


DEATH ON THE JOB

THE TOLL OF NEGLECT

KEY FINDINGS | 31ST EDITION | APRIL 2022




340 U.S. WORKERS DIE EACH DAY FROM HAZARDOUS WORKING CONDITIONS

In 2020, 4,764 working people were killed on the job and an estimated 120,000 died from occupational diseases.

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IS YOUR WORKPLACE SAFE?




IN 2021, OSHA ONLY HAD ONE INSPECTOR FOR EVERY 81,427 WORKERS.

Federal OSHA's budget amounts to **\$4.37** to protect each worker.

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WORKPLACE SAFETY VIOLATION PENALTIES ARE TOO WEAK



\$4,460 Average federal OSHA penalty for serious violations.

\$9,753 Median federal OSHA penalty for worker deaths.

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8 MILLION PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES LACK OSHA COVERAGE

In 2020, their injury and illness rate was 44% higher than employees in the private sector.

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COVID-19 EXPOSURES AT WORK ARE PREVENTABLE AND WORKERS NEED PROTECTIONS

COVID-19 OUTBREAKS ARE MORE COMMON IN WORKPLACES BECAUSE:

- The virus spreads through tiny particles in the air that workers breathe.
- Workplaces can be indoor, poorly ventilated environments.
- Employers require workers to work near each other and share air.
- There are no federal requirements for employers in preventing COVID-19 exposures.

OSHA STANDARDS WOULD REQUIRE EMPLOYERS TO PREVENT EXPOSURES TO COVID-19, JUST LIKE OTHER WORK HAZARDS, BY:

- Supplying clean air to breathe.
- Reporting outbreaks, hospitalizations and deaths to government authorities.
- Informing workers when we have been exposed to a COVID-19 case.
- Providing paid time off to workers to keep infected people away from others.

WORKERS NEED ENFORCEABLE OSHA PROTECTIONS FROM COVID-19 NOW.

- Health care workers who treat or work around patients no longer have emergency OSHA protections from COVID-19. OSHA can reinstate protections now.
- More than 1 million health care providers have been infected with COVID-19, and more than 4,000 have died in the United States.
- Without OSHA standards:
 - Health care employers are now rolling back protections like ventilation and respirators.
 - Health care employers are now requiring infected health care workers to report to work.
 - OSHA cannot fully enforce COVID-19 prevention measures in any workplace.

SAFE AND HEALTHY WORK IS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT

Under the law, employers are responsible for creating and maintaining a safe workplace.

The government is supposed to ensure employers are following the law. But OSHA is under-resourced and the job safety laws need to be updated.

EACH YEAR, MORE THAN 5,000 WORKERS ARE KILLED BY JOB INJURIES AND 120,000 FROM OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES.

EMPLOYER ACCOUNTABILITY IS WEAK:

\$4,460

AVERAGE PENALTY FOR A SERIOUS FEDERAL OSHA VIOLATION.

\$9,753

MEDIAN PENALTY FOR A WORKER DEATH.

IT TAKES AN AVERAGE OF EIGHT YEARS TO ISSUE ONE STANDARD TO PROTECT WORKERS.

OSHA'S STAGNANT BUDGET FROM CONGRESS AMOUNTS TO ONLY \$4.37 TO PROTECT EACH U.S. WORKER.

7.9 MILLION PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS STILL HAVE NO OSHA COVERAGE.

THERE IS ONE OSHA INSPECTOR FOR EVERY 81,427 WORKERS.

UNIONS HOLD EMPLOYERS ACCOUNTABLE BY:

- Negotiating fair contracts at the bargaining table.
- Advocating for stronger laws.
- Building strong safety and health committees with workers at the table.
- Helping workers file OSHA complaints, whistleblower complaints and workers' compensation claims.
- Supporting enforcement investigations.

WORKERS NEED A STRONGER OSHA

[AFLCIO.ORG/DEATH-ON-THE-JOB](https://aflcio.org/death-on-the-job)



BLACK AND LATINO WORKERS ARE AT RISK



11% of workers killed on the job are Black and 23% are Latino. Their job fatality rates are higher than the national average.

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THE FATALITY RATE FOR WORKERS AGES 65 AND OLDER IS 2.5 TIMES HIGHER

THAN THE RATE
FOR ALL
WORKERS.



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THE RISK OF WORKPLACE CHEMICAL EXPOSURE



Occupational diseases caused by chemical exposures are responsible for an estimated 50,000 deaths and 190,000 illnesses each year.

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WORKPLACE VIOLENCE IS FORESEEABLE AND PREVENTABLE



In the past 15 years, there has been a 70% increase in serious workplace violence injuries for workers in health care and social assistance.

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