

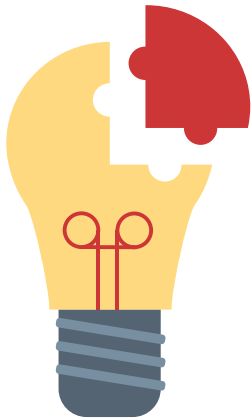
# POWER YOUR WORKER CAMPAIGNS WITH DATA ON WORKER HEALTH AND SAFETY

## Why gather data on worker health and safety?

- Documenting workers' concerns and experiences is **key to building successful safety and health campaigns**.
- Workers' firsthand accounts of workplace hazards and the devastating impacts on individual workers, their families and communities **educate the public and focus attention on unsafe workplaces**.
- Gathering data on workplace injuries and illnesses and employers' **safety and health records can help show that these stories are not isolated cases**, but part of a broader pattern of bad employer practices and behavior.
- Workers' stories and experiences and data on workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths and employers' **safety and health records can help power your campaign to win stronger safety and health protections for workers**.



## CHALLENGES TO BE AWARE OF WITH SOME DATA SOURCES:



- Most of the data sources are only available in English so are not as accessible to non-English speaking workers and advocates.
- Some of the data sources are technical.
- Some of this data comes from employer reports and records, which may fail to report, misrepresent, or minimize injuries.

**\*\*COSH groups and unions can help you research and analyze the data. \*\***

For more information visit [nationalcosh.org](http://nationalcosh.org)



# TOOLS AND DATA SOURCES TO POWER YOUR CAMPAIGNS

## Worker Surveys

Surveys of workers that ask questions about work-related symptoms, injuries and illnesses and exposure to hazards and are conducted by trusted sources (e.g., unions, worker centers, COSH groups) may be able to discover more information about injuries and illnesses not showing up on employer records or in government data bases.



Surveys can be conducted in many ways such as written surveys, on-line surveys and interviews with workers. Worker surveys can provide powerful stories and useful information about workplace conditions. [See factsheet on conducting worker surveys](#)

## Employer Maintained Injury and Illness Data

OSHA [regulations](#) require many employers with more than 10 employees to keep a record of work-related injuries and illnesses. Certain low-risk industries are exempted and injuries requiring only first aid do not have to be recorded. Employers are required to keep a log of injuries and illnesses (OSHA 300), a detailed case report for each injury or illness (OSHA 301), and post an annual summary of injuries and illnesses for the workplace (OSHA 300A). <https://www.osha.gov/recordkeeping/forms>.

Employees, former employees, personal representatives, or authorized employee representatives (unions) have [the right to a copy of the OSHA log 300 upon request](#). Employees, former employees, personal representatives can get the full 301 case report; authorized representatives can request and get a copy of the part of the 301-case report without personal and medical information.

The OSHA 300 log, 301 case report and 300A annual summary maintained at the workplace are not available to the general public or members of the media. Only workers, former workers and their designated representatives have a right to get a copy of these workplace injury records.

There are numerous other OSHA regulations that require employers to maintain safety and health records and provide access to employees and their representatives. These include OSHA's [Access to employee exposure and medical records rule](#) and many hazard specific safety and health standards.

## OSHA Inspection Data



You can search the inspection history of an employer on the OSHA website. The [establishment search](#) allows a search for OSHA enforcement inspections at individual worksites by the name of the establishment. Information may also be obtained for inspections within a specified [industry](#).

The results will show the inspections that have been conducted at establishments of the employer (or within a particular industry) and whether there were violations.

The individual inspection records provide the details on the citations that were issued, the standards that were cited, penalties proposed, if the employer contested and any changes (e.g., reduction in penalties) that occurred during a resolution of the case.

- **Inspection Information:** Includes specific inspections when the activity numbers, which identify the inspections, are known.
- **Investigations Search:** Includes Investigation Summaries which result from OSHA accident inspections.
- **High Penalties by State:** Lists, by state, enforcement cases with initial penalties of \$40,000 or more, starting January 2015.
- **Frequently Cited OSHA Standards:** Allows you to find the most frequently cited Federal and State OSHA standards for a given [NAICS](#) (industry) code.

