

# Kentucky Occupational Safety and Health Surveillance (KOSHS)

## Coordinator:

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**State Website:** <https://kiprc.uky.edu/programs/kentucky-occupational-safety-and-health-surveillance-koshs-program>

## What is KOSHS?

- Conducts surveillance of 25 fatal and nonfatal occupational injuries and illness indicators.
- Funded by NIOSH.
- Performs epidemiological analysis of fatality data.
- Uses surveillance data to determine priorities for development of interventions to promote occupational health and safety.
- Produces and disseminates occupational injury prevention information to industries and occupations.

## What data is collected?

- Information regarding work-related injuries and fatalities occurring in Kentucky while performing work-related tasks.
  - Victim and employer names are not identified.
- Information is collected for both fatal and non-fatal injuries.

## How is data collected?

Data is collected from:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses.</li> <li>• BLS Current Population Survey (CPS).</li> <li>• Year 2000 US standard population data.</li> <li>• US Census state population data.</li> <li>• National Academy of Social Insurance.</li> <li>• Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.</li> <li>• Bureau of Census County Business Patterns.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OSHA annual reports.</li> <li>• BLS data on covered employers and wages.</li> <li>• Professional trade organization data.</li> <li>• Kentucky Cancer Registry.</li> <li>• Hospital discharge information.</li> <li>• National Academy of Social Insurance.</li> <li>• Office of Workers' Claims (OWC).</li> </ul> |
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**Data Strengths:**

- Provides epidemiological analysis of fatal and nonfatal work-related injuries to identify risk factors.
- Continues to build a solid foundation of surveillance, epidemiological studies and innovative prevention strategies for translation of research into practice (R2P) for use by employers and policymakers.
  - R2P initiatives are promoted through effective dissemination of occupational injury and illness data, results and materials to occupational safety and health stakeholders.
- Timely and comprehensive multi-source surveillance.

**Data Limitations:**

- Not all occupational injuries and illnesses are being captured through the surveillance system.
- Increases in temporary workforce, self-employment status and lack of worker's compensation coverage leads to undercounting and underreporting of workplace injuries and illnesses.
- Despite limitations, KOSHS provides an accurate and comparable indication of the scope of occupational injuries and illnesses in Kentucky.

**How is the system evaluated?**

- Evaluation began in June 2005.
- System evaluation is based on updated CDC guidelines to measure the program's impact on the reduction of occupational injuries in Kentucky, the validity of its goals and the project's efficiency.
- Evaluation also includes indicators, and prevention and dissemination processes.

**Data Set Availability:**

- KOSHS data utilizes data from several proprietary and public data sets.
  - For proprietary data sets, the user will be required to request the data set from the appropriate data custodian.
  - For public data sets, the user should contact the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center.

**Data Release Policy:**

- Due to the multi-source nature of the system, for proprietary data sets, requests should be made to the appropriate data custodian.

**Data Publications:**

- Annual KOSHS reports, hazard alerts, and peer-viewed publications are available on the state KOSHS website.

**Suggested Citation:**

Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center (KIPRC). Kentucky Occupational Safety and Health Surveillance (KOSHS) program. Lexington, Kentucky: University of Kentucky [data year].

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