

Census Report

IDAHO
DEPT. OF LABOR

Workplace Deaths in Idaho

Census of Occupational Injuries
2013

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Communications & Research
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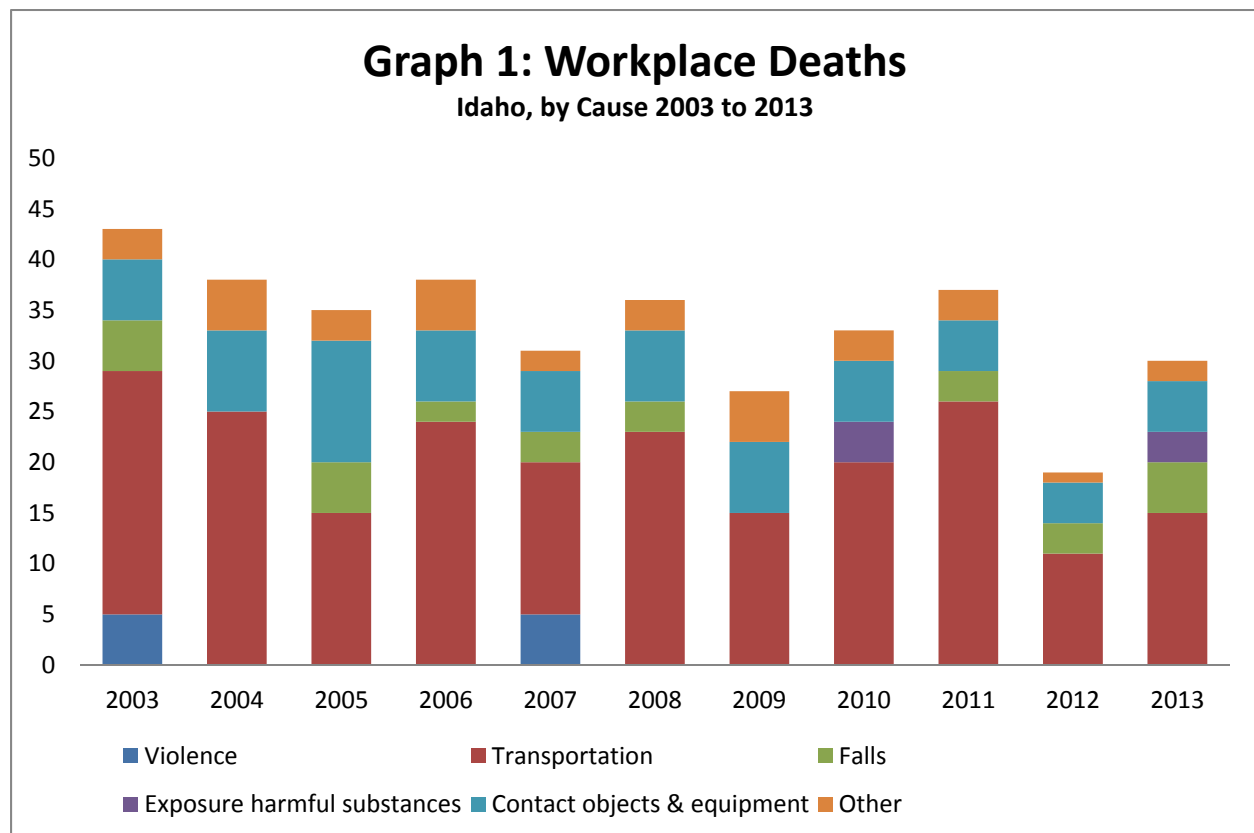
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Workplace Deaths in Idaho

Idaho's natural resource-based economy has experienced a significant number of deaths in the workplace. Between 2003 and 2013, more than half of those deaths were in the agriculture and transportation industries.

During 2013, 30 work-related deaths were recorded in Idaho, up 58 percent from 19 in 2012. National fatalities declined by less than 1 percent from 4,628 to 4,585. In prior years the number of fatalities in Idaho ranged from a low of 19 in 2012 to a high of 43 in 2003. Although the number of fatalities in 2013 is higher than 2012, the trend over the past decade here does not appear to be a trend.

