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# Worker Fatalities Decline in Wisconsin in 2013

The preliminary count of fatal occupational injuries in Wisconsin declined more than 16% in 2013 compared to 2012, down from 114 to 96. To put these numbers in perspective, the number of workplace deaths in the past decade range from 77 in 2008 to 125 in 2005 and average 98 since 2003 (See Figure 1). The preliminary count of occupational fatalities in the U.S. in 2013 was 4,405, below the revised total of 4,628 in 2012. The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries is conducted annually nationwide by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and compiles a count of all work-related deaths due to traumatic injury.

**Key Findings**

- Fatal work-related incidents were most prevalent in the trade, transportation, and utilities industry.
- Transportation incidents were the most common event in work-related fatalities.
- The number of violent work-related incidents decreased 59.3%.
- Employees aged 25-34 comprise the highest number of incidents per age group (see Figure 6).

**Industry**

In the trade, transportation, and utilities industry, 22 work fatalities occurred in 2013 compared to 28 in 2012. Natural resources/mining follows with 19 deaths in 2013, down from 30 the prior year; 12 incidents occurred in the construction industry in 2013, consistent with 2012. The two industries to see an increase in work-related deaths in 2013 were education and health services (9, up from 3) and leisure and hospitality (9, up from 0). (See Figure 2). Six of the fatalities within education and health were sustained by males age 55-64. Six of the fatalities within leisure and hospitality were due to homicides and falls.

**Event**

Transportation incidents were responsible for 40 work-related deaths, followed by falls, slips, and trips with 23 incidents and contact with objects or equipment at 15. (See Figure 3) The 15 contact incidents in 2013 show a 42% decrease from 26 in 2012. Violent incidents decreased 59%, from 27 incidents in 2012 to 11 incidents in 2013. Among violent events, homicides decreased 42% from 16 incidents in 2012 to 6 incidents in 2013, and suicides decreased by 50% from 8 incidents in 2012 to 4 in 2013. Transportation incidents were also the most common fatal work-related incident in 2013 nationwide, accounting for nearly 40% of total incidents. The second most common event in Wisconsin was falls, while violence accounted for the second most common type of fatal work incident in the U.S. last year. In 2013, 17.1% of fatal work injuries were due to violence nationally, compared with just 11.5% of violent incidents causing death in Wisconsin. (See Figure 4)

**Worker Characteristics**

Four of the most prevalent types of occupations associated with work-related fatalities in 2013 show slight to marked decreases from the previous year. Management positions showed the most significant decrease (30%) from 27 incidents in 2012 to 19 in 2013. (See Figure 5) The distribution of work-related fatalities shifted considerably among workers aged 25 to 34 and 45 to 54. Fatalities among ages 25 to 34 increased 85% from 13 in 2012 to 24 in 2013. Contributing factors in this increase include 14 transportation and 4 violent incidents. Among ages 45 to 54, fatalities decreased 61%, from 31 in 2012 to 12 in 2013. (See Figure 6) Of the 96 workers killed in work-related incidents, 69 (71.9 %) were working for a wage or salary while 27 (28.1%) were self-employed. *(more)*

**Background of Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries**

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, part of the BLS occupational safety and health statistics program, compiles a count of all fatal work injuries occurring in the United States during the calendar year. The program uses diverse state, federal, and independent data sources to identify, verify, and describe fatal work injuries. The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH), a part of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, is the state's public, environmental and occupational health laboratory. The WSLH's Bureau of Labor Statistics/Occupational Safety and Health Statistics Program has a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics to conduct their Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries in Wisconsin.

*For more about Wisconsin's BLS/OSH program, go to: www.slh.wisc.edu/bls.*

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Figure 1.


Figure 2.

