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# Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries Illinois, 2019

Epidemiologic Report Series 21:01

January 2021

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A Publication of the  
Illinois Department of Public Health  
Division of Epidemiologic Studies  
Springfield, Illinois

January 2021

This project supported by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Acknowledgements

This report would not have been possible without the cooperative effort of the local, state, and federal agencies that provide source documents used to identify fatal occupational injuries. Among these agencies are county coroners' offices; Cook County Medical Examiner's office; U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration; Illinois Department of Labor, Division of Occupational Safety and Health; Illinois Department of Public Health, Division of Vital Records; Illinois Department of Transportation, Traffic Safety Division; Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission; Illinois State Police, local police departments, and sheriffs' offices; U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration; and National Transportation Safety Board. The Illinois Department of Public Health, Division of Epidemiologic Studies, would like to thank each of these agencies for their continued support and cooperation in helping IDPH to collect and to publish data on fatal occupational injuries.

## Suggested Citation

-Illinois Occupational Health Program. Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, Illinois, 2019. Epidemiologic Report Series 21:01. Springfield, IL: Illinois Department of Public Health, January 2021.

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# Fatal Occupational Injuries – 2019

## Major Findings

- There were 158 fatal work-related injuries in 2019.
- The majority of decedents worked for wages or salary (81.6%), were male (89.9%), and were non-Hispanic White (73.4%).
- The industry sectors with the highest-percentages of injury-related fatalities in 2019 were:
  - Construction (19.0%)
  - Transportation and warehousing (15.2%)
  - Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting (9.5%)
  - Leisure and hospitality (8.2%)
  - Accommodations and food services (7.0%)
- The occupations with highest percentages of injury-related fatalities within their assigned industries were:
  - Transportation and material handling (41 total fatal injuries). Motor vehicle operators accounted for 19.6% of work-related deaths.
  - Construction and extraction occupations (30 total fatal injuries). Construction trade workers accounted for 15.2% of work-related deaths.
  - Management occupations (20 total fatal injuries). Farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural managers accounted for 7.0% of work-related deaths.
  - Protective service occupations (17 total fatal injuries). Law enforcement workers accounted for 5.1% of work-related deaths.
  - Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations (11 total fatal injuries). Vehicle and mobile equipment mechanics, installers, and repairers accounted for 3.2% of work-related deaths.
  - Production operations occupations (7 total fatal injuries). Other production workers accounted for 2.5% of work-related deaths.
  - Sales and related occupations (7 total fatal injuries). Other sales workers accounted for 0.6% of work-related deaths.

- Office and administrative support occupations (6 total fatal injuries). Material recording, scheduling, dispatching, distribution accounted for 1.9% of work-related deaths.
- For all industries these events or exposure resulted in the most fatalities:
  - Transportation (33.5%)
  - Violence and other injuries by persons or animals (19.6%)
  - Falls, slips, trips (16.5%)
  - Contact with objects and equipment (14.6%)
  - Exposure to harmful substances or environments (10.8%)

## Introduction

The Illinois Department of Public Health, Division of Epidemiologic Studies, conducts the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) with partial support from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This partnership has been in existence since 1993. The purpose of the Illinois CFOI is to monitor, verify, and record all instances of workplace fatalities. Upon receipt of fatality data, CFOI staff work to verify fatalities and collect additional information on fatality circumstances and demographics of the decedent. This report presents data collected through the Illinois CFOI program for calendar year 2019.

## Methods

The Illinois CFOI obtains data elements from a variety of public and confidential source documents. These documents include, but are not limited to, coroner and medical examiner reports, death certificates, National Transportation Safety Board reports, news media articles and reports, Mine Safety and Health Administration reports, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) reports, police reports, and workers' compensation reports.

For verification purposes, a minimum of two source documents are required for each fatality case. CFOI staffers 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. For some cases, the second source document is a questionnaire completed by the decedent's employer or another informant. In instances where two source documents are unavailable, BLS and state employees

review cases to determine if the data is sufficiently reliable for inclusion. If a fatality does not meet BLS' criteria, the cases are marked out-of-scope and the data does not appear in either the national aggregate data or this report.

