

Kentucky FACE Program

2017 Annual Report

About the Kentucky FACE Program

The Kentucky Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (KY FACE) Program is an occupational fatality surveillance program of the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center (KIPRC)*. The goal of KY FACE is to prevent fatal work injuries by studying the worker, work environment, energy exchange resulting in fatal injury, and role of management, engineering, and behavioral changes in preventing future injuries. KY FACE investigators evaluate data from multiple sources including 1) interviews of employers, coworkers, witnesses and other investigators; 2) examination of the work site and equipment; 3) review of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) reports, police reports, and medical examiner reports; and 4) employer safety procedures. The FACE program does not seek to determine fault or place blame on companies or individual workers. Findings are summarized in narrative reports that include recommendations for preventing similar events in the future.

Kentucky FACE would like to respectfully acknowledge the individuals who lost their lives to workplace injury in Kentucky, and the pain and loss endured by their families and colleagues. It is hoped that surveillance of these tragic workplace incidents will help government, industry, workers and communities target their injury prevention efforts and resources.

*Organizationally, KIPRC is located in the University of Kentucky and is a bona fide agent of the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH). Funding for the KY FACE Program is provided by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Cooperative Agreement Number 5U60OH008483-13.

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For more
detailed
information
concerning KY
FACE

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Kentucky Worker Fatalities at a Glance

To create effective injury prevention programs, it is important to look at where and how fatal injuries among workers occur in Kentucky. Here is a brief snapshot of worker fatalities that occurred from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

How many workers died from injuries in 2017?

While working in Kentucky in 2017, 68 residents from Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Oklahoma and West Virginia died on the job.

Leading Causes

- Motor vehicle collision (21)
- Fall (10)
- Struck by (7)
- Agriculture Machine (6)
- Homicide (6)

Leading Industries and Occupations

- Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting Industry (13)
- Construction Industry (13)
- Transportation and Warehousing Industry (12)
- Drivers, including truck, medical, taxi, delivery (15)
- Farmers (8)
- Loggers (4)

Incidents by County

- Jefferson (12)
- Boone (3)
- The remaining fatalities are distributed across 44 of Kentucky's 120 counties, with no more than two deaths in any one county.

Fatal Occupational Injury Rate for 2017

In 2017, the Kentucky fatal occupational injury rate decreased 18% from 4.4 deaths per 100,000 workers (2016) to 3.6 deaths per 100,000 workers (2017).



Demographics

In Kentucky, 68 workers died as a result of work-related injuries. The following lists the demographic profile of this group.

Table 1: Demographics of Kentucky Fatal Work-Related Injuries, 2017

Characteristics		Number	Percent of 68 fatalities*
Sex	Male	61	90%
	Female	7	10%
Race	White	61	90%
	Black	5	7%
	Unknown	2	3%
Age	20 - 29	7	10%
	30 - 39	13	19%
	40 - 49	9	13%
	50 - 59	15	22%
	60 - 69	12	18%
	70 - 79	10	15%
	80 - 89	2	3%
Marital Status	Married	41	60%
	Never Married	6	9%
	Divorced	15	22%
	Widowed	3	4%
	Unknown	3	4%
Education	Less than High School	6	9%
	Some High School	3	4%
	Finished High School	40	59%
	Some College	12	18%
	College and beyond	5	7%
	Unknown	2	3%
Country of Origin	United States	64	94%
	Mexico	1	2%
	Other	1	2%
	Unknown	2	3%
Primary Language	English	64	94%
	Spanish	2	3%
	Unknown	2	3%
State of Residence	Kentucky	56	82%
	Other	10	15%
	Unknown	2	3%

