



2021 Annual Census of Maine's Fatal Occupational Injuries*

A Report Provided to the US Department of Labor:
Statistical Factors Regarding Maine's 2021 Work Related Fatalities



(*Preliminary) June 2023

Nineteen Maine Workers Died from Occupational/Work-Related Injuries in 2021.

The Bureau of Labor Standards of the Maine Department of Labor annually participates in the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor (US DOL). This informational report provides statistical data and charts derived from the 2021 census. It also presents key data points pertaining to Maine's fatalities.

Maine's participation in the CFOI is funded by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Safety Education and Training Fund (SETF) in Maine.

States collect data through conducting research, verifying occupational fatalities with supporting documentation and submitting case data to the Bureau of Labor Statistics for review and compilation.

The CFOI program limits counting occupational fatalities to those which result from injuries; the latency period of many occupational illnesses and the resulting difficulty of linking illnesses to work make it difficult to compile a complete account of all fatal illnesses in a given year.

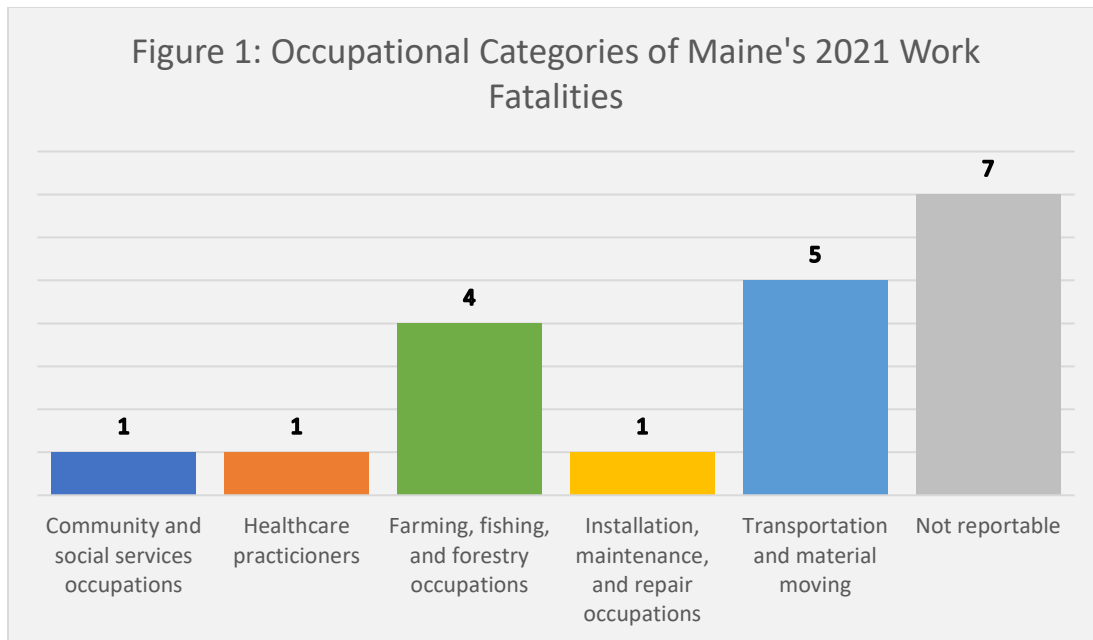
2012 – 2021 Occupational Fatalities

Table 1 lists Maine's annual totals of occupational fatalities for the years 2012 to 2021. There were 184 occupational fatalities in that period, averaging approximately 18 fatalities per year. The largest annual total of fatalities during this period, 20, occurred in both 2019 and 2020.

Table 1: Maine's Occupational Fatalities from 2012 – 2021										
Year	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Total Fatalities	19	20	20	17	18	18	15	19	19	19

