

2001

CENSUS OF FATAL
OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
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Puerto Rico

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

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BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STATISTICS

**CENSUS OF FATAL
OCCUPATIONAL
INJURIES
2001**

**Hon. Sila M. Calderón Serra
Governor of Puerto Rico**

**Hon. Frank Zorrilla Maldonado
Secretary
Of Labor and Human Resources**

**Mrs. Edna Ayuso Rosa
Director
Bureau of Labor Statistics**

**Mr. William Correia DeSouza
Chief
Occupational Injuries and illnesses Division**

Prepared by the Division of OSH Statistics
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Prudencio Rivera Martínez - 17 Th floor
505 Muñoz Rivera Ave.
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918
Tel: (787) 754-5343

In cooperation with
The United States Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics Boston Regional
Office
JFK Building, Room E-310
Boston, MA 00203
Tel (617) 565-2300

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INTRODUCTION

Every year thousands of workers are in work-related accidents. A number of these injuries result in death. It is believed that many of them could have been avoided if the employers and employees involved had followed proper safety measures.

The purpose of this report is to provide information on those accidents occurring in Puerto Rico, which result in death of a worker during 2001. The data is used to identify hazardous industries and occupations; where safety standards are needed. To direct government and business funds for safety programs to needed areas; and encourage employers and employees to promote safe work environments.

The Census

The Division of Occupational Safety and Health Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Puerto Rico Department of Labor and Human Resources conduct the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of the United States Department of Labor.

The Census provides the most complete count of fatal work injuries available because it uses multiple state and federal data sources. It includes information on all traumatic occupational fatalities identified, including fatalities among private wage and salary workers, the self-employed, and government workers.

The CFOI program was developed to produce a comprehensive, accurate and timely measure of all fatal work injuries occurring during the year. Data compiled in the CFOI program will be issued each year. CFOI data will be used to develop strategies aimed at reducing the incidence of fatal occupational injuries.

Definition

A fatal occupational injury is defined as a death resulting from injuries or other external causes that occurred while the person was in a working status. For a fatality to be in scope for CFOI, the decedent must have been employed (working for pay or other compensation) at the time of the incident, and engaged in a work activity or present at the site of the incident as a condition of his or her employment.

This definition includes deaths traditionally associated with workplace factors such as those due to fall, electrocution and acute over-exposure to toxic chemicals, as well as deaths due to homicides and suicides at work and fatal motor vehicle injuries while traveling on the job.

To ensure fatalities are work-related, cases are substantiated with two or more independent source documents. Source documents include death certificates, worker's compensation forms, medical examiner reports, and (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) OSHA reports, newspaper articles, follow back questionnaires, toxicology reports and other administrative records. Approximately 30 data elements regarding the worker and the events surrounding the fatality are collected and coded.

OVERVIEW RESULTS
FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES
2001

In Puerto Rico during 2001, there were 53 work-related fatal occupational injuries. There were 41 fatalities recorded in 2000 and 45 in 1999.

Of the 53 persons who died in work-related accidents in 2001, one hundred (100) percent were men, compared to ninety-five (95) percent men and five (5) percent women in 2000. The 100 percent of the fatalities were wage and salary workers.

Workers 25 to 34 years old sustained 30 percent of all fatalities followed by employees 35 to 44 years old (19 percent). Workers with 45 to 54 years of age experienced 17 percent of all fatalities.

Private industry reported 87 percent of all deaths while government reported 13 percent. Within private sector, Construction posted the highest proportion of fatal worker injuries with 26 percent, followed by retail trade with 17 percent. Services registered 15 percent.

