

Be Certain.

KCIC



ASBESTOS LITIGATION: 2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

KCIC Industry Report

KCIC's Asbestos Litigation: 2024 Year in Review is prepared for use by defendant corporations and their counsel and insurers only. Other interested parties may contact KCIC for permission to download the report [here](#). Usage of and/or reliance upon the data in this report is prohibited without written permission from KCIC. The contents of the report may not be duplicated or distributed without written permission from KCIC. Share this [link](#) for individual downloads.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
FILINGS SUMMARY	3
FILINGS BY DISEASE	4
JURISDICTIONS	5
TOP JURISDICTIONS – 2024 FILINGS	5
SIGNIFICANT INCREASES	5
SIGNIFICANT DECREASES	6
TOP JURISDICTIONS – 2024 MESOTHELIOMA FILINGS	6
TOP JURISDICTIONS – 2024 LUNG CANCER FILINGS	7
PLAINTIFF FIRMS	8
TOP PLAINTIFF FIRMS – 2024 FILINGS	8
SIGNIFICANT INCREASES	8
SIGNIFICANT DECREASES	9
TOP PLAINTIFF FIRMS – 2024 MESOTHELIOMA FILINGS	9
TOP PLAINTIFF FIRMS – 2024 LUNG CANCER FILINGS	10
DEFENDANTS	11
PLAINTIFF ATTRIBUTES	13
PLAINTIFF GENDER	13
PLAINTIFF AGE	14
PLAINTIFF EXPOSURE TYPES	16
PRIMARY VS. SECONDARY EXPOSURES	16
OCCUPATIONAL VS. NON-OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURES	18
TALC LITIGATION	20
TALC FILINGS SUMMARY	20
TALC TOP JURISDICTIONS – 2024 FILINGS	20
TALC TOP PLAINTIFF FIRMS – 2024 FILINGS	21
TALC DEFENDANTS	22
CONCLUSION	23

INTRODUCTION

KCIC is a nationally recognized consulting and technology firm specializing in product liability management services for corporate defendants. Its services span a range of areas including claims administration, insurer billing, insurance policy analysis, insurance coverage valuation, economic modeling, data migration and analysis, liability estimation, and expert testimony.

While there is no national database of asbestos complaints, it is estimated that KCIC processes at least 90% of filings, providing KCIC a unique perspective of filing patterns by jurisdiction, alleged disease, defendant, and plaintiff firm.

On average, there is a 30-day lag between when a lawsuit is filed and when it is received and processed in KCIC's Ligado Platform. This report reflects the publicly available data contained in complaints processed by KCIC through January 31, 2025.

FILINGS SUMMARY

As of January 31, 2025, KCIC processed 3,931 asbestos-related lawsuits filed in 2024 — just two more than the 2023 total (3,929 lawsuits). Given that 2024 lawsuits will likely continue to be received for some months, 2024 will end up showing a moderate increase over 2023. Figure **Filings – 1** lists the total number of asbestos-related lawsuits filed each year for the 10-year period 2015-2024 along with the percentage change in filings compared to the prior year.

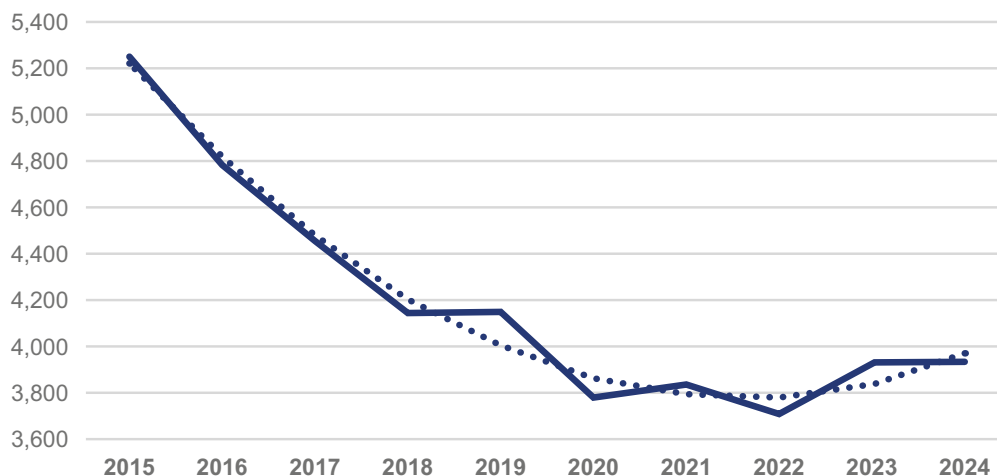
Figure **Filings – 2** graphs total filings by year along with a dashed trend line. Compared to 2015, filings in 2024 decreased 25% with 1,321 fewer lawsuits filed. Over this period, year-over-year filing totals changed by as little as one or two lawsuits, as in 2024 and 2019, or by as much as 300-500 lawsuits per year, like from 2016 to 2018. On average, there has been a 3% decrease in filings per year over the period, however, the decrease is most heavily concentrated prior to 2020. From 2015 to 2020, filings decreased by an average of 6% per year compared to 2020 through 2024, when filings increased by 1% per year on average.

ASBESTOS FILINGS BY YEAR

File Year	Total Filings	% Change (Prior Year)
2015	5,252	-1.7%
2016	4,783	-8.9%
2017	4,461	-6.7%
2018	4,144	-7.1%
2019	4,143	0.0%
2020	3,780	-8.8%
2021	3,833	1.4%
2022	3,706	-3.3%
2023	3,929	6.0%
2024	3,931	0.1%

Filings – 1

ASBESTOS FILINGS BY YEAR 2015-2024



Filings – 2

FILINGS BY DISEASE

There are four high-level disease categorizations generally utilized for asbestos-related personal injury plaintiffs: mesothelioma, lung cancer, other cancers, and non-malignant diagnoses. This report also includes a category for unknown/unstated to encompass cases where the alleged disease is not stated in the complaint. Figure **Disease – 1** shows total filings by disease type for 2022-2024 along with the percentage change in filings between 2023 and 2024.

ANNUAL ASBESTOS FILINGS BY DISEASE

Disease	2022 Filings	2023 Filings	2024 Filings	% Change 2023-2024
Mesothelioma	1,896	1,940	1,907	-1.7%
Lung Cancer	1,356	1,577	1,644	4.2%
Other Cancer	65	65	76	16.9%
Non-Malignant	276	267	228	-14.6%
Unknown	113	80	76	-5.0%
Grand Total	3,706	3,929	3,931	0.1%

Disease – 1

Mesothelioma cases continue to make up the largest percentage of total filings and are the principal economic driver of the litigation. In 2024, mesothelioma filings decreased 2% with 33 fewer lawsuits compared to 2023 (1,907 filings vs. 1,940). There were increases in mesothelioma filings in some jurisdictions — most significantly in St. Clair County, IL (+42 cases) and Madison County, IL (+19 cases). Jurisdictions with decreases included Los Angeles, CA (-15 cases) and Alameda, CA (-14 cases), and there were also many jurisdictions with small numbers (four or fewer) of mesothelioma filings in 2023 that did not have any in 2024. This consolidation in mesothelioma filings is illustrated by that fact that mesothelioma lawsuits were filed in 104 jurisdictions in 2023 compared to only 83 jurisdictions in 2024.

The most significant disease-related change in filings in 2024 occurred with lung cancer. Lung cancer cases increased 4% with 67 additional lawsuits in 2024 compared to 2023 (1,644 vs. 1,577). The largest increase in filings occurred in St. Clair where 105 additional lawsuits were filed in 2024 compared to 2023 (762 vs. 657). There were also significant, though relatively smaller, increases in Philadelphia, PA, and Cook County, IL. These were somewhat offset by decreases in lung cancer filings in Madison County, IL, and St. Louis, MO, where lung cancer filings decreased by 50 and 28 filings respectively.

JURISDICTIONS

When reporting on asbestos-related personal injury lawsuits, jurisdiction refers to the location (city or county) and state where the lawsuit was filed. In 2024, a moderate consolidation occurred with lawsuits filed in 118 jurisdictions — down from 136 jurisdictions in 2023. Of jurisdictions with 2024 filings, only a few made up the large majority of case volume. Madison and St. Clair counties in Illinois had over 800 lawsuits each; six jurisdictions had between 100 and 350 lawsuits; 26 jurisdictions had between 10 and 99 lawsuits filed; and 84 jurisdictions had fewer than 10 lawsuits filed (half of which only had a single lawsuit filed).

Top Jurisdictions – 2024 Filings

The top jurisdictions for 2024 remained mostly the same as in 2023. Figure **Jurisdictions – 1** shows the top 15 jurisdictions based on 2024 filings, along with 2022 and 2023 filings and the percentage change between 2023 and 2024 for each. These jurisdictions were home to 85% of all lawsuits filed in 2024 — a similar concentration to recent years. Madison County, IL, made up 22% of all asbestos filings in 2024 (882 lawsuits), followed closely by St. Clair County, IL, with 21% of filings (820 lawsuits).

