

STRATEGIC PLANNING ANALYSIS  
*of*  
CENSUS OF FATAL OCCUPATIONAL  
INJURIES DATA  
*occurring in*  
CALENDAR YEARS: 2003-2010

---



**INDIANA  
DEPARTMENT  
OF LABOR**

---

PREPARED  
*by the*  
QUALITY, METRICS & STATISTICS DIVISION

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

---

Charged with advancing the safety, health and prosperity of Hoosiers in the workplace, the Indiana Department of Labor consistently makes a determined effort to target workplace safety education through our INSafe division.

In an endeavor to equip and educate Hoosiers with the power to prevent occupational injuries, illnesses and fatalities, this work analyzes the details surrounding fatalities occurring from calendar years 2003 to 2010 in two of Indiana's pivotal sectors as defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and transportation incidents, which account for a large share of fatal occupational injuries annually in Indiana and the U.S. as a whole.

For fatalities due to transportation incidents, the data shows no clear indication for specific increased safety opportunities beyond increased defensive driving awareness as circumstances typically follow the overall trends. As an event, transportation has significant opportunity in prevention for safety and awareness as 46.60% of all fatalities occurring from 2003-2010 in all Indiana industries were the result of transportation events.

The data shows that 16.68% of Indiana occupational fatalities from 2003 – 2010 occurred in the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting Sector. Of those Agriculture fatalities, a substantial portion occurred at an establishment with 10 or fewer employees driving or operating a farm vehicle (the exact number is unable to be released by the BLS because of certain unknown values). From proper markings operating vehicles on roadways at dusk, to safe operation, farm equipment operation fatalities can and should be prevented.

In the public administration sector, the data shows fatalities predominantly occur in public safety, law enforcement, and the same transportation events that afflict every industry sector.

## TRANSPORTATION EVENTS CAUSING OCCUPATIONAL FATALITIES

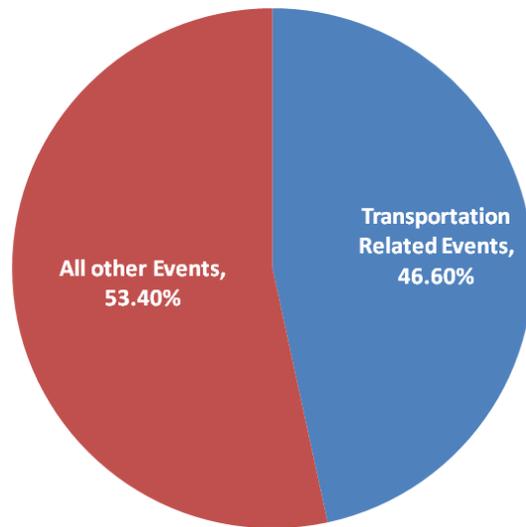
**As an industry sector, transportation is materially on par with the overall occupational injury and illness rate.** But activities as a result of the transportation involved in every industry are at a high risk for occupational fatalities accounting for 46.60% of overall occupational fatalities in Indiana from 2003-2010.

The five most frequent causes of these transportation related events occurring, in general, are vehicles striking objects on the side of the road, oncoming traffic collisions, collisions from moving in the same direction, nonhighway overturns, and intersection crashes.

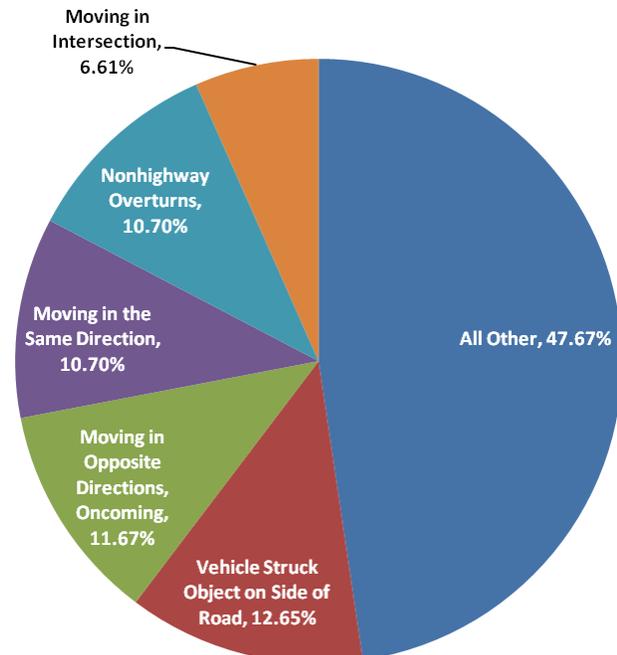
An analysis shows that trends in timing in both the time of year and time of day appear to follow the trend of the overall fatality rates.

