

2021 Indiana Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

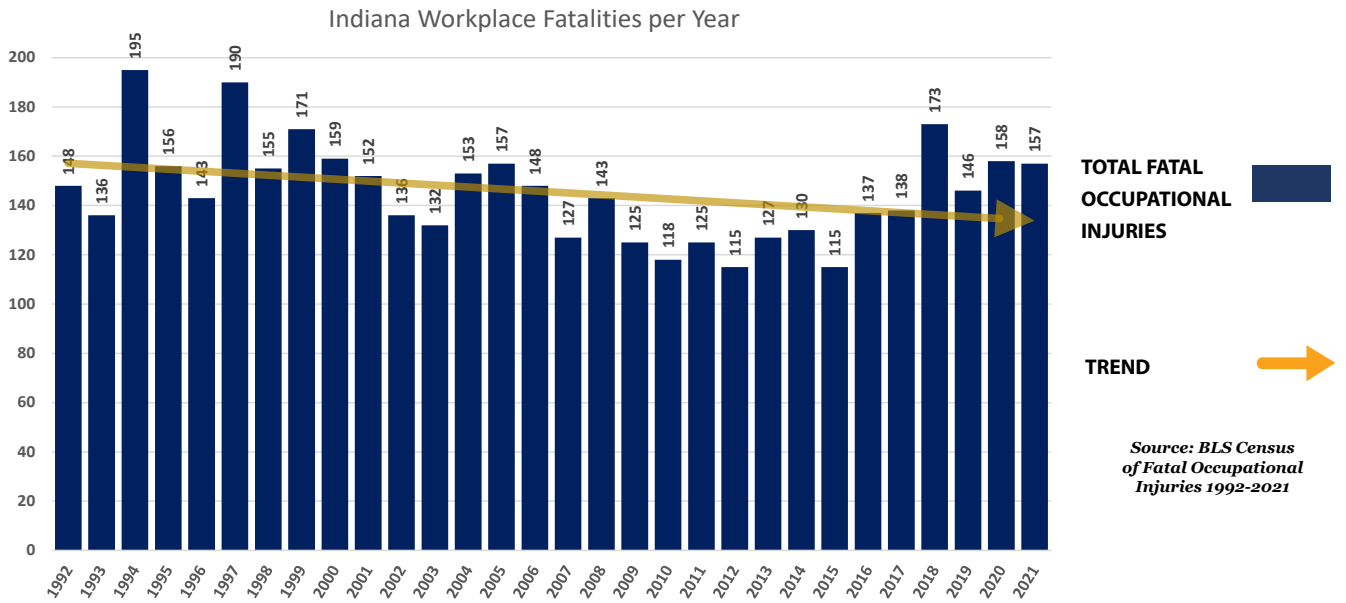
Analysis of the Census of
Fatal Occupational Injuries
(CFOI) Results



Prepared by the Indiana Department of Labor
Quality, Metrics and Statistics Division



Fatal Occupational Injuries in Indiana



In 1992, the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) began collecting data on fatal occupational injuries in Indiana through the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI). The CFOI compiles comprehensive and timely information on fatal work injuries occurring in the 50 states and the District of Columbia to monitor workplace safety and to inform private and public health efforts to improve workplace safety. Each year, the Indiana Department of Labor’s Quality, Metrics, and Statistics (QMS) Division reviews thousands of records including death certificates, news articles, police reports, and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) findings to identify, document, and verify deaths resulting from work-related injuries. For quality control, a minimum of two source documents are usually required for each fatality case. QMS employees match source documents with cases using the decedent’s name, place of employment, date and approximate time of death, or any other combination of identifying elements that can help differentiate existing cases from new ones.

The data provided by the BLS are protected by stringent confidentiality rules. These rules forbid releasing information that could divulge the identity of the decedent or the company for which the decedent worked. Confidential data may include any non-public information that was not previously released by a media outlet. Therefore, some of the tables showing

data regarding the industry or nature of the fatality may not add up to the reflected totals. No specific location information such as city, town or county is available due to case confidentiality. For more information regarding state and national fatal occupational injuries, visit www.bls.gov/iif/oshstate.htm

The CFOI goal is to produce comprehensive, accurate, and timely counts of fatal work-related injuries. The data collected for the CFOI program are used by safety and health professionals and researchers to help prevent fatal workplace injuries. These data can help make the workplace safer by:

- Informing workers of life-threatening hazards associated with various jobs
- Promoting safer work practices through enhanced job safety training
- Assessing and improving workplace safety standards
- Identifying new areas of safety research

The CFOI classifies fatal occupational injuries by industry, event, exposure, demographic, primary cause, and body part injured. These classifications provide a more detailed view of how fatal injuries occurred. This report will dive deeper into the case and demographic information regarding fatal workplace injuries in Indiana.



