Washington State Department of
Labor & Industries

Northwest Construction Consumer Council Meeting

September 18, 2025

Behind the Scenes with L&I
Updates from WA FACE

Overview

1

Being data driven: using data to address persistent and high cost injuries in your industries.

2

Learning from traumatic events: reviewing fatal incidents to identify main contributing factors and corrective actions.

3

Special focus: examining drug overdose trends in construction and other industries.

A few definitions

Compensable injury claim:
Injury claim that results in payments for time-loss, disability, or death.
Median claim cost:
Median (50th%ile) costs of a claim, i.e. time-loss compensation, disability awards, and medical expenses. Generally, higher cost means more severe injuries.
Injury count vs rate:
Count is the number of injuries, while the rate normalizes injuries by the number of workers in each industry group. Rates are essential for comparing safety performance across industries or different periods, as they provide a context for the number of injuries relative to the exposure to risk.
Industry group:
A collection of related industries, more specific than the sector. For example, within Construction sector (NAICS 23), Nonresidential Building Construction (NAICS 2362) is primarily responsible for the construction (including new work, additions, alterations, maintenance, and repairs) of nonresidential buildings. This industry group includes general contractors, for-sale builders, design-build firms, and project construction management firms.

A few definitions

Injury Incident type:
The incident type of an injury or illness assigned by trained coder according to the Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS).

Injury Incident type: Bodily Reaction and Exertion-

- **REPETITIVE MOTION**
  Repetitive use of tools; Repetitive placing, grasping, or moving objects
- **OVEREXERTION**
  Overexertion in lifting, holding, carrying, turning, pulling, pushing, throwing, or wielding objects
- **BODILY REACTION AND EXERTION**
  Bending, climbing, crawling, reaching, twisting
- **BODILY CONDITION**
  Persistent pain, swelling, unexplained conditions

Rank:
Injury count and rate are ranked from highest to lowest where highest rank = 1. Top rank = highest count, rate, cost depending on the table.

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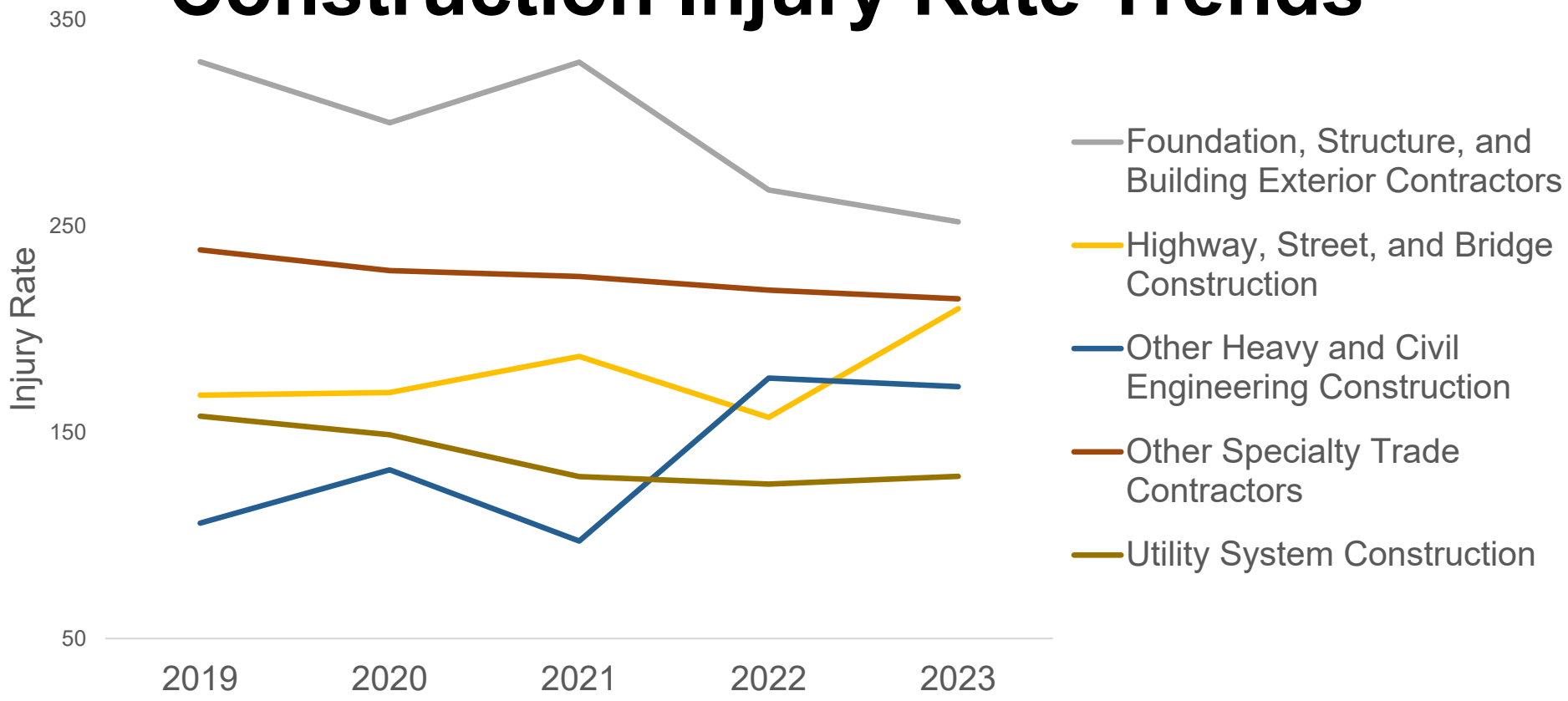
Let data drive your efforts

