

Occupational Safety and Health Unit (OSH)

While OSH and OSHA may sound similar, the two entities are separate, distinct and unaffiliated. OSH is the Occupational Safety and Health Statistical Unit of the Florida Division of Workers' Compensation. OSHA, by contrast, is the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, a federal agency that investigates major workplace accidents.

OSH correctly reports Florida-based employee injury and fatality data to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) from two statistical programs: the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (the Survey) and the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI). All states as well as the District of Columbia annually contract with the BLS to implement these programs.

The data collected by OSH through the programs are not limited to workers' compensation, but include all work-related fatalities and a sample of OSHA recordable occupational injuries and illnesses in Florida. With respect to the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, OSH collects and forwards responses from sampled employers to BLS for inclusion as estimates of national workplace safety and health statistics. Florida-specific data are published annually as tables and website links. The relationship between BLS and Florida is mutually beneficial. Florida's large sample size and the diversity of industries make the state a key contributor to the painting of a nationwide occupational health and safety picture. Florida benefits from a statistical overview of occupational safety and health from many industry sectors and having access to data that are unavailable from any other source. The information from the statistical tables may be utilized by researchers, economists, policy makers and others in Florida as a means of promoting employee safety.

In addition to its customary interactions with the public and others, the Florida OSH statistical staff continues to refer telephone callers who need help with workplace safety concerns to the OSHA offices in Jacksonville, Ft. Lauderdale and Tampa. Like OSHA and the Division of Workers' Compensation, the OSH Unit shares a common aim to help make workplaces in Florida and the nation safer and healthier ... through its unique data collection and reporting roles.

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