Fatal Injuries by Industry

Industry	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	33	28	30	18	21	22
Mining	-	-	2	-	-	-
Construction	14	14	31	21	31	21
Manufacturing	10	9	15	14	17	13
Utilities	1	1	-	1	1	1
Wholesale trade	7	4	6	-	7	4
Retail trade	11	10	14	14	7	7
Transportation and warehousing	21	26	27	27	26	48
Information	1	2	-	-	2	-
Finance and Insurance	1	-	-	1	-	-
Real estate and rental and leasing	3	-	2	-	1	4
Professional and Technical Services	2	1	7	2	-	1
Administrative and waste services	9	11	12	12	15	5
Accommodation and food services	6	8	8	5	6	5
Health care and social assistance	2	4	3	4	5	6
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	3	1	3	6	3	1
Educational services	1	2	-	-	-	2
Other services, except public administration	5	9	3	12	8	4
Federal Government	1	1	1	1	2	-
State Government	2	-	-	-	1	3
Local Government	4	6	4	5	5	7
Total:	137	138	173	146	158	157

For injury-related fatalities to be included, cases must meet the following criteria: the incident must have occurred in Indiana, the death must have occurred during calendar year 2021, and the injury must be work-related according to the BLS guidelines. The injury must have occurred either on the employer’s premises while the person was there to work or elsewhere when the person was either there to work or the event/exposure were related to the person’s work or employee status. “Work” is defined by the BLS guidelines as “duties, activities, or tasks that produce a product or result that are done in exchange for money, goods, services, profit, or benefit; and that are legal activities in the United States.” If a fatality does not meet BLS’ criteria, the case is marked out-of-scope and will not appear in the national aggregate data nor this report.

The census covers data for work-related fatal injuries regardless of the manner of injury. All workers are covered regardless of pay structure (wage and salary, self-employed or volunteer), including those that may fall

outside the lawful jurisdiction of the Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration (IOSHA) and the Indiana Worker’s Compensation Board. This can sometimes cause confusion between state agencies, as the jurisdictional limitations may result in each agency reporting differing numbers of workplace fatalities.

The BLS CFOI collected numbers included in the workplace fatalities caused by traffic accidents, airplane crashes, mining accidents, farm accidents, and accidents to self-employed workers, federal employees, and railroad workers. In many cases, workers in these categories are outside the authority of IOSHA enforcement. For example, fatalities occurring on the roadway and on farms with fewer than ten employees are almost always outside IOSHA’s enforcement authority. However, these fatalities are still part of the CFOI records.

IOSHA investigates all employee deaths under its lawful jurisdiction that result from an accident or illness caused by or related to a workplace hazard. In the calendar year 2021, IOSHA investigated 54 workplace fatalities that were reported to IOSHA and fell under their jurisdiction for investigation. The CFOI report does not typically include fatalities resulting solely from illnesses or natural causes, however some of the 54 workplace fatalities inspected by IOSHA involved COVID-19 infections.

Source: BLS Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries 2016-2021 Industry and sub-industry definitions are found online at www.census.gov/cgi-bin/sssd/naics/naicsrch?chart=2012.



Fatal occupational illnesses, including COVID-19, are out of scope for CFOI unless precipitated by an acute injury. It is possible that a COVID-19-related fatality resulting from an acute injury may be in scope and appear on the CFOI file. However, information on COVID-19-related fatalities in source data is inconsistent and often unavailable. Therefore, BLS will not attempt to publish COVID-19-specific data.

The 2021 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries report shows 157 Hoosier workers lost their lives in a workplace accident in 2021. This is a decrease of one from the 158 fatal injuries reported in 2020. There were 5,190 fatal work injuries recorded in the United States in 2021, an 8.9-percent increase from 4,764 in 2020. The fatal work injury rate was 3.6 fatalities per 100,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers, up from 3.4 per 100,000 FTE in 2020.