Worker injury claims rates and costs

Construction Injury Rate Rankings

Industry Group	Injury Count	Count Rank	Injury Rate	Rate Rank
Foundation, Structure, and Building Exterior Contractors	4362	1	294.9	1
Residential Building Construction	3680	3	233.8	2
Other Specialty Trade Contractors	1967	5	225.0	3
Building Finishing Contractors	2771	4	179.9	4
Highway, Street, and Bridge Construction	634	8	178.0	5
Building Equipment Contractors	4151	2	145.6	6
Utility System Construction	665	7	137.9	7
Other Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	246	9	135.8	8
Land Subdivision	71	10	114.2	9
Nonresidential Building Construction	1296	6	112.2	10

Construction Injury Rate Trends



*Other Heavy and Civil Engineering and Utility System Construction have low counts that may influence trends.

Construction Injury Type Distribution

Industry Group	Bodily reaction and exertion		Contact with objects and equipment		Falls		Transportation accidents		Other	Total
Foundation, Structure, and Building Exterior Contractors	1613	37%	1290	30%	1266	29%	100	2%	93	4362
Other Specialty Trade Contractors	783	40%	619	31%	385	20%	112	6%	68	1967
Utility System Construction	272	41%	203	31%	110	17%	45	7%	35	665
Highway, Street, and Bridge Construction	255	40%	145	23%	129	20%	51	8%	54	634
Other Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	115	47%	70	28%	36	15%	12	5%	13	246
Total	3038	39%	2327	30%	1926	24%	320	4%	263	7874

Construction Injury Cost Rankings

Injury Type	Count	%	Median Cost	Est. Total
BODILY REACTION AND EXERTION	3038	39%	$12,675	$38.5M
FALLS	1926	24%	$19,124	$36.8M
TRANSPORTATION ACCIDENTS	320	4%	$10,791	$3.4M
CONTACT WITH OBJECTS AND EQUIPMENT	2327	30%	$6,754	$15.7M
Other	263	3%		
Total	7874			

Construction Injury Cost Rankings

Injury Type	Count	%	Median Cost	Est. Total
FALLS				
FALL TO LOWER LEVEL	1081	56%	$24,399	$26.4M
FALL ON SAME LEVEL	761	40%	$15,287	$11.6M
Other Falls	84	4%	$13,003	$1.1M
BODILY REACTION AND EXERTION				
OVEREXERTION	1653	54%	$11,015	$18.2M
REPETITIVE MOTION	374	12%	$33,199	$12.4M
BODILY REACTION AND EXERTION	968	32%	$8,095	$10.9M
BODILY CONDITIONS	43	1%	$21,238	$0.9M

