October 2013

Illinois Center for Injury Prevention

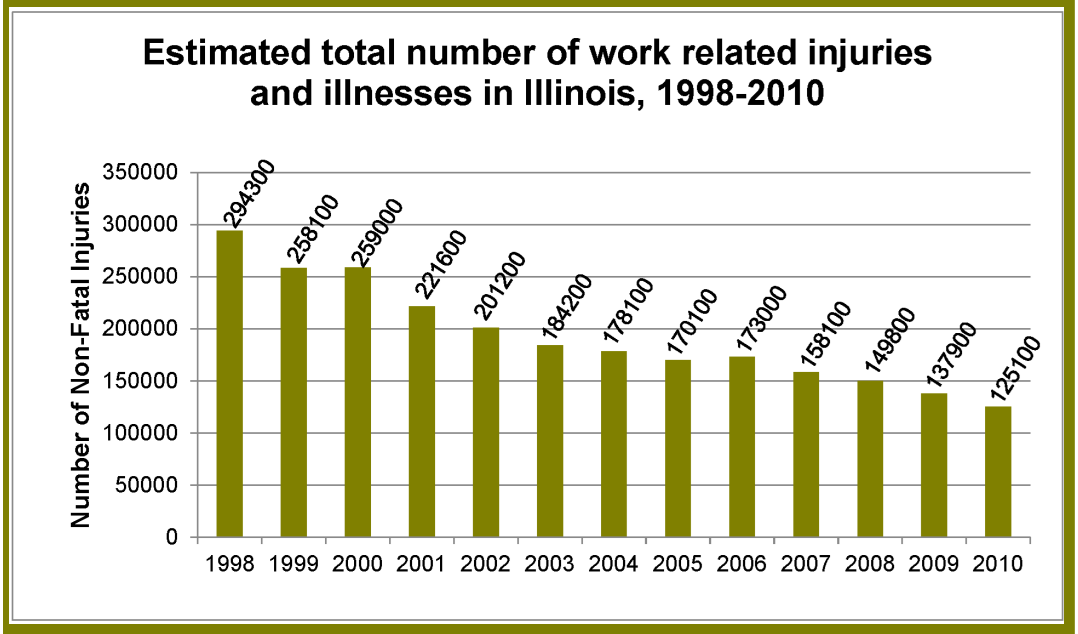
Non-fatal and Fatal Injuries and Illnesses

Non-fatal Injuries and Illnesses

Non-fatal work-related injuries are injuries that result from single events such as falls, being struck or crushed by objects, electric shocks or assaults. Non-fatal work-related illnesses, such as asthma and carpal tunnel syndrome, typically occur as a result of longer-term exposure to hazardous chemicals, physical hazards or repeated stress or strain at work. It is more difficult to track work-related illnesses than injuries because many conditions can also be caused by non-occupational factors. In addition, many work-related illnesses take a long time to develop or may not appear until many years after the individual has left employment.

Key Points

- In 2011, there was an estimated total 156,100 non-fatal occupational injuries and illnesses
- Of the estimated total, there were 148,200 total injury cases and 7,9000 illnesses
- There has been an overall decline in the estimated total number of non-fatal work-related injuries and illnesses