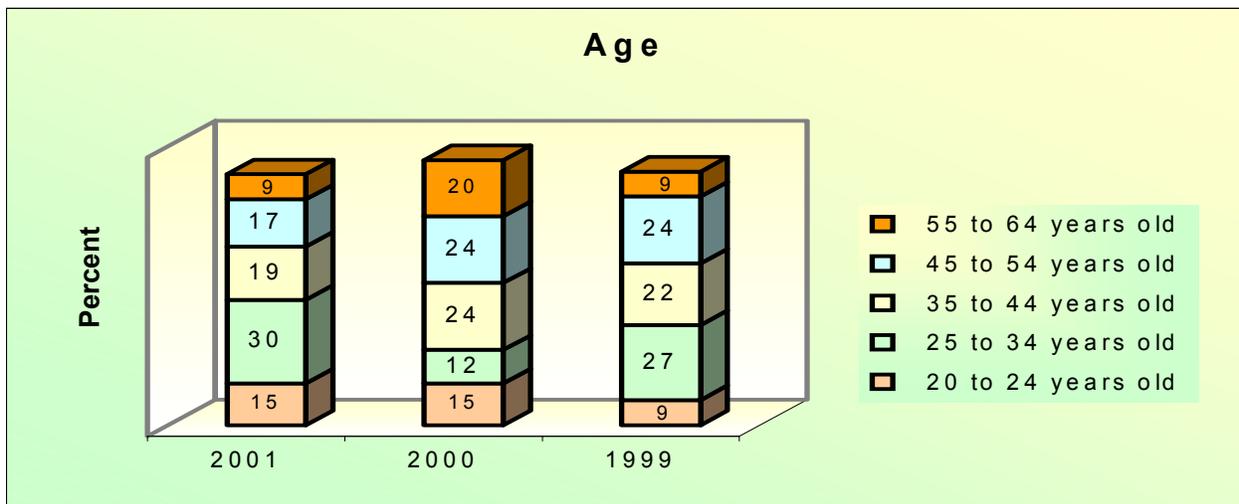
Operators, fabricators and laborers experienced the highest percentage of all fatalities during the last three years. In 2001, this group reported twenty-four cases that represent 45 percent. More specifically, handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers and laborers led with 30 percent.

The event claiming the most fatal due to occupational injuries was assaults and violent acts with 18 work related deaths (34 percent). From this total, eighteen (18) were homicides, specifically by shooting. Transportation Accidents and falls claimed the life of 10 workers respectively in 2001.

**TABLE 1: FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES BY SELECTED WORKER CHARACTERISTICS
PUERTO RICO
2001-2000-1999**

Workers characteristics	2001		2000		1999	
	Number	Percent %	Number	Percent %	Number	Percent %
Total	53	100	41	100	45	100
Employment status						
Self-employed	*	*	4	10	*	*
Wage and salary workers	53	100	37	90	43	96
Gender						
Male	53	100	39	95	43	96
Female	*	*	*	*	*	*
Age						
20 to 24 years old	8	15	6	15	4	9
25 to 34 years old	16	30	5	12	12	27
35 to 44 years old	10	19	10	24	10	22
45 to 54 years old	9	17	10	24	11	24
55 to 64 years old	5	9	8	20	4	9

* Categories with less than 3 work fatalities are not included.