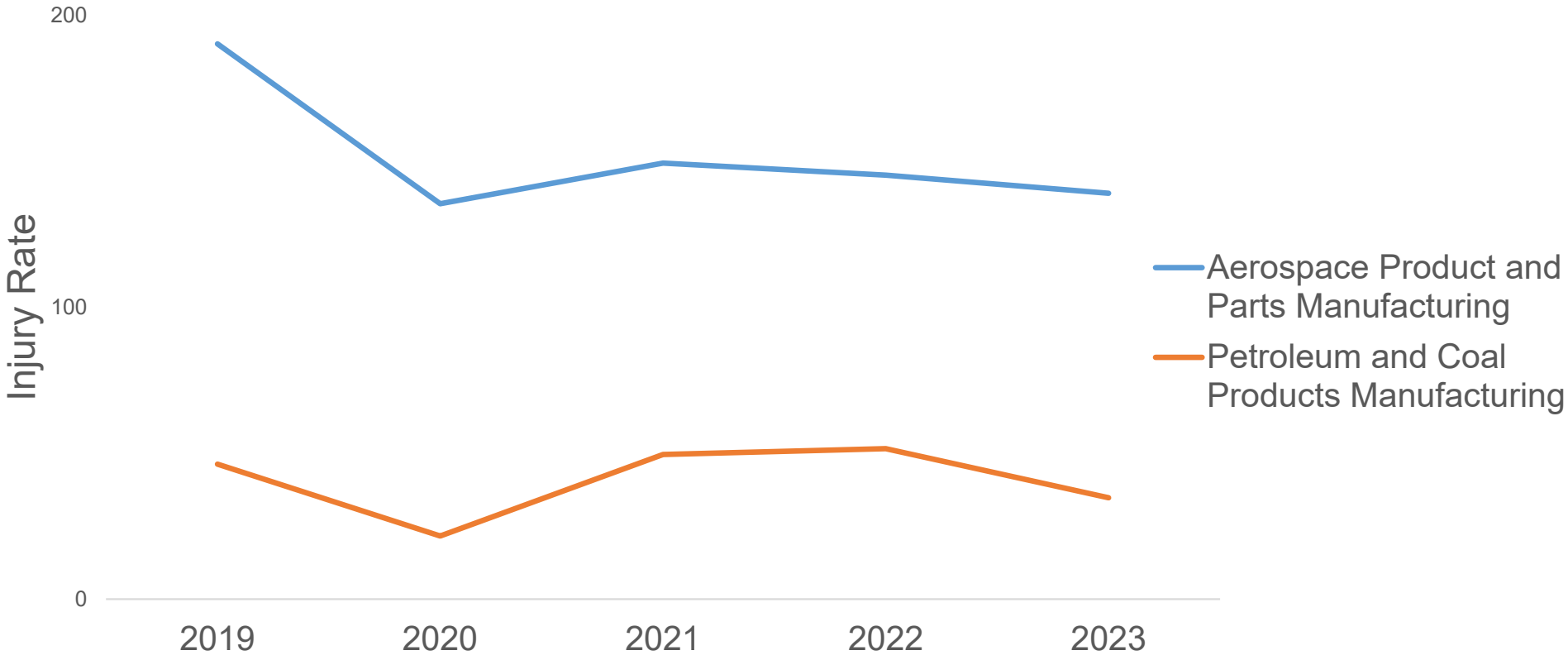
Fall Hazards-What to look for:

Fall Type x Source	Count		Median Cost	Est. Total
FALL FROM LADDER	399	37%	$ 24,172.98	$9.6M
FALL FROM ROOF	237	22%	$ 35,286.92	$8.4M
FALL FROM NONMOVING VEHICLE	185	17%	$ 14,508.35	$2.7M

Manufacturing Injury Rate Rankings

Industry Group	Injury Count	Count Rank	Injury Rate	Rate Rank
Foundries	285	15	310.3	3
Aerospace Product and Parts Manufacturing	5542	1	153.0	28
				
Petroleum and Coal Products Manufacturing	61	43	41.0	64
				
Navigational, Measuring, Elect, and Control Instr Manufacturing	94	31	18.6	81

Manufacturing Injury Rate Trends



*Low counts that may influence trends.

Aerospace Manufacturing Injury Cost Rankings

Aerospace Product and Parts Manufacturing				
Injury Type	Count	%	Median Cost	Est. Cost
BODILY REACTION AND EXERTION	3706	66%	$ 2,715	$10.1M
EXPOSURE TO HARMFUL SUBSTANCES OR ENVIRONMENTS	417	7%	$ 4,822	$2.0M
FALLS	724	13%	$ 2,580	$1.9M
CONTACT WITH OBJECTS AND EQUIPMENT	565	10%	$ 1,289	$0.7M
TRANSPORTATION ACCIDENTS	29	1%	$ 2,570	$0.07M

