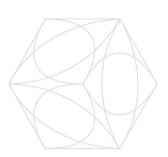
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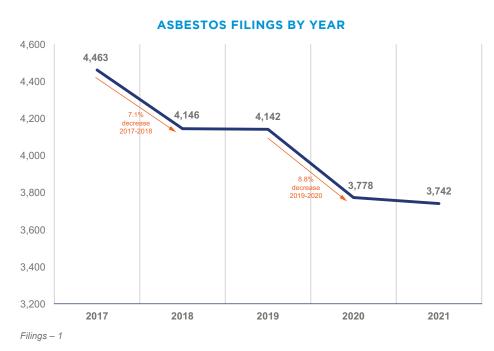
INTRODUCTION

KCIC is a consultancy based in Washington, D.C., that provides data-driven advising and problem solving to clients, many of which face product liability issues. As part of these offerings, KCIC provides claims administration services to many mass-tort defendants. Through that work, KCIC receives and processes at least 90% of all complaints alleging personal injuries due to asbestos exposures filed nationwide. The analyses in this report are based on the publicly available data captured from these complaints. Unless otherwise stated, the filing counts provided are counts of distinct lawsuits.

On average, there is approximately a 30-day lag between when a complaint is filed and when it is received by KCIC's team. This report focuses on lawsuits filed through December 31, 2021, but received and processed by KCIC through January 31, 2022, to include a majority of 2021 filings.

FILINGS SUMMARY

At the time of this report, total filings for 2021 were 3,742, which represents a decrease of less than 1% compared to total filings for 2020. Figure **Filings – 1** shows total filings by year, and **Filings – 2** details the percentage change in total filings compared to the prior year for 2017 – 2021. Over the past five years of asbestos litigation, the annual totals have fluctuated. From 2017 to 2021, there was a 16% decrease in total filings. However, the decrease was not consistent year-over-year. Some years averaged a 7% to 8% decline while others (like 2019 and 2021) showed barely any decrease at all, compared to the prior year.

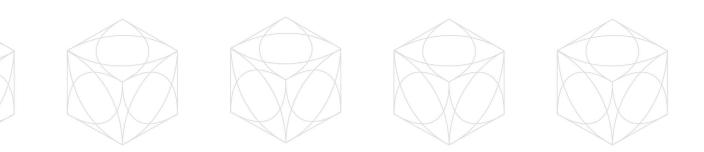


ASBESTOS FILINGS % CHANGE BY YEAR

Year	% Change (Prior Year)
2017	-6.8%
2018	-7.1%
2019	-0.1%
2020	-8.8%
2021	-1.0%

Filings – 2

As some 2021 filings continue to be received into 2022, the 2021 total will likely increase another 1% to 2%, based on historic patterns. If so, the 2021 total will show a slight increase compared to 2020.



FILINGS BY DISEASE

Table **Disease – 1** shows filing totals by disease for the past three years along with the percentage change between 2021 and 2020. Mesothelioma and lung cancer filings decreased by 4% and 1%, respectively, while other cancer filings decreased by 20%. Only non-malignant filings increased significantly, with a 40% increase in filings compared to 2020. The increase in non-malignant filings was mostly attributable to increased filings in Wayne County, Mich.; St. Clair County, III.; and Cambria, Pa.

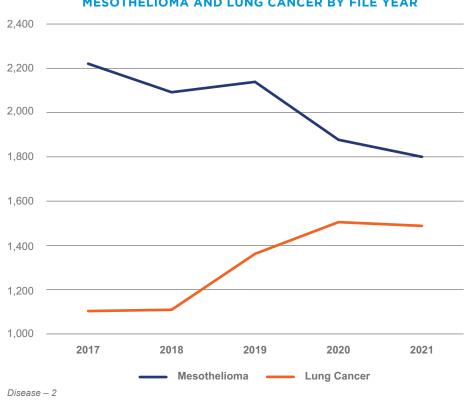
Disease	2019 Filings	2020 Filings	2021 Filings	% Change 2020-2021
Mesothelioma	2,139	1,873	1,793	-4.3%
Lung Cancer	1,364	1,507	1,491	-1.1%
Other Cancer	98	89	71	-20.2%
Non-Malignant	366	192	269	40.1%
Unknown	175	117	118	0.9%
Grand Total	4,142	3,778	3,742	-1.0%

ASBESTOS FILINGS BY DISEASE

Disease – 1

Mesothelioma filings continued to make up approximately half of all asbestos lawsuits (48% in 2021), with lung cancer cases comprising 40% of the 2021 total.

Figure **Disease – 2** plots mesothelioma and lung cancer filings by file year from 2017 to 2021. Over the past five years, mesothelioma filings have decreased on average 5% per year, while lung cancer cases have increased 5% per year on average. However, there was significant variability in certain years. For instance, in 2020, mesothelioma filings decreased 12% compared to 2019, a much steeper decline than in other years. For lung cancer, the 23% increase in 2019 compared to 2018 and the 10% increase in 2020 compared to 2019 were much larger increases than the 0% change in 2018 compared to 2017 and 1% decrease in 2021 compared to 2020.



MESOTHELIOMA AND LUNG CANCER BY FILE YEAR

JURISDICTION TRENDS

The top 15 jurisdictions, based on 2021 filings, are shown in table **Jurisdiction – 1** along with 2019 – 2021 filing counts, ranks, and the percentage change in filing counts between 2020 and 2021. These jurisdictions made up 83% of total filings in 2021 — a similar concentration compared to 2020.

Jurisdiction	2019 Filings	2019 Rank	2020 Filings	2020 Rank	2021 Filings	2021 Rank	% Change 2020-2021
Madison County, IL	1,159	1	1,201	1	969	1	-19.3%
St. Clair County, IL	377	2	428	2	643	2	50.2%
New York, NY	314	3	309	3	249	3	-19.4%
Philadelphia, PA	246	4	211	4	203	4	-3.8%
St. Louis, MO	235	5	197	5	198	5	0.5%
Wayne County, MI	158	7	126	7	152	6	20.6%
Cook County, IL	134	8	106	8	116	7	9.4%
Kanawha, WV	97	10	69	11	98	8	42.0%
New Castle, DE	71	12	128	6	93	9	-27.3%
Middlesex, NJ	66	13	80	10	81	10	1.3%
Allegheny, PA	86	11	61	13	70	11	14.8%
Los Angeles, CA	124	9	95	9	64	12	-32.6%
San Francisco, CA	48	17	65	12	61	13	-6.2%
Orleans, LA	63	14	44	16	53	14	20.5%
Alameda, CA	55	16	57	14	52	15	-8.8%
Total (Top 15)	3,233	·	3,177		3,102		-2.4%
Total (All)	4,142		3,778		3,742		-1.0%

TOP 15 JURISDICTIONS BASED ON 2021 FILINGS

Jurisdiction - 1

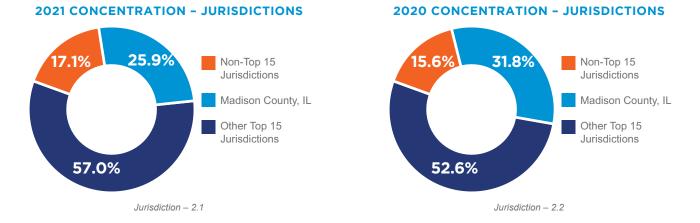
The top five jurisdictions for 2021, which made up 60% of all filings, have remained constant in their rankings over the past few years. Madison County, III., which is consistently the top jurisdiction, had a 19% decrease in filings in 2021 (232 fewer filings). Over the past five years (2017 – 2021), Madison made up 25% – 28% of total filings each year except for 2020. In 2020, Madison's share of total filings was highest, with 32% of all asbestos lawsuits filed there. In 2021, Madison comprised 26% of total filings nationwide, which was consistent with 2017 – 2019. The 2021 decrease was due largely to the significant drop in Madison County lung cancer cases filed by firms such as Simmons Hanly Conroy and Napoli Shkolnik. These two firms decreased the number of lung cancer cases they filed in Madison County by 77% and 60%, respectively, compared to 2020. Other top jurisdictions that experienced significant decreases in 2021 filings were: New York, N.Y., with a 19% decrease; New Castle, Del., with a 27% decrease; and Los Angeles, Calif., with a 33% decrease. In NYC and New Castle, the decrease was due mostly to fewer lung cancer cases filed in those locations. In Los Angeles, the decline was mostly due to fewer mesothelioma filings. Outside of the top 15 jurisdictions, Baltimore City, Md. (formerly a top jurisdiction especially for non-malignant cases) continued its significant decline over the past few years, with only 12 lawsuits filed there in 2021.

