

Supplement to 2025 Injury Infographics Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing Fatalities, Non-Fatal Injuries, and Near Misses Reported in the News

Prepared by:

Cristina Hansen-Ruiz, PhD | Research Coordinator

Brenna Quinn, BS | Research Assistant

Erika Scott, PhD | Principal Investigator

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Introduction and Purpose

Each year, the Northeast Center (NEC) highlights occupational fatalities among agricultural, logging, and commercial fishing workers in the Northeast region. We recognize that each person represented in this report died in tragic circumstances and we honor their memory in our mission to prevent future fatalities, injuries and illnesses. In addition, we recently added non-fatal injuries and near misses captured through the news. The information contained within this report is aggregated primarily through web scraping and is supplemented with a review of the AgInjuryNews database [1].

While the working conditions of many Americans have improved over recent decades, some remain stubbornly behind. This is especially evident in rural, remote areas where heritage industries prevail, and alternative occupational opportunities may be limited. The health disparities created and exacerbated by these factors are contributing to worsening health outcomes and at times, fatalities. This creates further health inequities and ripple effects in these under-served rural communities.

The agriculture and logging industries are emblematic of this overall phenomenon for a multitude of reasons, including but not limited to:

1. Tasks that often dictate working alone in remote and rural areas
2. Operation of dangerous heavy equipment in unpredictable weather in an ever-changing climate
3. Small businesses which are frequently strained by changes in international trade agreements, global economics, and regulatory changes
4. The erosion of the rural workforce has made it difficult to ensure adequate staff, squeezing those in the industry to work longer hours with less recovery time

Agriculture

Agriculture in the Northeast encompasses many commodity types (Figure 1) [2]. Industry trends can be seen in the table below highlighting data from the recent Census of Agriculture (Table 1) [3, 4]. Farming in this region is made up of an array of business types and sizes—some many generations established, others recent startups. Ag-based businesses make up the economic engine that produces more than \$100 billion in business activity in the Northeast. This requires over half of a million workers tackling a wide variety of tasks, many of which are inherently risky.

