

**LOOKING BACK OVER 30 YEARS OF  
SAFETY AND HEALTH**

**DEATH ON THE JOB: THE TOLL OF  
NEGLECT**

## 30-Year Comparison of Death on the Job, 1992–2021

Characteristic	Subcharacteristics	1992 Report	2021 Report <sup>1</sup>
Fatalities <sup>2</sup>	Total number	6,083	5,333
	Total rate (per 100,000 workers)	9.0	3.5
	Private industry	5.0	3.8
	Agriculture, forestry, fishing	24.0	23.1
	Mining	27.0	14.6
	Construction	14.0	9.7
	Manufacturing <sup>3</sup>	4.0	--
	Wholesale trade	5.0	4.9
	Retail trade	4.0	2.0
	Government	4.0	1.8
Injuries and Illnesses <sup>4</sup>	Number	6.8 million	3.5 million
	Rate (per 100 workers)	8.8	3.0
	Number, private industry	2,331,100	888,220
	Median days away from work	6	8
Workforce	Annual establishments	6,517,561	10,284,169
	Annual average employment	107,321,596	149,019,724
OSHA Resources	Full-time equivalent staff	2,421	1,826
	Inspectors (federal and state)	1,953	1,798
	Years to inspect (federal)	84	253 <sup>5</sup>
	Inspector per workers	1 : 54,952	1 : 82,881
	Budget	\$296,500,000	\$ 590,287,000
Penalty for Serious Violation	National average (federal and state) <sup>6</sup>	\$620	\$2,973

Sources: AFL-CIO Death on the Job: The Toll of Neglect, April 1992. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, and Employment and Wages Annual Averages, 1992 and 2019. U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Congressional Budget Justification, 2019. U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Health Administration, IMIS and OIS databases, FY 2020.

<sup>1</sup>The 2021 report published 2019 fatality data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI).

<sup>2</sup>In 1992, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics initiated the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, which provided more complete data on the number and rate of work fatalities. The 1992 data first was released by the agency in October 1993.

<sup>3</sup>Fatality rates for manufacturing, private industry were not reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for 2019 due to an update to its disclosure methodology that resulted in significantly fewer publishable data. [www.bls.gov/iif/oshfaq1.htm#accessingourdata](http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshfaq1.htm#accessingourdata). In 2018, this job fatality rate was 2.2 per 100,000 workers.

<sup>4</sup>Work injuries and illnesses are employer reported and have been shown to be a severe undercount—roughly one-third—of the true toll.

<sup>5</sup>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, safety agencies conducted fewer field operations and less enforcement. In 2019, this was 162 years.

<sup>6</sup>National penalty data from AFL-CIO Death on the Job Report, 1993. Penalty data from the 1992 report was sourced from the Dayton Daily News and only included penalties related to fatal and serious injuries.