TOP 15 JURISDICTIONS BASED ON 2024 FILINGS

Jurisdiction	2022 Filings	2022 Rank	2023 Filings	2023 Rank	2024 Filings	2024 Rank	% Change 2023-2024
Madison County, IL	979	1	909	1	882	1	-3.0%
St. Clair County, IL	536	2	672	2	820	2	22.0%
New York, NY	284	3	307	3	317	3	3.3%
Philadelphia, PA	243	4	241	4	267	4	10.8%
Cook County, IL	111	7	155	7	176	5	13.5%
Wayne County, MI	217	5	187	5	148	6	-20.9%
St. Louis, MO	140	6	169	6	138	7	-18.3%
Los Angeles, CA	103	8	123	8	115	8	-6.5%
Kanawha, WV	72	10	75	12	87	9	16.0%
Middlesex, NJ	89	9	97	9	85	10	-12.4%
Allegheny, PA	70	11	72	13	78	11	8.3%
Orleans Parish, LA	55	15	76	11	75	12	-1.3%
San Francisco, CA	70	11	85	10	70	13	-17.6%
Erie County, NY	37	17	39	17	47	14	20.5%
Alameda, CA	69	14	62	14	45	15	-27.4%
Total (Top 15)	3,075		3,269		3,350		2.5%
Total (All)	3,706		3,929		3,931		0.1%

Jurisdictions – 1

Significant Increases

The most significant increases in terms of nominal filings occurred in St. Clair County, IL (148 additional lawsuits); Philadelphia, PA (26 additional lawsuits); and Cook County, IL (21 additional lawsuits) — mainly driven by increases in lung cancer filings in each location.

In St. Clair County, lung cancer cases increased from 657 filings in 2023 to 762 in 2024 — mostly due to an uptick in cases filed by OnderLaw, SWMW Law, Bailey & Glasser, and The Gori Law Firm. St. Clair County is a jurisdiction generally known for lung cancer cases, so it is also notable that there was a significant increase in mesothelioma lawsuits filed there in 2024 — from six in 2023 to 48 in 2024.

In Philadelphia, the 11% increase in filings is also attributable to increased lung cancer filings. These were mostly filed by the Halpern Law Firm, which filed 45 lung cancer lawsuits in Philadelphia in 2024 compared to 16 in 2023.

As with St. Clair County and Philadelphia, Cook County's 14% increase was driven by an increase in lung cancer filings. Specifically, Vogelzang Law increased its lung cancer filings by 80%, and several firms that did not file in Cook County in 2023 (such as SWMW Law and Flint Cooper) filed one or two lawsuits there in 2024.

Significant Decreases

The most significant decreases in terms of nominal filings occurred in Wayne County, MI (39 fewer filings); St. Louis, MO (31 fewer filings); and in Madison County, IL (27 fewer filings).

In Wayne County, the 21% decrease in filings from 2023 to 2024 was due to a decrease in lung cancer and non-malignant filings in that jurisdiction. While Wayne County continues to be the jurisdiction with the most non-malignant filings in the country, this is the second year in a row that non-malignant filings have decreased — from 155 in 2022 to 99 in 2023, and now 77 in 2024. The variation is mainly attributed to decreasing non-malignant filings from Mazur & Kittel.

In St. Louis, the 18% decrease was due to a decrease in lung cancer filings by several firms, including Karst & von Oiste, Flint Cooper, SWMW Law, and Menges Law. The decrease in lung cancer cases in St. Louis was offset by increases in St. Clair and Cook counties.

While Madison County, IL, continued to be the jurisdiction with the most lawsuits filed, the number did decrease by 3% in 2024 compared to 2023. The number of mesothelioma filings increased 2% in 2024, however, the number of lung cancer cases decreased 43%. The most significant change was that in 2023 the Gori Law Firm filed 52 lung cancer cases in Madison County, but did not file any lung cancer cases there in 2024.

Top Jurisdictions – 2024 Mesothelioma Filings

Mesothelioma cases continue to be the main economic driver of asbestos litigation and continue to comprise the largest portion of asbestos lawsuits filed in 2024 (49%). Figure **Jurisdictions – 2** shows the top jurisdictions for mesothelioma filings in 2024 along with total filings for each in 2022 and 2023 and the percentage change in filings between 2023 and 2024.

While total mesothelioma filings decreased 2% (1,907 vs. 1,940) in 2024 compared to 2023, total filings for the top jurisdictions increased 2% (1,480 vs. 1,449). These top jurisdictions accounted for 78% of total mesothelioma filings in 2024 — similar to prior years.

Los Angeles and Alameda in California had the largest nominal decreases, with 15 and 14 fewer mesothelioma cases filed, respectively. Orleans Parish, LA, also had a significant decrease, with 12 fewer mesothelioma lawsuits — taking it out of the top 10 jurisdictions for 2024.

MESOTHELIOMA TOP 10 JURISDICTIONS BASED ON 2024 FILINGS

Jurisdiction	2022 Filings	2023 Filings	2024 Filings	% Change 2023-2024
Madison County, IL	845	790	809	2.4%
New York, NY	147	158	161	1.9%
Los Angeles, CA	92	115	100	-13.0%
Philadelphia, PA	105	95	90	-5.3%
Cook County, IL	67	83	84	1.2%
Middlesex, NJ	77	84	77	-8.3%
St Clair County, IL	5	6	48	700.0%
Alameda, CA	60	53	39	-26.4%
St. Louis, MO	38	37	36	-2.7%
Allegheny, PA	32	28	36	28.6%
Total (Top 10)	1,468	1,449	1,480	2.1%
Total (All)	1,896	1,940	1,907	-1.7%

Jurisdictions – 2

Madison County, IL, remained the epicenter for mesothelioma filings, with more than five times as many lawsuits filed there as the next highest jurisdiction. Madison County filings are mostly (92%) mesothelioma cases. The 809 mesothelioma lawsuits filed there equate to 42% of all mesothelioma lawsuits filed nationally in 2024. Mesothelioma filings in Madison County increased 2% — mostly due to increases from Maune Raichle Hartley French & Mudd and Simmons Hanly Conroy. Increased mesothelioma filings were also seen in New York, NY; Cook County, IL; and Allegheny, PA, though those jurisdictions have much smaller overall volume compared to Madison County.

New to the top 10 jurisdictions for mesothelioma filings is St. Clair County, IL, which had the largest nominal increase in mesothelioma filings in 2024. As mentioned in the Filings by Disease section of this report, the increase from six filings in 2023 to 48 filings in 2024 was almost exclusively attributed to Flint Cooper. This firm filed 34 mesothelioma lawsuits in St. Clair County in 2024, compared to none in 2022 and 2023 and a total of 20 combined between 2014 and 2021. St. Clair County is generally associated with lung cancer filings instead of mesothelioma filings, and this is the first substantial increase we have seen for mesothelioma filings there over the last 10 years.

Top Jurisdictions – 2024 Lung Cancer Filings

Lung cancer cases, which made up 42% of total filings in 2024, continued to increase, though not by as much as in prior years. Figure **Jurisdictions – 3** shows the top jurisdictions for lung cancer filings in 2024 along with total filings for each in 2022 and 2023 and the percentage change in filings between 2023 and 2024. Overall lung cancer filings increased by 4%, but within the top 10 jurisdictions, there was a 6% increase in lung cancer filings; 87% of all lung cancer cases were filed in these jurisdictions.

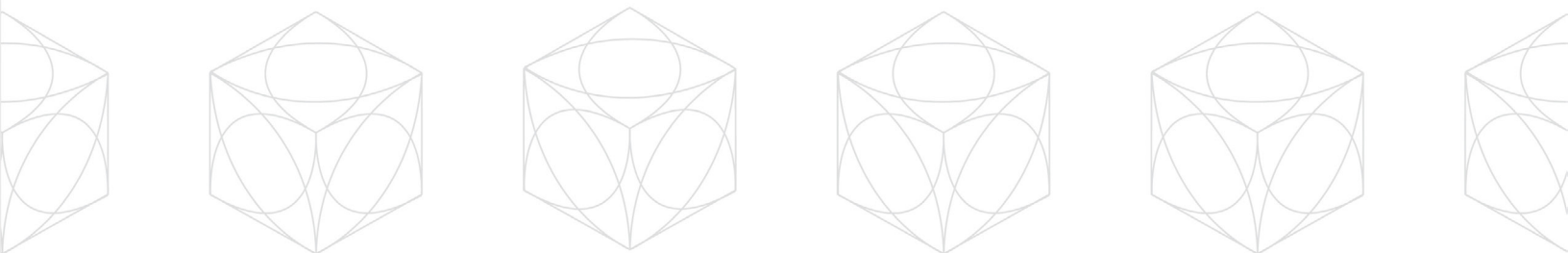
As discussed in the Filings by Disease section of this report, the largest nominal increase in lung cancer filings was in St. Clair County, IL, where an additional 105 lung cancer cases were filed in 2024. The increase was mainly due to increased filings by OnderLaw, SWMW Law, and The Gori Law Firm.

Total lung cancer filings increased by 4% (67 lawsuits), so there were locations with decreased lung cancer filings that mitigated the effects of the large increase in St. Clair County. For example, the decreases in lung cancer filings in Madison County, IL, and St. Louis, MO, were 50 and 28 cases, respectively.