You can search the inspection history of an employer on the [OSHA Data](#) website

## Employer Injury, Illness, and Fatality Data Collected by OSHA

### **Establishment Specific Injury and Illness Data ([Injury Tracking Data](#))**

OSHA maintains a downloadable database of establishment based work-related injury and illness data. The data is collected annually from employers with establishments of 250 or more employees and from establishments of 20 or more employees in certain specified industries with higher injury rates. These employers are required to report the annual summary injury and illness data from the OSHA log electronically to OSHA by March 2 of each year.

This database identifies the name and address of the employer, industry classification and the numbers of injuries recorded on the OSHA log for individual workplaces required to report to OSHA. It can be used to research the injury record of a particular employer and to compare the injury record of an employer to the industry average and to other employers in the same industry and/or same state.

### **Fatality Inspection Data**

Data on work-related fatalities that occurred under Federal OSHA and State Plan jurisdiction for cases that have been closed or citations issued on or after January 1, 2017 is available on the OSHA website. Employers must report worker fatalities to OSHA within eight hours. (Note-not all work-related deaths get reported and many are not inspected by OSHA, so many workplace fatalities are not included).

### **Severe Injury Report**

A database of OSHA required reports on severe work-related injuries (amputation, in-patient hospitalization, or loss of an eye) including a description of the incident and the name and address of the establishment where it happened is available on the OSHA website.

## **Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Injury, Illness and Fatality Data**

The Injuries, Illnesses, and Fatalities (IIF) program at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports a wide range of information about workplace injuries, illnesses and fatalities. These data are collected and reported annually through the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) and the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI).

There is no information about specific employers or workplaces or individual workers due to BLS strict confidentiality policies for all data they collect. Therefore, it is not possible to identify the injury/fatality record of any specific employer through BLS reported data.

[National injury and illness data](#); [State injury and illness data](#)

[National fatal injury data](#); [State fatality data](#)

[BLS Tools for Searching Data](#)

For those that want to dig deep into injury and illness and fatality data, BLS provides search tools on its website. You can search data for multiple years (note- the “one screen search” is much easier to use.)

## OTHER USEFUL DATA SOURCES

### **Violation Tracker**

Violation Tracker, produced by the non-profit Good Jobs First, is a wide-ranging database that includes enforcement records from over 400 federal and state agencies. It can be searched by company and type of violations and results can be downloaded into a spreadsheet. It is a useful tool to get a picture of a company's overall compliance of federal and state regulations.

### **State and Local Government Data**

Many state and local government agencies maintain safety and health data. These include data from state workers compensation programs; state OSHA programs; state and local health departments; and local building departments. Some agencies make this data available to the public on websites or through reports; others may provide information upon request; but some agencies keep this information confidential. Check with the state and local agencies in your area to see what kind of data is available.

Some states have federally funded Occupational Health Surveillance Programs that may be able to provide data. Check [here](#) to see if your state has a program.

### **AFL-CIO Death on the Job Report**

This annual report produced by the AFL-CIO each April provides a comprehensive profile of worker safety and health in the United States. The report presents the latest data on OSHA and MSHA enforcement, staffing and budgets; detailed breakdowns of injuries, illnesses, and fatalities; and state comparisons.

### **COSH Group and Advocacy Group Reports**

National COSH, local COSH and advocacy groups produce reports that draw upon data from OSHA, BLS, state workers compensation agencies and workers' stories. Examples include [The Dirty Dozen](#) (National COSH), [Analysis of Tesla Injury Rates: 2014 to 2017](#) (Worksafe), [Injuries, Dead-end Jobs, and Racial Inequity in Amazon's Minnesota Operations](#) (NELP), [Unvarnished: Precarity and Poor Working Conditions for Nail Salon Workers in New York State](#) (Cornell University, ILR School, The Worker Institute and the NY Healthy Nail Salon Coalition), [Deadly Skyline Report](#) (NYCOSH), and [Dying for Work: Loss of Life and Limb in Massachusetts Workplaces](#) (MassCOSH).