Looking at the jurisdictions with the largest increases in filings, St. Clair County, III., stands out with a 50% increase in filings compared to 2020. St. Clair made up 17% of total filings in 2021, compared to 11% in 2020. While Madison filings decreased by 232 lawsuits, this decrease was almost completely offset by the 215 additional lawsuits filed in adjacent St. Clair in 2021. The increase in St. Clair filings was attributable to an increase in lung cancer cases filed by the Flint Law Firm and SWMW Law in that jurisdiction. In 2021, the Flint Law Firm increased its total St. Clair filings from 14 to 105, of which 97% were lung cancer cases. Similarly, SWMW's St. Clair filings rose from 33 to 199, 89% of which were lung cancer. Again, this increase in St. Clair largely offset the decrease in lung cancer cases in Madison. Along with the

increase in lung cancer filings, St. Clair also saw an increase in non-malignant filings in 2021. In 2020, one non-malignant case was filed in St. Clair; in 2021 there were 40 cases — most filed by Menges Law.

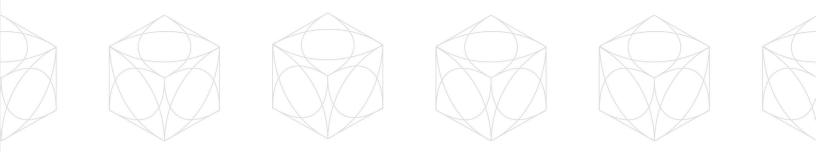
Another location with an increase in 2021 filings was Wayne County, Mich., where filings increased by 21% (126 filings to 152 filings). Wayne was the top jurisdiction for non-malignant filings in 2021, making up 31% of all non-malignant cases nationally. This represents a 40% increase in non-malignant filings in that jurisdiction compared to 2020. Kanawha, W.Va., also had an increase in filings. In Kanawha, filings increased 42% (69 filings to 98 filings) when comparing 2021 to 2020. The increase was due to a 59% increase in lung cancer cases in that jurisdiction, most of which were filed by Goldberg Persky & White and Motley Rice.

The concentration of filings within top jurisdictions continues to be an attribute of asbestos litigation. Figures **Jurisdiction** – **2.1** and **Jurisdiction** – **2.2** show the percentage of total filings in Madison County, the other top 15 jurisdictions, plus all other jurisdictions (non-top 15) for 2021 and 2020.



As shown in figure **Jurisdiction – 1**, the top 15 jurisdictions had a 2% decrease in total filings compared to 2020 — a higher percentage decrease than overall filings, which decreased 1%. The difference was made up by an increase in filings in other jurisdictions (non-top 15), where the share of total filings increased from 16% to 17% in 2021.

In 2021, the share of total filings in the top 15 jurisdictions was 83%, with 26% in Madison County alone. The other (non-Madison County) top jurisdictions made up 57% of total filings — an increase compared to 2020, when other (non-Madison County) top jurisdictions made up 53% of total filings.



PLAINTIFF FIRM TRENDS

Table **Firms – 1** shows the top 15 plaintiff firms based on 2021 filings along with total filings and rank for 2019 – 2021 and the percentage change in filings in 2021 compared to 2020.

Plaintiff Firm	2019 Filings	2019 Rank	2020 Filings	2020 Rank	2021 Filings	2021 Rank	% Change 2020-2021
The Gori Law Firm	645	1	596	1	607	1	1.8%
Weitz & Luxenberg	430	3	400	3	388	2	-3.0%
Simmons Hanly Conroy	510	2	543	2	383	3	-29.5%
SWMW Law	228	5	190	6	283	4	48.9%
Maune Raichle Hartley French & Mudd	275	4	210	5	230	5	9.5%
Flint Law Firm	22	31	43	13	165	6	283.7%
Cooney & Conway	155	8	124	7	140	7	12.9%
Goldberg, Persky & White	172	6	92	8	133	8	44.6%
Napoli Shkolnik	37	19	213	4	82	9	-61.5%
Meirowitz & Wasserberg	44	16	59	12	66	10	11.9%
Brayton Purcell	55	10	70	9	65	11	-7.1%
Belluck & Fox	58	9	68	11	60	12	-11.8%
Mazur & Kittel	51	14	41	16	51	13	24.4%
Shrader & Associates	55	11	69	10	49	14	-29.0%
Brookman Rosenberg Brown & Sandler	48	15	36	18	42	15	16.7%
Total (Top 15)	2,785		2,754		2,744		-0.4%
Total (All)	4,142		3,778		3,742		-1.0%

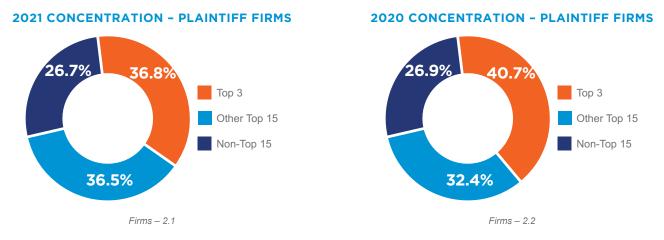
TOP 15 PLAINTIFF FIRMS BASED ON 2021 FILINGS

Firms – 1

Of the top firms filing asbestos lawsuits in 2021, there were some with significant increases compared to 2020. Most notable was the Flint Law Firm, which filed fewer than 50 cases in previous years but filed 165 lawsuits in 2021 — a 284% increase compared to 2020. As discussed previously, this was due to a significant increase in lung cancer cases filed by this firm in St. Clair County, III. Other firms with notable increases in 2021 filing activity were SWMW Law (49% increase) and Goldberg, Persky & White (45% increase). SWMW filed almost twice as many lung cancer cases in Madison County, III., in 2021 compared to 2020, along with an even larger increase in lung cancer cases in St. Clair. Goldberg, Persky & White increased its non-malignant filings in Wayne County, Mich., as well as in Cambria, Pa., while also continuing to file lung cancer and mesothelioma cases in jurisdictions like Kanawha, W.Va., and Allegheny, Pa.

Other firms filed significantly fewer cases in 2021 than in 2020. For example, Napoli Shkolnik, which filed more than 200 lawsuits in 2020, decreased filings by 62% in 2021, filing fewer than 100 cases. This firm was largely responsible for the increase in lung cancer cases in 2020 but did not continue to file at that volume in 2021, decreasing its filings in Madison County, New Castle, Del., and St. Louis, Mo. Other firms with notable decreases in 2021 filings were Simmons Hanly Conroy (30% decrease) and Shrader & Associates (29% decrease). Simmons Hanly Conroy decreased filings in most jurisdictions including notably in Madison County, where its filings decreased from 474 in 2020 to 331 in 2021, mostly due to a decrease in lung cancer cases. Shrader & Associates also decreased its Madison County filings, with 27% fewer mesothelioma filings there compared to 2020.

As seen in prior years, a similar concentration of asbestos filings exists among the top plaintiff firms as the top jurisdictions. Figures **Firms – 2.1** and **Firms – 2.2** show the percentage of total lawsuits filed by the top three plaintiff firms, the other firms in the top 15, plus all other (non-top 15) firms for 2021 and 2020, based on their rank in each year.