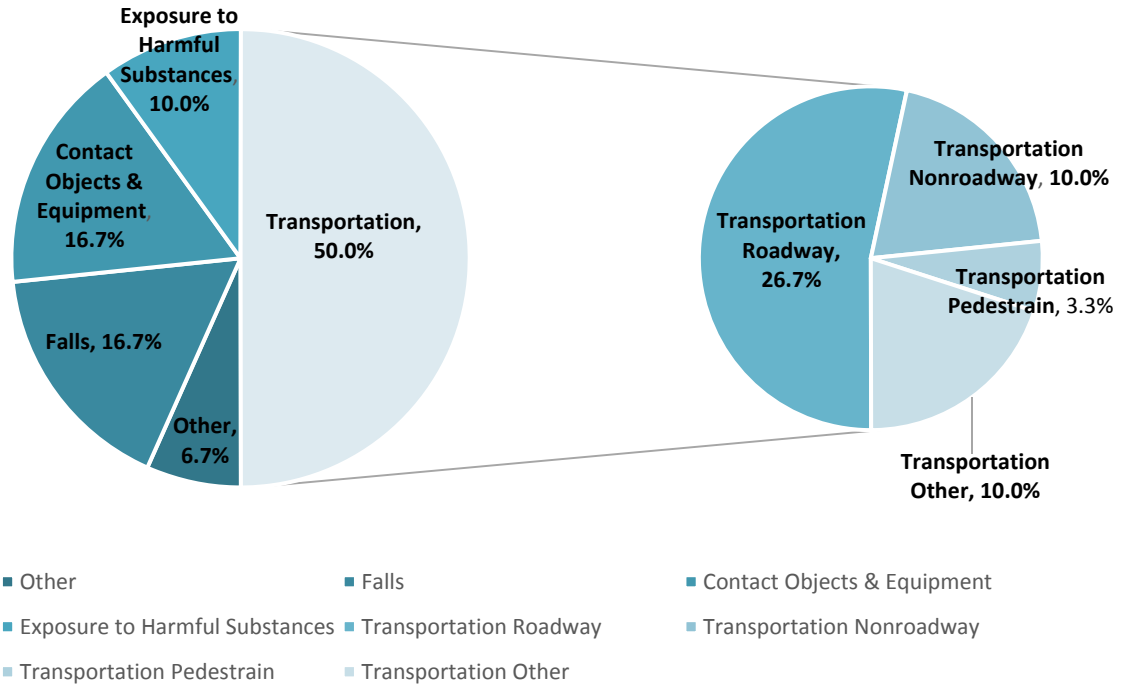
Fifteen of the 2013 workplace deaths in Idaho occurred during transportation incidents, which were the leading cause of workplace deaths over the last 10 years – ranging from 42 percent in 2005 to 70 percent in 2011. More than half of the transportation accidents occurred in the agriculture sector. Contact with objects and equipment – typically farm implements – was responsible for five Idaho deaths in 2013, and the number of deaths due to falls was also five. The vast majority of the fatalities due to falls occurred in the construction sector. The cause of two deaths could not be disclosed due to confidentiality restrictions.



Idaho followed the national trend with most transportation-related deaths on highways. The non-roadway deaths generally occurred in fields. (See Figure 1.) Nationally, roadway incidents accounted for one out of every four fatal transportation work injuries. In Idaho the rate was higher with slightly over half.

Figure 1: Most Fatalities are Transportation Accidents

Workplace Deaths by Cause, Idaho, 2013



Idaho was one of 20 states where workplace deaths rose in 2013 from 2012. Fatalities decreased in 28 states and remained unchanged in three. The largest increase was 35 in Arizona, and the largest decrease was 40 in North Carolina. Idaho ranked seventh in fatality increases at 11. The nation was down slightly, less than 1 percent.