Data source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses

Limitations of Data

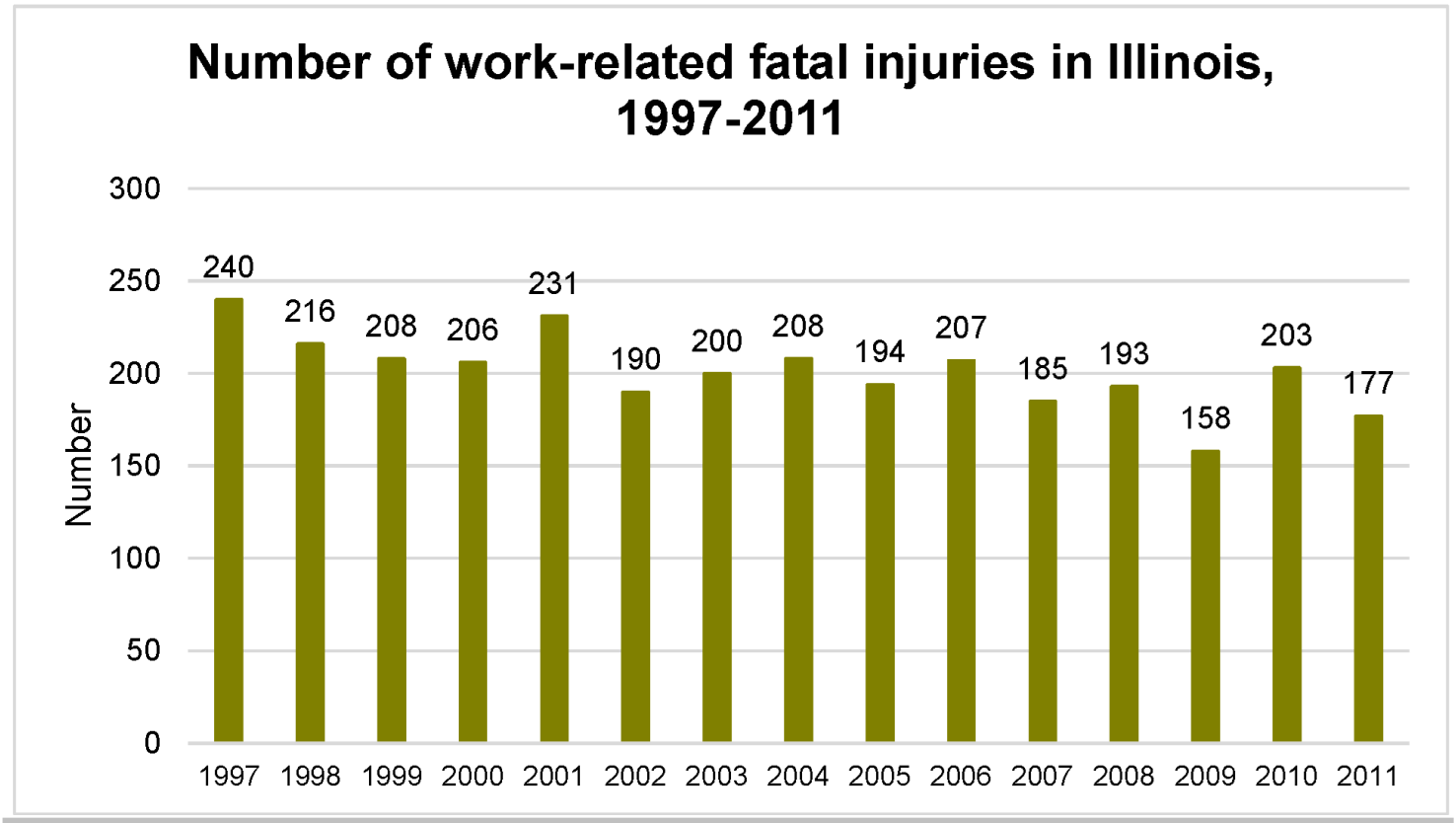
The reported number of non-fatal occupational injuries and illnesses are case considered recordable, meaning they result in lost work time, medical treatment beyond first aid, loss of consciousness, restriction of work activity or transfer to another job. The data does not include public sector workers, self-employed, household workers or workers on farms with less than 11 employees.

Fatal Injuries and Illnesses

A fatal work-related injury is one that occurs at work and results in death. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) counts both unintentional injuries that occurred at work that resulted in death and intentional injuries (homicides and suicides) that occurred at work. Fatal injuries that occurred during a person's commute to or from work are not included, whereas those fatalities that resulted from travel as part of a person's job are.

Key Points

- In 2011, there were 177 injury-related occupational fatalities in IL, a decrease from the 206 deaths in 2010.
- The crude fatality rate of fatal work-related injuries is higher in IL than in the US every year.
- The majority of the fatalities were male, wage and salaried workers.



Data source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses

Limitations of Data

Rates may be slightly over estimated because workers under the age of 16 and military personnel are included in the numerator but not the denominator. Because data are reported by the state in which the injury occurs, not the death, thus, it may not be the state in which the deceased worker resides.

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