The top three firms (The Gori Law Firm, Simmons Hanly Conroy, and Weitz & Luxenberg) were the same for both years. The firms making up the other groupings differed from year to year. The concentration within the top 15 firms remained constant in 2021 compared to 2020 (73% of total filings each year). However, the concentration within the top three firms decreased from 41% in 2020 to 37% in 2021. Unlike the top jurisdictions, total filings by the top 15 firms remained constant, with only a 0.4% decrease compared to 2020 — slightly less of a decrease compared to the overall decrease in total asbestos filings.

MESOTHELIOMA TRENDS

Mesothelioma cases continued to make up nearly half of all asbestos-related lawsuits filed. The top 10 jurisdictions for mesothelioma filings in 2021 are shown in table **Mesothelioma – 1**, along with total filings for 2019 – 2021 and percentage change in filings between 2021 and 2020. These jurisdictions, which made up 77% of total mesothelioma cases in 2021, saw a larger decrease (6%) in filings 2020 – 2021 than total mesothelioma filings nationwide (4%).

Jurisdiction	2019 Filings	2020 Filings	2021 Filings	% Change 2020-2021
Madison County, IL	1,006	894	838	-6.3%
New York, NY	127	130	117	-10.0%
Philadelphia, PA	107	91	73	-19.8%
Cook County, IL	86	64	65	1.6%
Middlesex, NJ	51	63	64	1.6%
Los Angeles, CA	110	78	58	-25.6%
Alameda, CA	46	45	50	11.1%
St. Louis, MO	87	40	42	5.0%
Allegheny, PA	35	30	34	13.3%
Middlesex, MA	40	28	34	21.4%
Total (Top 10)	1,695	1,463	1,375	-6.0%
Total (All)	2,139	1,873	1,793	-4.3%

MESOTHELIOMA TOP 10 JURIDCTIONS BASED ON 2021 FILINGS

Mesothelioma – 1

Madison County, III., continued to be the top jurisdiction for mesothelioma filings, with 47% of total 2021 mesothelioma cases filed there. Madison also had the largest nominal decrease in mesothelioma filings in 2021, going from 894 filings in 2020 to 838 filings in 2021. This was due to decreases in filing activity by most of the major firms filing mesothelioma cases there — including Simmons Hanly Conroy, The Gori Law Firm, Maune Raichle Hartley French & Mudd, Shrader & Associates, and SWMW Law. However, the 6% decrease in Madison County's mesothelioma filings was significantly less than the 19% decrease in overall 2021 filings in that jurisdiction. The decrease in New York, N.Y., was due mostly to fewer mesothelioma filings from Belluck & Fox and Simmons Hanly Conroy, and the decline in Philadelphia, Pa., was attributed to fewer filings from Brookman Rosenberg Brown and Sandler, as well as the Simmons firm.

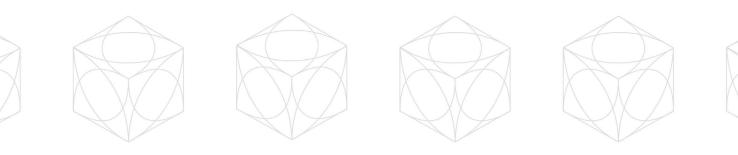
Table **Mesothelioma – 2** details the top plaintiff firms filing mesothelioma lawsuits in 2021, along with total filings for 2019 – 2021 and the percentage change in filings between 2021 and 2020. These firms made up 71% of total mesothelioma filings in 2021. In contrast to the top jurisdictions, the decrease in filings by the top plaintiff firms (2%) was less than the overall decrease in mesothelioma filings (4%) between 2020 and 2021.

Plaintiff Firm	2019 Filings	2020 Filings	2021 Filings	% Change 2020-2021
Simmons Hanly Conroy	439	379	337	-11.1%
Maune Raichle Hartley French & Mudd	275	210	229	9.0%
The Gori Law Firm	250	225	224	-0.4%
Weitz & Luxenberg	185	169	162	-4.1%
Cooney & Conway	115	94	108	14.9%
SWMW Law	99	69	52	-24.6%
Shrader & Associates	53	66	49	-25.8%
Simon Greenstone Panatier	29	30	40	33.3%
Meirowitz & Wasserberg	23	26	37	42.3%
Belluck & Fox	36	36	36	0.0%
Total (Top 10)	1,504	1,304	1,274	-2.3%
Total (All)	2,139	1,873	1,793	-4.3%

MESOTHELIOMA TOP 10 PLAINTIFF FIRMS BASED ON 2021 FILINGS

Mesothelioma – 2

Simmons Hanly Conroy continued as the number one firm filing mesothelioma cases. Its 2021 mesothelioma filings decreased 11% when compared to 2020, but this was a smaller decrease than the firm's 30% decrease in overall filings in 2021. The decreases in mesothelioma filings by firms like Simmons, SWMW, and Shrader & Associates were almost offset by increases from four of the other top firms. Maune Raichle Hartley French & Mudd decreased its mesothelioma filings in Madison County but increased filings in places like Alameda, Ca.; Kanawha, W. Va.; and Middlesex, N.J. Cooney & Conway increased mesothelioma filings in Madison and Meirowitz & Wasserberg increased in New York. While these firms increased mesothelioma filings in many of the top jurisdictions for mesothelioma cases, the increase in mesothelioma lawsuits filed by Simon Greenstone Panatier was made up of a smattering of filings in several less-common jurisdictions — like Denver, Co.; Cuyahoga, Ohio; and Dallas, Texas.



LUNG CANCER TRENDS

Over the past few years, lung cancer cases have become more prevalent in asbestos litigation. From 2017 to 2020, the percentage of total filings made up of lung cancer cases increased from 25% to 40%. The 1% decrease in lung cancer filings in 2021 was the first time since 2017 that lung cancer filings have not increased.

Table Lung Cancer – 1 shows the top lung cancer jurisdictions based on 2021 filings, as well as total filings for 2019 – 2021 and the percentage change in filings between 2021 and 2020.

Jurisdiction	2019 Filings	2020 Filings	2021 Filings	% Change 2020-2021
St. Clair County, IL	368	410	590	43.9%
St. Louis, MO	139	147	146	-0.7%
Madison County, IL	141	287	120	-58.2%
New York, NY	111	144	114	-20.8%
Philadelphia, PA	93	81	85	4.9%
Kanawha, WV	60	41	65	58.5%
New Castle, DE	32	92	62	-32.6%
Wayne County, MI	57	41	38	-7.3%
Allegheny, PA	42	21	30	42.9%
Cook County, IL	28	24	30	25.0%
Total (Top 10)	1,071	1,288	1,280	-0.6%
Total (All)	1,364	1,507	1,491	-1.1%

LUNG CANCER TOP 10 JURIDCTIONS BASED ON 2021 FILINGS

Lung Cancer – 1

While total lung cancer cases filed in the top jurisdictions decreased by less than 1%, there was significant variability among individual jurisdictions, with some large decreases being almost completely offset by large increases. St. Clair County, III., continued to be the top jurisdiction for lung cancer cases, with 40% of the total filed there. This was an increase in concentration compared to 2020, when St. Clair made up 27% of total lung cancer filings. As mentioned previously, St. Clair experienced a 50% increase in overall filings (all diseases) in 2021, the majority of which was made up of a 44% increase in lung cancer filings — mostly by The Gori Law Firm (312 filings in 2020 to 344 filings in 2021); SWMW Law (31 filings in 2020 to 106 filings in 2021); and the Flint Law Firm (13 filings in 2020 to 102 filings in 2021). Again, this was mostly offset by decreases in lung cancer filings in Madison County, III., by Simmons Hanly Conroy (144 filings in 2020 to 33 filings in 2021) and Napoli Shkolnik (100 filings in 2020 to 40 filings in 2021).