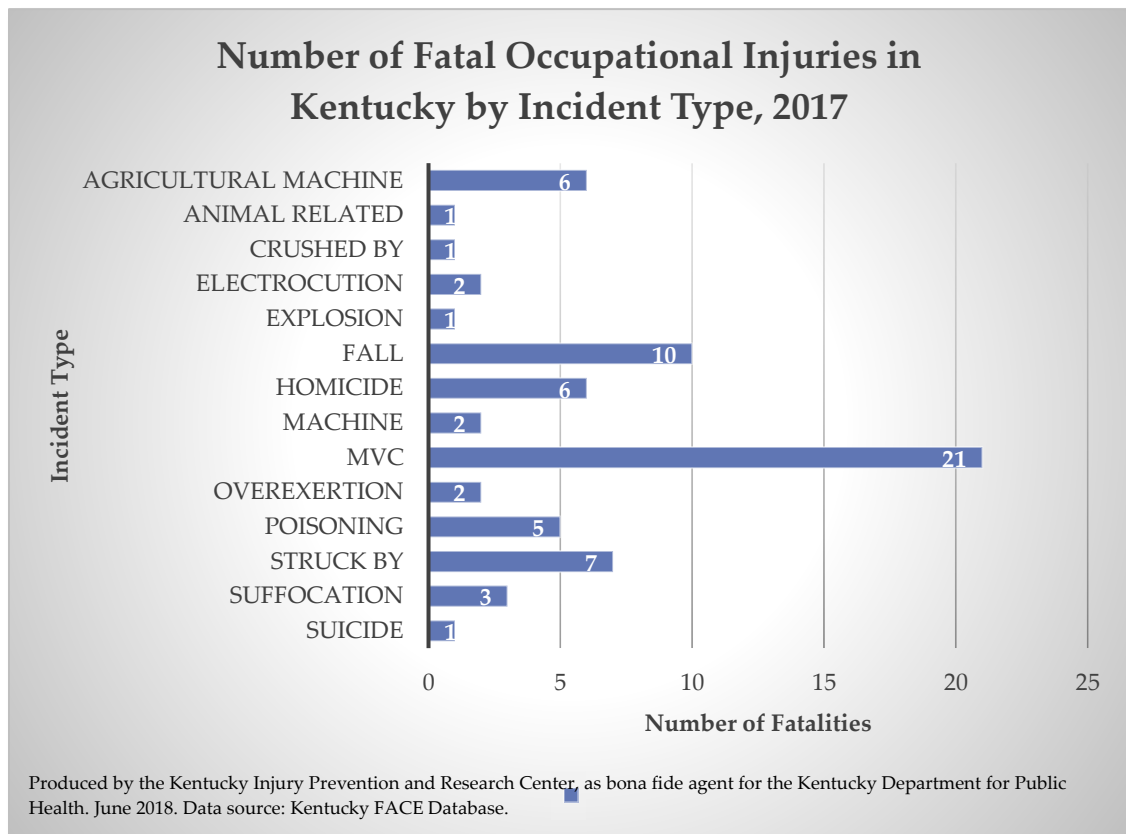
*Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Produced by the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center as bona fide agent for the Kentucky Department for Public Health. June 2018. Data source: Kentucky FACE Database.



Types of Events Causing Worker Deaths

Figure 1



Highlights:

- Of the 68 occupational fatalities in Kentucky in 2017, 31% (n=21) were motor vehicle collisions (MVC) (Figure 1). Motor vehicle collision deaths were down from 36 deaths in 2016, a decrease of 42%.
- Logging continues to be a dangerous occupation. Four of the seven struck-by fatalities were loggers (not shown).
- Of the 10 falls shown in Figure 1, seven occurred in the construction industry. Two of the fall fatalities involved drugs.
- With the help of coroners and medical examiners, Kentucky FACE receives toxicology data on work-related fatalities. This data allow better understanding of how drugs and alcohol potentially impact the workplace. Of the 68 cases in 2017, 15% (n=10) involved drugs/narcotics, 10% (n=7) had no