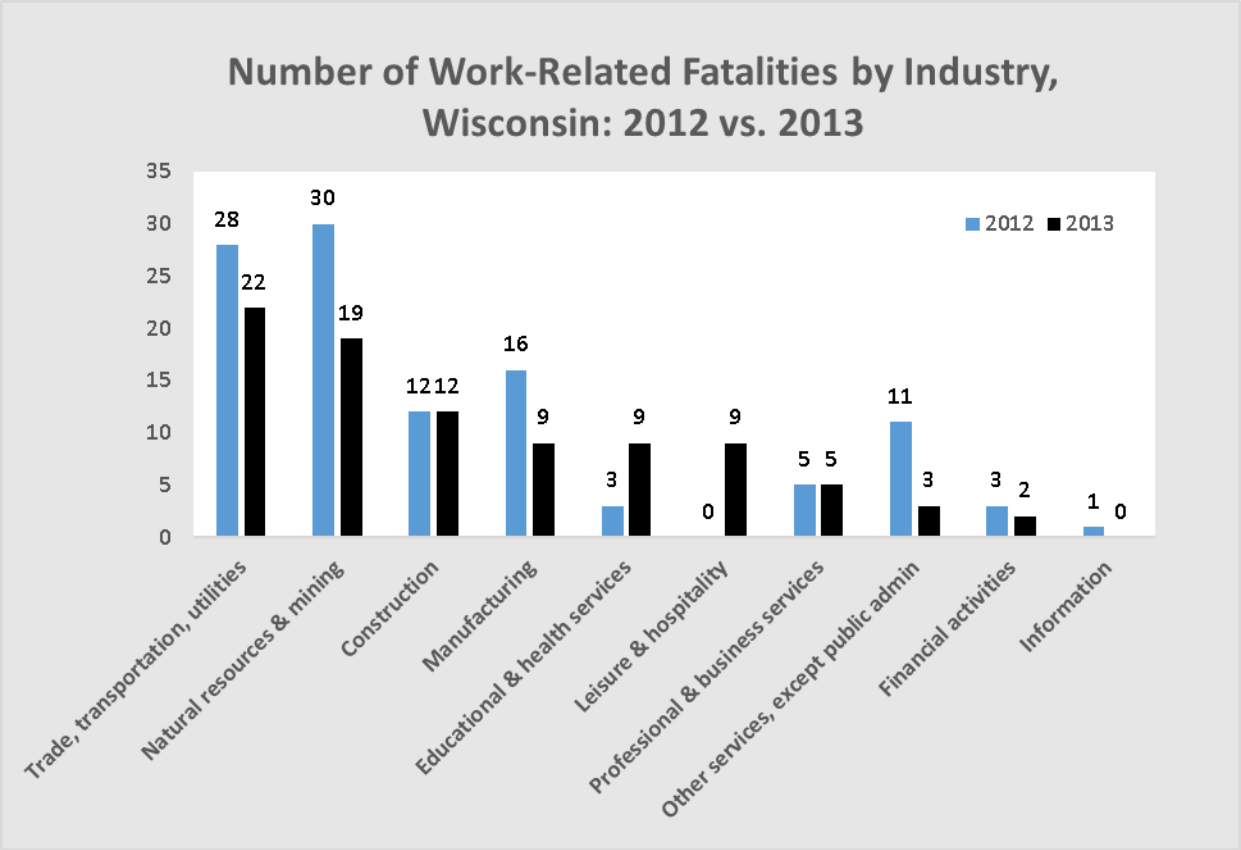

Figure 3.