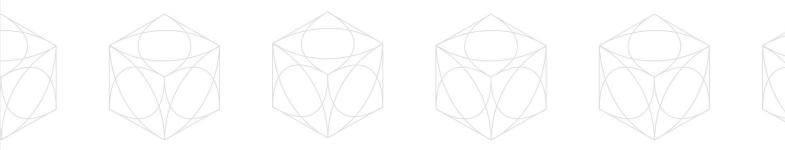
Table Lung Cancer – 2 shows the top plaintiff firms filing lung cancer cases in 2021, with total filings for 2019 – 2021 and the percentage change between 2021 and 2020.

Again, large decreases from firms like Napoli Shkolnik and Simmons Hanly Conroy were almost completely offset by the large increases from SWMW Law and Flint Law Firm. The Gori Firm, consistently the firm filing the most lung cancer cases, filed 25% of the 2021 total. The 6% increase in Gori's lung cancer filings was almost entirely made up of filings in St. Clair.

Plaintiff Firm	2019 Filings	2020 Filings	2021 Filings	% Change 2020-2021
The Gori Law Firm	391	358	378	5.6%
SWMW Law	128	119	217	82.4%
Weitz & Luxenberg	142	161	148	-8.1%
Flint Law Firm	5	25	130	420.0%
Napoli Shkolnik	32	207	82	-60.4%
Goldberg, Persky & White	41	24	45	87.5%
Simmons Hanly Conroy	60	144	36	-75.0%
Karst & Von Oiste	27	22	25	13.6%
Meirowitz & Wasserberg	9	32	25	-21.9%
Belluck & Fox	22	31	24	-22.6%
Nass Cancelliere	29	21	24	14.3%
Total (Top 10)	886	1,144	1,134	-0.9%
Total (All)	1,364	1,507	1,491	-1.1%

LUNG CANCER TOP 10 PLAINTIFF FIRMS BASED ON 2021 FILINGS

Lung Cancer – 2



A LOOK AT DEFENDANTS

While most asbestos lawsuits are filed by a small subset of plaintiff firms in a small subset of jurisdictions, asbestos litigation is somewhat unique in the large number of defendants involved. In 2021, nearly 11,000 unique defendant company entities were named on asbestos complaints. While this includes some double counting for namings that are slight variations of the same entity, the number remains large, and it increases year over year.

To analyze unique namings per complaint, successor companies were each counted individually, as they often require separate defenses and resolutions. Therefore, a naming for Company A as successor in interest to Companies B and C would be counted as three unique namings. Using this methodology, there was an average of 67 unique namings per 2021 asbestos complaint nationwide. The number of defendants per complaint varies based on many factors including disease, jurisdiction, and plaintiff firm. Table **Defendants – 1** shows the average number of defendants per complaint by disease for 2019 – 2021 and table **Defendants – 2** shows the average by jurisdiction for the top 15 jurisdictions in 2021.

Disease	2019 Complaints	2020 Complaints	2021 Complaints	2019-2021 Complaints
Mesothelioma	61	64	61	62
Lung Cancer	75	72	72	73
Other Cancer	70	71	85	74
Non-Malignant	80	74	85	80
Unknown	40	49	42	43
All Filings	67	67	67	67

AVERAGE NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS PER COMPLAINT BY DISEASE

Defendants – 1

Mesothelioma lawsuits tend to have fewer defendants named per complaint than other disease types. The average of 62 namings for mesothelioma lawsuits has remained fairly constant over the past few years. In contrast, the average number of namings for non-malignant and other cancer filings has been higher, with 85 unique defendants named per lawsuit in 2021.

Within the top 15 jurisdictions for 2021 filings, New Castle, Del., had the lowest average number of defendants named per complaint (24 namings) and Kanawha, W.Va., had the highest (170 namings). Saginaw, Mich., and Erie, Pa., (non-top 15 jurisdictions) had higher averages (181 and 176, respectively). The complaint with the most unique defendants named was a lawsuit filed in Monroe County, N.Y., with 452 unique defendant namings.

While the average number of defendants per complaint was 67, there were eight defendants named on more than 50% of all complaints. Almost every plaintiff firm (91%) named at least one of those eight companies on their complaints in 2021. The top defendant was named on 79% of all complaints in 2021, and nearly 75% of plaintiff firms named this company on at least one complaint.

AVERAGE NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS PER COMPLAINT - TOP JURISDICTIONS

Top 15 Jurisdictions 2021	Average Number of Defendants	2021 Rank (Based on Total Filings)
Kanawha, WV	170	8
Allegheny, PA	143	11
Wayne County, MI	120	6
San Francisco, CA	87	13
St. Clair County, IL	82	2
Los Angeles, CA	69	12
Cook County, IL	61	7
Madison County, IL	61	1
St. Louis, MO	57	5
New York, NY	48	3
Philadelphia, PA	47	4
Orleans, LA	46	14
Alameda, CA	40	15
Middlesex, NJ	39	10
New Castle, DE	24	9
Defendants – 2		

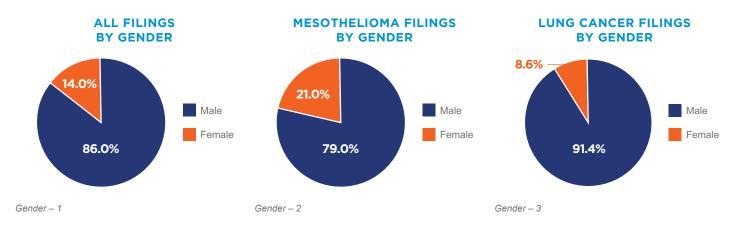
Defendants – 2

PLAINTIFF ATTRIBUTES

Gender

Asbestos litigation continues to be primarily comprised of male plaintiffs. The male-to-female ratio has been almost constant over the past few years. Figure **Gender – 1** shows the breakdown of 2021 asbestos plaintiffs by gender, with 86% of plaintiffs being male and 14% female.

Figures **Gender – 2** and **Gender – 3** show the percentage of plaintiffs by gender for mesothelioma and lung cancer. The gender makeup of the plaintiff population did vary by disease. A larger share of mesothelioma plaintiffs was female than the overall population of filings (21% vs. 14% overall). This was an increase compared to 2020, when 19% of mesothelioma plaintiffs were female. While the portion of lung cancer plaintiffs made up of females was smaller than the overall population (9% vs. 14% overall), this also increased compared to 2020, when only 7% of lung cancer plaintiffs were female.



Age

The average age of plaintiffs, and how that is changing over time, can be an indication of how long asbestos litigation may continue. To calculate trends in plaintiff age, the analyses in this section considered only those complaints that included a plaintiff's date of birth. Over the past three years, this has consistently been a population of approximately 31% of total complaints. Table **Age – 1** shows the average and median age of plaintiffs by disease for 2019 – 2021. Again, the average age for all plaintiffs at the time of filing was consistently 74 years old. There was little variation in the average age by disease, with only the average for non-malignant plaintiffs trending slightly older (76 years of age), and lung cancer and other cancer plaintiffs trending slightly younger (73 years of age). In all cases, the median tracked closely with the average.