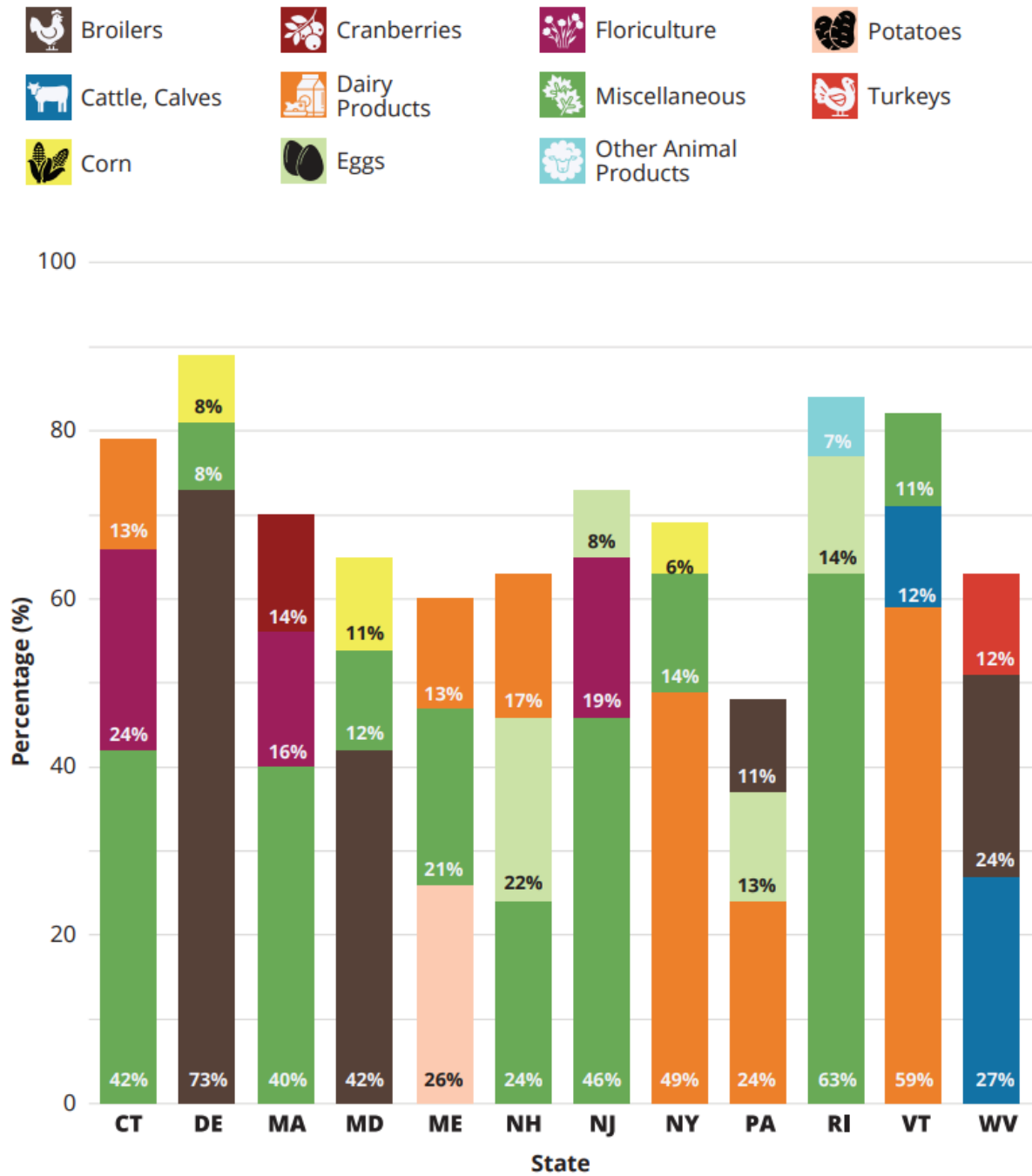


Figure 1: Top Three Agricultural Commodities by State [2]

State	Number of Farms	Land in Farms (acres)	Average Size of Farms (acres)	Number of Producers	Hired Farm Labor
CT	5,058 ▼	372,014 ▼	74 ▲	9,374 ▼	11,259 ▼
DE	2,158 ▼	522,834 ▼	242 ▲	3,812 ▼	3,412 ▼
ME	7,036 ▼	1,225,046 ▼	174 ▲	13,053 ▼	11,122 ▼
MD	12,550 ▲	1,978,036 ▼	158 ▼	23,507 ▲	14,820 ▼
MA	7,083 ▼	464,451 ▼	66 ▼	13,248 ▲	14,032 ▲
NH	3,949 ▼	417,187 ▼	106 ▲	7,209 ▲	4,627 ▼
NJ	9,998 ▲	711,502 ▼	71 ▼	18,591 ▲	24,464 ▼
NY	30,650 ▼	6,502,286 ▼	212 ▲	57,558 ▼	56,578 ▲
PA	49,053 ▼	7,058,325 ▼	144 ▲	90,032 ▼	60,475 ▼
RI	1,054 ▲	59,076 ▲	56 ▲	1,938 ▲	1,667 ▼
VT	6,537 ▼	1,173,890 ▼	180 ▲	12,470 ▲	8,331 ▼
WV	22,787 ▼	3,549,104 ▼	156 ▲	39,109 ▲	7,175 ▼

Table 1: Agricultural Producers, All NEC Region [3, 4].

Numbers shown indicate 2022 statistics, while arrows indicate trends from 2017 statistics.

Logging

The Northeast and Appalachian forests provide livelihoods for thousands of logging industry workers. Nearly one in nine U.S. logging jobs is located in our service region producing nearly \$13 billion in gross domestic product—from lumber, paper, and cardboard, to pulpwood and biomass for fuel. Before a big haul is trucked out of the woods, a tremendous amount of skill and hard work done by hand and with sophisticated large machinery takes place. Workers often endure extremes—subzero cold, long shifts that might start in the middle of the night, far commutes into the depths of remote forest, and potential risk to one's health and safety. Logging workers also suffer from higher rates of injury, hearing loss, musculoskeletal disorders and chronic illness than those in other industries [5].

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing in the Northeast spans a diverse range of species, gears, and fleet types. The industry consists of vessels and businesses of all sizes—some rooted in generations of maritime tradition, others representing newer entrants drawn by evolving markets. The Northeast is home to the Nation's most valuable port at New Bedford, Massachusetts, where 76.9 million pounds of seafood valued at \$363.3 million in 2023 was brought in [6].