Fatalities by Industry

The CFOI uses the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) to identify the industries and sub-industries where workplace fatalities occur. Industry information is often reported as a broad category to ensure that no decedents or their employers can be identified.

Indiana's **real estate and rental and leasing** industry experienced the highest percentage increase of work-related workplace fatalities from one (1) in 2020 to four (4) in 2021, a 300% increase. All four (4) fatality cases were private industry cases which two (2) of the cases involved wage and salary employees, and the other two cases involved self-employed employees. Half of the fatality cases primary sources involved

persons, plants, animals, and minerals where half of the fatalities happened at a home location (2).

With 48 fatalities, Indiana's **transportation and warehousing** industry experienced the highest increase of fatal work-related injuries in 2021 from its count in 2020 of 28. All forty-eight (48) of the fatality cases were in private industry. This count increased by 71.43% from the 2020 total of 28. The three most common events that caused work-related fatalities in 2021 were transportation incidents (28), violence and other injuries by persons or animals (11), and exposure to harmful substances or environments (5). In 2021, most workplace fatalities for this industry in occurred on the street or highway (30). A few of the primary sources for work-related fatalities are highway vehicles, motorized (30), by a person-other than injured or ill worker (11), and chemicals and chemical products (5). In this industry, men (43) who were in the age group 45 to 54 years experienced the highest number of workplace fatalities in 2021 (13). Forty-two (42) of the fatality cases involved wage and salary employees.

The fatal work-related injuries in **health care and social assistance** increased by 20% from five (5) in 2020 to six (6) in 2021. All fatality cases for 2021 were in the private industry sector, and all cases involved employees who were wage and salary employees. Women suffered the highest number of workplace fatalities in health care and social assistance industry (5) in 2021. Half of the work-related fatality cases involved workers in community and social service occupations and the other half involved healthcare practitioner and technical occupations.



After experiencing the highest number of work-related fatalities in 2020 (31), the **construction** industry experienced a 29.03% decrease to 22 work-related fatalities in 2021. Twenty-one (21) of the work-related fatalities were in the private industry and one (1) case was in local government. The three most common causes for fatal incidents in this industry were falls, slips and trips (6), transportation incidents (6), and exposure to harmful substances or environments (4).

All six of the falls, slips and trips fatal events cases were due to a fall to a lower level. The **specialty trade contactors** sub-industry had 68.18% of the work-related fatality cases (15) for the construction industry. The **construction and extraction** occupations experienced the highest number of workplace fatalities with (20). In this industry, men (22) who were white (non-Hispanic) (15) experienced the highest number of workplace fatalities along with wage and salary employees (16). Most cases (11) involved the worker performing constructing, repairing, or cleaning work, and another six (6) cases involved vehicular and transportation operations. For construction, the primary source that was involved with workplace fatalities was highway vehicles, motorized (6).

The **manufacturing** industry experienced a 23.53% decrease from 17 cases in 2020 to 13 in 2021. In 2021, the three events that resulted in the majority of work-related fatalities were exposures to harmful substances or environments (4), transportation incidents (3), and violence and other injuries by persons or animals (3). Eight (8) of the cases occurred at an industrial place and premises. Men

suffered the highest number of workplace fatalities in the manufacturing industry (9) in 2021.

Fatal Events

“Event or exposure” describes the manner in which a worker was fatally injured. Although the events may sound similar to industry classifications, the two are not interchangeable and these events may occur in any industry.

Since the inception of the CFOI in 1992, **transportation-related incidents** have resulted in the highest number of Hoosier workplace fatalities. This trend continued in 2021 with 59 transportation-related incidents accounting for 37.58% of all Indiana occupational fatalities. Most of the fatality cases (56) were employees who were employed in private industry, and in three (3) of the cases employees were employed in local government. These incidents included 42 roadway incidents involving vehicles. Twenty-seven of these roadway incidents were due to a roadway collision with another vehicle. Non-roadway incidents involving motorized land vehicles had (7) fatal work-related cases. Pedestrians struck by vehicles while working (7) decreased by 30% from 2020 (10). Most of the fatal transportation-related incidents (55) involved vehicles as the primary source for the work-related fatalities.