LUNG CANCER TOP 10 JURISDICTIONS BASED ON 2024 FILINGS

Jurisdiction	2022 Filings	2023 Filings	2024 Filings	% Change 2023-2024
St. Clair County, IL	522	657	762	16.0%
New York, NY	106	133	136	2.3%
Philadelphia, PA	101	105	131	24.8%
St. Louis, MO	96	121	93	-23.1%
Cook County, IL	33	53	72	35.8%
Madison County, IL	126	116	66	-43.1%
Kanawha, WV	44	48	54	12.5%
Orleans Parish, LA	27	34	45	32.4%
Wayne County, MI	32	56	44	-21.4%
Allegheny, PA	31	36	34	-5.6%
Total (Top 10)	1,118	1,359	1,437	5.7%
Total (All)	1,356	1,577	1,644	4.2%

Jurisdictions – 3



PLAINTIFF FIRMS

Often, asbestos personal injury lawsuits are filed by a plaintiff firm that is local to the jurisdiction while working in conjunction with a larger national firm. When both local and national firms were listed on the complaint, the analyses in this report use the national firm.

Top Plaintiff Firms – 2024 Filings

In 2024, asbestos-related personal injury lawsuits were filed by 127 plaintiff firms — a 9% decrease from 2023, when 140 firms were active. Figure **Firms – 1** shows the top 15 plaintiff firms based on 2024 filings, along with 2022 and 2023 filings and the percentage change between 2023 and 2024 for each. These firms filed 74% of all lawsuits filed in 2024, with just the top five firms making up more than half (51%) of total filings.

TOP 15 PLAINTIFF FIRMS BASED ON 2024 FILINGS

Plaintiff Firm	2022 Filings	2022 Rank	2023 Filings	2023 Rank	2024 Filings	2024 Rank	% Change 2023-2024
The Gori Law Firm	687	1	837	1	788	1	-5.9%
Simmons Hanly Conroy	368	2	353	2	393	2	11.3%
Weitz & Luxenberg	364	3	353	2	327	3	-7.4%
Maune Raichle Hartley French & Mudd	272	4	295	4	303	4	2.7%
SWMW Law	168	5	151	5	191	5	26.5%
Meirowitz & Wasserberg	83	10	112	7	132	6	17.9%
Goldberg, Persky & White	96	9	102	9	124	7	21.6%
Cooney And Conway	129	7	130	6	112	8	-13.8%
Flint Cooper	64	12	97	10	111	9	14.4%
Belluck Law	56	15	103	8	90	10	-12.6%
Halpern Law Firm	43	18	48	16	90	10	87.5%
Simon Greenstone Panatier	63	13	91	12	77	12	-15.4%
Brayton Purcell	73	11	88	13	63	13	-28.4%
OnderLaw	0	-	0	-	53	14	-
Mazur & Kittel	139	6	93	11	51	15	-45.2%
Total (Top 15)	2,605		2,853		2,905		1.8%
Total (All)	3,706		3,929		3,931		0.1%

Firms – 1

Significant Increases

Two of the top five firms with significant increases were Simmons Hanly Conroy (11% increase, 40 additional filings) and SWMW Law (27% increase, 40 additional filings). The Simmons firm filed mostly mesothelioma cases — the majority of which were in Madison County, IL, but the firm also continued to file cases in New York, NY; Los Angeles, CA; Middlesex, NJ, and a variety of other jurisdictions with a handful of cases. SWMW mainly filed lung cancer lawsuits in St. Clair and Madison counties in Illinois, and in St. Louis, MO. While Madison County and St. Louis filing numbers remained consistent in 2024 compared to 2023, the firm increased its filings in St. Clair County.

Two other top firms for 2024 had fewer filings in past years: OnderLaw and the Halpern Law Firm. OnderLaw filed a handful of lawsuits five years ago, then nothing until 53 filings in 2024. These were mostly lung cancer cases filed in St. Clair County. The Halpern firm began filing in 2021 and increased filings from 48 in 2023 to 90 in 2024. This firm filed cases alleging all major disease categories, but mostly lung cancer and mesothelioma lawsuits in Philadelphia, PA.

Significant Decreases

The Gori Law Firm remains the firm with the most lawsuits filed in 2024, with 788 lawsuits filed — twice as many as the next highest firm and 20% of total asbestos lawsuits filed in 2024. This firm did, however, have the most significant decrease in nominal filings in 2024 compared to 2023, with 49 fewer lawsuits filed. This decrease is mostly attributable to fewer lung cancer claims filed in Madison County, IL. The firm filed more than 50 lung cancer cases in Madison County in 2023 but did not file any in 2024.

There were other firms in the top 15 with decreased filing activity in 2024 compared to 2023. For instance, the Mazur & Kittel firm decreased filings by 45% in 2024 compared to 2023 (42 fewer lawsuits). This change was due to fewer non-malignant cases being filed in Wayne County, MI. Weitz & Luxenberg filed 26 fewer lawsuits (a 7% decrease) in 2024 than in 2023. This was due to it filing fewer lung cancer cases in New York, NY, and Philadelphia, PA, though it remained one of the top filing firms for that disease type.

Top Plaintiff Firms – 2024 Mesothelioma Filings

Figure **Firms – 2** shows the top 10 plaintiff firms filing mesothelioma cases in 2024, along with total filings for 2022-2023 and percentage change between 2023 and 2024 for each. Simmons Hanly Conroy continued to file the most mesothelioma cases nationwide in 2024 with 381 lawsuits — a 9% increase (32 lawsuits) compared to 2023. Flint Cooper had the most significant increase, with 46 mesothelioma cases filed in 2024 compared to 10 in 2023. These were mostly filed in St. Clair County, IL, a jurisdiction not typically associated with mesothelioma filings. Cooney and Conway and The Gori Law Firm each filed approximately 20 fewer mesothelioma cases in 2024 compared to 2023 — mostly seen in decreased filings in Madison and Cook counties in Illinois. While overall there was a 2% decrease in mesothelioma filings nationwide, there was a slight increase in filings by the top 10 firms.

MESOTHELIOMA TOP 10 PLAINTIFF FIRMS BASED ON 2024 FILINGS

Plaintiff Firm	2022 Filings	2023 Filings	2024 Filings	% Change 2023-2024
Simmons Hanly Conroy	344	349	381	9.2%
Maune Raichle Hartley French & Mudd	272	294	300	2.0%
The Gori Law Firm	241	230	211	-8.3%
Weitz & Luxenberg	165	154	149	-3.2%
Simon Greenstone Panatier	63	91	77	-15.4%
Cooney And Conway	103	93	73	-21.5%
Belluck Law	43	65	52	-20.0%
Shrader & Associates	49	52	51	-1.9%
Flint Cooper	12	10	46	360.0%
Meirowitz & Wasserberg	26	33	39	18.2%
Total (Top 10)	1,318	1,371	1,379	0.6%
Total (All)	1,896	1,940	1,907	-1.7%

Firms – 2

Top Plaintiff Firms – 2024 Lung Cancer Filings

Figure **Firms – 3** shows the top 10 plaintiff firms filing lung cancer cases in 2024 along with total filings for 2022-2023 and percentage change between 2023 and 2024 for each. These top firms made up 73% of total lung cancer filings, with 35% being filed by The Gori Law Firm alone.

LUNG CANCER TOP 10 PLAINTIFF FIRMS BASED ON 2024 FILINGS

Plaintiff Firm	2022 Filings	2023 Filings	2024 Filings	% Change 2023-2024
The Gori Law Firm	443	607	572	-5.8%
SWMW Law	124	105	147	40.0%
Weitz & Luxenberg	110	126	106	-15.9%
Meirowitz & Wasserberg	45	74	90	21.6%
Flint Cooper	51	87	64	-26.4%
OnderLaw	0	0	52	-
Halpern Law Firm	15	16	47	193.8%
Napoli Shkolnik	108	66	47	-28.8%
Goldberg, Persky & White	29	39	35	-10.3%
Belluck Law	12	35	34	-2.9%
Total (Top 10)	937	1,155	1,194	3.4%
Total (All)	1,356	1,577	1,644	4.2%

Firms – 3

There were several firms in the top 10 with significant increases in lung cancer filings in 2024 compared to 2023. The most significant increases in terms of nominal filings were from OnderLaw, SWMW Law, and the Halpern Law Firm. As mentioned previously, OnderLaw filed 52 lung cancer cases in 2024 after not filing any over the past several years. These were almost exclusively filed in St. Clair County, IL, with a handful filed in St. Louis, MO. SWMW Law filed 42 more lung cancer cases, a 40% increase compared to 2023. Most of these additional lawsuits were filed in St. Clair County, with a smaller increase also occurring in Madison County and St. Louis. The Halpern Law Firm increased its lung cancer filings 194%, from 16 in 2023 to 47 in 2024, with increased activity in Philadelphia, PA.

DEFENDANTS

Asbestos litigation continues to be unique in its impact and implication of a large number of defendant companies. KCIC reports the number of defendants based on the number of unique entities named on each complaint. For example, Company A as successor in interest to Company B and Company C would be counted as three unique defendant entities for purposes of this report. In 2024, the number of defendants named on asbestos lawsuits ranged from a few to well over 400. In 2024, on average, there were 75 unique defendants named per lawsuit filed — continuing the slight increases seen over the past few years.

Figure **Defendants – 1** shows the percentage of lawsuits filed in 2024 based on the number of defendants named on each. While the overall average number of defendants named per complaint was 75, the largest percentage of lawsuits (20%) named between 25 and 49 unique entities, and most lawsuits (56%) named fewer than 75 entities. On the other hand, 26% of lawsuits filed in 2024 named 100 or more companies.

