

## **Occupational Injuries, Illnesses and Fatalities Statistics Division (OSHS)**

Occupational Injuries, Illnesses and Fatalities Statistics Division (OSHS) of the Puerto Rico Department of Labor and Human Resources, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), annually conducts by mail the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII). This survey is conducted in compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. In addition, the Division prepares the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI).

The Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics provides overall program administration, selects the sample using the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), offers technical assistance, and validates the data. The State Statistical Office collects and analyzes the survey data, conducts the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, and prepares related publications.

The purpose of both the Survey and the Census is to provide annual information that helps identify occupational injury and illness risks, design prevention programs, promote workplace health and safety, allocate resources for inspection, training, and consultation activities, and provide annual data on the characteristics of individuals involved in work-related fatal accidents. These efforts contribute to the development of strategies aimed at reducing the incidence of occupational fatalities.

### **Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII)**

The Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) is an establishment-based survey used to estimate incidence rates and the total number of occupational injuries and illnesses. In addition, it provides demographic data and detailed case information for incidents involving one or more days away from work (DAFW).

The primary purpose of the survey is to generate incidence rates, which represent the number of occupational injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time workers. The survey also estimates the number of work-related injury and illness cases by industry, based on the classification established in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

The SOII also presents detailed information on worker characteristics and injury and illness cases that result in days away from work. This information is published biennially beginning in November 2023. The first set of results, published in November 2023, included cases corresponding to reference years 2021 and 2022. Worker characteristics include demographic information such as age, occupation—classified according to the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system—

gender, race, and length of service with the employer. Case characteristics include the nature of the injury or illness, the affected body part, the source, and the event or exposure that caused the injury or illness.

The information reported in this survey is based on records that employers are required to maintain under Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations (Forms 300 and 300A). The scope of the survey includes private sector employers as well as municipal and state government employers. Employers with ten (10) or fewer employees are exempt from these requirements unless they are specifically notified of their participation in the survey.

Data collection is conducted through postal mail, electronic mail, internet reporting, facsimile, and telephone interviews, based on an annual sample of approximately 2,400 establishments throughout Puerto Rico. The estimates produced by this survey help identify industries that require the implementation or strengthening of safety standards, as well as the development of occupational safety and health programs aimed at promoting and maintaining workplaces free of recognized hazards. The collected information is also used by researchers, employers, and other entities interested in occupational safety and health.

## **Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI)**

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries provides the most complete count available of work-related fatalities. Its scope includes private sector employers and municipal, state, and federal government entities. The program uses multiple sources of information to verify and identify the profile of work-related fatalities.

The census reference period is the calendar year. Information about each fatality occurring at the workplace—including the occupation and other worker characteristics, the equipment used, and the circumstances of the event—is obtained from various data sources such as death certificates, workers' compensation reports, newspaper articles, follow-up questionnaires, toxicology reports, and other administrative records. This methodology ensures that the counts are as complete and accurate as possible.