The majority of **transportation-related** fatalities were suffered by men (54), white (non-Hispanic) workers (46), and workers 65 years and older (13).

Transportation-related incidents can affect any industry and are not limited to

work performed in the transportation and warehousing industry. Fifty-six (56) of the fatal incidents included workers performing vehicular and transportation operations. In 2021, 31 fatal transportation-related incidents occurred in the trade, transportation, and utilities industry. Other industries that have had transportation-related fatalities in 2021 include but were not limited to **construction** (5), **manufacturing** (3), and **professional and business services** (2).

Violence and other injuries by persons or animals was the second leading cause of workplace fatalities in 2021 (35). The count increased by 29.63% from its count in 2020 (27). Events in this category include all intentional injuries; injuries involving weapons (tools designed to be used as weapons, such as firearms and stun guns) regardless of intent; and injuries involving direct physical contact with persons, animals, or insects regardless of intent. Such injuries may be inflicted by another person, by oneself, or by an animal or insect. Fatalities included in this event were suffered by both men (26) and women (9). Workers between **35 to 44 years** and **45 to 54 years** each suffered the most workplace fatalities, with 8 fatalities in each age group. Twenty-five (25) or 71.43% of the work-related fatalities involved a person-other than injured or ill worker. Ten (10) of the workplace fatality cases involved a worker in the transportation and material moving occupations.

Exposure to harmful substances or environments was the third leading cause of Hoosier workplace fatalities in 2021 with 25 cases. Nineteen (19) of the case involved chemicals and chemical products, and four (4) of the cases involved a worker where they were performing constructing, repairing, or

cleaning as their activity. Men suffered most of the fatalities in this event (20).

Over the last four years, the number of cases for **contact with object and equipment** has decreased by 37.50% from 32 in 2018 to 20 in 2021. A few of the primary sources or causes for fatalities in this event category were persons, plants, animals, and minerals (8), vehicles (4), and machinery (3). Half of these fatal events occurred on a farm (10), and most of the fatally-injured were using or operating tools, machinery (8). Most (19) of the cases occurred in private industry, and (11) of those cases were in the **natural resources and mining** industry.

INSafe

The IDOL offers assistance with workplace safety and health compliance through its free consultative program. Largely funded by a federal grant, **INSafe** provides occupational safety and health compliance assistance to Hoosier employers at no cost.

The goal of the program is to reduce work-related injuries and illnesses by assisting employers with identifying and correcting potential safety and health hazards. INSafe consultants can review written programs, perform a safety and health audit, offer topic-specific training, and conduct industrial hygiene sampling (air, noise, etc.) all at no cost to the employer.

Employers who are interested in learning more about these services may visit <https://www.in.gov/dol/safety-and-health-consultation/insafe-home/>. Employers may also contact INSafe directly by email at insafe@dol.in.gov or by phone at (317) 232-2655.



GENDER

In 2021, 134 men (85.35%) and 23 women (14.65%) suffered workplace fatalities in Indiana. The most common fatal workplace event in 2021 was transportation incidents and accounted for 54 male fatalities and five (5) female fatalities.

EMPLOYEE STATUS

Wage and salary workers suffered 120 fatal injuries (76.43%). Self-employed workers suffered 37 of the 157 fatal injuries in Indiana (23.57%).

AGE

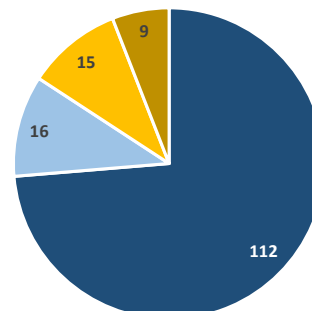
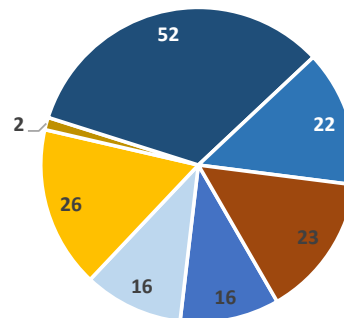
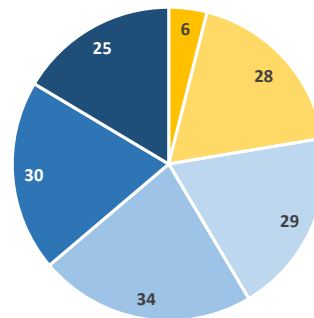
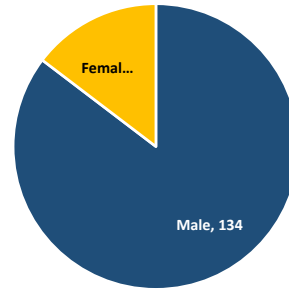
Workers 45 to 54 years of age suffered 34 workplace fatalities and comprised the highest percentage of all Indiana workplace fatalities in 2021 (21.65%). Workers 55-64 years of age suffered 30 fatalities in 2021 (19.11%), and workers 35 to 44 years of age suffered 29 workplace fatalities in 2021 (18.47%). Workers ages 25 to 34 suffered 28 fatalities in 2021 (17.83%). Workers 65 years of age and older suffered 25 workplace fatalities in 2021 (15.93%).

