



## NEWS RELEASE



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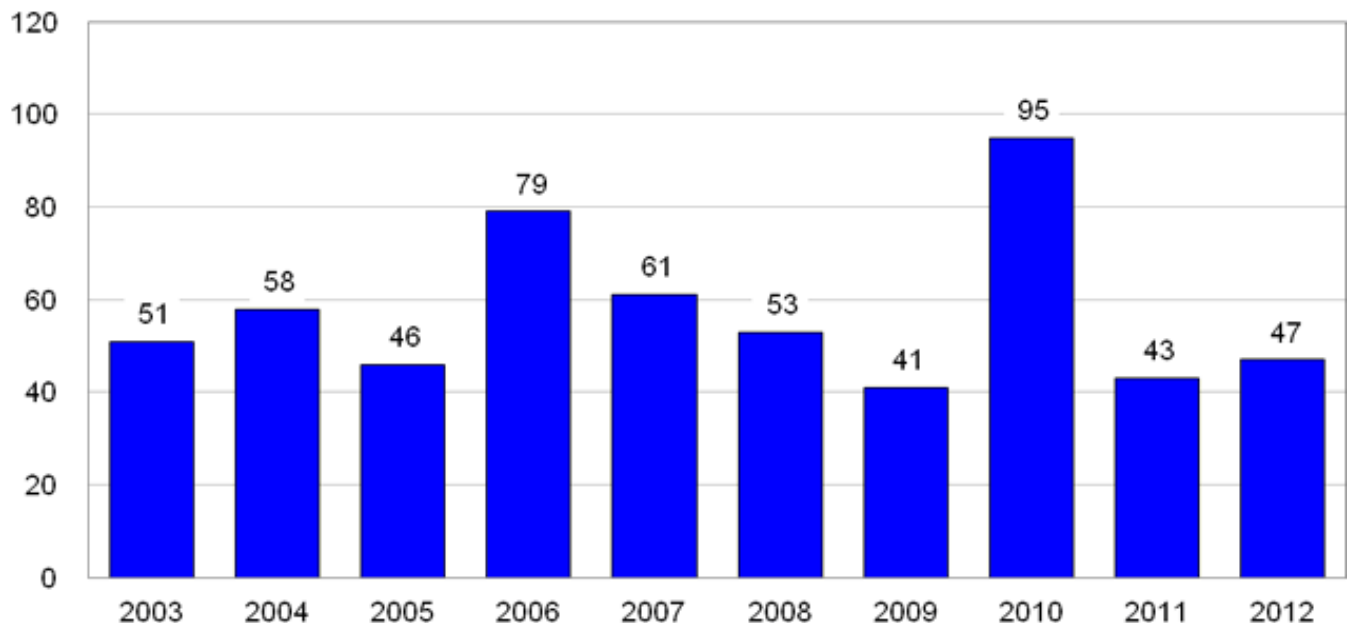
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### Workplace Fatalities in West Virginia — 2012

Fatal work injuries totaled 47 in 2012 for West Virginia, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that while the 2012 count was preliminary, the number of work-related fatalities in West Virginia increased by four over the year. Fatal occupational injuries in the state have ranged from a high of 95 in 2010 to a low of 40 in 2009. (See [chart 1.](#))

Nationwide, a preliminary total of 4,383 fatal work injuries were recorded in 2012, down from a revised count of 4,693 fatal work injuries in 2011, according to results from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) program. Revised 2012 CFOI data will be released in the late Spring of 2014.

**Chart 1. Total fatal occupational injuries, West Virginia, 2003–2012**



Note: Data for 2012 are preliminary.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