Further up the coast, Gloucester, Massachusetts, and Stonington, Vinalhaven, and Portland, Maine remains a major historic fishing hub. Their landings are dominated by species such as lobster, Atlantic herring, haddock, and several other groundfish species, in addition to oysters and softshell clams. Together, these ports and their surrounding industries support thousands of workers performing demanding and often hazardous tasks in dynamic ocean environments, where the risks are as varied as the waters they navigate.

Methods

Fatalities, injuries, and near misses, are identified through keywords and verified through visual inspection by a research specialist before being uploaded to a database, where information is extracted and specific variables are then coded through the Farm and Agricultural Injury Classification [7] (FAIC), Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System [8] (OIICS), North American Industry Classification System [9] (NAICS), and Standard Occupational Classification System [10] codes. Additionally, available narratives are recorded. Descriptive statistics were calculated in Microsoft PowerBI based on a variety of factors, including age, gender, type of event, and source of injury.

Unlike the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries [11] (CFOI), which accounts for active agricultural laborers in their data, we include all instances of agricultural-associated fatalities, such as that of a child who was not actively working [12]. As such, fatalities in this report are representative of the entirety of the agricultural sphere, encompassing farmers, farmworkers, children, bystanders, and victims of public roadway collisions involving agricultural equipment and vehicles, in addition to forestry/logging, and commercial fishing.

Important Limitations

Since these fatalities, injuries, and near misses are gathered through public news reports, we acknowledge that this report misses important cases that did not appear in the news. Our overall injury surveillance efforts include using additional sources of information, such as hospitalization and pre-hospital care (PCR) reports, however the timeliness of these datasets make them unsuitable for reporting on very recent events. In addition, we do our best to crosscheck our fatalities with state



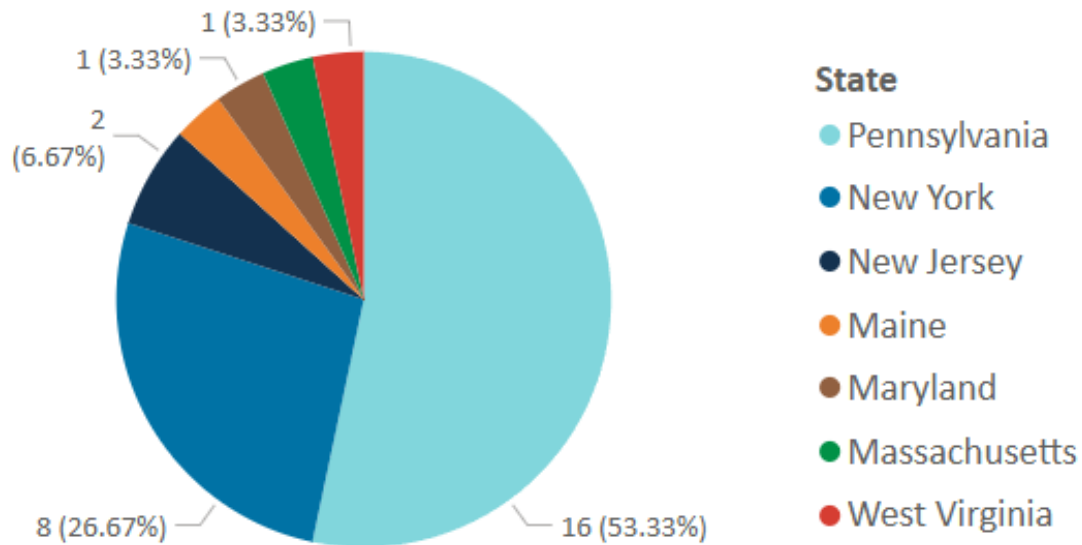
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nycamh.org | info@nycamh.org

programs that review death certificates and other occupational injury data, but the relative timing of data being collected and available for comparison varies between jurisdictions.