AVERAGE/MEDIAN AGE BY DISEASE, FILE YEAR

Year	20	19	2020		2021		2019-2021	
Disease	Average	Median	Average	Median	Average	Median	Average	Median
Mesothelioma	75	76	74	76	74	75	74	76
Lung Cancer	73	73	73	73	74	74	73	73
Other Cancer	70	70	77	76	72	74	73	74
Non-Malignant	74	74	77	77	78	77	76	76
Unknown	73	72	75	75	73	74	74	74

Age – 1

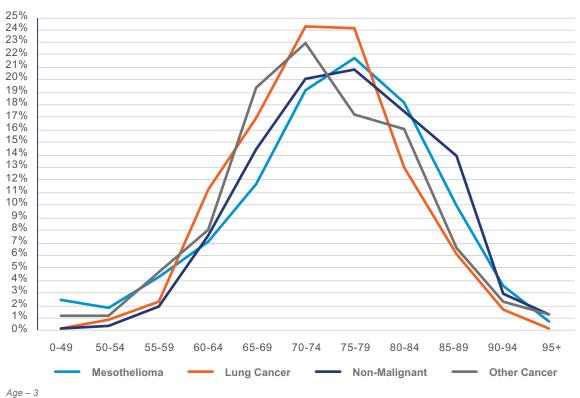
The minimum and maximum age of plaintiffs by disease (shown in table **Age – 2**) also remained fairly consistent with prior years. In 2021, the oldest plaintiff was 97 years old and was a lung cancer case. This is slightly older than the maximum age for lung cancer cases in 2019 (93 years) and 2020 (94 years). In contrast, the oldest mesothelioma plaintiff in 2021 was 95 years old, slightly younger than the oldest mesothelioma plaintiff in 2019 (98 years) and 2020 (99 years). The youngest plaintiff filing a lawsuit in 2021 was 28 years old — a mesothelioma case that included an allegation of exposure to talcum powder contaminated with asbestos.

Year	20	19	20)20	20	21	2019	-2021
Disease	Max	Min	Мах	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
Mesothelioma	98	38	99	26	95	28	99	26
Lung Cancer	93	52	94	49	97	51	97	49
Other Cancer	85	47	95	60	89	51	95	47
Non-Malignant	100	52	95	60	96	56	100	52
Unknown	88	58	88	64	88	54	88	54
All Diseases	100	38	99	26	97	28	100	26

MIN/MAX AGE BY DISEASE, FILE YEAR

Age – 2

The population of plaintiffs where age could be calculated based on information in the complaint was distributed by disease type into age groupings. Figure **Age – 3** shows this distribution using 2019 - 2021 data. The peak age range for mesothelioma and non-malignant cases was between 75 and 79 years of age, and lung cancer plaintiffs had an almost even peak at 70 - 74 and 75 - 79. This is consistent with prior years' analyses for mesothelioma and lung cancer. However, in prior years, the distribution of non-malignant plaintiffs peaked in a slightly younger age group (70 - 74 years) than in the current analysis. This means there was an older population of non-malignant plaintiffs than seen in prior years.



PERCENTAGE OF 2019 - 2021 CLAIMANTS BY DISEASE AND AGE GROUP

Residency

There are many factors that determine where a plaintiff may file a lawsuit — generally based on where a plaintiff resides and/or where defendants are incorporated or do business. The data provided in asbestos complaints allows for a comparison between the state of residence listed for a plaintiff and the jurisdiction in which they filed their lawsuit. Only complaints with the address of the plaintiff listed were included in this analysis.

For complaints filed in 2019 – 2021, 66% of plaintiffs had a state of residence available, including 61% of the 2021 lawsuits. Figure **Residency – 1** shows the percentage of plaintiffs with address information provided in the complaint who filed in a state outside of where they lived at time of filing. In all, 60% of the 2019 – 2021 plaintiffs with state of residence available filed in a different state than where they resided. The percentage of out-of-state filings for 2021 plaintiffs was slightly higher at 62%.

Table **Residency – 2** looks at where 2021 plaintiffs most commonly filed if they did not file their lawsuit in the state where they lived. The majority (53%) of plaintiffs who filed a lawsuit outside of their state of residency chose to file in Madison County, Ill.

PLAINTIFFS FILING OUT-OF-STATE

Year	% Filed Out of State		
2019	53.9%		
2020	64.3%		
2021	61.7%		
Total	59.6%		

Residency – 1

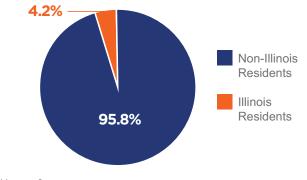
Lawsuit Jurisdiction	% of All Out-of-State Plaintiffs Filing Here
Madison County, IL	53.2%
St. Clair County, IL	8.2%
Philadelphia, PA	7.2%
New Castle, DE	6.3%
Kanawha, WV	3.9%
All Other Jurisdictions	21.2%
Grand Total	100%

% OF ALL OUT-OF-STATE PLAINTIFFS FILING BY JURISDICTION

Residency – 2

As seen in earlier sections, Madison continues to be the epicenter of asbestos litigation. This jurisdiction was also where most plaintiffs who filed out of state chose to file their lawsuit. Figure **Residency – 3** shows the percentage of 2021 Madison filings where the plaintiff resided in Illinois versus other states. When looking at plaintiffs filing in Madison in 2021, 82% of complaints listed the plaintiff's state of residence at time of filing. Of those, only 4% of the population filing in Madison resided in Illinois. Plaintiffs filing there resided all over the country (and Canada). The greatest number were Florida residents, making up 7% of the Madison County plaintiffs.

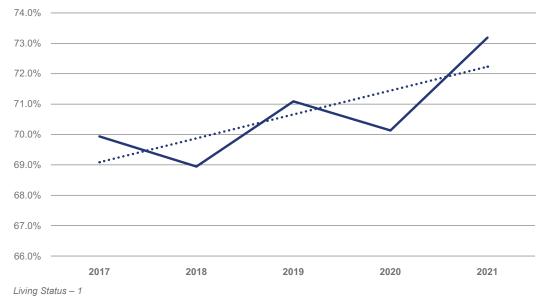
2021 MADISON COUNTY FILINGS BY RESIDENCY



Living Status

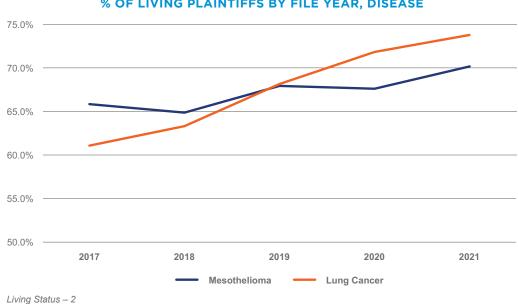
Many hypotheses have been raised regarding how the COVID-19 pandemic may have affected asbestos litigation since 2020. One such question is whether there has been a change in the percent of plaintiffs who were deceased at time of filing. For this analysis, plaintiffs were assumed deceased at filing based on the presence of a date of death in the complaint, a related party with legal standing indicating a deceased plaintiff, or a case caption indicating a deceased plaintiff.

Figure Living Status – 1 shows the percentage of plaintiffs who were living at time of filing by file year for 2017 - 2021. On average, 71% of plaintiffs were living at time of filing over the past five years. This was slightly higher in 2021, with 73% of plaintiffs alive at time of filing.



% OF LIVING PLAINTIFFS BY FILE YEAR

By disease, the percentage of living plaintiffs for both mesothelioma and lung cancer is increasing, but at different rates. Figure Living Status - 2 shows the percentage of plaintiffs living at time of filing for mesothelioma and lung cancer over five years. The percentage of living lung cancer plaintiffs increased from 61% in 2017 to 74% in 2021, whereas the percentage of living mesothelioma plaintiffs increased from 66% in 2017 to 70% in 2021.



% OF LIVING PLAINTIFFS BY FILE YEAR, DISEASE

Table Living Status – 3 shows the percentage of living plaintiffs by gender for each file year 2017 – 2021. By gender, the percentage of living plaintiffs has remained almost constant at 68% for females. The percentage of living male plaintiffs stayed mostly constant around 70% for 2017 – 2020 but rose to 74% in 2021. There were more living male plaintiffs in 2021 than in prior years.