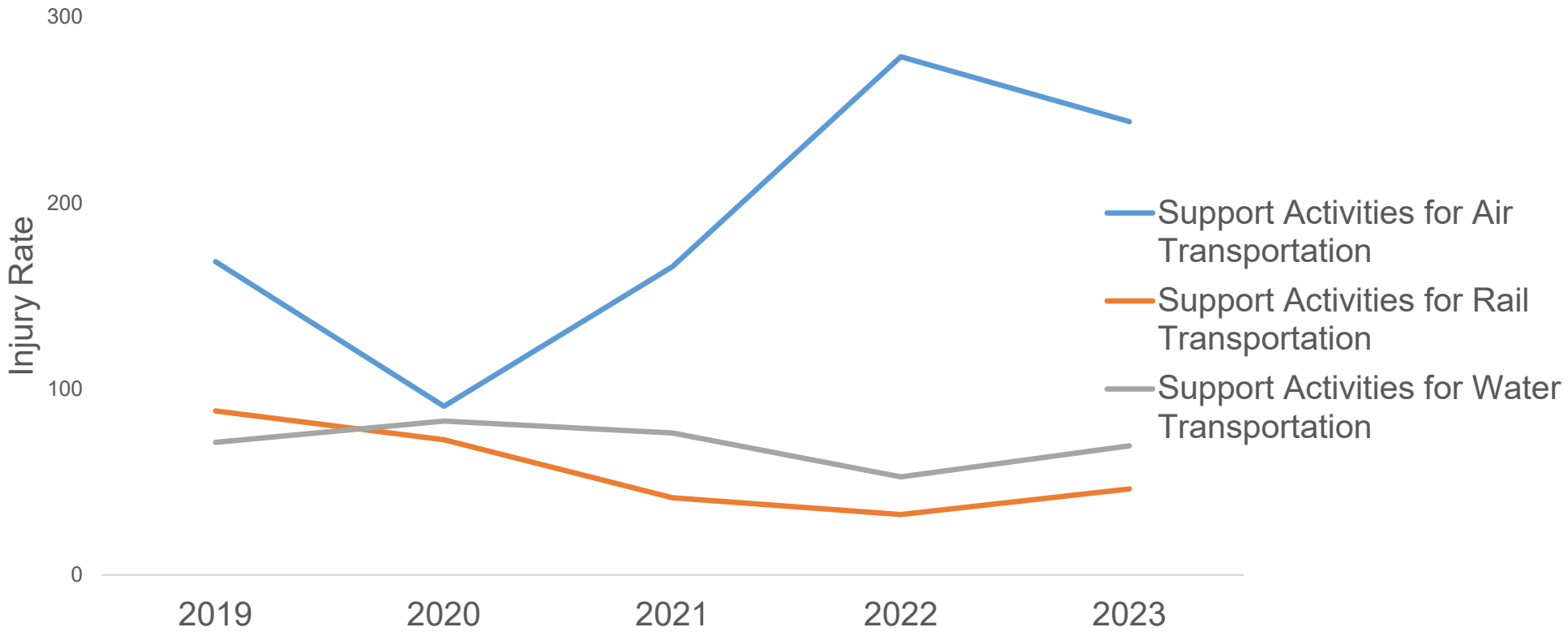
Petroleum and Coal Manufacturing Injury Cost Rankings

Petroleum and Coal Products Manufacturing				
Injury Type	Count	%	Median Cost	Est. Cost
BODILY REACTION AND EXERTION	25	41%	$25,812	$0.6M
CONTACT WITH OBJECTS AND EQUIPMENT	14	23%	$11,491	$0.2M
EXPOSURE TO HARMFUL SUBSTANCES OR ENVIRONMENTS	14	23%	$8,538	$0.1M
FALLS	8	13%	$5,322	$0.04M