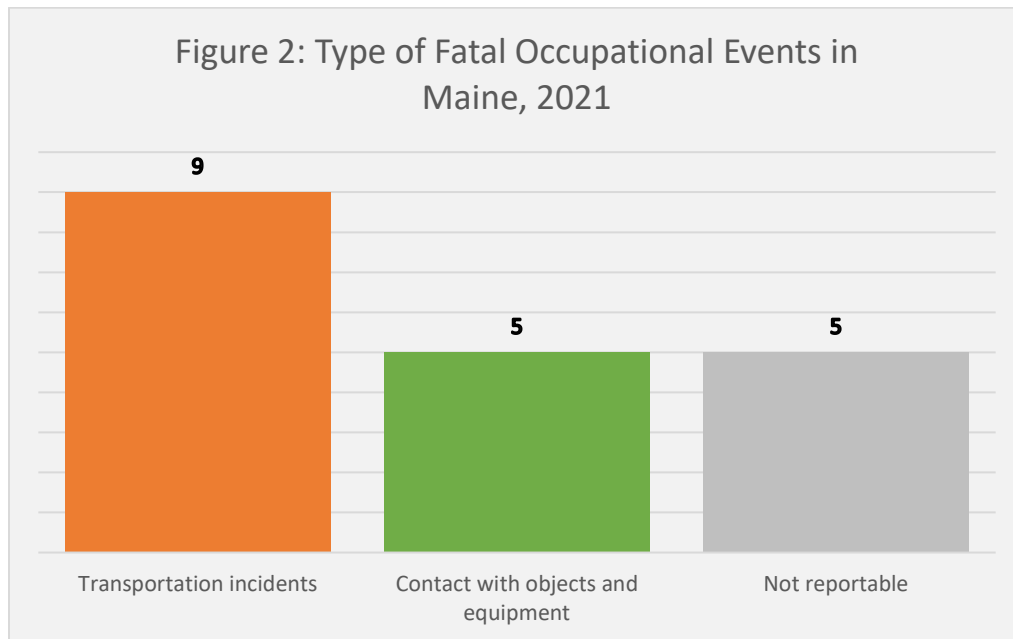
Fatalities within Occupational Categories

Figure 1 illustrates reportable data for Maine's 2021 occupational fatalities in three occupational categories. **Transportation and Material Moving** account for five fatalities (26%). **Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations** followed with four fatalities (21%), and then **Community and Social Services Occupations**, **Healthcare Practitioners**, and **Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations** saw one each (5%). The occupations of the remaining seven fatalities (37%) were not reportable.



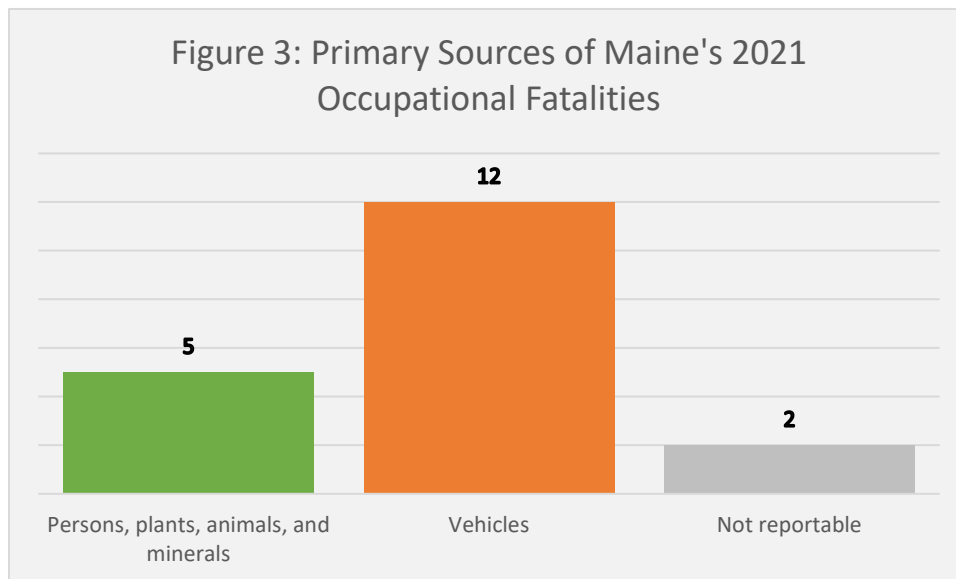
Types of Fatal Events

Figure 2 shows the types of fatal events that happened in Maine in 2021. Nearly half of these events (nine of nineteen, or 47%) were **Transportation incidents**. Five events, or 26%, were **Contact with objects and equipment**. The remaining five were not reportable.



