



Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries Illinois, 2020

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Table of Contents

Acknowledgements.....	iii
Suggested Citation	iii
Copyright Information	iii
Table of Contents.....	iv
Fatal Occupational Injuries – 2020	2
Major Findings.....	2
Introduction.....	3
Methods	3
Results	4
Overall Trends.....	4
Demographics	5
Incident Data.....	5
Table 1.....	7
Figure 1.....	8
Table 2.....	9
Table 3.....	10
Table 4.....	11
Table 5.....	12

Fatal Occupational Injuries – 2020

Major Findings

- There were 135 fatal work-related injuries in 2020.
- The majority of decedents worked for wages or salary (80.7%), were male (92.6%), and were White and non-Hispanic (71.9%).
- The industry sectors per the North American Industry Classification System, 2017 edition, with the greatest percentage of injury-related fatalities in 2020 were:
 - Transportation and warehousing (20.0%)
 - Construction (15.6%)
 - Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting (9.6%)
 - Manufacturing (9.6%)
- The detailed occupations per the Standard Occupational Classification Manual, 2017 edition, with the greatest percentage of injury-related fatalities within their assigned industries were:
 - Transportation and material handling (39 total fatal injuries): motor vehicle operators accounted for 23% of work-related deaths.
 - Construction and extraction occupations (20 total fatal injuries): construction trade workers accounted for 12.6% of work-related deaths.
 - Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations (15 total fatal injuries): other installation, maintenance, and repair workers accounted for 5.2% of work-related deaths.
 - Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations (9 total fatal injuries) accounted for 6.7% of work-related deaths.
 - Sales and related occupations (9 total fatal injuries): supervisors of sales workers accounted for 3.7% of work-related deaths.
 - Production occupations (8 total fatal injuries): metal workers and plastic workers accounted for 4.4% of work-related deaths.
 - Management occupations (6 total fatal injuries) accounted for 4.4% of work-related deaths.

- Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations (6 total fatal injuries): agricultural workers accounted for 3.4% of work-related deaths.
- For all industries the following events or exposure resulted in the most fatalities:
 - Transportation (40.7%)
 - Falls, slips, trips (17.8%)
 - Violence and other injuries by persons or animals (16.3%)
 - Contact with objects and equipment (12.6%)

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. After ascertaining fatality data, CFOI staff works 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 2020.

Methods

The Illinois CFOI collects data 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, U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration reports, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) reports, police reports, and workers' compensation reports.

For quality control, a minimum of two source documents are usually 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 will not appear in the national aggregate data nor 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 2020, 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."

Results

The following data tables present some of the data collected during the 2020 CFOI cycle. Columns and rows may not add up to 100%, as not all included cases may be publishable. Data for occupation subcategories that have three or fewer total cases and include cases that lack publicly accessible source documents 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 collected.

Overall Trends

In 2020, there were 4,764 work-related fatalities reported in the United States. This was the lowest annual number of deaths in the United States since 2013. In 2020, Illinois reported 135 fatal occupational injuries, which is a decrease of 14.6 % over the 158 work-related fatalities collected in the 2019 CFOI (Figure 1). When compared with states of similar populations (CA, TX, FL, NY, PA, OH, GA, NC), Illinois reported fewer work-related fatalities than any except Ohio, which reported 117 fatalities in 2020.

This report covered the first 10 months of the COVID-19 pandemic. CFOI includes workplace deaths that are results of injury only and, therefore, does not include deaths from COVID-19, even where the disease was thought to have been contracted in the workplace. COVID-19 disease is unlikely to have impacted workplace fatalities. However, from March 20 to May 29,

2020, Illinois was under a stay-at-home order that temporarily closed many businesses, so fewer people were working during that time. This is likely to have reduced the number of workplace deaths during those months.

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 135 injury-related fatalities in 2020, 109 (80.7%) occurred among wage/salary workers and 26 (19.3%) occurred among the self-employed (Table 1).

Men made up a significantly larger section of the fatally injured, with 125 (92.6%) injuries compared to the 10 (7.4 %) fatal injuries sustained by women (Table 1). People in the 55-to-64-years-age group had the highest occurrence of fatal injuries (28.1%). The next highest were those 25 to 34 years old (18.5%) and 35 to 44 years and older (18.5%) (Table 1). The majority of reported fatalities involved White, non-Hispanic workers (71.9%); Hispanic or Latino workers were the second-highest reported fatalities (13.3%). (Table 1).