Transportation Injury Rate Rankings

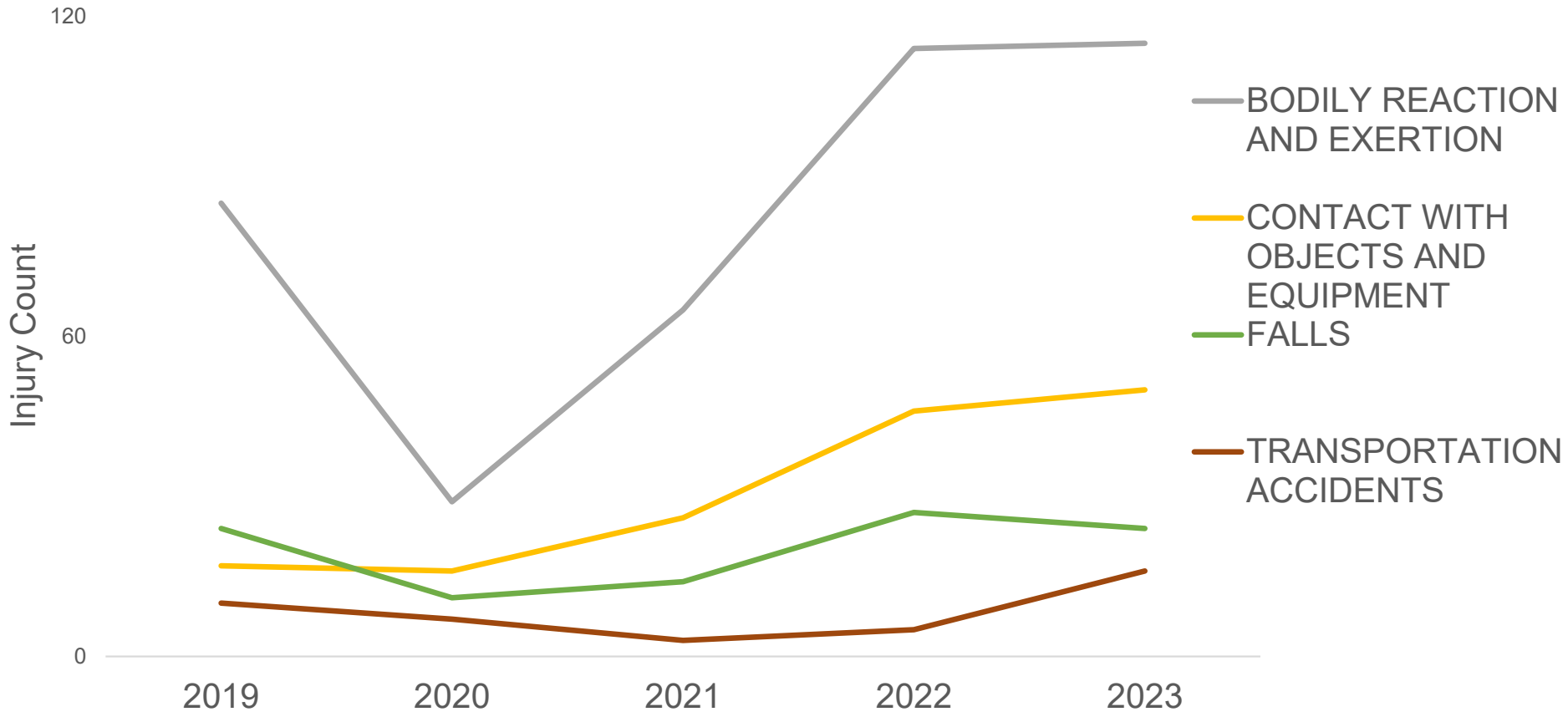
Industry Group	Injury Count	Count Rank	Injury Rate	Rate Rank
Support Activities for Air Transportation	733	4	192.3	8
Support Activities for Water Transportation	368	6	69.4	13
Support Activities for Rail Transportation	35	16	56.3	16
				
				20

Transportation Support Injury Rate Trends



*Low counts that may influence trends.

Air Transportation Support Injury Trends



Transportation Injury Cost Rankings

Transportation-Support for Air, Rail, Water				
Injury Type	Count	%	Median Cost	Est. Cost
BODILY REACTION AND EXERTION	612	54%	$2910	$1.8M
FALLS	167	15%	$6329	$1.0M
CONTACT WITH OBJECTS AND EQUIPMENT	221	19%	$3179	$0.7M
TRANSPORTATION ACCIDENTS	49	4%	$4590	$0.2M
EXPOSURE TO HARMFUL SUBSTANCES OR ENVIRONMENTS	54	5%	$2058	$0.1M

Utilities Injury Rate Rankings

Industry Group	Injury Count	Count Rank	Injury Rate	Rate Rank
Natural Gas Distribution	57	3	173.5	1
Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution	577	1	102.4	2
Water, Sewage and Other Systems	142	2	55.2	3

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Learn from traumatic events

review fatal incidents to identify main contributing factors and corrective actions.

Welder Fell 32 Feet from Storage Tank Roof

INCIDENT FACTS

REPORT #: 71-260-2024s

REPORT DATE: November 1, 2024

INCIDENT DATE: April 27, 2023

WORKER: 60 years old

INDUSTRY: Oil and Gas Pipeline and Related Structures Construction

OCCUPATION: Construction Welder

SCENE: Storage tank construction site

EVENT TYPE: Fall from elevation

Photo 2. Hole in top of tank roof where the welder fell through.

Photo 3. Alternate view of hole in tank roof where the welder fell.

Photo 4. Floor at base of tank where the welder landed.

Contributors

- Employer lacked a fall protection work plan (FPWP) and did not know about FP requirements.
- Crew and supervisor discussed the fall hazards and the GC's expectations to use FP, but they chose not to.
- The project manager did not conduct safety inspections.

Solutions

- Develop FPWP and PFAS use policies in your APP. Policies should require pre-planning the use, training, and inspection of site-specific fall protection to meet the needs of different work environments.
- Have supervisors review fall protection requirements with at pre-job crew meetings, check that they are following them, and use corrective action when needed.
- Demonstrate fall prevention leadership at crew meetings, monthly safety meetings, annual stand-downs, and in company newsletters and social media
- Use a crane instead of workers to move sheathing near roof leading edges.