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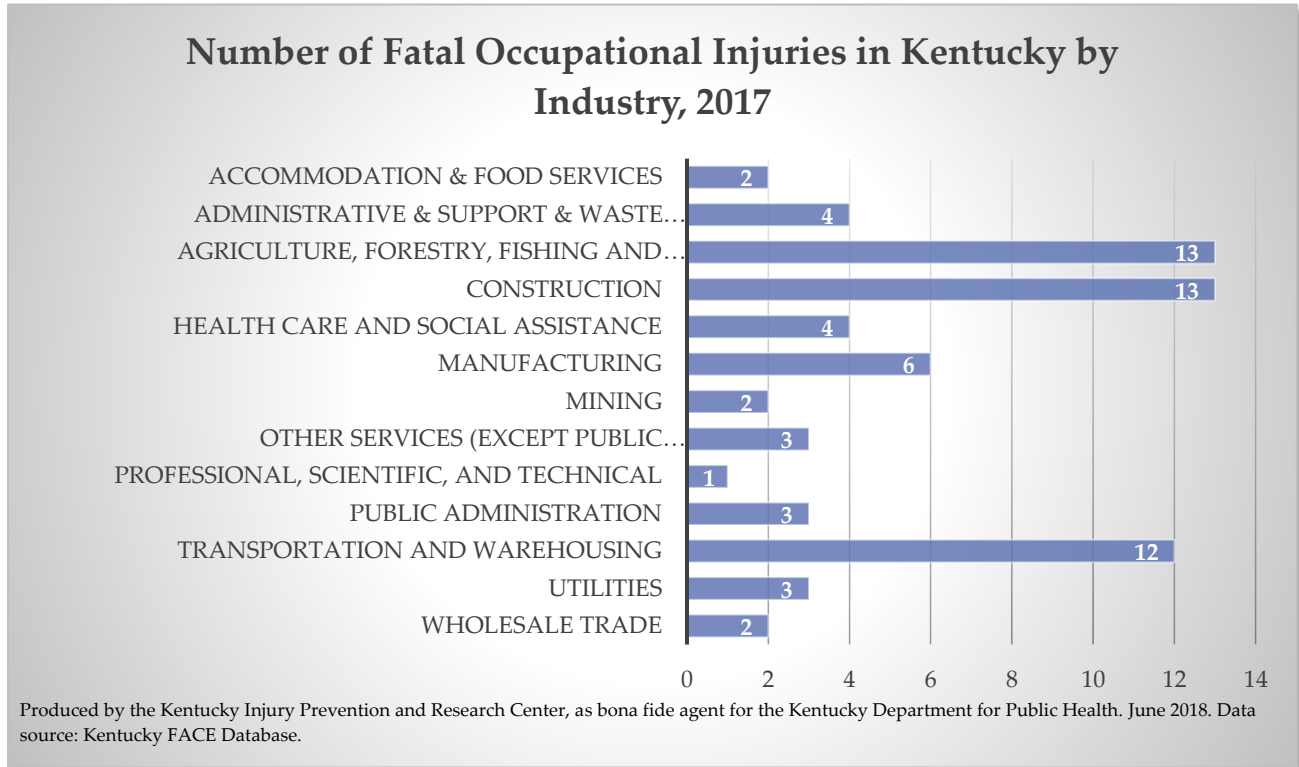


intoxication involvement, and 1% (n=1) involved alcohol. Seventy-four percent (n=50) of cases remain undetermined, either because no toxicology was ordered, testing was impossible due to circumstances at the time of death, or requested toxicology results were not received by Kentucky FACE. The Kentucky FACE program would like to thank all participating coroners for their contributions. Substances detected included fentanyl, methadone, cocaine, norfentanyl, morphine, heroin, codeine, methamphetamine, buprenorphine, ethanol, amphetamine and THC (data not shown).