Clear opportunities for prevention of transportation fatalities beyond increased defensive driving awareness, and enforcement of roadway laws, were not found in this particular set of data.

Distribution of Indiana Incidents Causing Occupational Fatalities 2003-2010



Distribution of Indiana Transportation Related Occupational Fatalities 2003-2010



## AGRICULTURE SECTOR FATALITIES

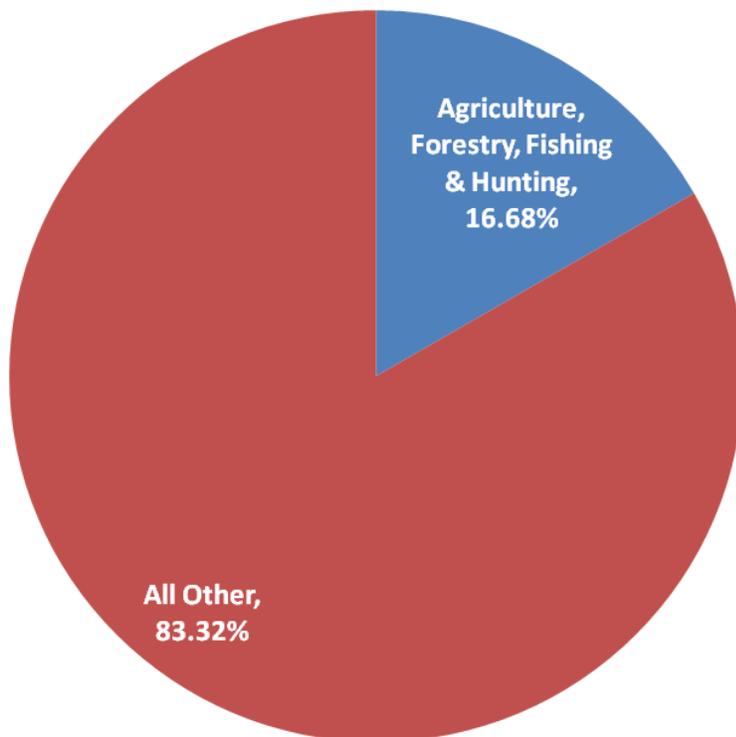
---

**As a State that Works growing things and making things**, Indiana has no shortage of small, hardworking Hoosier farms. The data shows that 16.68% of Indiana occupational fatalities from 2003 – 2010 occurred in the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting Sector.

Of those Agriculture fatalities, a substantial portion occurred at an establishment with 10 or fewer employees driving or operating a farm vehicle accounting for more agricultural fatalities than any other activity (the exact number is unable to be released by the BLS because of certain unknown values). From proper markings operating vehicles on roadways at dusk to safe operation – farm equipment operation fatalities can and should be prevented.

Safe equipment training at the point of equipment sale and broad based local awareness of this

Indiana Distribution of Occupational Fatalities 2003-2010



issue are never in short supply in such a decentralized industry. More regulations on farms are far from the right answer – but more education and outreach on safety to one of Indiana’s most vital industries are essential to continuing the proliferation of the small family farm.

