



SAFETY RESEARCH

- Construction had the most fatalities of any industry in 2023.** New Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) [data](#) shows that more construction workers died on the job last year than in any other industry sector. In 2023, 1,075 construction workers died on the jobsite—a 1.9% increase from 2022 and the highest for the sector going back to 2011. However, there was no statistically significant increase in the fatal injury rate for construction occupations. Falls, slips, or trips continue to be the leading cause of the fatalities in construction.
- Mental Health & Suicide in Construction.** The results from a [pilot study](#) survey in *Professional Safety* reveals a gap between the degree of importance employers and workers place on mental health and suicide. It shows workers did not view mental health or suicide as an important workplace issue and indicated low comfort levels in discussing mental health or suicide with coworkers and supervisors. The study results also determined that although employers largely agree that suicide is a problem within the construction industry, less than one-third of organizations had suicide prevention programs in place.
- The impact of regulatory workplace safety inspections on workers' compensation claim rates.** A [study](#) published in the *American Journal of Industrial Medicine* examined whether regulatory safety inspections result in reductions in workers' compensation claims rates for inspected firms relative to comparable non-inspected firms. A key finding showed that regulatory workplace safety inspections generally do not result in greater reductions in firm-level claim rates in construction and other industries and that inspections alone may not be sufficient to induce compliance or hazard management changes that lead to reductions in injuries.
- Safety culture in the North American construction industry.** In an [article](#) published in *Safety Science*, researchers suggest that safety culture concept remains undefined and the unscientific concept has never been empirically proven to enhance safety. Researchers make the case for the removal of safety culture from the safety science lexicon and suggest robust research of the various individual 'elements' of safety culture, in methodologically appropriate ways, that will enhance the field of safety science and better support improvements in practice.
- Making zero work for construction safety.** Zero injury concept means achieving an accident-free workplace. Whether used as a target, a vision, or a journey, 'zero' has its supporters and its critics, and remains popular among construction companies. A *Journal of Safety Research* [article](#) highlighted that zero remains problematic for occupational safety management and that data does not provide evidence of any clear success from the use of zero in practice. Researchers suggest as an alternative that construction focus more narrowly on zero severe injuries and fatalities (SIFs), rather than towards the much broader metric of all-incidents and all-injuries.

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY TRENDS

- Hispanic Construction Workers: Employment, Business Ownership, and Injury Trends.** A new CPWR - The Center for Construction Research and Training [data bulletin](#) examined key characteristics of this growing demographic group that showed the percentage of construction workers who were Hispanic doubled between 2000 to 2023. Other key findings include: occupations with the highest percent of Hispanic workers were drywall installers (75%), roofers (63%), and painters (62%); the number of fatal injuries among Hispanic construction workers increased 107%, whereas non-Hispanic fatalities increased 16% from 2011 to 2022; and 34% of nonfatal days away from work (DAFW) injuries from 2021-2022 were among Hispanic workers.
- Safe Operations of Robots on Human-Robot Collaborative Construction Sites.** A National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) [research project](#) looked at common types of impacts that could occur between robots and construction workers to better understand how keep workers safe. The NIOSH authors concluded that human-robot collaboration in construction holds great promise but requires careful attention to safety by implementing and adapting existing safety standards to the unique conditions of construction sites and developing specific guidelines and safety measures for construction environments.