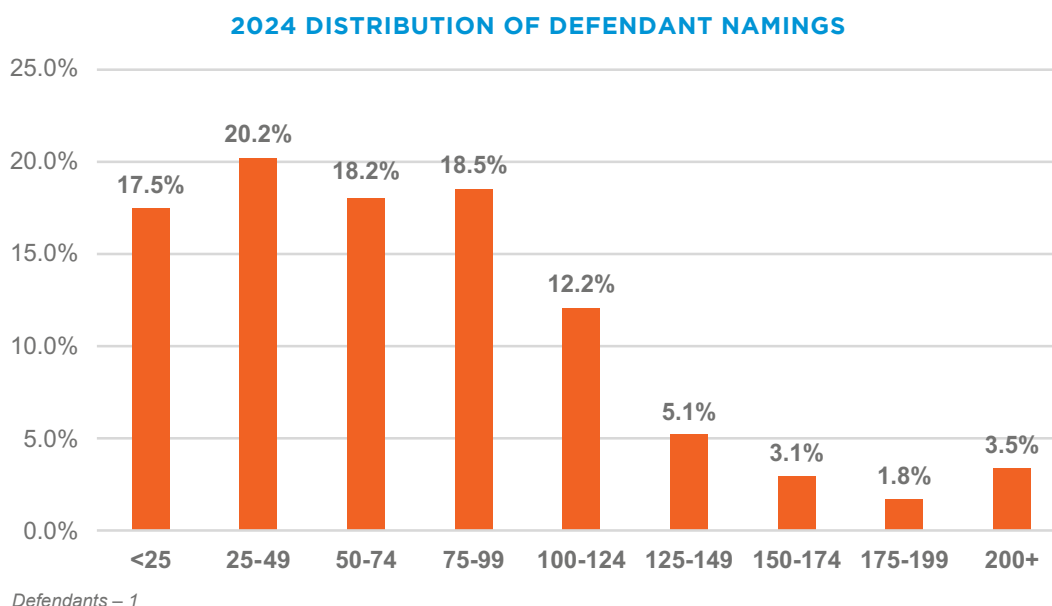


Figure **Defendants – 2** shows the average number of defendants per complaint for each disease type for lawsuits filed in 2022-2024. Mesothelioma lawsuits have named fewer defendants, on average, than lawsuits for the other known disease types. In 2024, there were 63 defendants named on mesothelioma lawsuits, on average. Non-malignant cases have had the highest number of defendants named, with an average of 99 per complaint in 2024. Lawsuits for lung cancer and other cancers both saw an increase in the average number of defendants named in 2024 compared to 2023 — lung cancer, from 82 to 86 defendants, and other cancer, from 76 to 87 defendants.

AVERAGE NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS PER COMPLAINT BY DISEASE

Disease	2022 Filings	2023 Filings	2024 Filings	2022-2024 Filings
Mesothelioma	64	66	63	64
Lung Cancer	77	82	86	82
Other Cancer	78	76	87	81
Non-Malignant	96	96	99	97
Unknown	55	44	48	50
All Filings	71	74	75	73

Defendants – 2

Figure **Defendants – 3** shows the average number of defendants named per complaint for the top jurisdictions, based on 2024 filings as well as the average from 2023. Of the top 15 jurisdictions for 2024 filings, Kanawha, WV, continued to have the most defendant companies named on complaints, with an average of 175 defendants per lawsuit — up from 2023 due to an increase in the average number of defendants named on lung cancer complaints (from 156 in 2023 to 173 in 2024). There were also two non-malignant cases filed in Kanawha in 2024, which helped drive up the average for the jurisdiction — one with 290 defendants and the other with 300 defendants. Lawsuits filed in St. Louis, MO, also had more defendants named on average in 2024 than in 2023, 83 vs. 70 defendants. The increase was across all disease types, but especially in mesothelioma filings (an average of 65 defendants per complaint in 2023 to 90 in 2024) and non-malignant filings (an average of 61 defendants per complaint in 2023 to 109 in 2024).

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS
PER COMPLAINT FOR TOP JURISDICTIONS**

Top 15 Jurisdictions 2024	2023 Filings	2024 Filings
Kanawha, WV	163	175
Allegheny, PA	144	152
Wayne County, MI	126	122
St. Clair County, IL	92	89
Cook County, IL	85	86
Erie County, NY	83	85
St. Louis, MO	70	83
San Francisco, CA	91	81
Madison County, IL	72	64
Los Angeles, CA	59	63
Philadelphia, PA	55	62
Alameda, CA	49	54
New York, NY	48	54
Orleans Parish, LA	40	40
Middlesex, NJ	36	33

Defendants – 3

PLAINTIFF ATTRIBUTES

Plaintiff Gender

Asbestos litigation has primarily involved male plaintiffs, due to the historically male-dominated workforce participating in industries in which asbestos was used decades ago. Figure **Gender – 1** shows the male:female breakdown for all 2024 filings, and Figures **Gender – 2** and **Gender – 3** break down mesothelioma and lung cancer cases, respectively. In 2024, male plaintiffs comprised 84% of all asbestos filings while female plaintiffs comprised 16%. The proportion of 2024 mesothelioma plaintiffs that were female was higher at 25% and, for 2024 lung cancer plaintiffs, lower at 8%.

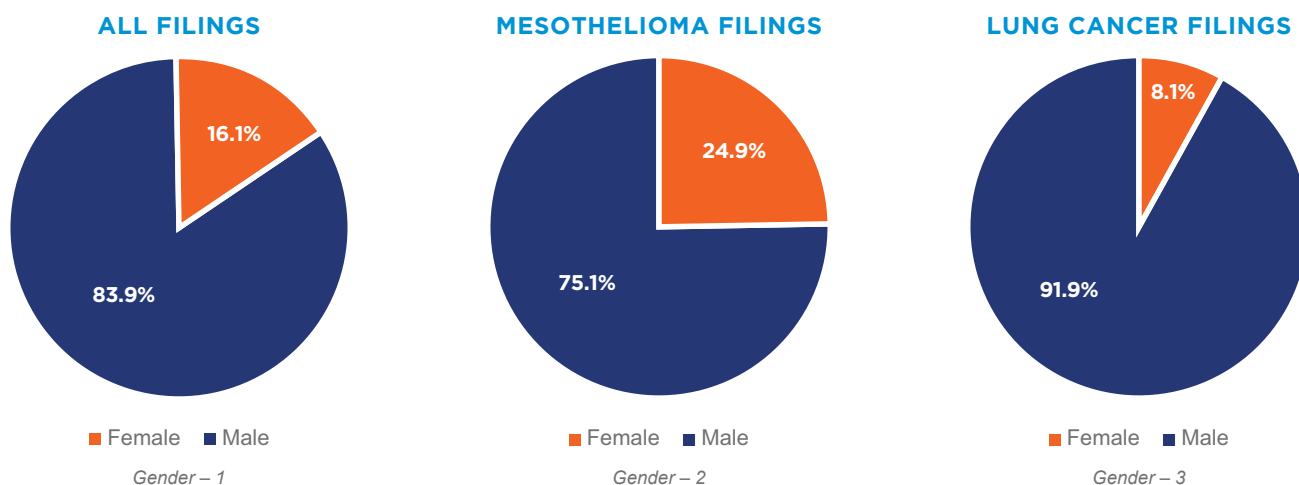
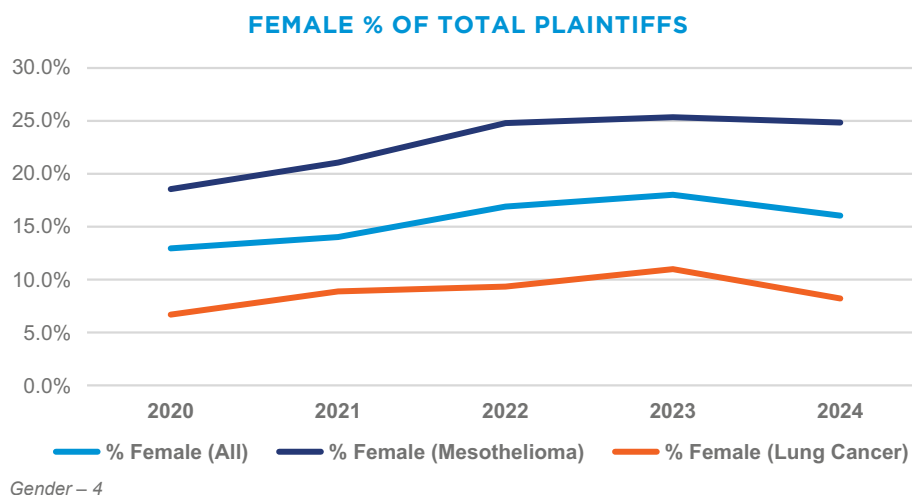


Figure **Gender – 4** details how the proportion of female plaintiffs has changed over time for plaintiffs filing in 2020-2024. Over the past five years (2020-2024), the percentage of plaintiffs made up by females has ranged from 13% in 2020 up to a high of 18% in 2023. For mesothelioma, this range has been from 19% in 2020 up to 25% since 2022, and for lung cancer from 7% in 2020 to 11% in 2023. However, 2024 marks the first time in recent years that the percentage of female plaintiffs compared to total plaintiffs in asbestos litigation has decreased — from 18% in 2023 to 16% in 2024 for the full population (all diseases). While the portion of female mesothelioma plaintiffs decreased by less than 1% (24.8% in 2024 vs. 25.3% in 2023), that of female lung cancer plaintiffs decreased more significantly from 11% in 2023 to 8% in 2024.



