

## FATALITIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY - LOUISIANA, 2007-2011

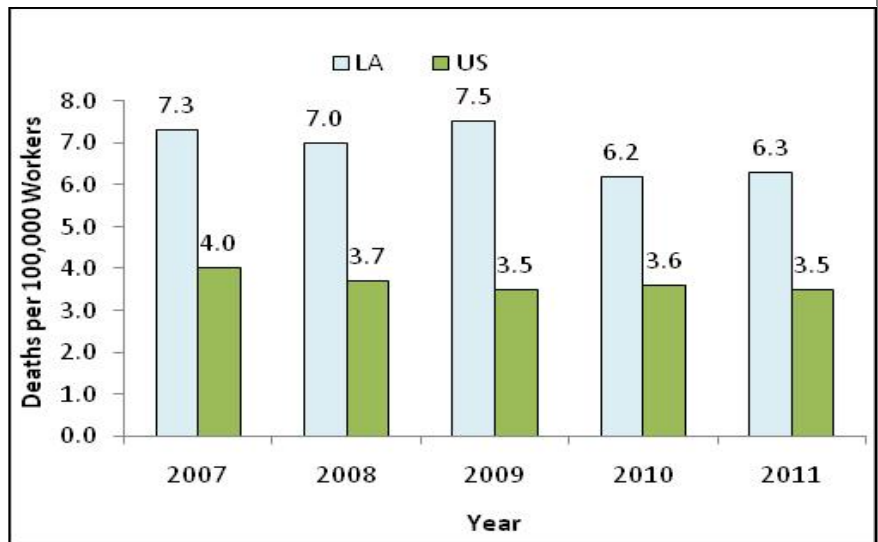
The Louisiana Department of Health & Hospital's Occupational Health & Injury Surveillance Program focuses on identifying workers at high risk for occupational injuries and illnesses and providing data to reduce occupational injuries and diseases through targeted preventive measures. An important data source in this effort is the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), a comprehensive national surveillance system for work-related fatalities in the US.

**Rates of Fatal Occupational Injuries Per 100,000 Workers; LA & US, 2007-2011**

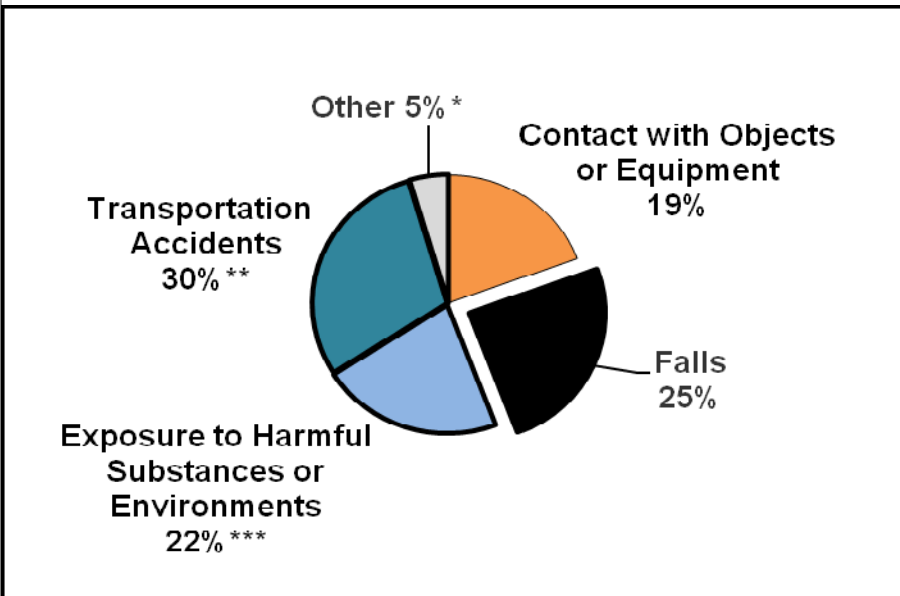
CFOI data show that Louisiana's Fatal occupational injury rate remains consistently greater than the US rate, and many other states.

Between 2007 and 2011, there was an average of 125 work-related deaths per year in Louisiana.

Fatal injuries vary by industry; transportation and construction industries in Louisiana have the most deaths.



**Fatal Occupational injuries by Cause of Death\*;  
Construction Industry– LA, 2007-2011**



CFOI classifies each fatal event or exposure into one of 6 cause of death categories.

On average, 26 construction workers die every year in Louisiana from a work-related injury.

Data from 2007-2011 show that one quarter of the construction-related fatalities in Louisiana were due to falls.

Most fatal falls are a fall to a lower level such as fall from a roof, scaffold or ladder.

\* Other includes 2 categories: Assaults/Violent Acts and Fires/Explosions.

\*\* Transportation accidents exclude commuting to and from work.

\*\*\* Exposure to harmful substances or environments includes contact with chemicals, electrocution, extreme temperatures, oxygen-depleted spaces and drowning.

The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) investigates all work-related fatalities and disasters.<sup>1</sup> Federal law requires that employers report all work-related deaths to the nearest OSHA office. Descriptions of nine fall fatalities occurring in Louisiana were selected from OSHA's fatality database.<sup>2</sup>

“Worker picking up trash on building roof died after falling more than 20 feet and hitting a trash dumpster.”

“Worker was on a platform that collapsed, falling 25 feet.”

“Victim, during the repair/construction of building gutters, fell through a mechanical lift.”

“Construction worker died after falling 12 feet from a ladder.”

“Worker installing shingles on a roof died when he fell nearly 20 feet to the ground.”

“A sheet metal worker died from head injuries after falling from a ladder.”

“The worker was climbing a ladder on a scaffold to start dismantling it when he fell from the ladder approximately 42 feet to the ground.”

“Worker died after falling 18 feet from a roof support beam.”

“Worker was repairing a roof installation and fell 14 feet to the ground .”

<sup>1</sup>OSHA Standard 29 CFR Subpart, 1904.39, “Reporting Fatality, Injury and Illness Information to the Government requires that within eight (8) hours after the work-related death of any employee or the in-patient hospitalization of three or more employees, employers must orally report the fatality/multiple hospitalization by telephone or in person to the nearest OSHA Area Office or State Plan Office.”

<sup>2</sup>Data available at [http://www.osha.gov/dep/fatcat/dep\\_fatcat.html](http://www.osha.gov/dep/fatcat/dep_fatcat.html).

**Falls are the leading cause of death in the construction industry. Falls can be prevented and lives can be saved through 3 simple steps: *plan, provide and train.***

**The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) & OSHA are part of a nationwide outreach campaign to raise awareness among workers and employers about the hazards of falls.**



Visit OSHA's website at [www.osha.gov/stopfalls](http://www.osha.gov/stopfalls) for posters, training materials and more information about how to be a partner in the campaign.

Louisiana's Occupational Health & Injury Surveillance program is funded by NIOSH Grant (U60OH008470). For more information on the program, visit [www.seet.dhh.la.gov](http://www.seet.dhh.la.gov).  
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