Driver Dragged and Pinned By Rollaway Dump Truck

INCIDENT FACTS

REPORT #: 71-261-2024s

REPORT DATE: December 9, 2024

INCIDENT DATE: June 6, 2024

WORKER: 76 years old

INDUSTRY: Site Preparation Contractors

OCCUPATION: Dump Truck Driver

SCENE: Trailer parking area

EVENT TYPE: Caught between vehicle

Photo 6. View from trailer parking area looking downhill toward crash site (X).

Photo 3. Side view of truck where it rolled into hillside.

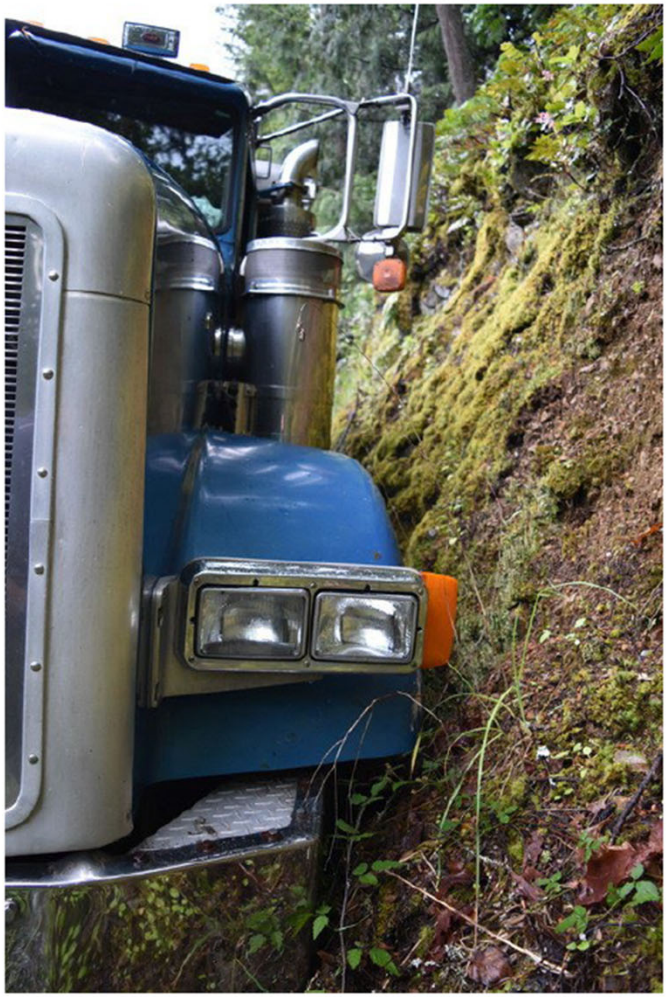


Photo 2. Front view of truck where it came to a stop against hillside.

Contributors

The trailer brake was set before unhooking it but not the truck's parking brake was not.

APP had policies for using parking brakes and wheel chocks but they were not used.

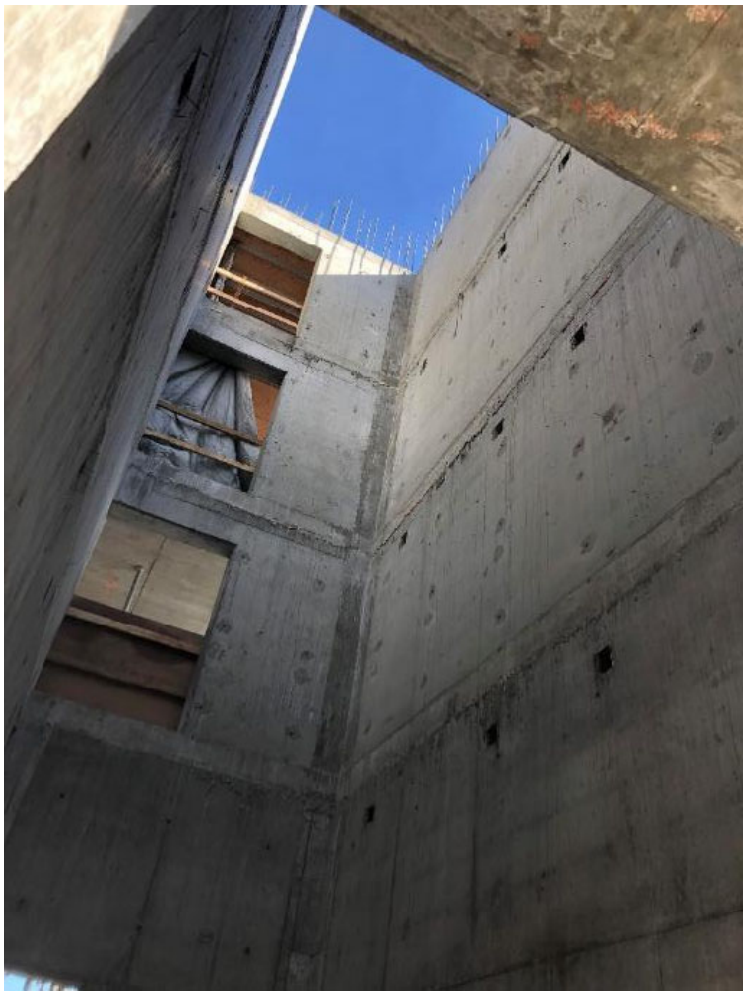
APP also had policies but no documentation for safety meetings and JHAs so maybe not communicated to workers.