Incident Data

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes (2017)

<https://www.census.gov/naics/> identify industry sectors, while the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) System (2010) <https://www.bls.gov/soc/> classifies occupations. These codes categorize the industry sectors and group occupations below.

Transportation and warehousing (NAICS 48-49) incurred the most work-related fatalities with 27 (20.0% of the total); followed by Construction (NAICS 23) with 21 (15.6% of the total); Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting (NAICS 11) with 13 (9.6% of the total); and Manufacturing (NAICS 31-33) with 13 (9.6% of the total) (Table 2 includes fatality counts for these and additional industry sectors).

Most injury-related fatalities occurred among transportation and material handlers (SOC 53) with 39 fatalities (28.9% of the total); followed by construction and extraction occupations (SOC 47) with 30 fatalities (22.2% of the total). Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations

(SOC 49) were next with 15 fatalities (11.1% of the total) (Table 3 contains information about the occurrence of fatalities in other occupations).

The event or exposure causing the injury-related fatality is another important aspect in describing work-related fatalities. Transportation incidents caused the most injury-related occupational fatalities in 2020 with 55 (40.7% of total) fatalities. Falls, slips, and trips are the second most common type of incident causing 24 fatalities or 17.8% of all fatalities. Violence and other injuries by person or animals (22 fatalities or 16.3% of all fatalities) and contact with objects and equipment (17 or 12.6% 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 (70.4%); agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting (61.5%); and wholesale trade (44.4%). Exposure to harmful substances or environments was the leading cause of fatalities in the Construction sector (33.3%). (Table 5).

TABLES AND FIGURES

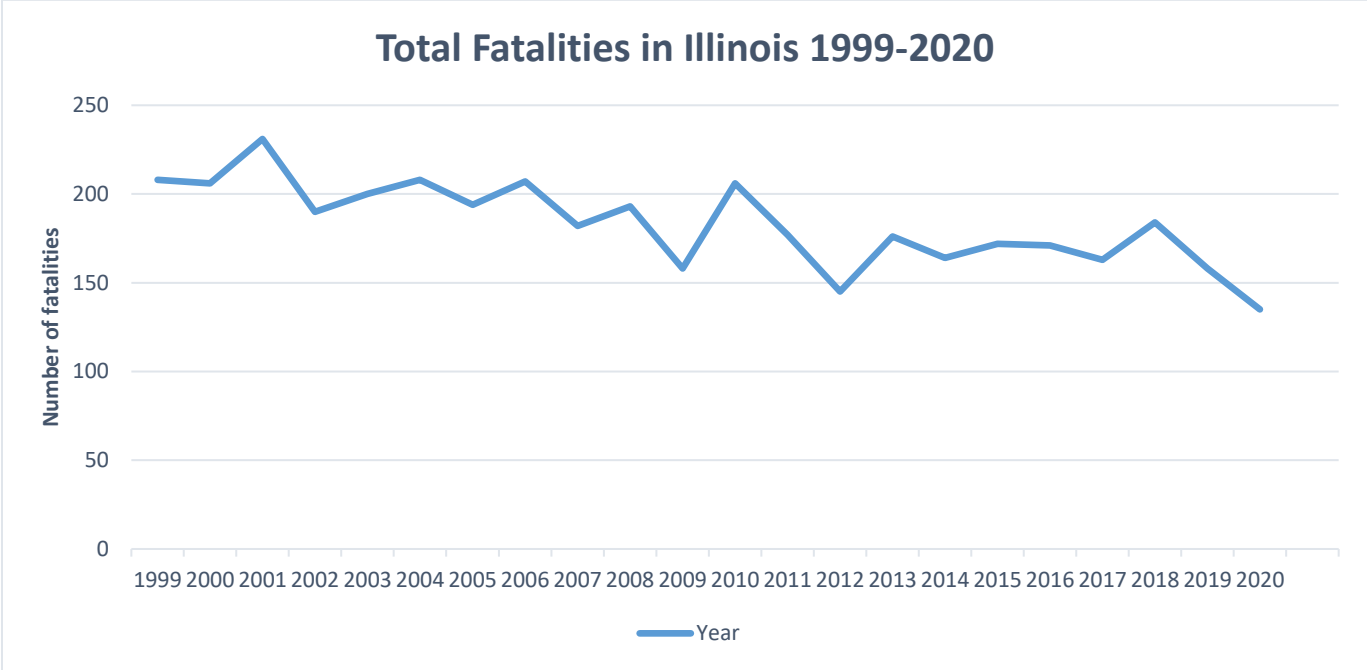
Table 1. Distribution of Fatal Occupational Injuries by Selected Socio-Demographic Characteristics, Private and Public Ownership, Illinois, 2020		
	Number of Fatalities	Percentages²
Totals	135	100.0
Employment Status		
Wage and salary workers	109	80.7
Self-employed ¹	26	19.3
Gender		
Male	125	92.6
Women	10	7.4
Age		
<20	2	1.5
20-24	4	3.0
25-34	25	18.5
35-44	25	18.5
45-54	23	17.0
55-64	38	28.1
65 years and older	18	13.3
Race/Ethnicity		
White (non-Hispanic)	97	71.9
Black	15	11.1
Hispanic or Latino	18	13.3

