

Occupational Injuries, Illnesses and Fatalities Statistics Division (OSHS)

The Occupational Injuries, Illnesses and Fatalities Statistics Division, Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Puerto Rico Department of Labor and Human Resources, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) conduct the annual mail Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII), in compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. Also prepare the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI).

The U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics provides the general administration of the program, selects the sample from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW program), bring technical assistance and validated the data. The Puerto Rico Bureau of Labor Statistics compiles and analyzed the information from the survey, produce the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries and prepare the publications.

The purpose of the Survey and Census is to provided annual information help identify the risk of occupational injuries and illnesses. Developed preventions programs and stimulate health and safety work areas. Assign resources for inspections, trainings and consults activities. Provide annual data characteristics about the persons involved in fatal accidents related to work. Developed strategies contributed to reduce fatal occupational injuries incidence.

Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Survey (SOII)

The Occupational Injuries, Illnesses and Fatalities Statistics Division of the Puerto Rico Department of Labor and Human Resources, in cooperation with the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) conducts the annual mail Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII), in compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

The survey is designed to produce the incidence rates (incidence rates represent the number of injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time workers.), and number of cases of nonfatal work-related injuries and illnesses by industry (industry classifications are based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). It also presents worker and case characteristics of injuries and illnesses with days away from work. Worker characteristics include demographic information such as: age, occupation (Occupations are classified according to the Standard Occupation Classification Manual, SOC.), gender, race, and length of service with the employer. Case characteristics include: nature of the injuries or illnesses, part of the body affected, source and event or exposure that resulted in injuries or illnesses.

The information reported in the annual survey is based upon the occupational injuries and illnesses logs employers are required to keep under the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Employers with ten (10) or fewer employees are exempt from OSHA recordkeeping unless pre-notified of their participation in the annual survey. The survey collects data from a selected sample of approximately 2,500 establishment islandwide, collected by mail, e-mail, Internet, fax, and telephone.

The estimates produced by the SOII are used to identify industries that require safety standards. It

also helps in the development of safety and health programs to promote and maintain workplaces free from recognized work hazards. The information is used by researchers, employers, and other persons concerned with occupational safety and health.

Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI)

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries provides the most complete count of fatal work injuries available. The program uses different data sources to identify, verify and profile fatal work injuries. Information about each workplace fatality (occupation and other worker characteristics, equipment being used, and circumstances of the event) is obtained by cross-referencing source documents, such as death certificates, workers compensation records, newspaper articles, follow-back questionnaires, toxicology reports and other administrative records. This method assures counts are as complete and accurate as possible.

For more information visit: www.bls.gov/iif