Solutions

Enforce APP policies for drivers including parking brake and wheel chocking procedures and to never pursue or try to stop a rollaway truck.

Train and periodically test drivers parking brake and wheel chocking knowledge and skills. Document training and keep records up to date.

Install parking brake systems that automatically apply the brake if it has not been set before exiting the cab. Alarms that alert drivers are also available.



Contributors

Flipper Decks were not sized to meet manufacturers minimum offset requirements for toggle lock to core wall.

Pocket Formers required by the manufacturer were not left in place which created spalling around the pockets further exaggerating the lack of toggle lock engagement. Secondary locks not used.

Management and workers on site did not have technical documents with specifications for forms.

Solutions

Contributors

Wheels were not chocked on trailer truck prior to the connection of hoses for unloading LNG. Wheel chocks were available, but not used.

No written standard policies or procedures regarding not starting truck before transfer finishes. The driver of the tractor did not exit vehicle, or complete a pre-trip inspection, prior to driving forward.

No communication before or during transfer between Technician/Driver.

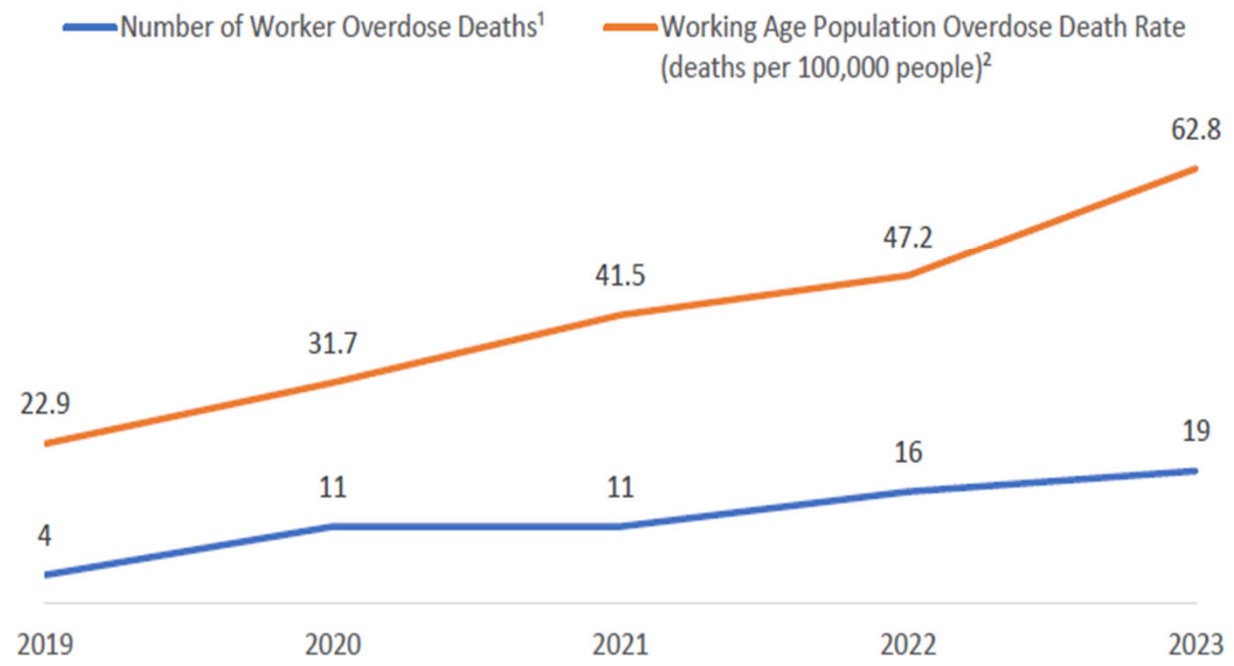
Solutions

Washington State Department of
Labor & Industries

Special focus:

Drug overdose trends in construction and other industries

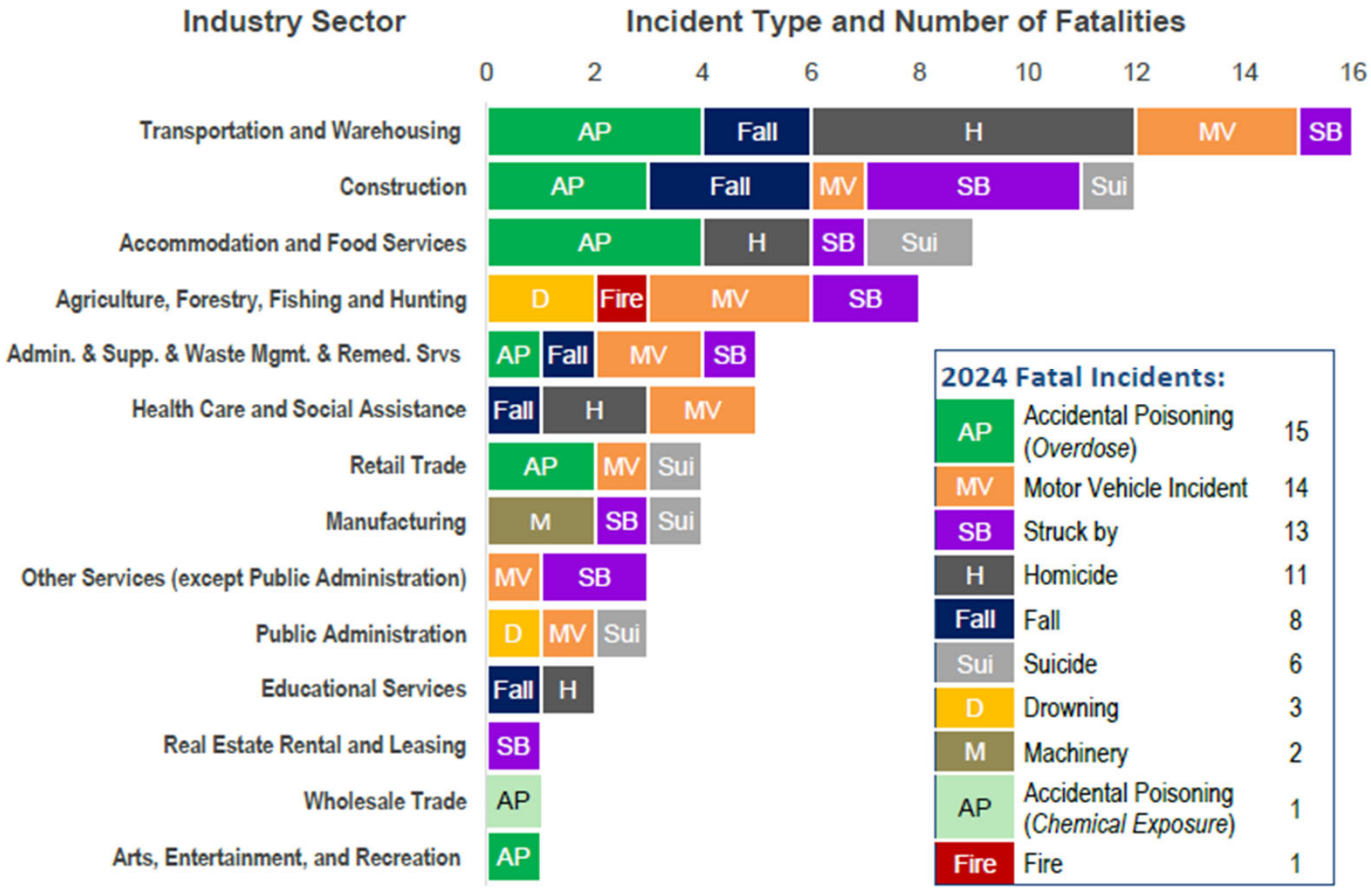
Washington State Worker and Working Age Resident Overdose Deaths, 2019–2023



- The industry sectors with the highest number of deaths were Construction (13), Accommodations and Food Services (9), Retail (7), Manufacturing (7) and Transportation and Warehousing (5).[4]

Washington State Work-Related Fatalities, 2024

Washington Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation program (WA FACE)[1]



Questions?