Gender	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Female	68.3%	68.9%	68.4%	67.7%	67.6%
Male	70.2%	68.8%	71.5%	70.4%	74.1%

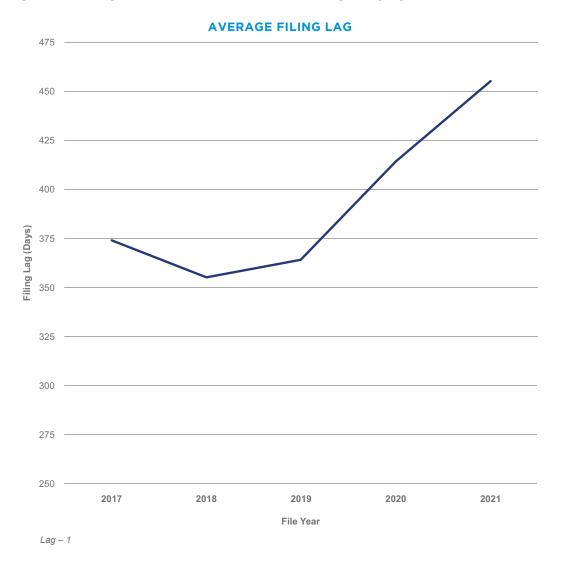
LIVING PLAINTIFFS BY GENDER

Living Status – 3

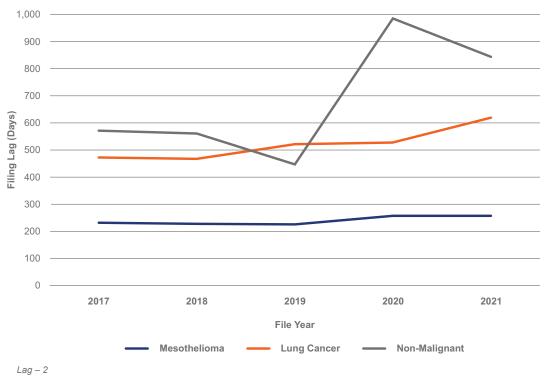
Filing Lag

Another plaintiff-related metric examined was the filing lag — the time between when a plaintiff was diagnosed with a disease and when that plaintiff subsequently filed a lawsuit.

The average lag between diagnosis and filing for all plaintiffs with a diagnosis date included in the complaint was 391 days for filings in the last five years (2017 – 2021). For 2017 – 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic, the average lag was 365 days. Between 2020 and 2021, the average lag increased to 435 days. Figure **Lag – 1** depicts the average lag time between diagnosis and filing for all plaintiffs who filed a lawsuit from 2017 to 2021. From 2017 to 2019, the average lag in time between diagnosis and filing decreased 2%. In contrast, the average filing lag increased 25% from 2019 to 2021.



The filing lag was shorter for plaintiffs with mesothelioma than for other diseases. For plaintiffs filing lawsuits between 2017 and 2021, the average time between diagnosis of mesothelioma and filing a lawsuit was 235 days, much shorter than that for lung cancer plaintiffs (525 days) or non-malignant plaintiffs (616 days). Figure **Lag – 2** shows the average filing lag for mesothelioma, lung cancer, and non-malignant plaintiffs who filed lawsuits during the 2017 to 2021 period. For mesothelioma plaintiffs, the average filing lag decreased 2% for 2017 – 2019, then increased 13% between 2019 and 2021. For lung cancer plaintiffs, the average filing lag increased 11% for 2017 – 2019, then increased 18% between 2019 and 2021. The average filing lag for plaintiffs with non-malignant diseases was most volatile over the past five years. For 2017 – 2019, the average filing lag for non-malignant plaintiffs decreased 21%. For 2019 – 2021, it increased 88%.



AVERAGE FILING LAG BY DISEASE

The filing lag was also shorter for female plaintiffs, who on average were diagnosed 351 days before filing lawsuits in 2017 - 2021 compared to males, who filed 398 days after diagnosis on average during the same period. Table **Lag – 3** shows the average lag for male and female plaintiffs, and all plaintiffs, for 2017 - 2021. The average filing lag for female plaintiffs decreased 20% for 2017 - 2019, then increased 22% for 2019 - 2021. For males, average filing lag was almost constant (less than 1% increase) for 2017 - 2019 but it increased 26% for 2019 - 2021.

AVERAGE FILING LAG (DAYS)

File Year	Female Plaintiffs	Male Plaintiffs	All Plaintiffs
2017	398	369	374
2018	309	364	355
2019	319	372	365
2020	333	428	415
2021	390	467	456
2017 - 2021	351	398	391

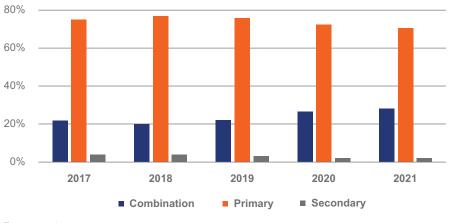
Lag – 3

EXPOSURE ANALYSIS

Primary vs. Secondary Exposures

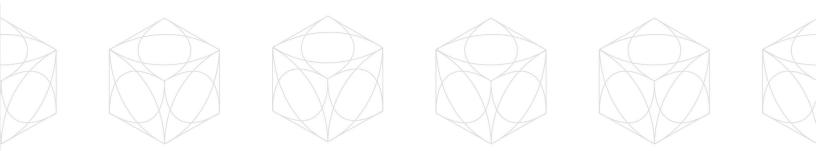
One way to categorize asbestos exposures is to look at whether the exposure was primary (direct) or secondary (indirect). Primary exposures occur when a plaintiff is directly exposed to the asbestos containing product, whereas secondary exposures occur when a plaintiff indirectly comes into contact with the asbestos. An example of secondary exposure would be a plaintiff exposed indirectly to asbestos while laundering her husband's clothing, which contained asbestos from products he was exposed to at his job.

Figure **Exposure – 1** shows the percentage of plaintiffs alleging only primary exposure to asbestos, only secondary exposure to asbestos, or a combination (both primary and secondary exposures) over the last five years. The percentage of plaintiffs who only allege primary exposure to asbestos, while decreasing, remains the vast majority of the population. In 2021, 70% of plaintiffs alleged only primary exposure. At the same time, the percentage of plaintiffs alleging a combination of both primary and secondary exposures increased, with 28% of 2021 plaintiffs alleging a combination of exposure types. In 2021, the percentage of plaintiffs alleging their only exposure to asbestos was secondary remained consistently low with a slight decrease to 2% of plaintiffs.

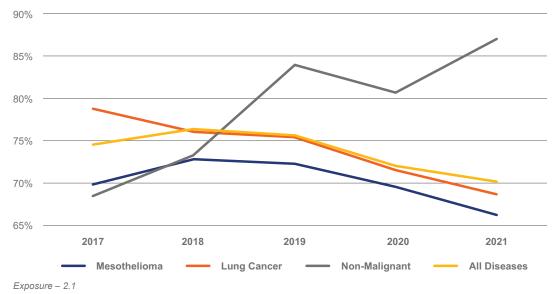


PERCENT OF PLAINTIFFS BY EXPOSURE TYPE

Exposure – 1

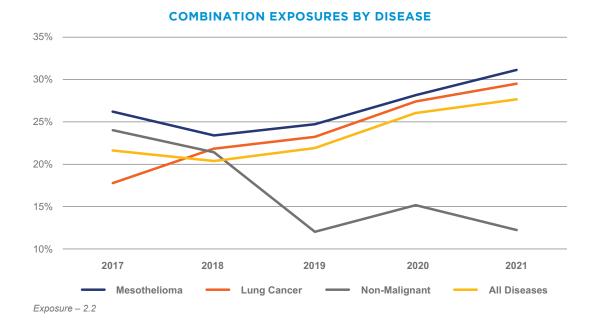


Trends in exposure types alleged by plaintiffs vary by disease type. Figures **Exposure – 2.1** and **Exposure – 2.2** show the percentage of plaintiffs by disease type for primary exposures and combination exposures. When looking at primary exposures (**Exposure – 2.1**), a smaller percentage of mesothelioma plaintiffs alleged only primary exposures than lung cancer or non-malignant plaintiffs. Also notable is the increase in the percentage of non-malignant cases solely alleging primary asbestos exposures, which was in direct contrast to the decrease seen in the other disease types and overall.