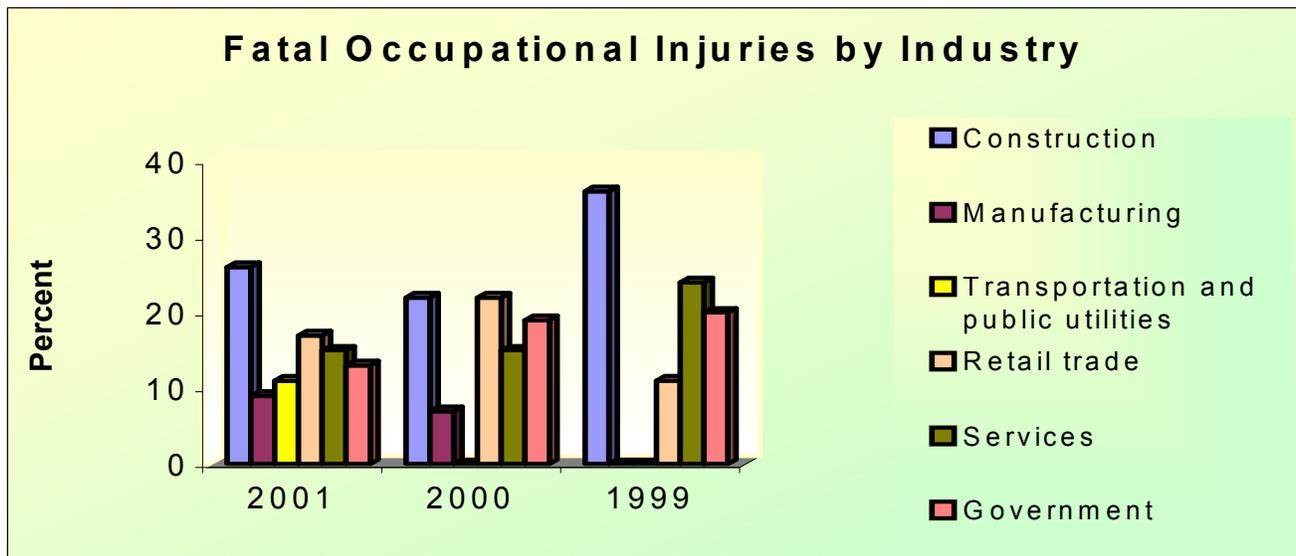


**TABLE 2: NUMBER AND PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES BY INDUSTRY
PUERTO RICO
2001-2000-1999**

INDUSTRY *	2001		2000		1999	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
TOTAL	53	100	41	100	45	100
Private industry	46	87	33	81	36	80
Construction	14	26	9	22	16	36
General building contractors	10	19	4	10	8	18
Residential building construction	6	11	**	**	4	9
Manufacturing	5	9	3	7	**	**
Transportation and public utilities	6	11	**	**	**	**
Retail trade	9	17	9	22	5	11
Services	8	15	6	15	11	24
Business services	6	11	3	7	9	20
Government	7	13	8	19	9	20
State government	5	9	5	12	6	13
Local government	5	9	3	7	3	7

* Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987 Edition

** Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Categories with less than 3 workers fatalities are not included.



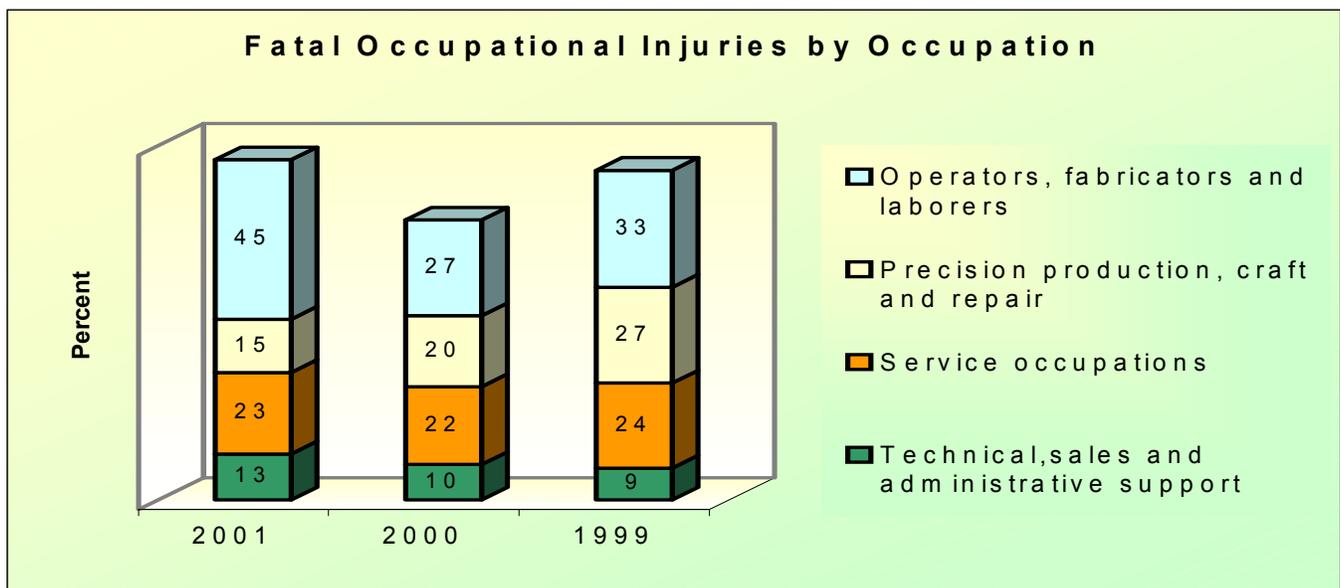
**TABLE 3: NUMBER AND PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES BY OCCUPATION
PUERTO RICO
2001-2000-1999**

