



Wisconsin State AFL-CIO

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New Report Names Wisconsin 24th Most Dangerous Place for Workers

View the 2021 AFL-CIO Death on the Job Report here: <https://aflcio.org/reports/death-job-toll-neglect-2021>

(MILWAUKEE, May 4, 2021) – According to a new report released today by the AFL-CIO, Wisconsin had the 24th highest rate of workplace deaths in 2019. This analysis, based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, shows that 113 Wisconsin workers lost their lives due to on-the-job injuries in 2019, resulting in 3.8 deaths per hundred thousand workers.

Nationally in 2019, 5,333 working people were killed on the job and an estimated 95,000 died from occupational diseases. Each and every day, on average, 275 U.S. workers die from hazardous working conditions. The overall rate of fatal job injuries in 2019 was 3.5 per 100,000.

“This year’s AFL-CIO Death on the Jobs Report is yet another stark reminder of the dangers facing working people in Wisconsin every single day. Now with COVID-19 it’s more important than ever to protect working people,” said **Wisconsin AFL-CIO President Stephanie Bloomingdale**. “Every worker has a right to a safe workplace and a voice on the job. What’s more, we deserve leaders in Madison and Washington who will stand up for our rights. Working people are joining together to secure the economic rights and dignity that we’ve earned.”

The report, titled “Death on the Job. The Toll of Neglect” marks the 30th year the AFL-CIO has produced its findings on the state of safety and health protections for workers within the United States. The report shows the highest workplace fatality rates are Alaska, Wyoming, North Dakota, Montana, and West Virginia.

Other report highlights show that Latino workers are at increased risk of work-related deaths, with a fatality rate of 4.2 per 100,000 workers, a sharp increase from recent years. Black workers are at an increased risk of work-related deaths, with a job fatality rate of 3.6 per 100,000 workers. In 2019, 634 Black workers died—the highest number in more than two decades. Workers 65 or older have nearly three times the risk of dying on the job than all workers, with a fatality rate of 9.4 per 100,000 workers in 2019.

Fifty years ago on April 28, the Occupational Safety and Health Act went into effect, promising every worker the right to a safe job. The law was won in 1970 because of the tireless efforts of the labor movement and allies, who drew major attention to work-related deaths, disease and injuries, organized for safer working conditions and demanded action from their government.

“Today, due in part to the irresponsible anti-workers policies of the previous administration, OSHA’s meager resources have kept declining,” said **Wisconsin AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Dennis Delie**. “Federal OSHA now has only 774 safety and health inspectors and state OSHA plans have a combined 1,024 inspectors—near the lowest total number of OSHA inspectors since the creation of the agency. This is the equivalent of one inspector for every 82,881 workers. Wisconsin workers deserve better. Every worker deserves a safe workplace and to come home safe at the end of each and every shift.”

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