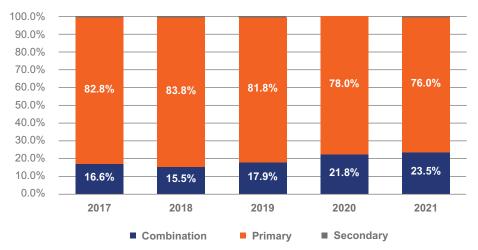


PRIMARY EXPOSURES BY DISEASE

When looking at the percentage of plaintiffs alleging a combination of primary and secondary exposure to asbestos, the opposite is seen — a higher percentage of mesothelioma plaintiffs alleged a combination of exposure types and the percentage of non-malignant plaintiffs alleging a combination decreased.

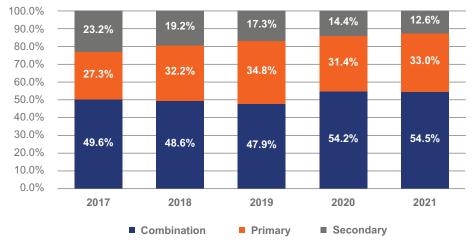


The distribution of primary, secondary, and combination exposures differed by gender as well. Figures **Exposure – 3.1** and **Exposure – 3.2** show the percentage of male and female plaintiffs by exposure type. For male plaintiffs, the percentage of plaintiffs with only primary exposure was much higher than that of females (76% vs. 33% in 2021). Female plaintiffs had a larger portion of plaintiffs with a combination of both primary and secondary exposures than males (55% vs. 24% in 2021) and this percentage has increased over time. Finally, while the percentage of plaintiffs alleging only secondary exposure to asbestos is decreasing for females (from 23% in 2017 to 13% in 2021), it was negligible for males.



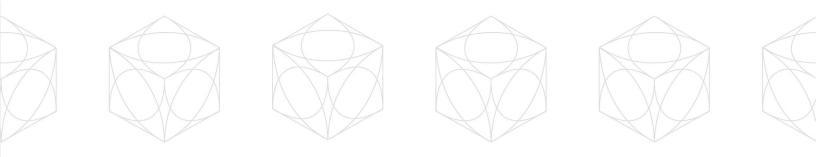
EXPOSURE TYPES BY FILE YEAR - MALES

Exposure – 3.1



EXPOSURE TYPES BY FILE YEAR - FEMALES

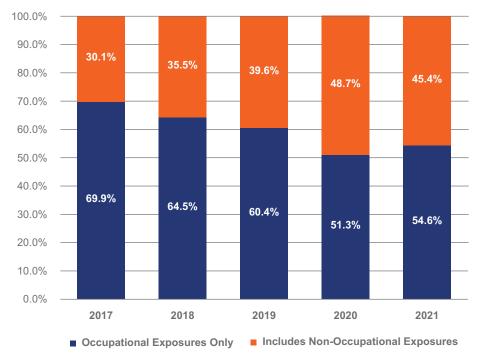
Exposure – 3.2



Occupational vs. Non-Occupational Exposures

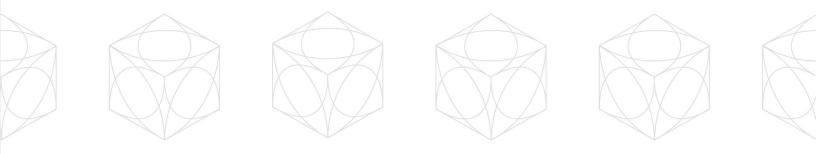
Asbestos exposures are also categorized as occupational or non-occupational. Occupational exposures occur during a plaintiff's employment, while non-occupational exposures are not related to a plaintiff's job. An example of non-occupational exposure would be a "shade-tree mechanic" plaintiff who was exposed while changing the brakes on his own car but was not employed as a mechanic.

Figure **Exposure – 4** compares the portion of plaintiffs over the past five years alleging only occupational exposures compared to the share of plaintiffs that included allegations of non-occupational exposure. Only 1% of plaintiffs alleged solely non-occupational exposure, without some occupational exposure to asbestos as well. The percentage of plaintiffs only alleging occupational exposures has decreased from 70% of plaintiffs in 2017 to 55% in 2021, while the percentage that include non-occupational exposures has increased from 30% to 45% in the same period.

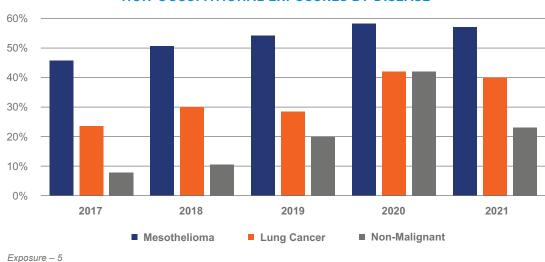


NON-OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURES BY FILE YEAR

Exposure - 4



By gender, 61% of female plaintiffs in 2021 included allegations of non-occupational exposure to asbestos in their complaint, compared to 40% in 2017. For males, 43% of plaintiffs in 2021 alleged some non-occupational exposure — up from 28% in 2017. By disease, a higher percentage of mesothelioma plaintiffs alleged non-occupational exposures than other disease types. Figure **Exposure – 5** shows the percentage of plaintiffs including allegations of non-occupational exposures than exposure by disease type for mesothelioma, lung cancer, and non-malignant diseases over the past five years. The percentage of plaintiffs with mesothelioma who allege non-occupational exposures has increased over time and was 57% in 2021. By comparison, the percentage of plaintiffs with non-occupational exposures was 40% of lung cancer plaintiffs and 23% of non-malignant plaintiffs in 2021.



NON-OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURES BY DISEASE

Plaintiff Jobsites

It is also interesting to see the types of jobsites and industries in which current plaintiffs alleged exposure to asbestos occurred. For this analysis, 2021 plaintiffs with employment information listed in the complaint were considered. In 2021, 79% of plaintiffs had employment information in their complaint that could be grouped into industry categories. Non-occupational exposures were excluded, leaving 71% of all 2021 plaintiffs to be considered in the analysis.

In 2021, the most common category of exposure jobsites was military related — 36% of plaintiffs had time spent in the U.S. Navy, Army, Air Force, or other military branch. The majority (55%) of plaintiffs alleging military exposure listed the Navy as a jobsite on their complaint. This population with naval exposure was equivalent to 20% of the total plaintiff population with categorized job sites. Looking at plaintiffs alleging naval exposures, 40% resided in either California (7%), Florida (7%), Pennsylvania (7%), New Jersey (6%), Washington (6%), or Virginia (5%) based on addresses available in the complaints. In addition, 12% of plaintiffs listed employment in naval yards where ship building activities took place. Based on the complaints where address was available, 35% of plaintiffs with shipyard exposures lived in California (12%), Louisiana (8%), New Jersey (7%), or Pennsylvania (7%) at the time of filing.

Besides military jobsites, the top industries for 2021 asbestos plaintiffs were automotive (26% of plaintiffs), construction (16% of plaintiffs), and oil/gas (16% of plaintiffs). The top states of residency for construction plaintiffs were California, Pennsylvania, and Texas, while automotive plaintiffs tended to reside in Michigan and oil/gas plaintiffs in California or Texas. Examining the date of first exposure (DOFE) by industry to see when current plaintiffs were working at those jobsites gives an indication of how much longer asbestos litigation may continue for these industries. When looking at 2021 plaintiffs with naval employment history, the average DOFE alleged in complaints for that industry was 1963; 1969 was the average DOFE for automotive exposures; 1971 for construction; and 1967 for oil/gas. The earliest DOFEs (in the 1950s) were at jobsites related to asbestos production/mining, and the latest DOFEs were in agricultural manufacturing and security/defense (in the 1990s).

TALC EXPOSURES

Another trend in asbestos exposure that has arisen in recent years is that of complaints including an allegation of exposure to asbestos from talc. KCIC's data for this analysis comprises only those talc cases that also include other traditional asbestos exposures and, therefore, the full subset of purely cosmetic talc cases is not included.