Occupation *	2001		2000		1999	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	53	100	41	100	45	100
Technical, sales and administrative support	7	13	4	10	4	9
Service occupations	12	23	9	22	11	24
Protective service occupations	11	21	7	17	8	18
Guards, including supervisors	8	15	*	*	-	-
Guards and police, except public service	5	9	3	7	6	13
Precision production, craft and repair	8	15	8	20	12	27
Construction trades	5	9	3	7	11	24
Operators, fabricators and laborers	24	45	11	27	15	33
Transportation and material moving occupations	6	11	3	7	5	11
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers and laborers	16	30	3	7	8	18
Construction laborers	5	9	**	**	6	13
Laborers, except construction	7	13	**	**	**	**

* Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987 Edition

** Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Categories with less than 3 workers fatalities are not included.

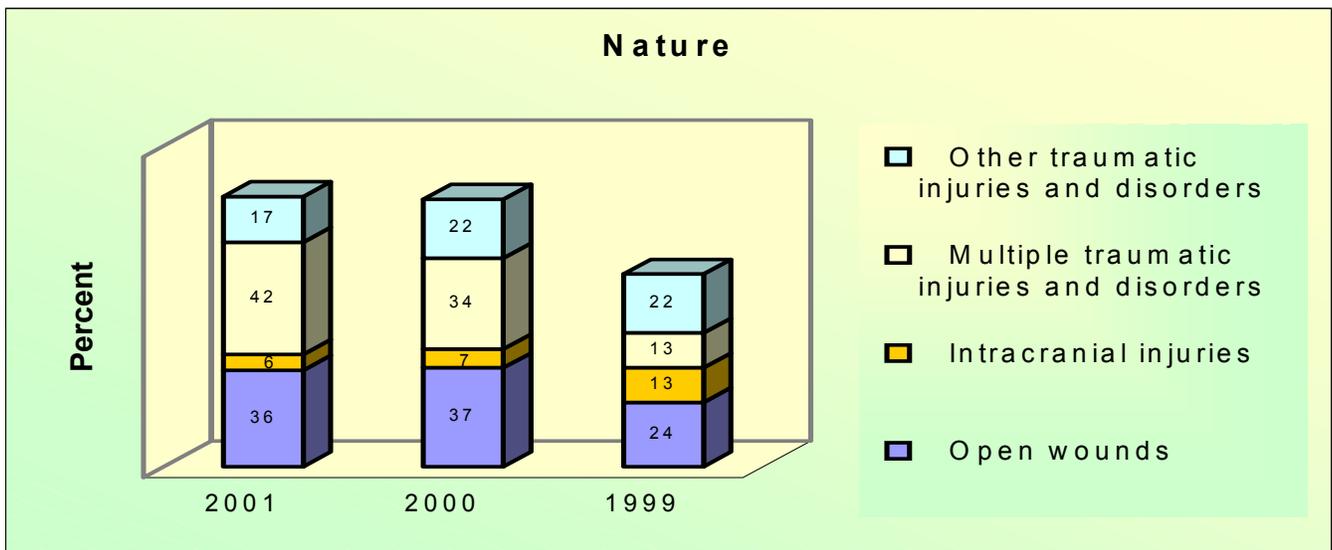
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**TABLE 4: NUMBER AND PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES BY NATURE
PUERTO RICO
2001-2000-1999**