Primary Sources Causing Fatalities

Figure 3 provides reportable data for primary sources that contributed to Maine's 2021 occupational fatalities. **Vehicles** were involved in twelve fatalities (63%). This is actually more than the number of transportation accidents that were reported. Five further fatalities (26%) had a source in the group of **Persons, plants, animals, and minerals**. One of these, more specifically, was a person other than the injured worker. The sources of the other two cases were not reportable.



Secondary Sources

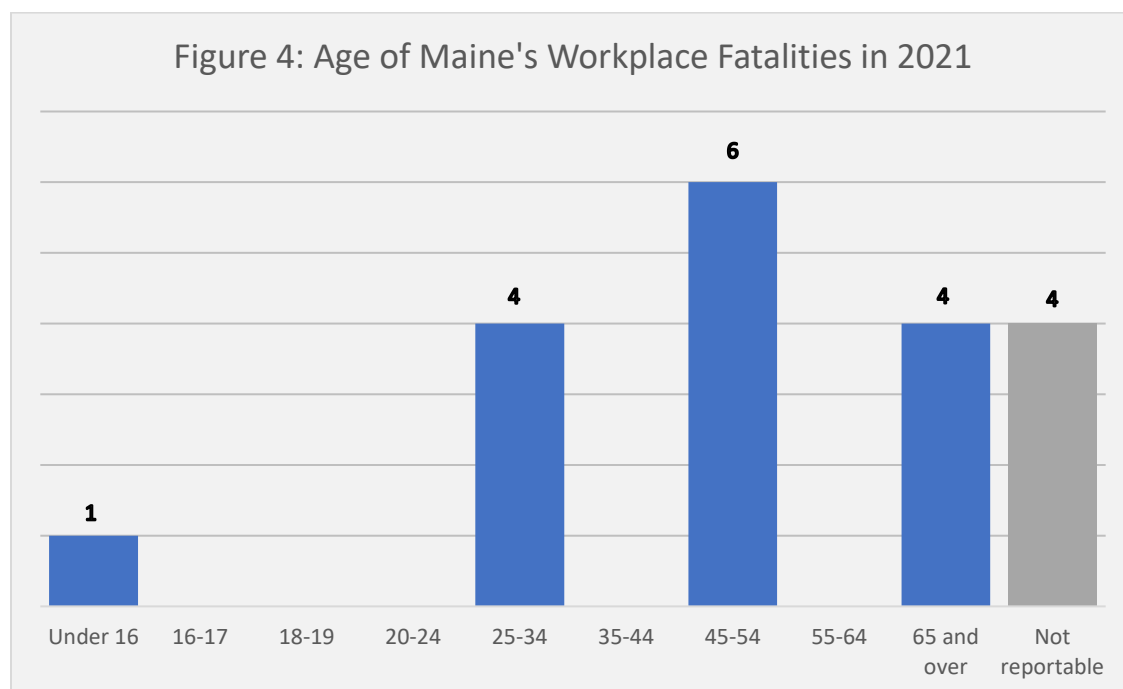
Not every case is assigned a secondary source, and of course they are not always reportable in our data even when they are present. In 2021, one case had **Machinery** as a secondary source, three had **Tools, Instruments, and Equipment**, and three more had **Vehicles**.



Age Categories

Figure 4 provides reportable data regarding age categories for Maine's 2021 occupational fatalities. Age was not reportable for four of the nineteen fatalities (21%). For those cases in which an age was reportable, one (5%) was under 16, four (21%) in the 25-34 year bracket, six (32%) in the 45-54 bracket, and another four (21%) were 65 or older. The one case younger than 16 is definitely notable, as only 7 total were seen nationally.

Nationally in the same period, a plurality of fatalities were in the 55-64 bracket, followed very closely by the 45-54 bracket.



Other Key Points:

- ✓ 14 of Maine's decedents were working for wages, while the other five were self-employed. These self-employed workers represent a slightly higher percent (26%) than what was observed nationally (17%)
- ✓ Gender and race data were not reportable for 2021.
- ✓ 16 decedents were working in the private sector, and the remaining three were public. These three were all local government employees.

Sources:

Data for this report was extracted from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), Maine Department of Labor, 2021, or from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics' One-Screen Data Search tool at <https://data.bls.gov/PDQWeb/fw>.

CFOI is a federal program that, in most cases, is administered by the states.

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