Plaintiff Age

Age-related analyses in this report include only plaintiffs whose date of birth was included in the complaint. In 2024, this was 32% of all plaintiffs — similar to what has been seen in previous years. The age referenced is the plaintiff’s age at filing or, if deceased prior to the lawsuit being filed, their age at date of death. The average age of all plaintiffs over the past decade ranged from 72-75 years old — gradually getting older with time.

Figure **Age – 1** shows the average, maximum, and minimum plaintiff age by disease type for plaintiffs filing lawsuits in 2022-2024. The average age of asbestos plaintiffs filing lawsuits in 2024 was 75 years old – the same as in 2023. Lung cancer plaintiffs had the lowest average age in 2024 (74 years old), and other cancer plaintiffs had the highest average age (77 years old). Plaintiffs filing lawsuits in 2024 ranged from 38 to 96 years old. Although the average plaintiff age is gradually getting older, the minimum age for all non-mesothelioma disease types was younger in 2024 compared to 2023.

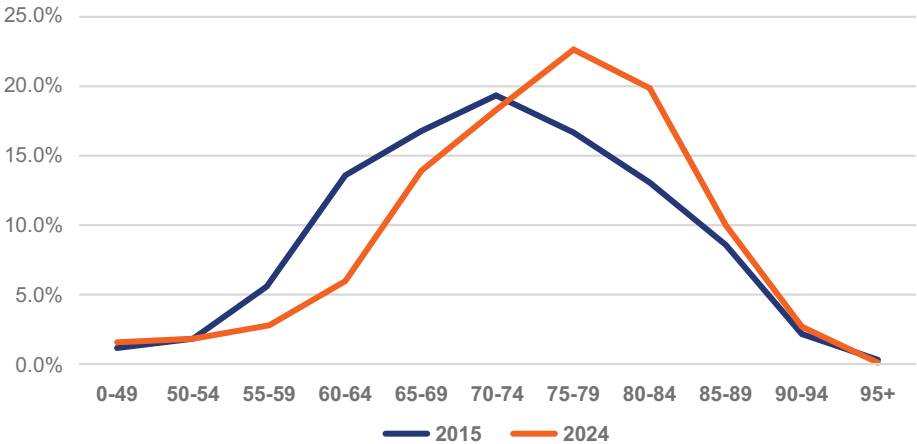
AVG, MAX, MIN AGE BY DISEASE, FILE YEAR

Year	2022			2023			2024		
Disease	Avg	Max	Min	Avg	Max	Min	Avg	Max	Min
Mesothelioma	74	95	23	75	94	20	75	95	38
Lung Cancer	73	98	49	74	93	49	74	95	44
Other Cancer	75	85	55	76	90	58	77	96	46
Non-Malignant	77	90	57	77	97	65	75	95	49
Unknown	71	94	58	71	79	76	75	81	68
All Diseases	74	98	23	75	97	20	75	96	38

Age – 1

Figure **Age – 2** shows how the age distribution of plaintiffs has shifted over the past decade (2015-2024). The peak of each line represents the age range with the highest percentage of plaintiffs each year. This has moved from the 70-74 range to the 75-79 range from 2015 to 2024. A higher percentage of plaintiffs filing in 2015 were in the younger age groups below 75 years of age – 59% of 2015 plaintiffs vs. 45% of 2024 plaintiffs. Conversely, 55% of 2024 plaintiffs were 75 years of age or older compared to 41% of 2015 plaintiffs.

AGE DISTRIBUTION FOR 2015 VS. 2024 PLAINTIFFS



Age – 2

Figure **Age – 3** shows how the age distribution of plaintiffs filing lawsuits in 2024 varies by disease type for the two major disease types in the litigation — mesothelioma and lung cancer. The peak for mesothelioma plaintiffs was the 80-84-year-old age group (23% of mesothelioma plaintiffs), while for lung cancer it was younger at 75-79 (25% of lung cancer plaintiffs). A larger portion of mesothelioma plaintiffs fell in the youngest and oldest age groups. For instance, 16% of mesothelioma plaintiffs were under the age of 65, while 8% of lung cancer plaintiffs fell into this group. Similarly, 38% of mesothelioma plaintiffs were 80 years old or older, versus 25% of lung cancer plaintiffs.

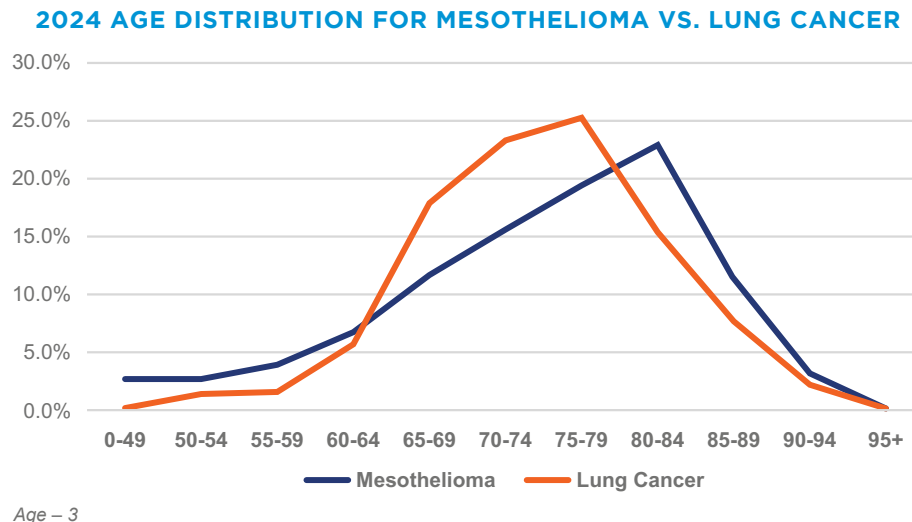
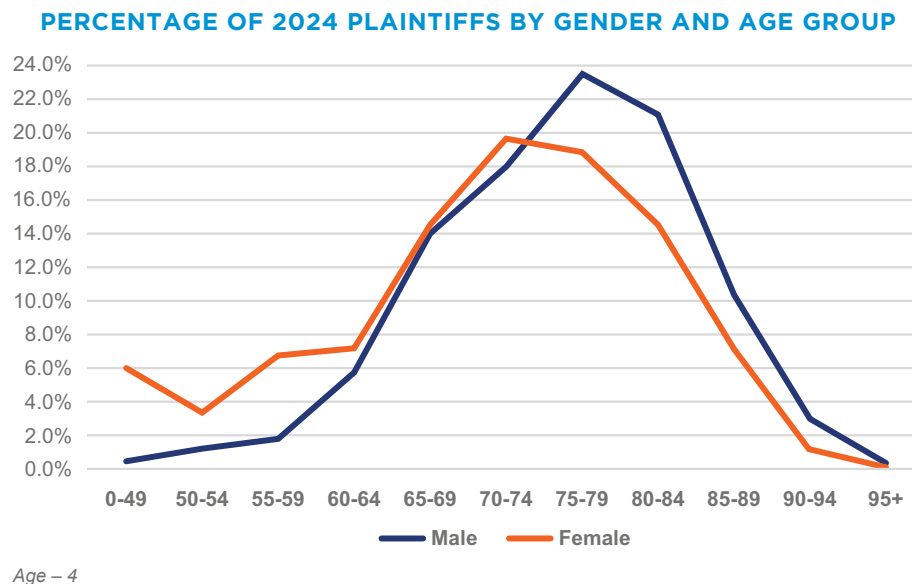


Figure **Age – 4** shows how the age distribution of plaintiffs filing lawsuits in 2024 varies for male and female plaintiffs. In 2024, a larger portion of female plaintiffs were in all age groups younger than 75 years old than male plaintiffs (58% of females vs. 42% of males) and especially in the age groups younger than 60. Conversely, the largest percentage of male plaintiffs (24%) in 2024 were between 75-79 years old, and a higher percentage of males compared to females were in each of the subsequent older age groups.