For injury-related fatalities to be included, cases must meet the following criteria: the incident must have occurred in Illinois, the death must have occurred during calendar year 2019, 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 off the employer's premises and the person was 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." Industrial sectors were classified according to the North American Industry Classification System, 2017 edition, and occupations were grouped according to the Standard Occupational Classification Manual, 2017 edition.

## Results

The following data tables present some of the data collected during the 2019 CFOI cycle.

Columns and rows may not add up to the total number or 100%, as not all included cases may be publishable. Cases that lack publicly accessed source documents and have three or less total cases associated with the subcategory are not published to protect the deceased's privacy.

Cells with double dash marks (--) are empty, due to unpublishable data or because there was no data reported.

## Overall Trends

In 2019, there were 158 fatal occupational injuries reported, which is a decrease of 14.1% over the 184 work-related fatalities collected in the 2018 CFOI. (Figure 1)

## Demographics

When documenting fatal occupational injuries, the Illinois CFOI collects data on the demographics of the decedent and the circumstances of the incident. Of the 158 injury-related fatalities in 2019, 129 (81.6%) occurred among wage/salary workers, and 29 (18.4%) occurred among the self-employed. (Table 1)

Men made up a significantly larger section of the fatally injured, with 142 (89.9%) injuries compared to the 16 (10.1%) fatal injuries sustained by women. (Table 1). People in the 55 to 64 years age groups had the highest occurrence of fatal injuries (21.5%). The next highest were those 35 to 44 years old (20.3%), and 45 to 54 years and older (19.6%). (Table 1). The majority of reported fatalities involved White, non-Hispanic workers (73.4%); Black workers were the second-highest reported fatalities (11.4%). (Table 1).

#### Incident Data

The industry sector (per NAICS codes 2017) that incurred the most injury-related fatalities with 30 (18.9% of the total) was construction; followed by transportation and warehousing with 24 (15.2% of the total); agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting with 15 (9.5% of the total); and leisure and hospitality with 13 (8.2 %of the total). (Table 2).

The major group occupations (per SOC classification 2010) suffering the most injury-related fatalities were transportation and material handlers with 41 fatalities (25.9% of the total); followed by construction and extraction occupations accounted with 30 (19.0% of the total). Management occupations were next with 20 fatalities (12.7% of the total). Protective service occupations with 17 fatalities (10.8% of the total) and installation, maintenance, and repair occupations had 11 fatalities (7.0% of the total). (Table 3)

The event or exposure causing the injury-related fatality is another important aspect in describing work-related fatalities. Transportation incidents continued to cause the most injury-related occupational fatalities in 2019 with 53 fatalities or 33.5% of all fatalities. Violence and other injuries by persons or animals are the second most prevalent type of incident causing 31 fatalities or 19.6% of all fatalities. Falls, slips, and trips (26 fatalities or 16.5% of all fatalities) and contact with objects and equipment (23 or 14.6% of all fatalities) were third and fourth in injury-related fatalities. (Table 4).

When cross tabulating the event or exposure that caused the injury-related fatality with the industry sector in which the fatality occurred, certain industries are more susceptible to certain events. Within industry sectors, transportation incidents were the leading cause of fatalities for transportation and warehousing (58.3%) and construction (23.3%). Violence and other injuries by persons or animals were the leading event for fatalities in accommodations and food



services and other services, except public administration (54.5%). Contact with objects and equipment was the leading cause of fatalities for agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting (33.3%); construction (16.7%); and transportation and warehousing (20.8%). (Table 5).