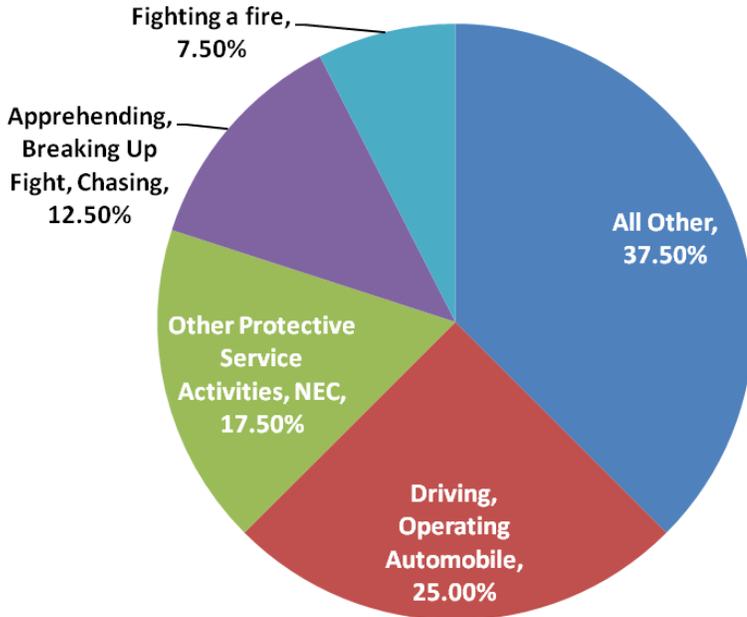
## PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION SECTOR FATALITIES

---

Indiana Public Administration safety concern is most heavily concentrated around Police and

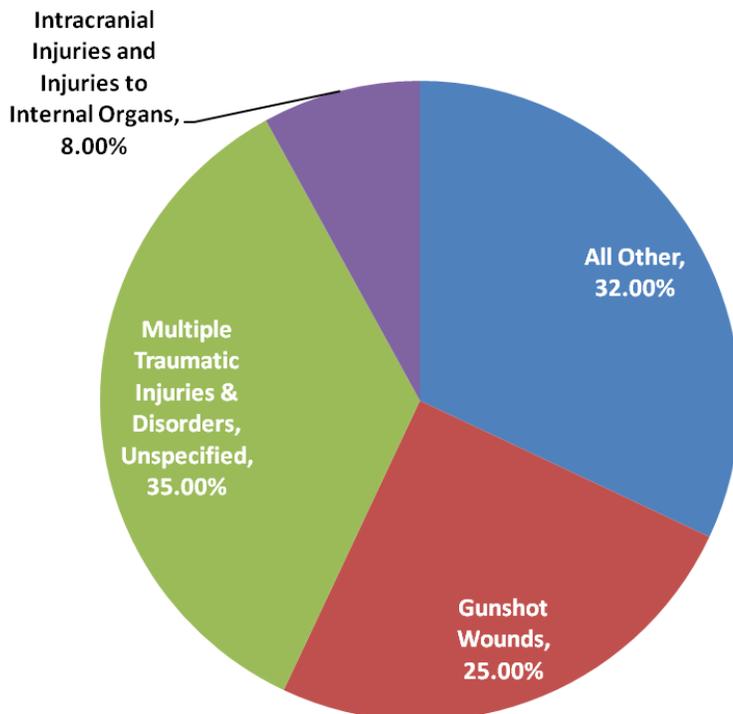
Sheriff's Patrol officers accounting for 50% of the sector's fatalities from 2003-2010. The activities associated with public safety enforcement, along with transportation events already discussed in this work, are of the highest concern.

Distribution of Indiana Public Administration Sector Fatal Worker Activity 2003-2010



Gunshot wounds, traumatic injuries, and intracranial injuries show up as the highest Nature of Injury for occupational fatalities in Public Administration following the transportation and public safety enforcement trend.

Distribution of the Nature of Injuries Causing Indiana Public Administration Fatalities 2003-2010



Providing safer workplaces for those Hoosiers who put themselves in the line of danger is quite the dilemma. But proper training, adequate equipment, and adequate staffing can always contribute to a safer workplace.