The percentage change among the states can be distorted because the actual totals are so small. So workplace fatalities are typically measured in deaths per every 100,000 full-time equivalent workers to adjust for varying populations. Fatal injury rates, based on Current Population Survey data, show the risk of a fatal occupational injury. In 2013, Idaho had a rate of 4.3 deaths per 100,000 workers compared to a national rate of 3.3. Idaho’s increase from 2.7 deaths in 2012 was the fourth largest among the states. North Dakota had the highest rate in the nation at 14.9 per 100,000 workers. Table 1 shows how Idaho’s workplace death rates in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 compared to other states and the nation. Graph 2 shows that over the last six years the rate of workplace deaths has been fairly flat nationally. At the same time, Idaho has experienced ups and downs, reflecting the comparatively small number of workplace deaths in any year, but the trend has been downward.

Table 1: Rates Per 100,000

By State: 2010-2013

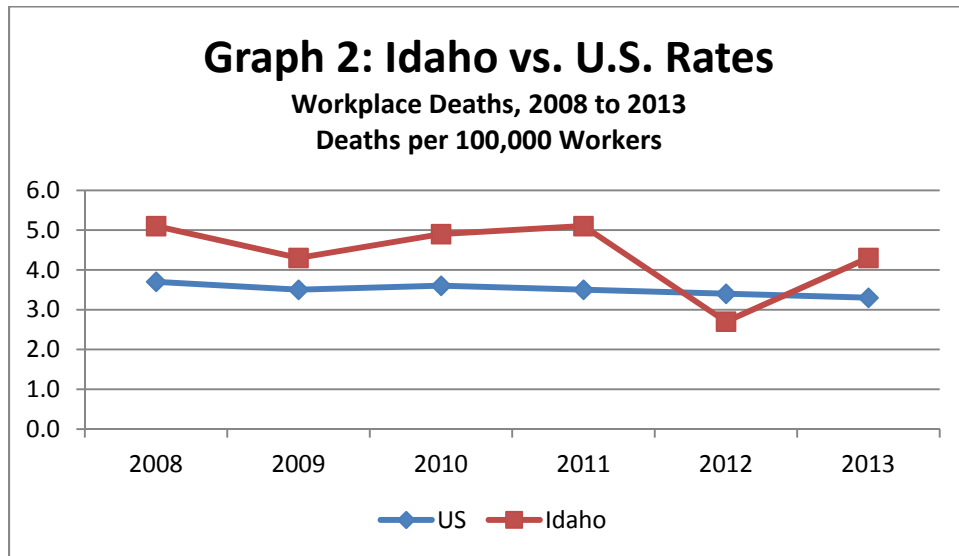
	2010	2011	2012	2013
United States	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.3
Alabama	5.1	4.0	4.3	4.0
Alaska	11.5	11.1	8.9	7.9
Arizona	2.8	2.7	2.3	3.5

Arkansas	7.6	8.0	5.4	5.6
California	2.1	2.4	2.3	2.4
Colorado	3.7	3.9	3.5	2.7
Connecticut	3.0	2.2	2.1	1.8
Delaware	2.2	2.6	3.1	2.6
District of Columbia	5.6	3.1	3.6	7.3
Florida	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.8
Georgia	2.8	2.8	2.5	2.8
Hawaii	3.2	4.2	3.4	1.6
Idaho	4.9	5.1	2.7	4.3
Illinois	3.7	3.1	2.5	3.3
Indiana	4.2	4.5	4.2	4.4
Iowa	5.2	6.3	6.6	4.7
Kansas	6.5	5.9	5.7	4.2
Kentucky	4.1	5.4	4.9	4.7
Louisiana	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.4
Maine	3.3	4.2	3.2	3.1
Maryland	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.7
Massachusetts	1.8	2.2	1.4	1.8
Michigan	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.3
Minnesota	2.8	2.3	2.6	2.6
Mississippi	6.4	5.5	5.5	6.2
Missouri	4.2	4.9	3.3	4.3
Montana	8.2	11.2	7.3	5.8
Nebraska	6.3	3.9	5.2	4.0
Nevada	3.7	3.1	3.6	3.0
New Hampshire	0.9	1.2	2.2	2.1
New Jersey	2.2	2.6	2.4	2.6
New Mexico	4.9	6.6	4.8	6.7
New York	2.0	2.2	2.3	2.1
North Carolina	3.5	3.7	3.5	2.5
North Dakota	8.5	12.4	17.7	14.9
Ohio	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.0
Oklahoma	6.3	5.5	6.1	5.8
Oregon	2.9	3.4	2.6	2.9
Pennsylvania	4.0	3.4	3.4	3.2
Rhode Island	1.9	1.5	1.7	2.1
South Carolina	3.6	4.5	3.5	3.9
South Dakota	8.8	6.7	6.7	4.7
Tennessee	5.4	4.5	3.8	3.6
Texas	4.4	4.0	4.8	4.4
Utah	3.4	3.3	3.0	2.9
Vermont	3.9	2.6	3.5	2.2
Virginia	2.8	3.4	3.8	3.2
Washington	3.4	1.9	2.2	1.7
West Virginia	13.7	5.9	6.9	8.6
Wisconsin	3.4	3.3	4.0	3.5
Wyoming	12.9	11.6	12.2	9.5