Fatalities Captured in the News

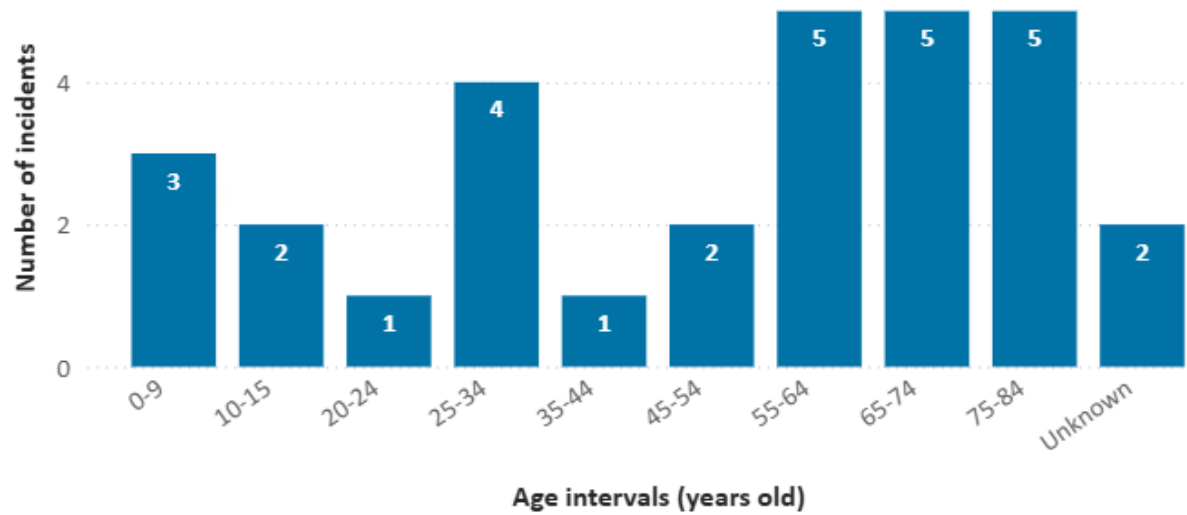
30 in Agriculture

Incidents per state

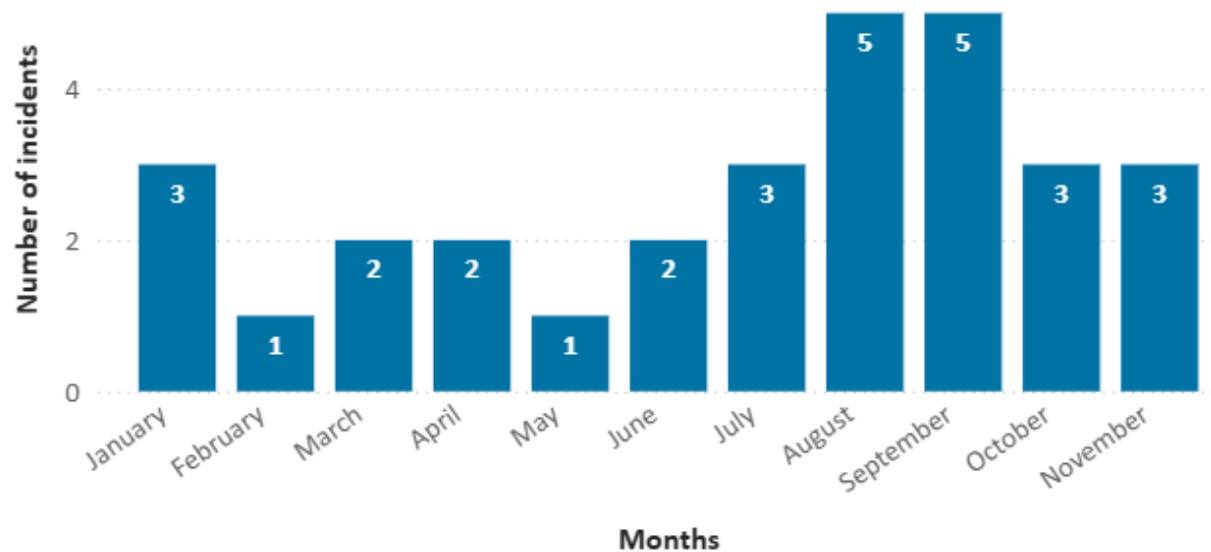


- Twenty-six were male and four were female.
- Twenty-three were adults, five were children under 18 years-old, and two had no information on age.
- Twenty-three were workers, three non-workers (bystanders), four are unknown.
- Twenty-five were related to work.
- Seven were alone, four were in the company of others, and the rest were undetermined.
- Twenty-nine were unintentional, and one had an unknown intentionality.