Nature	2001		2000		1999	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total *	53	100	41	100	45	100
Traumatic injuries and disorders	53	100	41	100	45	100
Open wounds	19	36	15	37	11	24
Gunshot wounds	19	36	13	32	11	24
Intracranial injuries	3	6	3	7	6	13
Multiple intracranial injuries	3	6	3	7	5	11
Multiple traumatic injuries and disorders	22	42	14	34	6	13
Intracranial injuries and injuries to internal organs	22	42	3	7	4	9
Other traumatic injuries and disorders	9	17	9	22	10	22
Electrocutions	8	15	5	12	5	11

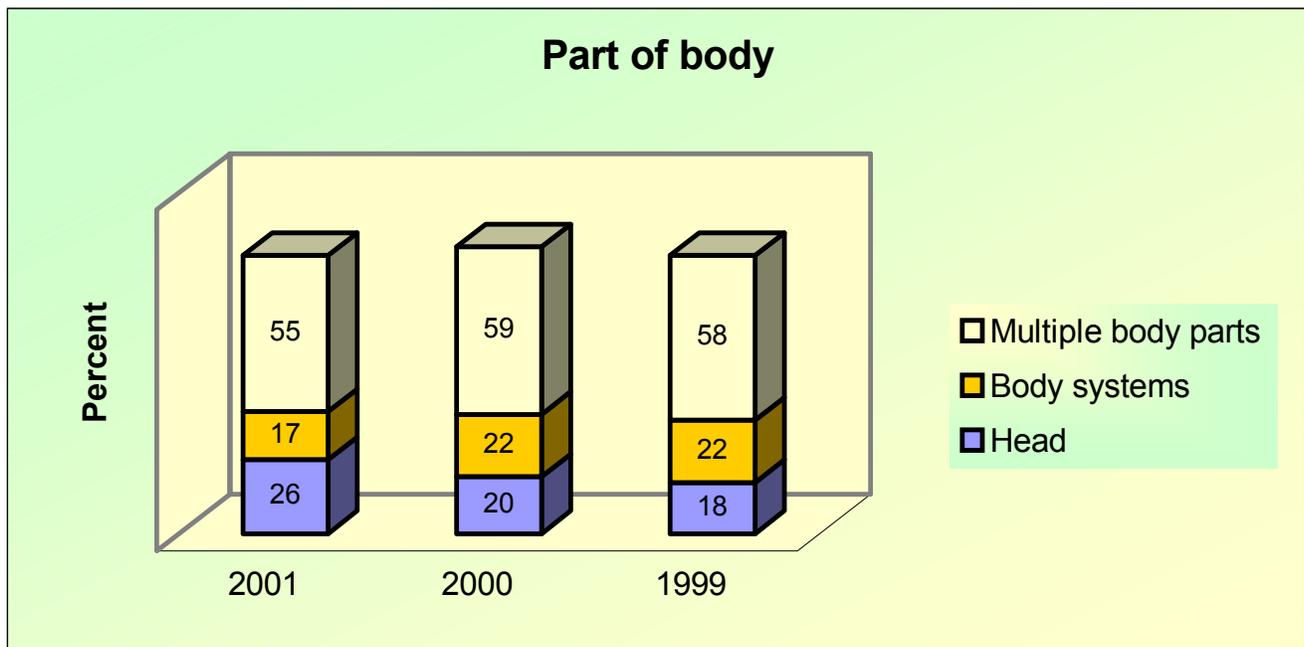
*Total for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Categories with less than 3 work fatalities are not included.



**TABLE 5: NUMBER AND PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES BY PART OF BODY
PUERTO RICO
2001-2000-1999**

Part of body	2001		2000		1999	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total *	53	100	41	100	45	100
Head	14	26	8	20	8	18
Body systems	9	17	9	22	10	22
Multiple body parts	29	55	24	59	26	58

* Categories with less than 3 work fatalities are not included.