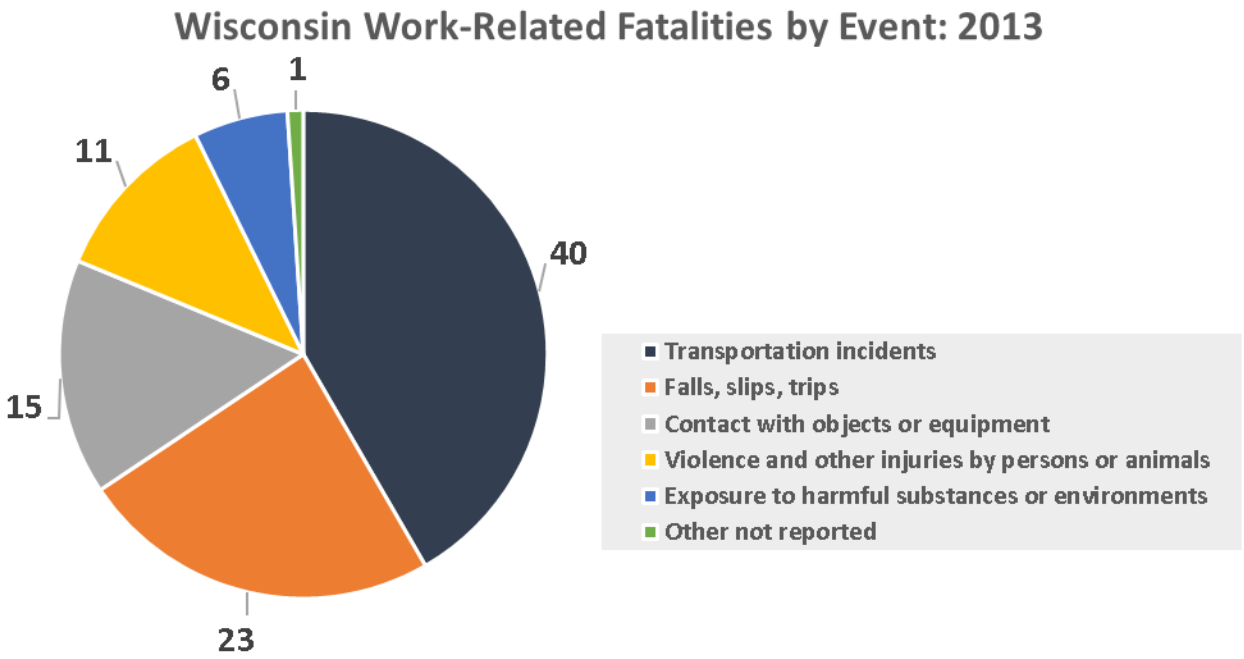


Figure 4.

