

# Spinal Cord Injuries and Motor Vehicle Crashes

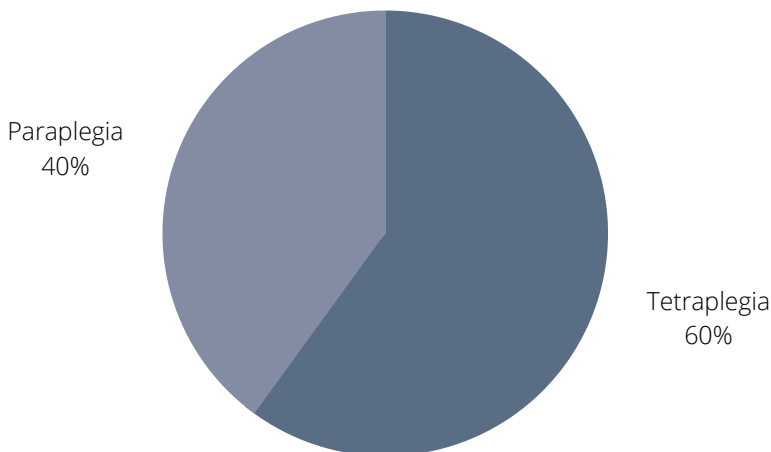
The Institute for Safer Trucking reviewed the most recent year of SCI data and analyzed the economic costs incurred due to spinal cord injuries.

## What is a Spinal Cord Injury?

According to Mayo Clinic, a spinal cord injury is damage to any part of the spinal cord or nerves at the end of the spinal canal, which often causes permanent changes in strength, sensation, and other body functions below the site of the injury.

## *Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of spinal cord injuries*

### Spinal Cord Injuries by Type 2015–2020



### Key Terms

#### Paraplegia

Full or partial paralysis of the lower half of the body.

#### Tetraplegia

Paralysis of both legs and both arms

Estimated Lifetime Costs for Paraplegia Injury at Age 25

**\$2,524,270**

Estimated Lifetime Costs\* for Tetraplegia Injury at Age 25

**\$4,466,971**

*Number was calculated by averaging cost of high tetraplegia and cost of low tetraplegia.*