Fatal Injuries at Work by Industry

Figure 2



Highlights:

- The agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry accounted for 19% (n=13) of Kentucky’s 2017 occupational fatalities, including 8 farmers and 3 loggers. Ten of the 13 decedents (77%) were over age 50.
- The 13 construction industry fatalities in Kentucky included 7 falls. Workers who died in this industry ranged in age from 23 to 72 years of age (not shown). Kentucky FACE participates in a nationwide campaign each spring to prevent falls in construction. [Free safety training resources](#) are available on our website.
- Of the 12 transportation and warehousing fatalities (Figure 2), nine were truck drivers. Kentucky FACE recognizes trucking as a risky occupation, and the Kentucky Occupational Safety and Health program provides [safety training videos for truckers](#).



Investigation Program

The Kentucky FACE Program completed five investigations of selected occupational fatalities from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. Each report begins with a case summary, and provides recommendations for preventing future similar incidents. Our reports do not determine fault or blame. We do not use personal identifiers in our reports, or identify the names of companies.

2017 FACE investigations are listed below. For the complete report, see the [KIPRC website](#).

Case ID	Title	Category
15KY069	<u>Paramedic is Struck and Killed While Responding to a Call.</u> A 40-year-old male paramedic was responding to a call, struck a vehicle, and pulled over and exited his vehicle to assess damage. The paramedic was struck after stepping into the road from between two parked cars.	Highway Incident Management
16KY014	<u>School Custodian Struck and Killed by Pick-up Truck on School Grounds While Performing Crossing Guard Duty.</u> A custodian crossed a street to reach his cross-guard position, was struck by a pickup truck, and fell backward, striking his head.	Motor Vehicle Collision; Pedestrian
16KY039	<u>Mechanic Struck and Killed by Over-Pressurized Suspension Air Spring on Tractor Trailer.</u> A mechanic was in a pit changing a suspension air spring on a tractor-trailer cab when the over-pressurized air spring exploded and struck his forehead.	Struck By
17KY007	<u>Dry Wall Supervisor Falls from Unsecured Plank.</u> A drywall supervisor was working on a scaffold, and stepped onto an unsecured plank to hang a piece of drywall. The plank flipped on its side, and the victim fell 11 feet to the ground below.	Construction
17KY034	<u>Dump Truck Driver Loses Control and Flips Truck Resulting in Fire.</u> A dump truck driver was delivering a load of gravel, rounded a curve and the truck flipped into a culvert. The fuel tank struck exposed rebar, and the truck caught fire.	Motor Vehicle Collision: Single Vehicle

Kentucky Hazard Alerts

The Kentucky Occupational Safety and Health Program produced four Hazard Alerts based on Kentucky FACE investigations and data between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017:

- Loggers Killed During Felling Operations examines four logging fatalities that occurred since January 2016, and offers occupational safety tips for protecting loggers from potential felling hazards.
- Pedestrian Workers Killed by Forklifts analyzed FACE investigations from 2015 to 2016 involving pedestrian forklift fatalities. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration estimates that there are approximately 85 fatalities and 34,900 serious injuries due to forklift use

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annually. Tips to prevent this type of injury are provided, as well as links to additional free training resources.

- Construction Workers Killed in Trench Collapses. Three Kentucky workers died in trench collapses from June 2015 to December 2017. One cubic yard of soil can weigh as much as a car. The three Kentucky FACE cases are highlighted in this Hazard Alert and resource links are provided highlighting critical prevention strategies.
- Unintentional overdose from the use of drugs in the workplace. According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, it is estimated that 7 in 10 individuals who use illicit drugs are employed either full or part time. The Hazard Alert provides recommendations and resources for employees and employers.

To access Hazard Alerts, go to the KIPRC website: <http://www.mc.uky.edu/kiprc/face/hazard-alerts.html>.

Kentucky FACE Social Media

Kentucky FACE maintains a presence on Social Media, enabling us to share references and links to occupational injury prevention materials and sources. Please visit us:



[@KYFACEProgram](#)



[@KYFACEProgram](#)

Kentucky FACE Data Source

All data in this report was produced by the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center, as bona fide agent for the Kentucky Department for Public Health. June 2018. Data source: Kentucky FACE Database. The Kentucky FACE Database collects occupational fatality data from multiple surveillance data sources.