

Lifetime risk of injury and death in the construction industry: Traumatic injury

Risks of a lifetime in construction Part I: Traumatic injuries

*Xiuwen Sue Dong, Knut Ringen, Laura Welch, and John Dement.
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Overview

Using 2003-2007 data from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII), and the Current Population Survey (CPS), the authors estimate the cumulative risk of occupational injury or fatality for a construction worker in the course of a forty-five year career.

Key Findings

- The researchers determined that if 2003-2007 fatality rates persist, approximately one out of every 200 full-time construction workers will suffer a fatal workplace accident in the course of a 45-year career. For certain highly hazardous trades, the risk is significantly higher – for ironworkers, approximately one in 30.
- Construction workers may expect to suffer an occupational injury severe enough to cost days away from work in the course of a lifetime in the industry. If 2003-2007 injury rates persist, the industry will witness 78 serious occupational injuries per 100 full-time construction workers or their equivalent.
- Falls are the most common cause of death in the construction trades. At 2003-2007 fall fatality rates, falls will claim the lives of one in 600 construction workers in the course of a 45-year career.
- Hispanic workers are at a significantly higher lifetime risk of fatalities than non-Hispanic Whites, especially fatalities from falls and transportation incidents.

For more information, contact:

Sue Dong: sdong@cpwr.com

See abstract:

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