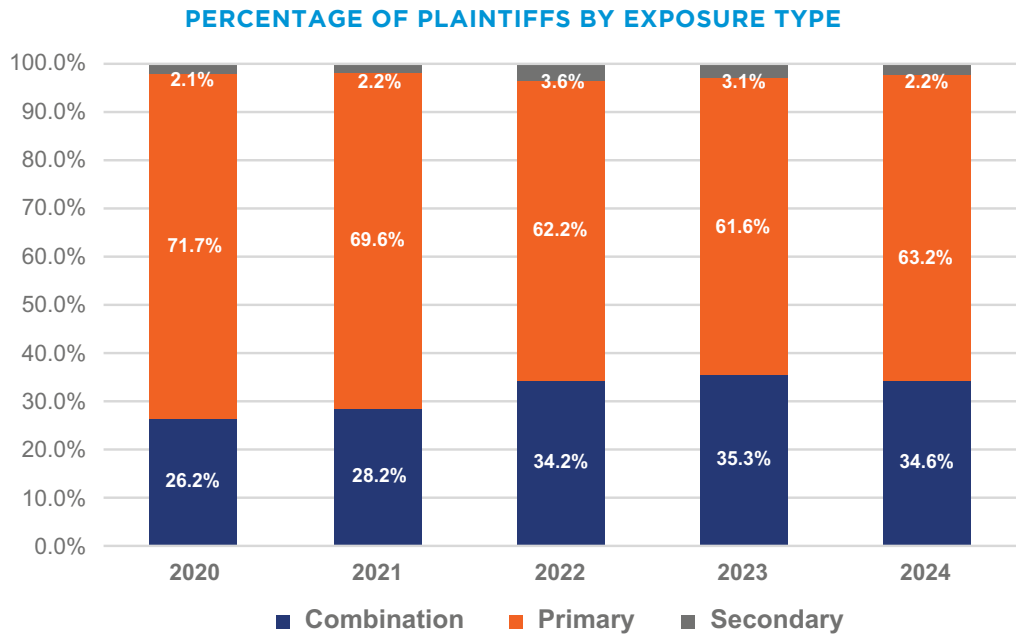


PLAINTIFF EXPOSURE TYPES

Primary Versus Secondary Exposure

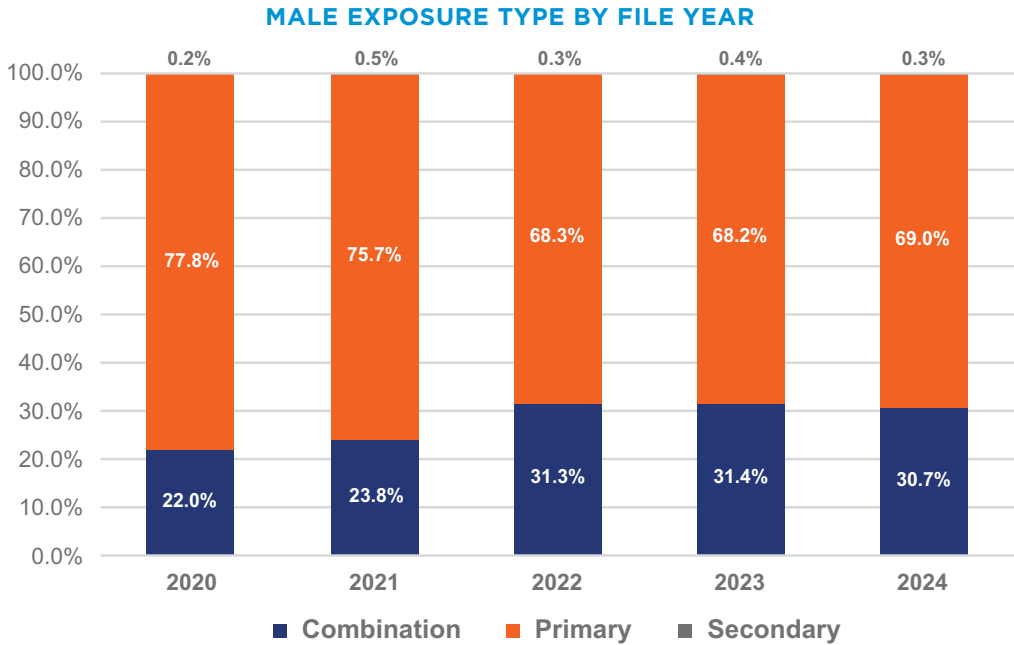
One way to categorize asbestos exposures is based on whether the exposure to the asbestos containing product was primary (direct) or secondary (indirect). A common example seen in complaints is that of a husband being exposed to an asbestos-containing product at work (primary exposure) then a wife being exposed to asbestos while laundering the clothing her husband wore at work (secondary exposure). A plaintiff may allege both primary and secondary exposures to asbestos, and for purposes of this report, those cases are referred to as combination exposures.

Figure **Exposure – 1** shows the percentage of plaintiffs alleging solely primary, solely secondary, or a combination of both primary and secondary exposure to asbestos for lawsuits filed 2020-2024. Most asbestos plaintiffs continue to allege only primary exposure to asbestos. In 2024, that was 63% of plaintiffs — a decrease from more than 70% of plaintiffs as recently as five years ago. However, over the past three years, the percentage of plaintiffs with only primary exposures has remained fairly constant. The decrease in primary-only exposures corresponds to an increase in plaintiffs alleging a combination of exposure types, from 26% in 2020 to holding steady around 35% since 2022. The exposure type breakdown is similar for both of the major disease types — mesothelioma and lung cancer — in the litigation.

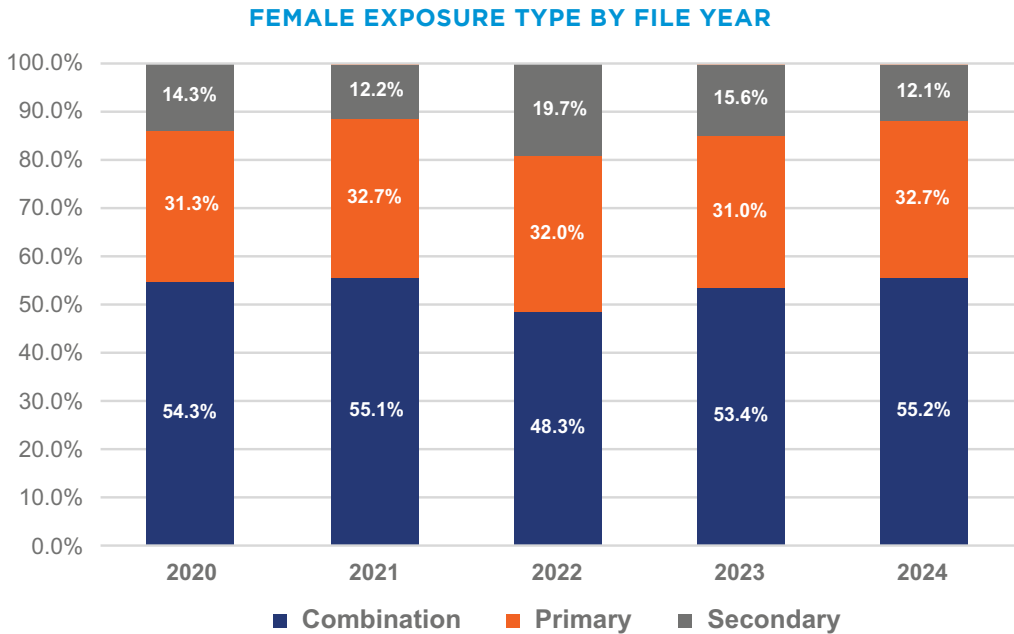


Exposure – 1

However, the breakdown of plaintiffs by exposure type does vary between males and females. Figures **Exposure – 2** and **Exposure – 3** show the percentage of plaintiffs by exposure type for males and females. Male plaintiffs tend to have more primary exposure than female plaintiffs, and female plaintiffs tend to allege secondary exposures more than male plaintiffs. In 2024, 69% of male plaintiffs alleged only primary exposure, compared to 33% of female plaintiffs, and 12% of female plaintiffs alleged secondary-only exposure, compared to less than 1% of male plaintiffs.



