

# INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF ARIZONA



## ARIZONA 2015 CENSUS OF FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES

**Research & Statistics Division**

**Published January 2017**

## 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-fourth 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 2015 RESULTS

The number of work-related deaths in Arizona decreased from 88 in 2014 to 69 in 2015, a decrease of seven percent. The Arizona fatality rate has decreased from 2.87 in 2014 to 2.61 in 2015 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 2015 was *Violence and Other Injuries by Persons or Animals*, primarily *Homicides*.

1. **Transportation Incidents** was the leading cause of occupational deaths in Arizona which resulted in 29 fatalities. Of Arizona's 29 transportation-related occupational deaths in 2015, ten were reported as *Roadway Collision with Other Vehicle*, seven resulted from *Roadway Collision with Object Other Than Vehicle*, and another five resulted from *Roadway Non-collision Incident*.

Aircraft Incidents accounted for five percent of all occupational fatalities in 2015 (compared to 6 percent in 2014). Aircraft Incidents include all aircraft that are used for business travel or for transporting work-related supplies.

2. **Violence and Other Injuries by Persons or Animals** was the second leading cause of work-related fatalities, accounting for 21 percent of Arizona's 69 occupational fatalities during 2015. Six of these fatalities were classified as *Shooting by Other Person - Intentional*.
3. **Falls, Slips, Trips and Contact with Objects and Equipment** were the third leading cause of worker deaths in Arizona. *Falls to Lower Level* resulted in nine fatalities. *Struck by Object and Equipment* resulted in five fatalities.

### **Work-related Fatalities by Worker Characteristics**

- By Gender: Men accounted for 63 of the 69 worker fatalities in 2015.
- By Race/Ethnicity: White (non-Hispanic): 39 fatalities  
Hispanic: 18 fatalities  
Black or African American: 3 fatalities
- By Age: Workers in the 45 to 54 year-old age group experienced the highest number of fatalities with a total of 24 deaths.

### **Work-related Fatalities by Industry**

- Trade, transportation and utilities industry: 30 fatalities
- Construction industry: 12 fatalities
- Professional and business services: 5 fatalities

### **Work-related Fatalities by Occupation**

- Transportation and material moving occupations experienced the highest number of fatalities with 25.
- Construction and extraction occupations experienced 10 fatalities.
- Protective service occupations experienced 4 fatalities.

The following graphs and tables provide additional information related to the CFOI and may be viewed and downloaded at <https://www.azica.gov/our-organization/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 2015 National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.*