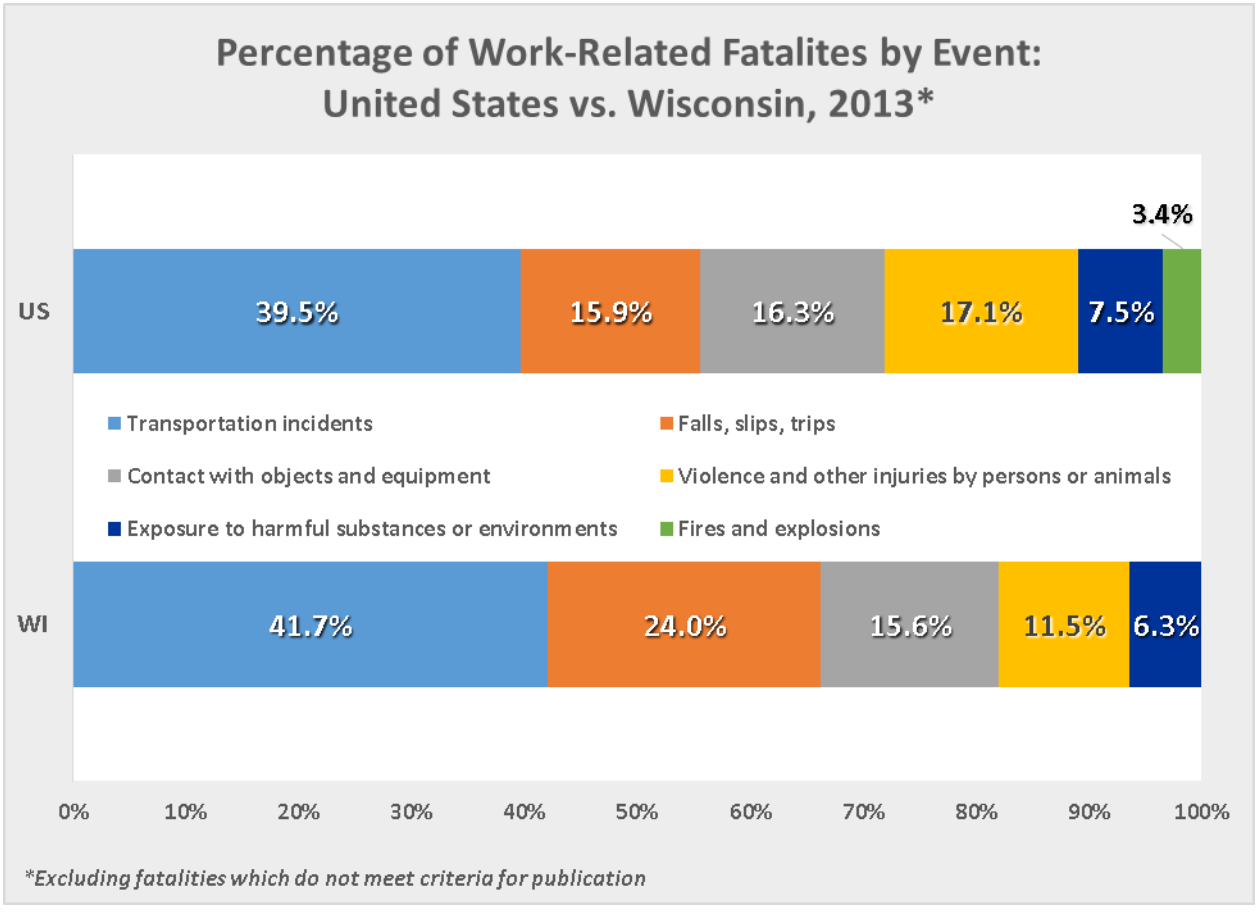

Figure 5.

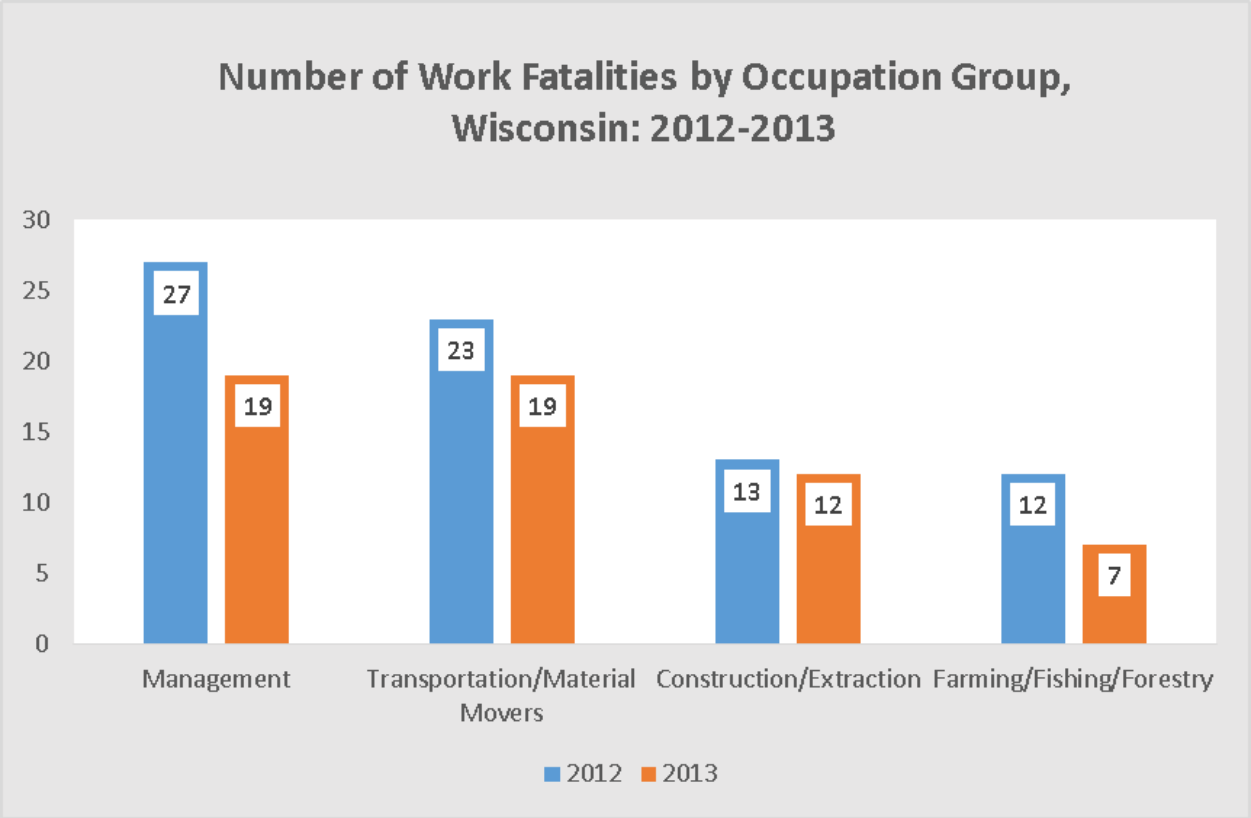


Figure 6.