Industry Injury Profiles

Construction Injuries in Kentucky, 2008-2015

2017 SouthON Meeting
April 07, 2017

KIPRC is a bona fide agent of the Kentucky Department for Public Health.
About FACE

**Data source:** Kentucky Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Database

- 1 of 7 currently supported NIOSH FACE states
- Surveilling workplace fatalities since 1994
- Conducts select on-site investigations
- Produces reporting & training materials for employers
Construction Injuries, 2008-2015

Figure 1. Fatal Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses, Construction Industry vs. All Industries Combined, Kentucky, 2008-2015

2015 construction rate is 3.1 times higher than all industries combined.
Construction Injuries, 2008-2015

- 90% were white males
- 52% were between 35 and 54 years old
- Nearly half (47%) had high school diploma
- 25% resided outside of Kentucky
- 84% spoke English as primary language
- 14% were of Hispanic ethnicity
Figure 2. Kentucky Work-Related Construction Industry Fatalities by Sector, 2008-2015

- Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction
- Specialty Trade Contractors
- Construction of Buildings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electrical Contractors</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Preparation Contractors</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roofing Contractors</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Specialty Trade Contractors</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finish Carpentry Contractors</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Produced by the KOSHS Program, Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center, a bona fide agent for the Kentucky Department for Public Health. April 2017. Data source: Kentucky FACE Database.
External Cause of Death

- Falls accounted for a third (35%)
- Leading occupations of falls:
  - Roofers (n=8, 22%)
  - Carpenters (n=6, 17%)
  - Construction laborers (n=6, 17%)
- 36% of all fall victims were from a country where the primary language was not English

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Subcontractor Status

- 30% of decedents were subcontracted
  - 42% subcontractors were falls
  - 23% subcontractors from a country where English was not primary language
- Potential need for increased accountability of contractors over subcontractor safety on job site.

Produced by the KOSHS Program, Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center, a bona fide agent for the Kentucky Department for Public Health. April 2017. Data source: Kentucky FACE Database.
Figure 6. Kentucky Construction Industry Fatalities by Season, 2008-2015

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Construction Injuries, 2008-2015

Drug intoxication

Narrowed scope to year drug data collected, 2010-2015

- 17% (of 75) had positive drug toxicology results
  - THC, opiates, illegal stimulants
- Number is believed to be higher:
  - Difficulty obtaining drug toxicology results from coroners
  - Drug toxicology testing not always performed

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Conclusions

• Contractors should be more mindful of obligation to ensuring subcontractor safety, especially in regards to fall prevention.

• Safety training and materials should be made available in multiple languages.

• Safety training efforts should be increased before spring contracts begin.

• There should be increased drug toxicology surveillance and reporting for worker fatalities.
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