Talc Overview

Table **Talc – 1** shows the number of traditional asbestos lawsuits filed since 2018, by disease type, along with the percentage of total annual filings made up by these cases.

File Year	Mesothelioma	Lung Cancer	Other Cancer	Non- Malignant	Unknown	All Talc Filings	% of Total Filings
2018	264	76	3	0	6	349	8.4%
2019	285	155	1	2	1	444	10.7%
2020	286	94	5	5	2	392	10.4%
2021	272	14	1	1	0	288	7.7%
Total	1,107	339	10	8	9	1,475	9.3%

ASBESTOS FILINGS WITH TALC EXPOSURE BY DISEASE

Talc – 1

On average, 9% of asbestos complaints contained allegations of talc exposure for 2018 – 2021. In 2021, the total talc cases decreased 27% compared to 2020 and made up approximately 8% of the total population.

When comparing the subset of asbestos cases with allegations of talc exposure to the entire population of asbestos lawsuits, a higher percentage of talc cases were mesothelioma than the overall population. While 48% of the total population was made up of mesothelioma filings in 2021, 94% of the 2021 cases with talc exposure were mesothelioma. This concentration is higher than from 2018 to 2020, when the percentage of filings with talc exposure that were mesothelioma ranged from 64% to 76%.

Looking at filings that included allegations of talc exposure for 2019 - 2021, many of the top jurisdictions and plaintiff firms for those lawsuits overlap with the top locations and firms for the asbestos population as a whole. Table **Talc – 2** shows the top five jurisdictions based on 2019 - 2021 filings, along with the total number of lawsuits with talc allegations and the rank in 2021 overall asbestos filings for each.

Over the past three years, 34% of these lawsuits have been filed in Madison County, III., with St. Clair County, III.; Middlesex, N.J.; St. Louis, Mo.; and Los Angeles, Calif., rounding out the top five. In all, 74% of cases with talc allegations were filed in these five locations.

TOP 5 TALC JURISDICTIONS 2019 - 2021

Jurisdiction	2019-2021 Talc Filings	Ranking in Overall 2021 Asbestos Filings
Madison County, IL	380	1
St. Clair County, IL	208	2
Middlesex, NJ	112	10
St. Louis, MO	67	5
Los Angeles, CA	63	12
Total (Top 5)	830	
Total (All)	1,124	

Talc – 2

Table **Talc – 3** shows the top plaintiff firms filing lawsuits with allegations of talc exposure based on 2019 - 2021 filings. Included are the total number of lawsuits filed in that period, as well as the rank in overall 2021 asbestos filings.

Plaintiff Firm	2019-2021 Talc Filings	Ranking in Overall 2021 Asbestos Filings
The Gori Law Firm	550	1
Maune Raichle Hartley French & Mudd	125	5
Simon Greenstone Panatier	93	17
Weitz & Luxenberg	82	2
Dean Omar Branham Shirley	27	25
Total (Top 5)	877	
Total (All)	1,124	
Talc – 3		

TOP 5 TALC PLAINTIFF FIRMS 2019 - 2021

In this period, the Gori Law Firm filed almost half of all traditional asbestos cases that included talc allegations. Two firms, Simon Greenstone Panatier and Dean Omar Branham Shirley, were top filers for cases with talc allegations, but they were not in the top 15 for the overall population. Simon Greenstone filed most of its cases in Middlesex N.J., Los Angeles Calif., and Harris, Texas, and Dean Omar filed mainly in Richland, S.C. While Middlesex and Los Angeles were top jurisdictions for total asbestos filings in 2021 — ranking 10th and 12th respectively — Harris and Richland had fewer filings and were ranked 27th and 29th.

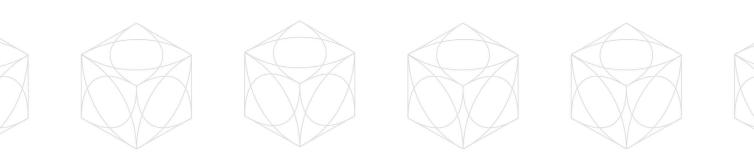
Talc Plaintiff Age

The average age of plaintiffs who included allegations of talc exposure in asbestos complaints was, on average, younger than the asbestos plaintiff population as a whole. Table **Talc – 4** shows the average and median age by file year and disease for plaintiffs alleging talc exposure. For the period 2019 – 2021, the average age of these plaintiffs was 70 years old — four years younger than the average age of the full asbestos population.

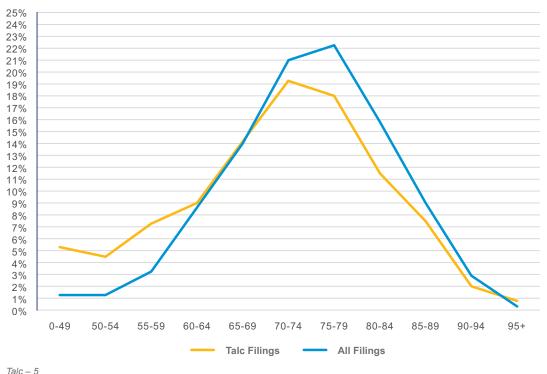
2019-2021 Year Disease Average Median Average Median Average Median Average Median Mesothelioma Lung Cancer Other Cancer N/A N/A Non-Malignant All Diseases

AVERAGE AND MEDIAN AGE OF ASBESTOS PLAINTIFFS WITH TALC EXPOSURES

Talc – 4



Another way to look at this is to compare the distribution of plaintiffs by age group for the population alleging talc exposure with the distribution for all plaintiffs. Figure **Talc – 5** shows the percentage of plaintiffs alleging exposures to talc by age group in comparison with the full population of asbestos plaintiffs for 2019 – 2021.

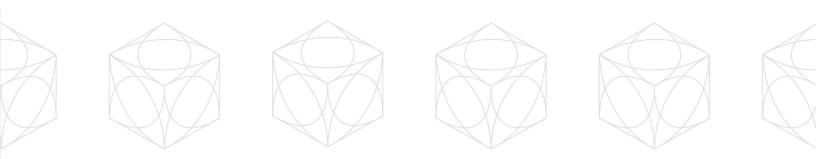


2019-2021 AGE GROUP DISTRIBUTION

Again, this shows that plaintiffs who included allegations of talc exposures were generally younger than the overall asbestos population. Plaintiffs ages 64 and younger made up 26% of talc filings in 2019 - 2021, higher than the 14% of the total population falling into this age group. The peak age group for plaintiffs alleging talc exposure was 70 - 74, again younger than the peak of 75 - 79 years of age for the whole population.

CONCLUSION: LOOKING FORWARD

As the country emerges from the global pandemic, the most prominent question is if, and how, the disruption has affected asbestos litigation. So far there has not been a significant change in the number of filings overall or for mesothelioma (often the oldest plaintiffs) filings, specifically. Nor has there been much change in the distribution of plaintiffs' age. Mesothelioma filings, which declined steeply in 2020, resumed a more moderate/normal decline in 2021. Only time will tell if the trends continue.





ABOUT KCIC

KCIC is a technology and consulting firm that helps companies manage their product liabilities by providing a full range of financial, strategic and operational services. Bringing decades of industry knowledge and technical expertise, KCIC leads the industry not only in claims administration, but also in corporate policyholder insurance policy analysis and archaeology, liability forecasting, insurer billing and allocation, credit analysis, expert reporting, and a variety of other custom solutions.

KCIC's technology and service are at the forefront of the industry. Its claims administration system, the Ligado Platform, brings everyone together on one platform. All information can be efficiently and accurately shared through its secure online system.

KCIC does its best work when partnering with clients to combine leading-edge technology and consulting expertise to create innovative solutions. The combination of experience and technical capability provides clients a full understanding of their liability data and insurance coverage, and allows them to make better, more strategic decisions for their business.

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