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

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

²Numbers and percentages may not add up to 100% due to cell suppression and rounding.

Figure 1. Number of Fatal Occupational Injuries, Illinois, 1999-2020



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

Table 2. Distribution of Fatal Occupational Injuries by Industry¹, Illinois, 2020		
	Number of Fatalities	Percentage²
Total	135	100.0
Transportation and warehousing	27	20.0
Truck transportation	18	13.3
Construction	21	15.6
Specialty trade contractors	13	9.6
Agriculture, Forestry, fishing, and hunting	13	9.6
Crop production	11	8.2
Manufacturing	13	9.6
Machine manufacturing	9	6.7
Wholesale trade	9	6.7
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	5	3.7
Retail trade	9	6.7
Food and beverage stores	4	3.0
Administrative/support/waste management/remediation	9	6.7
Professional, scientific, and technical services	5	3.7
Management, scientific, and technical consulting services	2	1.5
Accommodation and food services	5	3.7

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

¹North American Industry Classification System, 2017 edition.

²Numbers and percentages may not add up to 100% due to cell suppression and rounding.

Table 3. Distribution of Fatal Occupational Injuries by Occupation¹, Illinois, 2020

	Number of Fatalities	Percentage²
Totals	135	100.0
Transportation and material handlers occupations	39	28.9
Motor vehicle operators	31	23.0
Construction and extraction occupations	20	14.8
Construction trade workers	17	12.6
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	15	11.1
Other installation, maintenance, and repair	7	5.2
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	9	6.7
Sales and related occupations	9	6.7
Supervisors of sales workers	5	3.7
Production occupations	8	5.9
Metal and plastic workers	6	4.4
Management Occupations	6	4.4
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	6	4.4
Agricultural workers	5	3.7

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

¹Standard Occupational Classification Manual, 2010 edition.

²Numbers and percentages may not add up to 100% due to cell suppression and rounding.

Table 4. Distribution of Fatal Occupational Injuries by Event or Exposure¹, Illinois, 2020		
	Number of Fatalities	Percentage²
Totals	135	100.0
Transportation incidents	55	40.7
Roadway incidents involving motorized land vehicle	30	22.2
Pedestrian vehicular incident	10	7.4
Non-roadway incident involving motorized land vehicle	9	6.7
Aircraft incident	3	2.2
Rail vehicle incident	3	2.2
Falls, slips, trips	24	17.8
Falls to lower level	16	11.9
Falls on same level	6	4.4
Violence and other injuries by persons or animals	22	16.3
Intentional injury by person	21	15.6
Contact with objects and equipment	17	12.6
Struck by object or equipment	12	8.9
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	3	2.2

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

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

²Numbers and percentages may not add up to 100% due to cell suppression and rounding.

Table 5. Fatal occupational Injuries by Industry and Event or Exposure, Private Ownership, Illinois, 2020

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	%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting	13	9.6	8	61.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Construction	21	15.5	6	28.6	--	--	--	--	7	33.3	--	--	--	--
Wholesale trade	9	6.7	4	44.4	--	--	--	--	3	33.3	--	--	--	--
Retail trade	9	6.7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation and warehousing	27	20.0	19	70.4	3	11.1	3	11.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Administrative and waste services	9	6.7	3	33.3	--	--	3	33.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Professional, scientific, and technical services	5	3.7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Accommodation and food services	5	3.7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Health care and social assistance	4	3.0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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 due to exclusions of categories that do not meet publication criteria.