<b>Table 1. Distribution of Fatal Occupational Injuries by Selected Socio-Demographic Characteristics, Private and Public Ownership, Illinois, 2019</b>		
	<b>Number of Fatalities</b>	<b>%ages<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Employment Status</b>		
Wage and salary workers	129	81.6
Self-employed <sup>1</sup>	29	18.4
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	142	89.9
Women	16	10.1
<b>Age</b>		
<20	2	1.3
20-24	8	5.1
25-34	28	17.7
35-44	32	20.3
45-54	31	19.6
55-64	34	21.5
65 years and older	23	14.6
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White (non-Hispanic)	116	73.4
Black	18	11.4
Hispanic or Latino	17	10.8

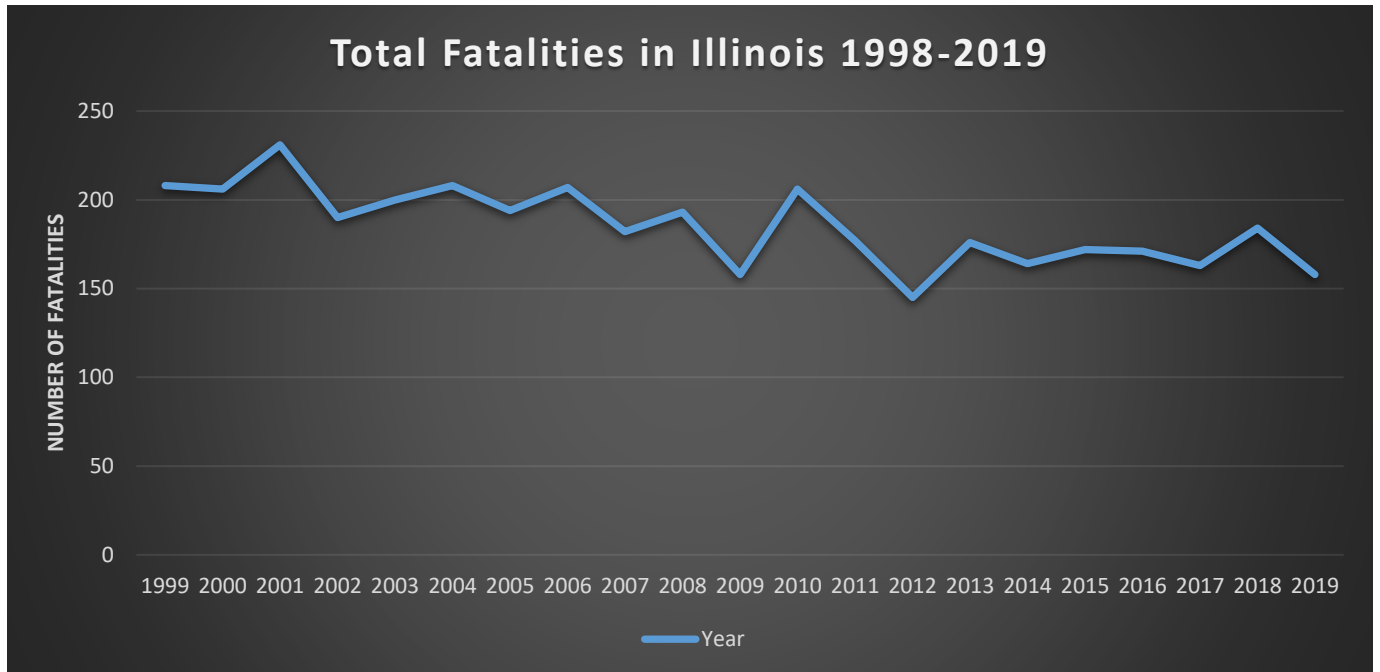
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Public Health.

<sup>1</sup>Includes paid and unpaid family workers and may include owners of incorporated businesses or members of partnerships.

<sup>2</sup>Numbers and percentages may not add up to the total or 100% due to cell suppression or rounding.

## TABLES AND FIGURES

Figure 1. Number of Fatal Occupational Injuries, Illinois, 1999-2019



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Public Health.