Exposure – 2

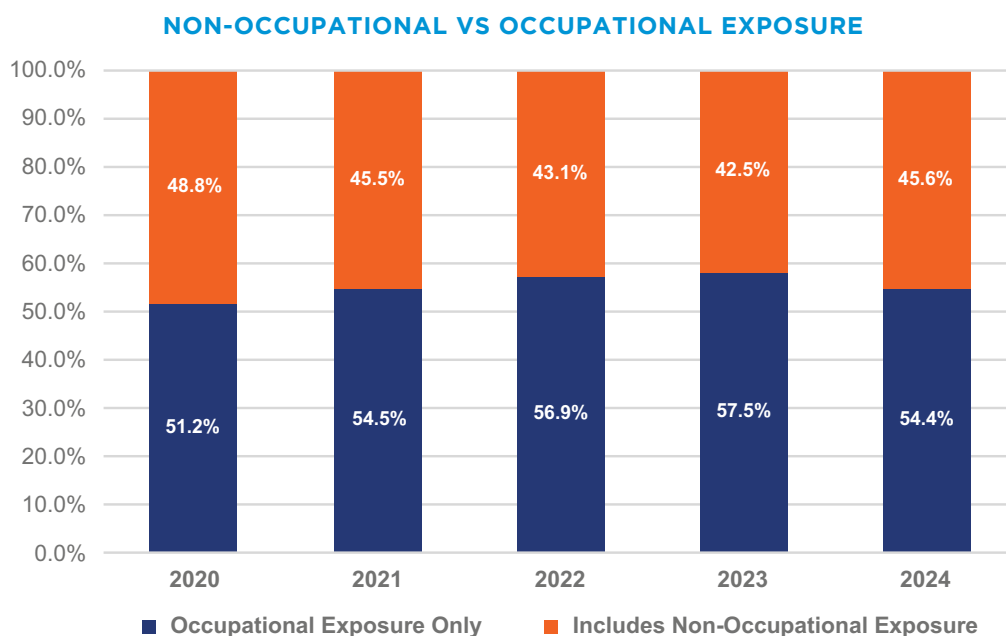


Exposure – 3

Occupational Versus Non-Occupational Exposure

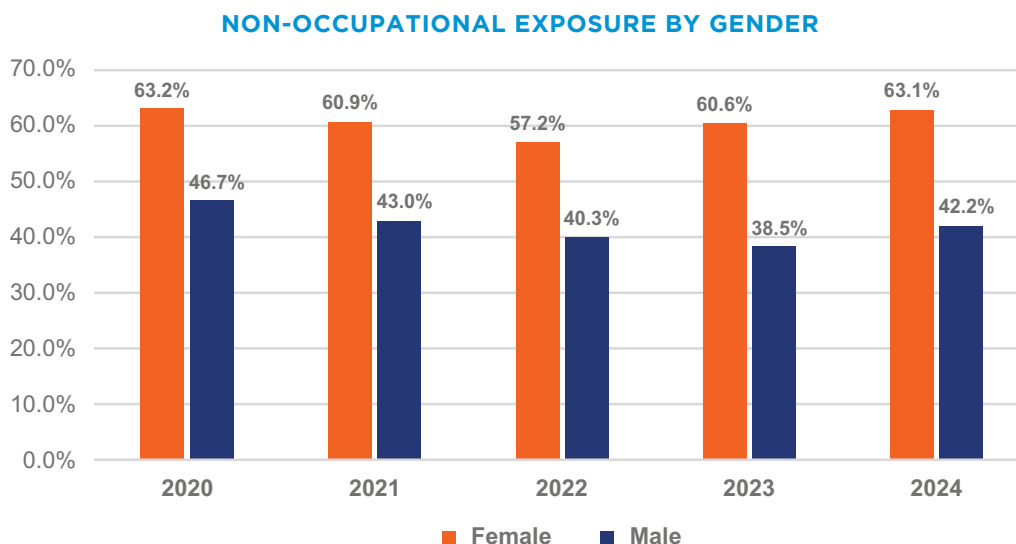
Another way to categorize asbestos exposures is by whether the exposure arose from a plaintiff's employment (occupational) or was unrelated to a plaintiff's employment (non-occupational). Common examples of non-occupational exposure include shade-tree mechanics, plaintiffs performing home renovations, and/or plaintiffs using cosmetic talcum powder products in their home. A negligible number of plaintiffs allege only non-occupational exposure to asbestos, so for purposes of this analysis, plaintiffs alleging only occupational exposure are compared to plaintiffs alleging both occupational and non-occupational exposure.

Figure **Exposure – 4** shows the percentage of plaintiffs based on whether non-occupational exposure was alleged for plaintiffs filing lawsuits in 2020-2024. While there was an increase in the percentage of plaintiffs alleging non-occupational exposures in 2024 compared to 2023 (46% vs. 43%), the percentage has generally remained steady — ranging from 43% to 49%.



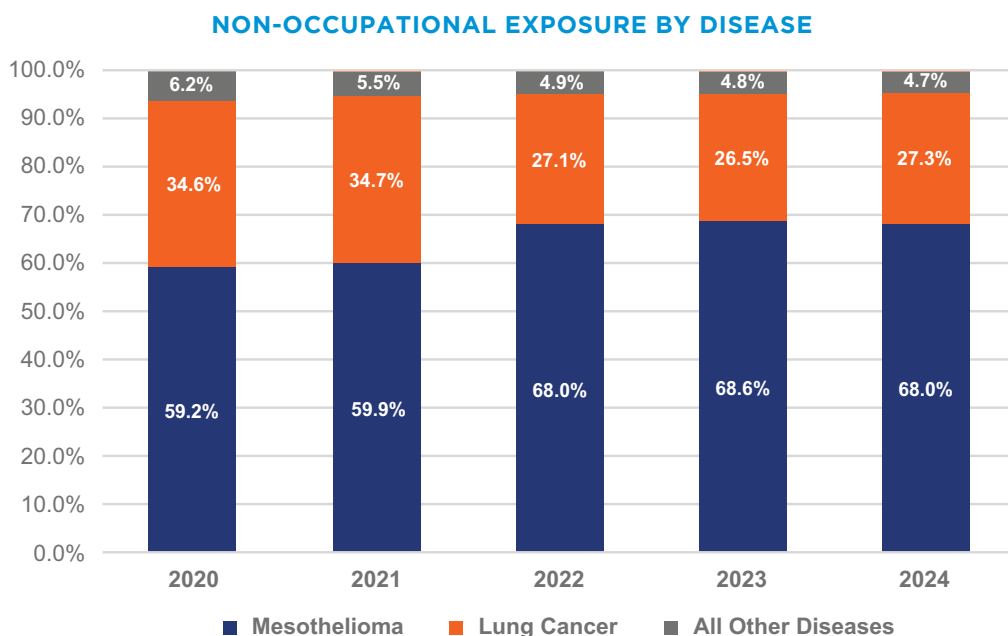
Exposure – 4

Figure **Exposure – 5** shows the percentage of male and female plaintiffs who included allegations of non-occupational exposure to asbestos in complaints filed from 2020 through 2024. The majority of female plaintiffs (63%) included allegations of non-occupational exposure in 2024. Since 2020, the percentage of females alleging non-occupational exposure ranged from 57% to 63%, decreasing between 2020-2022, then increasing again from 2022-2024. In contrast, the majority of male plaintiffs (58%) alleged only occupational exposure to asbestos in 2024, with 42% including non-occupational exposures. The percentage of male plaintiffs alleging non-occupational exposure since 2020 (ranging from 39% to 47%) has varied more widely than that of females.



Exposure – 5

Figure **Exposure – 6** shows the percentage of plaintiffs alleging non-occupational exposure by disease for mesothelioma, lung cancer, and all other disease types. The majority of plaintiffs alleging non-occupational exposure filed mesothelioma claims. In 2024, mesothelioma made up 68% of non-occupational exposure cases. From 2020-2024, the percentage of mesothelioma claims ranged from 59-69%, peaking in 2023 and falling by 1% in 2024 to 68%, consistent with 2022. Lung cancer made up 27% of non-occupational exposure in 2024. Since 2020, lung cancer non-occupational lawsuits have dropped from 35% to 27% in 2022-2024.



Exposure – 6

TALC LITIGATION

Talc Filings Summary

While asbestos-related litigation has been around for decades, a more recent development has been the addition of allegations of asbestos exposure through talc. This has brought a number of new defendants into the litigation and led to several highly publicized verdicts. KCIC's talc dataset is estimated to include over 90% of cases involving allegations of talc exposure that led to an asbestos-related disease diagnosis. It does not include talc cases related to ovarian cancer diagnoses.

TALC FILINGS BY YEAR

Year	Total Asbestos Filings	Filings Alleging Talc Exposure	% of Total Asbestos Filings Alleging Talc Exposure	Talc % Change (Prior Year)
2020	3,780	428	11.3%	-12.8%
2021	3,833	345	9.0%	-19.4%
2022	3,706	454	12.3%	31.6%
2023	3,929	637	16.2%	40.3%
2024	3,931	751	19.1%	17.9%

Talc – 1

Figure **Talc – 1** shows the total number of asbestos filings along with the number of filings that include allegations of talc exposure, the percentage of total asbestos filings that include talc exposure, and the percentage change in filings with talc exposure allegations compared to the prior year. In 2024, 751 of the 3,931 lawsuits filed alleged exposure to asbestos through talc. This represents 19% of total 2024 filings and an increase of 18% compared to 2023. The majority of these (90%) were mesothelioma cases.

Talc Top Jurisdictions – 2024 Filings

Figure **Talc – 2** shows the top five jurisdictions for lawsuits including allegations of asbestos exposure through talc, based on 2024 filings. These five jurisdictions make up 67% of all talc cases in the 2024 population, with Madison County, IL, making up 31% alone. Both Madison (54 additional cases) and St. Clair (34 additional cases) counties in Illinois had an increased number of filings alleging talc exposure in 2024 compared to 2023. While not in the top five jurisdictions, the state of Florida has also seen more talc exposure alleged in asbestos complaints, with 45 lawsuits including talc exposure in 2024. These were filed in Broward and Miami-Dade counties, with Miami filings more than doubling compared to 2023.

TALC TOP 5 JURISDICTIONS BASED ON 2024 FILINGS

Jurisdiction	2022 Filings	2023 Filings	2024 Filings	% Change 2023-2024
Madison County, IL	118	182	236	29.7%
New York, NY	57	80	96	20.0%
Middlesex, NJ	51	67	64	-4.5%
Los Angeles, CA	56	67	62	-7.5%
St. Clair County, IL	8	13	47	261.5%

Talc – 2

Talc Top Plaintiff Firms – 2024 Filings

Figure **Talc – 3** shows the top five plaintiff firms filing lawsuits that included allegations of asbestos exposure through talc, based on 2024 filings. These five firms made up 65% of all filings that included allegations of talc exposure in the 2024 population. The Gori Law Firm, Weitz & Luxenberg, and SWMW Law all had increases of approximately 30 cases in 2024 compared to 2023. These increases occurred in Madison County; New York, NY/Middlesex, New Jersey; and St. Clair County respectively.

