

# Tracking Work-Related Skull Fractures in Michigan

Additional information available at [www.oem.msu.edu](http://www.oem.msu.edu)

## Summary Statistics



\*Nasal fractures treated in hospitals/EDs were unavailable in the 2010 and 2011 totals but are included in all other years.

\*\*2024 and 2025 consist of preliminary data as of 2/17/2026.

Annually since 2016, there have been an average of 410.8 work-related skull fractures in Michigan, for which, on average, 3.7 are fatal. The Bureau of Labor Statistics, the official source of work-related statistics nationally, estimated on average 83.1 skull fractures each year in Michigan from 2011 to 2022. In the year 2024, skull fractures were more common among men (77.2%) and the rate of work-related skull fractures was 87.8% higher for Black/African American workers than White workers and 132.6% higher for Hispanic workers than non-Hispanic workers. The age of the injured workers ranged from 17 to 85; the average age was 42.5 and the median age was 42.

## Fractures by Part of Skull, Michigan 2024\*



\*The part of skull was specified for 284 (87.9%) of the 323 workers.

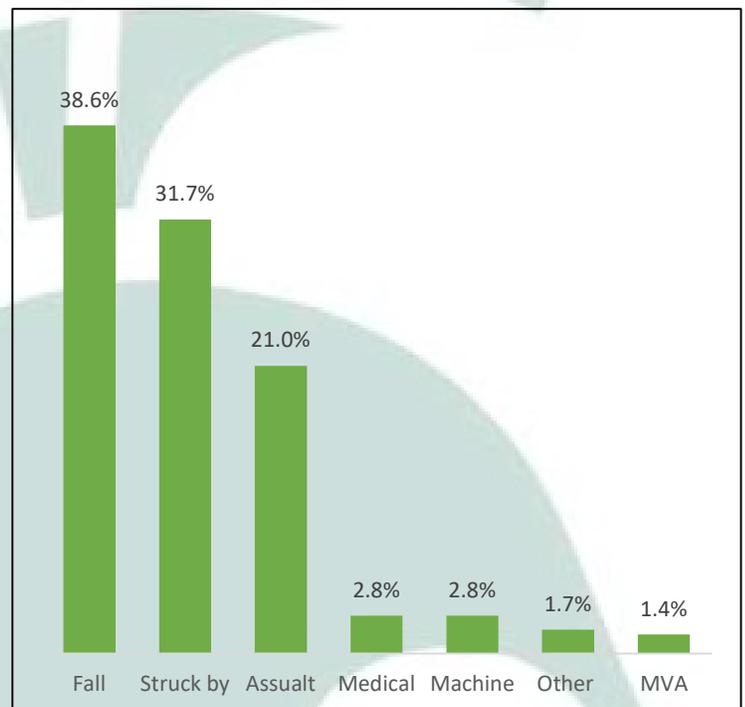
## Background

In September 2010, Michigan promulgated rules requiring health professionals and health facilities to report individuals with traumatic injuries, including skull fractures, regardless of cause when requested by the state or a local health department. Michigan's hospitals, Workers' Disability Compensation Agency, and Michigan's Fatality Assessment Control and Evaluation Program are the sources for occupational skull fractures. The Occupational and Environmental Medicine Division at Michigan State University prepares periodic reports on work-related skull fractures, available at [www.oem.msu.edu](http://www.oem.msu.edu)

## 2024 Results

- 323 workers had skull fractures from injuries at work.
- 67.6% of all skull fractures occurred to facial bones.
- 25 workers had depressed skull fractures.
- 72 workers lost consciousness.
- Falls were the leading cause of incidents with 112 (38.6%) cases, followed by "struck by" incidents with 92 (31.7%) cases
- The Services (except Public Safety) NORA Sector Group had the most work-related skull fractures (64 workers, 27.1%) and Agriculture NORA Sector Group had the highest rate (30.8/100,000 workers).
- 14 injured workers were self-employed.
- 103 (33.9%) workers were hospitalized, and 191 (62.8%) were treated in the Emergency Department.

### Cause of Skull fracture, Michigan 2024



\*Cause of injury was specified for 290 (89.8%) of the 323 workers.

## Work-Related Skull Fractures Narratives

- A male in his early 60's tripped on a rubber floor mat causing his face to strike into a pipe and then fell backward on to his head.
- A male in his mid-40's was working with sewage piping when he was struck in the face by a high velocity, high-pressure water hose water. The hose inflicted multiple facial bone fractures.
- A male in his late 20's suffered from a loss of consciousness after being hit in the nose and mouth from the seat of a dunk tank while he was attempting to get out after being dunked.
- A man in his late 40s suffered multiple skull fractures after falling off a garbage trunk while it was traveling 20-25 mph.
- A woman in her early 30's suffered multiple fracture of her nasal bones when assaulted by a resident at the nursing home that she works at.

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