<b>Table 2. Distribution of Fatal Occupational Injuries by Industry<sup>1</sup>, Illinois, 2019</b>		
	<b>Number of Fatalities</b>	<b>Percentage<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>19.0</b>
Heavy/civil engineering	4	2.5
<b>Transportation and warehousing</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>15.2</b>
General freight trucking	12	7.6
<b>Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9.5</b>
Crop production	12	7.6
<b>Leisure and hospitality</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8.2</b>
<b>Accommodation and food services</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7.0</b>
Restaurants and other eating places	9	5.7
<b>Other services, except public administration</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7.0</b>
Automotive repair and maintenance	6	3.8
<b>Administrative/support/waste management/remediation</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5.7</b>
<b>Wholesale trade</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3.8</b>
Merchant, durable/nondurable goods	3	1.9
<b>Retail trade</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3.2</b>
<b>Arts, entertainment, and recreation</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1.2</b>

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Public Health

<sup>1</sup>North American Industry Classification System, 2017 edition.

<sup>2</sup>Numbers and percentages may not add up to the total or 100% due to cell suppression and rounding.

<b>Table 3. Distribution of Fatal Occupational Injuries by Occupation<sup>1</sup>, Illinois, 2019</b>		
	<b>Number of Fatalities</b>	<b>Percentage<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Transportation and material handlers occupations</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>25.9</b>
Motor vehicle operators	31	19.6
<b>Construction and extraction occupations</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>19.0</b>
Construction trade workers	24	15.2
Supervisors	3	1.9
<b>Management occupations</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12.7</b>
Farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural managers	11	7.0
<b>Protective service occupations</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10.8</b>
Law enforcement workers	8	5.1
<b>Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7.0</b>
Vehicle and mobile equipment mechanics, installers/repairers	5	3.2
<b>Production occupations</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4.4</b>
Other production occupations	4	2.5
<b>Sales and related occupations</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4.4</b>
Other sales and related occupations	1	0.6
<b>Office and administrative support occupations</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3.8</b>
Material recording, scheduling, dispatching, distribution	3	1.9
<b>Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3.2</b>
Grounds maintenance	3	1.9
<b>Food preparation and serving related occupations</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<b>Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2.5</b>

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Public Health.

<sup>1</sup>Standard Occupational Classification Manual, 2010 edition.

<sup>2</sup>Numbers and percentages may not add up to the total or 100% due to cell suppression and rounding

<b>Table 4. Distribution of Fatal Occupational Injuries by Event or Exposure<sup>1</sup>, Illinois, 2019</b>		
	<b>Number of Fatalities</b>	<b>Percentage<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Transportation incidents</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>33.5</b>
Roadway incidents involving motorized land vehicle	29	18.4
Pedestrian vehicular incident	14	8.9
Rail vehicle incidents	5	3.2
Non-roadway incident involving motorized land vehicle	5	3.2
<b>Violence and other injuries by persons or animals</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>19.6</b>
Intentional injury by person	29	18.4
Homicides	21	13.3
<b>Falls, slips, trips</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>16.5</b>
Falls to lower level	18	11.4
<b>Contact with objects and equipment</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>14.6</b>
Struck by object or equipment	16	10.1
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	4	2.5
<b>Exposure to harmful substances or environments</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10.8</b>
Exposure to electricity	8	5.1
Exposure to other harmful substances	7	4.4

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Public Health.

<sup>1</sup>Based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS) 2.01 implemented for 2011 data forward.

<sup>2</sup>Numbers and percentages may not add up to the total or 100% due to cell suppression and rounding.

**Table 5. Fatal Occupational Injuries by Industry and Event or Exposure, Private Ownership, Illinois, 2019**

Industry	Event or Exposure													
	Total fatalities		Transportation		Violence and other injuries by persons or animals		Contact with objects and equipment		Falls, slips, trips		Exposure to harmful substances or environments		Fires and explosions	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting</b>	15	9.5	--	--	--	--	5	33.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Construction</b>	30	19.0	7	23.3	--	--	5	16.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Wholesale trade</b>	6	3.8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Retail trade</b>	5	3.2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Transportation and warehousing</b>	24	15.2	14	58.3	--	--	5	20.8	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Administrative and waste services</b>	7	4.4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Arts, entertainment, and recreation</b>	2	1.3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Accommodation and food services</b>	11	7.0	--	--	6	54.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Other services, except public administration</b>	11	7.0	--	--	6	54.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Public Health.  
 Note: Numbers and percentages may not add to totals or 100% due to exclusions of categories that do not meet publication criteria.