

Latino and Immigrant Worker Fatalities

- The 2019 AFL-CIO report, *Death on the Job: The Toll of Neglect*, found that Latino workers and immigrant Latino workers continue to be at increased risk of dying on the job. In 2017, the number of Latino worker deaths increased, and the job fatality rate remains higher than the national job fatality rate for all workers.
- The increase in Latino worker deaths in 2017 was among native-born workers. Fatalities among all immigrant workers and specifically, among Latino immigrant workers decreased.
- The decrease in Latino worker deaths since 2001 is a result of increased attention and targeted programs addressing working conditions for these especially vulnerable workers.
- Latino workers face major health and safety problems while laboring in dangerous jobs with inadequate safeguards.
- Immigrant workers often are subject to employer exploitation and face retaliation if they raise job safety concerns.

ALL LATINO WORKERS

- In 2017, 903 Latino workers died on the job, an increase from 879 Latino worker deaths in 2016. This increase was largely due to an increase in fatalities among native-born Latino workers.
- In 2017, the fatality rate for Latino workers decreased to 3.7 per 100,000 workers. This fatality rate did not change since 2016, despite an overall decline in the national job fatality rate for all workers from 3.6 in 2016 to 3.5 in 2017.
- Since 2001, when the rate of Latino worker fatalities reached an all-time high of 6.0 deaths per 100,000 workers, there has been a decline in work-related deaths among Latinos, and the job fatality rate among Latino workers has been reduced by 38%. At the same time, the overall job fatality rate has declined by 19%.
- The states with the greatest number of Latino worker fatalities in 2017 were Texas (219), California (173) and Florida (81), accounting for 41%, 46% and 27% of worker fatalities in each state, respectively.
- Since 2011, Latino contractor deaths have increased 74%. This number increased from 250 in 2016 to 263 in 2017—the highest since BLS started reporting this information in 2011.
- The largest increases in Latino work-related fatalities were among workers in long distance freight trucking (heavy and tractor trailer drivers), workers in landscaping services—often being killed by trees, those working in temporary help services, workers falling to a lower level—often during scaffold staging, and construction trades workers—specifically, carpenters.

- The construction industry was responsible for the greatest number of Latino worker deaths (291), followed by transportation and warehousing (132, with 77% of these deaths in truck transportation) and administrative and support and waste management and remediation services (134, with 52% of these deaths in landscaping services).
- Events or exposures responsible for deaths of Latino workers were similar to the causes for all workers, with transportation incidents the leading event (325 deaths), followed by deaths from falls (231), contact with equipment (136) and violence (103).

LATINO IMMIGRANT WORKERS:

- In 2017, 63% (568) of Latino worker deaths were among immigrant workers. This is a decrease from the 588 deaths among Latino immigrant workers in 2016.
- Of all the Latino immigrant worker deaths, 62% (352) were from Mexico.
- Seventy-two percent of Latino worker deaths in Florida were immigrant workers, 68% of Latino worker deaths in California were immigrant workers and 57% of Latino worker deaths in Texas were immigrant workers.

ALL IMMIGRANT WORKERS

- The number of immigrant worker deaths decreased from 970 in 2016 to 927 in 2017.
- The four states with the greatest number of immigrant worker fatalities in 2017 were California (161), Texas (153), Florida (76) and New York (71).
- The largest number of immigrant worker deaths was in the construction industry, at 262 out of 927 total deaths, specifically in specialty trade contracting, where 68% of the construction deaths took place. The transportation industry was responsible for 177 immigrant worker deaths—69% of these in truck transportation, specifically.
- Thirty five percent of immigrant workers died in transportation incidents, 25% from falls, slips and trips, 17% from violent acts and 14% from contact with objects and equipment.
- Of all work-related immigrant deaths in 2017, 61% were Latino; 15% were Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; 16% were black or African American; and 6% were white.
- Of all work-related deaths among immigrant workers in 2017, 39% (355) were from Mexico.

Total, Latino and Foreign-Born Worker Fatalities by State, 2017¹

Fatalities				Fatalities				Fatalities			
State	Total	Latino	Foreign-born	State	Total	Latino	Foreign-born	State	Total	Latino	Foreign-born
Alabama	83	8	10	Louisiana	117	12	12	Ohio	174	15	18
Alaska	33	--	3	Maine	18	--	1	Oklahoma	91	16	21
Arizona	90	30	20	Maryland	87	21	25	Oregon	60	5	7
Arkansas	76	6	7	Massachusetts	108	14	19	Pennsylvania	172	9	10
California	376	173	161	Michigan	153	10	10	Rhode Island	8	--	--
Colorado	77	29	19	Minnesota	101	5	7	South Carolina	88	9	8
Connecticut	35	4	6	Mississippi	90	3	3	South Dakota	30	--	1
Delaware	10	--	2	Missouri	125	4	7	Tennessee	128	8	20
Florida	299	81	76	Montana	32	--	3	Texas	534	219	153
Georgia	194	24	33	Nebraska	35	4	3	Utah	43	6	3
Hawaii	20	--	7	Nevada	32	9	9	Vermont	22	--	1
Idaho	37	8	11	New Hampshire	11	--	3	Virginia	118	12	20
Illinois	163	17	33	New Jersey	69	11	16	Washington	84	9	15
Indiana	138	8	13	New Mexico	44	11	--	West Virginia	51	--	2
Iowa	72	--	2	New York	313	43	71	Wisconsin	106	7	7
Kansas	72	12	11	North Carolina	183	20	23	Wyoming	20	3	2
Kentucky	70	--	3	North Dakota	38	--	1	Total²	5,147	903	927

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

¹Latino includes both foreign-born and native-born.

²Total includes fatalities that may have occurred in the District of Columbia.

Note: Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet BLS publication criteria.