Highest Rate

Lowest Rate

Source: Idaho Department of Labor, Communications & Research



By industry, 50 percent of Idaho's workplace deaths in 2013 were in transportation and agriculture. Table 2 shows the breakdown of workplace deaths by industry for the last five years. The data clearly shows that the agriculture and trade, transportation and utilities industries experience the most deaths.

Table 2: Workplace Deaths by Industry
Idaho, 2008 to 2013

Industry	2013 Death	2012 Deaths	2011 Deaths	2010 Deaths	2009 Deaths	2008 Deaths
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	12	6	11	9	11	10
Mining	0	0	3	0	0	0
Construction	4	0	0	0	0	5
Manufacturing	0	0	0	0	3	0
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	6	4	11	7	0	15
Transportation & Warehousing	3	0	4	0	0	10
Professional & Business Services	0	0	3	0	0	0
Leisure & Hospitality	0	0	0	3	0	0
Government	4	0	0	4	5	0
Total*	30	17	36	33	27	36

* Data may not add due to confidentiality laws

Source: Idaho Department of Labor, Communications & Research

By occupation, workplace deaths occurred primarily in two areas – 14 in natural resources, construction and maintenance and seven in production, transportation and material moving. Six of the 14 natural resources deaths were farming related. The deaths in the second group involved transportation occupations.

All those killed were men compared to 93 percent nationwide. Men are more likely to work in the agriculture and transportation industries.

Eighty percent of Idaho's workers were white – reflecting the state's high white population. Nationally, 68 percent of workplace fatalities were white.

Idaho workers between 25 and 54 years old—the prime working years—accounted for 30 percent of the work-related deaths in 2013, and 43 percent occurred among older workers – 55 and older. Nationally, workers 24 to 54 accounted for 60 percent of workplace deaths. However, 33 percent of workplace deaths involved older workers.

About the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics began conducting annual surveys in 1972 to estimate the number of workplace injuries and illnesses in private industry and the frequency of those incidents. Subsequently analyses showed traumatic occupational fatalities were underreported, and widely varying estimates raised concern about using a sampled survey to estimate deaths. In response to these concerns, the bureau began annually collecting additional data through the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries program on the more seriously injured or ill workers. In 1992, the agency began reporting the number of workplace fatal injuries from all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

To compile counts that are as complete as possible, the census uses multiple sources to identify, verify and profile fatal worker injuries. Information about each workplace fatal injury—occupation and other worker characteristics, equipment involved and circumstances of the event—is obtained by cross-referencing the source records such as death certificates, workers' compensation reports and federal and state agency administrative reports. To ensure that fatal injuries are work related, cases are substantiated with two or more independent source documents or a source document and a follow-up questionnaire.

Data compiled by the program are issued annually for the preceding calendar year. These data are used by safety and health policy analysts and researchers to help prevent fatal work injuries by:

- Informing workers of life-threatening hazards associated with various jobs;
- Promoting safer work practices through enhanced job safety training;
- Assessing and improving workplace safety standards; and
- Identifying new areas of safety research.

The National Safety Council adopted the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries figure beginning with the 1992 data year as the authoritative count for work-related deaths in the United States.