

INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF ARIZONA



ARIZONA 2016 CENSUS OF FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES

Research & Statistics Division

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INTRODUCTION

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) is conducted by the Industrial Commission of Arizona, Research and Statistics Division, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

The CFOI covers all fatal injuries determined to be work-related according to the CFOI criteria, regardless of industry or regulatory coverage of the establishment. Each fatality must be substantiated by at least two independent sources or a source document and a follow-up questionnaire. Source documents can include death certificates, workers' compensation reports, newspaper articles, and medical examiners' reports. Federal agencies, such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Employment Standards Administration, and Mine Safety and Health Administration may also provide data. Overall, the states are responsible for data collection, follow-up, and coding. Approximately 20 data elements, including certain characteristics of the fatally injured person (such as gender, race, and age) are coded for CFOI according to standard instructions.

This is the twenty-fifth year that CFOI data has been collected by all 50 states and the District of Columbia. This information can be used to identify hazardous industries, occupations and activities where fatalities have occurred. It may also assist the identified industries to seek out safer workplace practices that may reduce the type of fatalities listed.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016 RESULTS

The number of work-related deaths in Arizona increased from 69 in 2015 to 77 in 2016, an increase of eight percent. The Arizona fatality rate has decreased from 2.61 in 2015 to 2.55 in 2016 for every 100,000 workers in the state's workforce.

Specified in more detail below, the data identifies *Transportation Incidents* as the major cause of work-related fatalities, primarily *Roadway Incidents Involving Motorized Land Vehicles*. The other leading cause of Arizona work-related fatalities in 2016 was *Exposure to Harmful Substances and Environments*, primarily *Exposure to Electricity*.

1. **Transportation Incidents** was the leading cause of occupational deaths in Arizona which resulted in 33 fatalities. Of Arizona's 33 transportation-related occupational deaths in 2016, eighteen were reported as *Roadway Incidents Involving Motorized Land Vehicles*, eight resulted from *Jack-knifed or Overturned, roadway*, and another three for *Roadway Collision – Moving in Same Direction*.

Aircraft Incidents accounted for seven percent of all occupational fatalities in 2016 (compared to 5 percent in 2015). Aircraft Incidents include all aircraft that are used for business travel or for transporting work-related supplies.

2. **Exposure to Harmful Substances and Environments** was the second leading cause of work-related fatalities, accounting for 16 percent of Arizona's 77 occupational fatalities during 2016. Four of these fatalities were classified as *Direct Exposure to Electricity*.
3. **Violence and Other Injuries by Persons or Animals** was the third leading cause of worker deaths in Arizona. *Homicides (Intentional Injury by Other Person)* resulted in six fatalities. *Suicides (Self-inflicted injury – intentional)* resulted in five fatalities.

Work-related Fatalities by Worker Characteristics

- By Gender: Men accounted for 75 of the 77 worker fatalities in 2016.
- By Race/Ethnicity: White (non-Hispanic): 38 fatalities
Hispanic: 21 fatalities
Asian (non-Hispanic): 7 fatalities
- By Age: Workers in the 45 to 54 year-old age group experienced the highest number of fatalities with a total of 21 deaths.

Work-related Fatalities by Industry

- Trade, transportation and utilities industry: 23 fatalities
- Construction industry: 15 fatalities
- Professional and business services: 9 fatalities

Work-related Fatalities by Occupation

- Transportation and material moving occupations experienced the highest number of fatalities with 29.
- Construction and extraction occupations experienced 15 fatalities.
- Protective service occupations and Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations both experienced 7 fatalities.

The following graphs and tables provide additional information related to the CFOI and may be viewed and downloaded at <https://www.azica.gov/divisions/adosh/research-statistics-bls>:

Fatal Injury Graphs (Set I and II),
Fatal Injury Data (Tables A1 through A9)

National statistics can be obtained via the Bureau of Labor Statistics website at <http://www.bls.gov/iif/>.

The Arizona Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries is a cooperative effort with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, which recently released its 2016 National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.