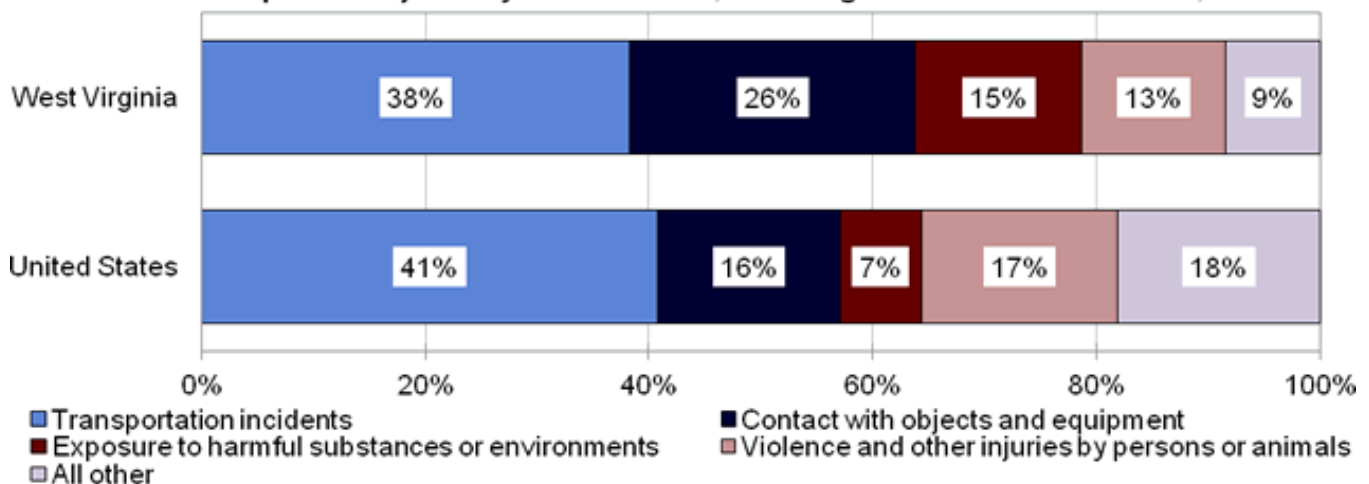
Of the 47 fatal work injuries reported in West Virginia in 2012, 18 resulted from transportation incidents,

unchanged from 2011. (Note that transportation counts presented in this release are expected to rise when updated 2012 data are released in Spring 2014 because key source documentation detailing specific transportation-related incidents has not yet been received.) Contact with objects and equipment was the second-most frequent event in 2012 with 12 worker fatalities, compared to 11 in the prior year. Together these two major categories accounted for 64 percent of all workplace fatalities statewide. Exposure to harmful substances or environments resulted in seven worker deaths in 2012, while violence and other injuries by persons or animals accounted for six fatal work injuries; fatalities for both categories increased since 2011. (See [table 1](#).)

Within transportation incidents, roadway incidents accounted for the most workplace fatalities with eight deaths, followed by pedestrian vehicular incidents with five, and nonroadway incidents with four. In the contact with objects and equipment category, eight deaths occurred from being struck by a falling object or equipment other than a powered vehicle. Four of the deaths in the exposure to harmful substances or environments category were the result of unintentional overdoses.

Transportation incidents was the most frequent fatal workplace event in 2012 in both the United States and West Virginia, accounting for 41 and 38 percent of fatal work injuries, respectively. (See [chart 2](#).) Violence and other injuries by persons or animals was the second-most frequent type of event nationally, with 17 percent of work-related fatalities, 4 percentage points higher than the share in West Virginia where it was the fourth-most frequent event. Contact with objects or equipment was the third-most frequent event in the nation, representing 16 percent of worker fatalities; this event category represented 26 percent of worker deaths in the state.

**Chart 2. Fatal occupational injuries by selected event, West Virginia and the United States, 2012**



Note: Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding. Data for 2012 are preliminary.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

#### **Additional key characteristics in West Virginia:**

- Government had the largest number of fatalities in the state with nine, up from five in the previous year. (See [table 2](#).) Transportation incidents accounted for six of these worker deaths in 2012.
- The industries with the second-highest fatality counts were the mining sector and the transportation and warehousing sector, each with eight in 2012. Last year's counts in these industries were 10 and 7, respectively. Transportation incidents accounted for four of the worker deaths in each of these industry sectors in 2012.

- Workers in construction and extraction occupations had the highest number of workplace fatalities in West Virginia with 10. Five of these fatalities were the result of transportation incidents. (See [table 3](#).) Transportation and material moving occupations had the next-highest fatality count at nine, five of these among heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers.
- Men accounted for 94 percent of the work-related fatalities in the state. (See [table 4](#).) Nationally, men made up 92 percent of fatally-injured workers.
- In West Virginia, 98 percent of the workers who died from a workplace injury were white non-Hispanics. Nationwide, this group accounted for 68 percent of work-related deaths.
- Workers 25-54 years old—the prime working age group—accounted for 70 percent of the state’s work-related fatalities in 2012. Nationally, workers in this group accounted for 59 percent of on-the-job fatalities. In West Virginia, workers 25-34 years old had the most fatalities of all age groups, accounting for 32 percent of worker fatalities in the state; this age group represented 16 percent of total workplace fatalities in the U.S. as a whole.
- Of the 47 fatally-injured workers in West Virginia, 89 percent worked for wages and salaries; the remainder were self-employed. The most frequent fatal event for wage and salary workers was transportation incidents.
- In 2011, CFOI began identifying if a fatally-injured worker was working as a contractor and recording the industry of both the worker and the contracting firm. A contractor is defined as a worker employed by one firm but working at the behest of another firm that exercises overall responsibility for the operations at the site of the fatal injury. In 2012, West Virginia had four fatally injured workers identified as fitting the contractor criteria.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200. Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