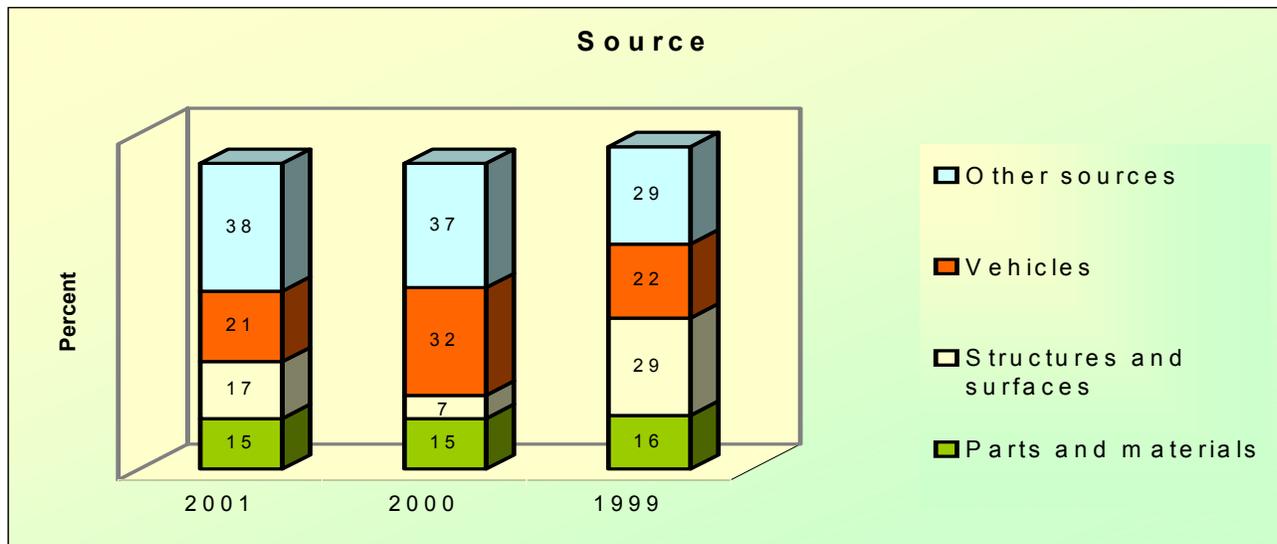


**TABLE 6: NUMBER AND PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES BY SOURCE
PUERTO RICO
2001-2000-1999**

Source *	2001		2000		1999	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	53	100	41	100	45	100
Parts and materials	8	15	6	15	5	11
Machine, tool and electric parts	7	13	**	**	4	9
Electric parts	7	13	**	**	3	7
Structures and surfaces	9	17	3	7	13	29
Floor, walkways, ground surfaces	9	17	**	**	12	27
Ground	7	13	**	**	5	11
Vehicles	11	21	13	32	10	22
Highway vehicle, motorized	8	15	10	24	9	20
Truck	5	9	3	7	5	11
Other sources	20	38	15	37	13	29
Ammunition	19	36	13	32	12	27
Bullets	19	36	13	32	11	24

* N.e.c - not elsewhere classified

** Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Categories with less than 3 works fatalities are not included.



**TABLE 7: NUMBER AND PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES BY
EVENT / EXPOSURE
PUERTO RICO
2001-2000-1999**

Event / Exposure**	2001		2000		1999	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	53	100	41	100	45	100
Transportation incidents	10	19	9	22	8	18
Worker struck by vehicle, mobile equipment	5	9	**	**	3	7
Assaults and violent acts	18	34	15	37	11	24
Homicides	18	34	15	37	11	24
Shooting	18	34	13	32	11	24
Contact with objects and equipment	6	11	8	20	12	27
Falls	10	19	3	7	8	18
Fall to lower level	9	17	**	**	8	18
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	8	15	6	15	6	13
Contact with electric current	8	15	5	12	5	11

** Categories with less than 3 work fatalities are not included.