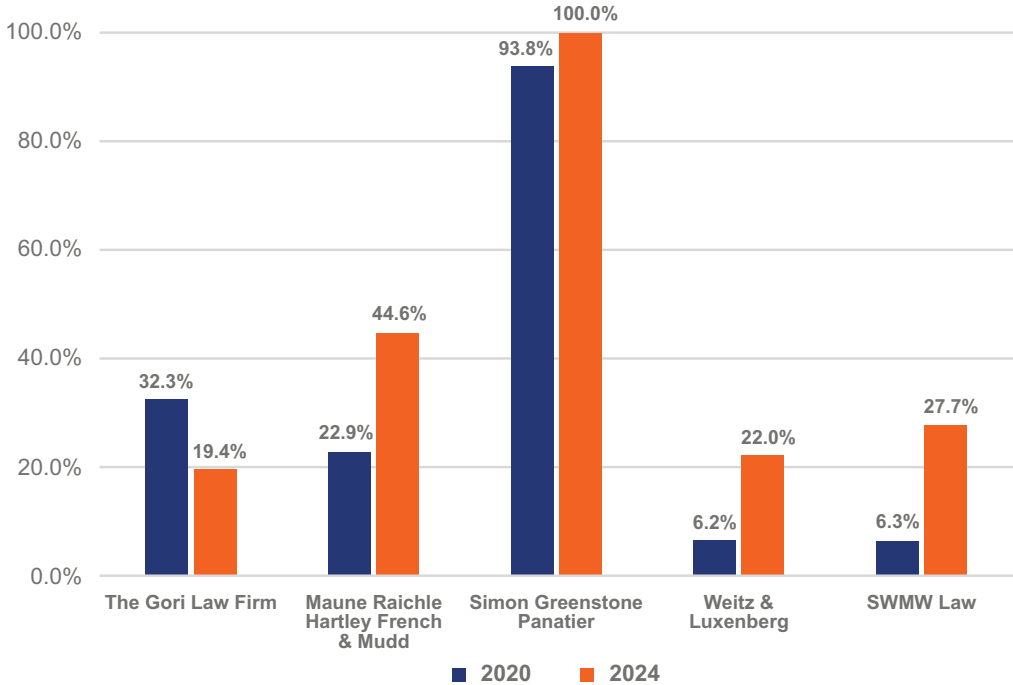
TALC TOP 5 PLAINTIFF FIRMS BASED ON 2024 FILINGS

Plaintiff Firm	2022 Filings	2023 Filings	2024 Filings	% Change 2023-2024
The Gori Law Firm	96	125	153	22.4%
Maune Raichle Hartley French & Mudd	78	124	135	8.9%
Simon Greenstone Panatier	61	91	77	-15.4%
Weitz & Luxenberg	51	41	72	75.6%
SWMW Law	6	24	53	120.8%

Talc – 3

Figure **Talc – 4** displays the percentage of total filings that included allegations of asbestos exposure through talc in 2020 versus 2024 for the top five plaintiff firms filing these lawsuits in 2024. The percentage of total filings that include talc exposure has increased for four of the five firms, with Simon Greenstone Panatier increasing to 100%. The Gori Law Firm is the exception, with 32% of its 2020 lawsuits claiming exposure to talc compared to 19% in 2024. The firm did, however, increase the percentage of its total mesothelioma filings that included claims of talc exposure from 47% in 2020 to 67% in 2024.

PERCENTAGE OF FILINGS WITH TALC 2020 VS 2024

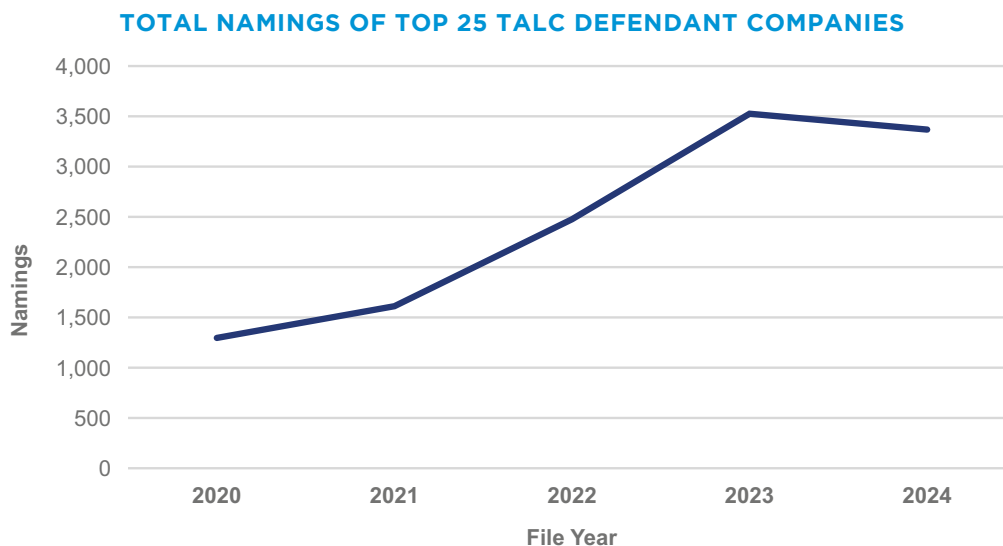


Talc – 4

Talc Defendants

The rising number of talc defendants and the increased frequency with which talc defendants are named on asbestos complaints are key indicators of the growing scope of talc litigation. KCIC identified the top 25 defendants facing talc-related liability without traditional asbestos liabilities to see how many times they were named each year. In this analysis, namings were counted for each defendant and lawsuit combination. For example, if 10 of the 25 defendants were named on one complaint and 12 were named on the next complaint, this would be counted as 22 total namings.

Figure **Talc – 5** illustrates total namings for the top 25 talc defendants each year. The number of times these top talc defendants were named in asbestos litigation increased significantly from 1,304 in 2020 to 3,531 in 2023. In 2024, the number of namings decreased less than 2% compared to 2023 (3,381 vs. 3,531) but remained more than two and a half times higher than five years prior.



Talc – 5

The nature of the alleged exposures and the defendants involved in talc litigation are also changing. Early talc complaints mostly alleged industrial talc exposures and, therefore, named mostly talc manufacturers. The litigation has expanded to more frequently include allegations of exposure through cosmetic talc products. Therefore, it now involves an increasing number of cosmetics companies and retailers as defendants. To illustrate this, KCIC analyzed complaint data for 20 of the top talc defendants with liability solely from cosmetic products.

In this analysis, the term “cosmetic talc filing” refers to a lawsuit that named five or more of the 20 top cosmetic talc defendants. Figure **Talc – 6** displays the number of cosmetic talc filings, comparing this figure as a percentage of national asbestos filings and as a percentage of talc filings. Between 2020 and 2021, the number of cosmetic talc filings more than doubled (45 vs. 93). From 2021 to 2022, this figure rose by 60% (93 vs. 149). Since 2022, five or more of the top cosmetic talc defendants were named on more than 30% of all talc filings. While this still represents a small portion of total asbestos filings, the share has grown from 1% in 2020 to 6% in 2024.

COMPLAINTS NAMING TOP COSMETIC TALC DEFENDANTS

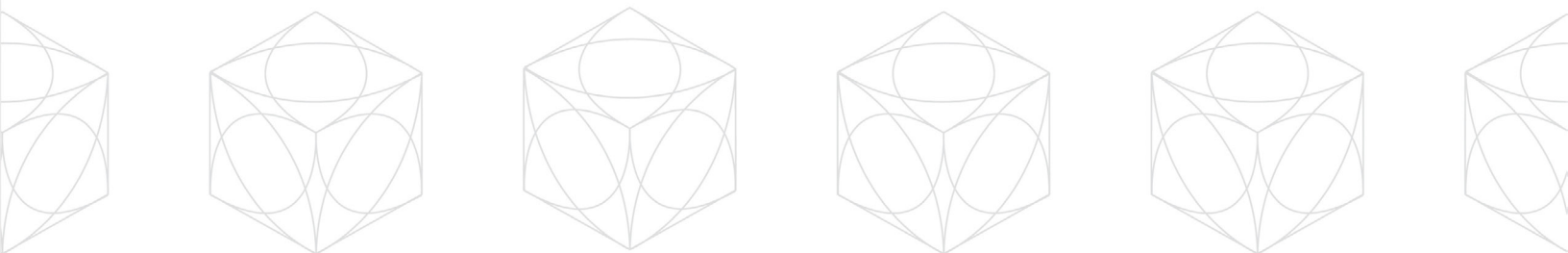
File Year	Total Asbestos Filings	Talc Filings	Cosmetic Talc Filings	Cosmetic Talc % of Total Asbestos Filings	Cosmetic Talc % of Talc Filings
2020	3,780	428	45	1.2%	10.5%
2021	3,833	345	93	2.4%	27.0%
2022	3,706	454	149	4.0%	32.8%
2023	3,929	637	239	6.1%	37.5%
2024	3,931	751	239	6.1%	31.8%

Talc – 6

CONCLUSION

The main conclusion to be drawn from looking at recent data is that asbestos-related filings and, in particular, mesothelioma filings have plateaued. After years of decline, total filings nationwide have leveled out – increasing only slightly at 1% annually, on average, since 2020. During the same period, mesothelioma filings were essentially unchanged in annual totals. While total filings, on average, are not decreasing, there has been a moderate consolidation of filings among fewer plaintiff firms and jurisdictions. The Gori Law Firm remains the dominant firm, Madison County, IL, remains the dominant jurisdiction, and the top five firms and jurisdictions have not changed.

While much remains the same, there have been notable changes in the underlying allegations of these lawsuits. Namely, there has been a continued uptick in lung cancer filings, which have increased on average 3% annually since 2020, as well as an increase both in filings alleging exposure to asbestos through talc and in the number of talc defendants being named in the litigation. These trends will likely continue to shape the landscape of asbestos litigation in the future.





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, 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.

© KCIC 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. | CHICAGO | SCOTTSDALE

KCIC.COM

PHONE: 202.650.0600 EMAIL: CONTACT@KCIC.COM

KCIC's Asbestos Litigation: 2024 Year in Review is prepared for use by defendant corporations and their counsel and insurers only. Other interested parties may contact KCIC for permission to download the report [here](#). Usage of and/or reliance upon the data in this report is prohibited without written permission from KCIC. The contents of the report may not be duplicated or distributed without written permission from KCIC. Share this [link](#) for individual downloads.