### Technical Note

**Background of the program.** The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), part of the BLS Occupational Safety and Health Statistics (OSHS) program, compiles a count of all fatal work injuries occurring in the U.S. during the calendar year. The CFOI program uses diverse state, federal, and independent data sources to identify, verify, and describe fatal work injuries. This ensures counts are as complete and accurate as possible.

For technical information and definitions for the CFOI program, please go to the BLS Handbook of Methods on the BLS web site at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch9.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch9.pdf).

**Federal/State agency coverage.** The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries includes data for all fatal work injuries, whether the decedent was working in a job covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or other federal or state agencies or was outside the scope of regulatory coverage. Thus, any comparison between the BLS fatality census counts and those released by other agencies should take into account the different coverage requirements and definitions being used by each agency.

**Acknowledgments.** BLS appreciates the efforts of all federal, state, local, and private sector entities that submitted source documents used to identify fatal work injuries. Among these agencies are the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; the National Transportation Safety Board; the U.S. Coast Guard; the Mine Safety and Health Administration; the Office of Workers’ Compensation Programs (Federal Employees’ Compensation and Longshore and Harbor Workers’ Compensation

divisions); the Federal Railroad Administration; the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; state vital statistics registrars, coroners, and medical examiners; state departments of health, labor and industries, and workers' compensation agencies; state and local police departments; and state farm bureaus.

**Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure, West Virginia, 2011-2012**

Event or exposure <sup>(1)</sup>	2011 <sup>(2)</sup>	2012 <sup>(p)</sup>	
	Number	Number	Percent
<p>Footnotes: (1) Based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS) 2.01 implemented for 2011 data forward. (2) Data for 2011 are revised and final. (p) Data for 2012 are preliminary. Revised and final 2012 data are scheduled to be released in Spring 2014. ....</p> <p>NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. CFOI fatality counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event. ....</p>			

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**Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by selected\* industry, West Virginia, 2011-2012**

Industry <sup>(1)</sup>	2011 <sup>(2)</sup>	2012 <sup>(p)</sup>	
	Number	Number	Percent
<p>Footnotes: (1) Industry data are based on the North American Industry Classification System, 2007. Total may include other industries not shown. (2) Data for 2011 are revised and final. (3) Includes fatal injuries at all establishments categorized as Mining (Sector 21) in the North American Industry Classification System, including establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in Oil and Gas Extraction. (4) Includes fatal injuries to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry. (p) Data for 2012 are preliminary. Revised and final 2012 data are scheduled to be released in Spring 2014. ....</p> <p>NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. CFOI fatal injury counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event. ....</p>			

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\* For full table detail, see [www.bls.gov/ro3/cfoiwttables.htm#industry](http://www.bls.gov/ro3/cfoiwttables.htm#industry)

**Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by selected\* occupation, West Virginia, 2011-2012**

Occupation <sup>(1)</sup>	2011 <sup>(2)</sup>	2012 <sup>(p)</sup>	
	Number	Number	Percent
Footnotes: (1) Occupation data are based on the Standard Occupational Classification system, 2010. Total may include occupations not shown. (2) Data for 2011 are revised and final. (p) Data for 2012 are preliminary. Revised and final 2012 data are scheduled to be released in Spring 2014. ....			
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**Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries by worker characteristics, West Virginia, 2011-2012**

Worker characteristics	2011 <sup>(1)</sup>	2012 <sup>(p)</sup>	
	Number	Number	Percent
<p>Footnotes: (1) Data for 2011 are revised and final. (2) May include volunteers and workers receiving other types of compensation. (3) Includes self-employed workers, owners of unincorporated businesses and farms, paid and unpaid family workers, and may include some owners of incorporated businesses or members of partnerships. (4) Information may not be available for all age groups. (5) Persons identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. The race categories shown exclude Hispanic and Latino workers. (p) Data for 2012 are preliminary. Revised and final 2012 data are scheduled to be released in Spring 2014. ....</p> <p>NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. CFOI fatality counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event. ....</p>			

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