WORKING LOCATION

The locations in 2021 with the highest number of Indiana workplace deaths were streets and highways (52), industrial places and premises (26), and other not reported (23).

RACE OR ETHNIC ORIGIN

White (non-Hispanic) workers experienced approximately 112 work-related deaths in 2021 (71.34%). Black or African-American workers accounted for approximately 16 fatalities (10.19%), and Hispanic or Latino workers experienced approximately 15 (9.55%). Asian (non-Hispanic) workers suffered approximately nine (5.73%) of workplace fatalities.





The CFOI, part of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Occupational Safety and Health Statistics (OSHS) program, is a count of all fatalities resulting from workplace injuries occurring in the U.S. during the calendar year regardless of whether the decedent was working in a job covered by the OSHA, other federal or state agencies, or was outside the scope of regulatory coverage. The CFOI uses a variety of state, federal, and independent data sources to identify, verify, and describe fatal work injuries.

The goal of the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) is to produce comprehensive, accurate, and timely counts of fatal work injuries. The findings from these data are used by safety and health professionals, policy analysts, and researchers to help prevent fatal workplace injuries.

Accidents, by definition, can occur at any time and are difficult to predict. Similarly, workplace violence incidents of intentional harm are difficult to foresee. For both intentional and accidental injuries, however, employers can help reduce the risk.

For transportation-related occupations, stressing driver-attentiveness is key. Drivers must pay attention to the road and not allow distractions such as cell phones, food, or the radio to interfere with safe job performance. Ensuring that drivers are in good health and getting plenty of rest are also crucial elements of ensuring the safety of the working driver and his or her fellow motorists. Setting and enforcing company policies regarding technology use, vehicle maintenance schedules, eating while driving, and driver wellness can all help keep working drivers safe.

From the use of heavy machinery in crop

production to the tending of large animals in animal production, the agriculture industry encompasses numerous dangerous activities. Those in the agriculture industry face many of the same dangers as the transportation-related industries. Heavy equipment, operator fatigue, and worker inattentiveness are all hazards that occur frequently in agriculture. It is important that users of such machinery be effectively trained on the safe, proper use and operation of farming equipment including tractors, trucks, augers, and silos. Workers in agricultural activities should respect the dangers of the job and be vigilant of emerging hazards.

While it may not be possible to plan for everything, good communication between all levels of management—from front-line employees through senior staff—breeds a deeper culture of safety into a business. Employees should be encouraged to speak up when a safety hazard is observed, and management should be quick to appropriately address these issues. For more information on fostering a culture of safety, or to request a free safety consultation, please visit the Indiana Department of Labor's INSafe Division online at www.in.gov/dol/insafe.htm.

It is true that some occupations are inherently more dangerous than others, but the mentality that dying is “just part of the job” is erroneous and obsolete. Although an occupation may be dangerous, it is the responsibility of the employer and the employee to work together to eliminate or minimize exposure to known hazards.



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At the time of initial publication of this document (12/2022), INSafe, the Indiana Consultation State Plan, receives 79 % of its budget from a grant of \$959,700 in federal funds. The remaining 21% of the State Plan budget is financed through \$255,999 in Indiana state funds.

IOSHA, the Indiana Enforcement State Plan, receives 50% of its budget from a grant of \$2,640,000 in federal funds. The remaining 50% of the State Plan budget is financed through \$2,640,000 in Indiana state funds.