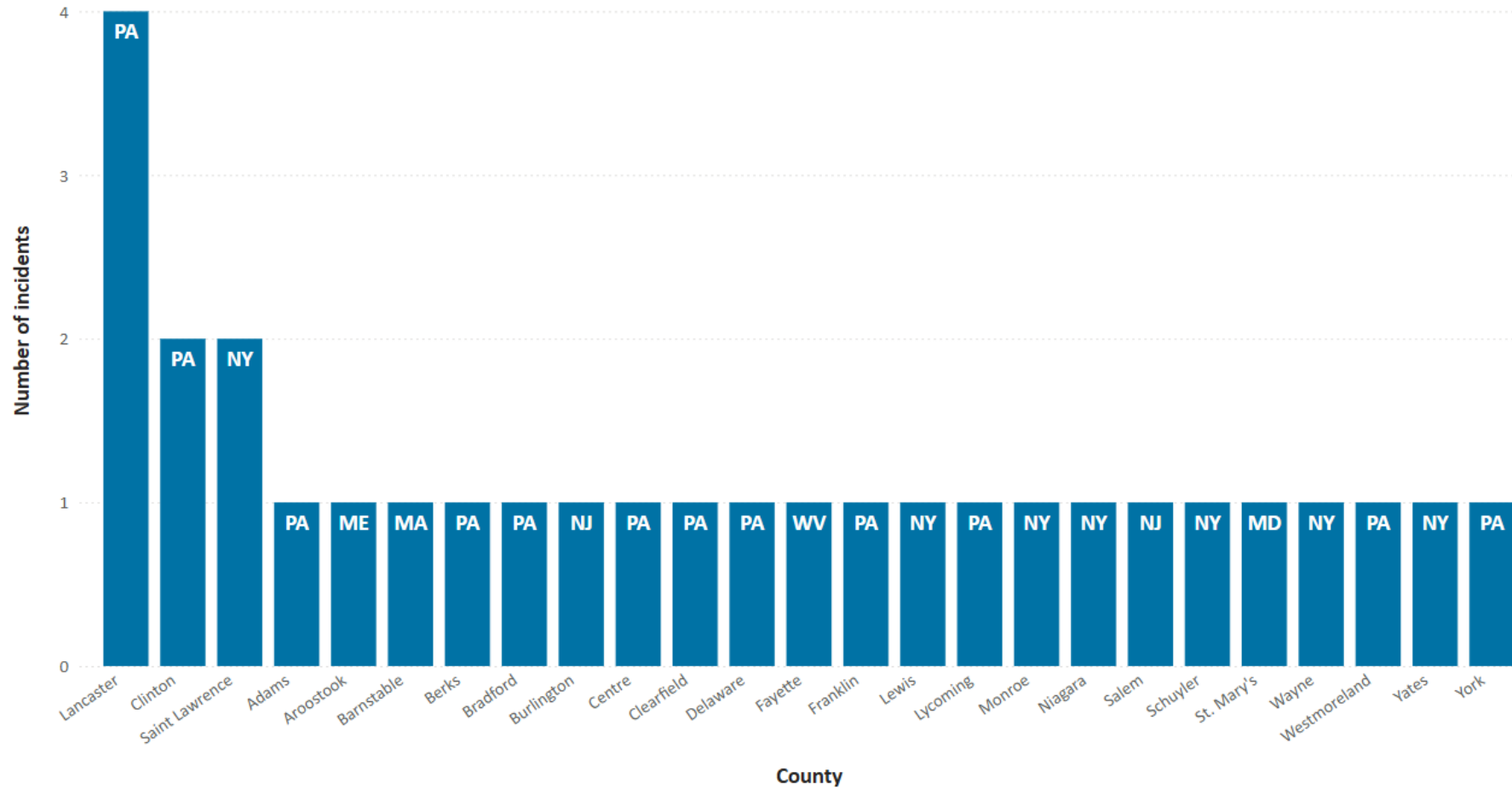
Incidents through age intervals



Incidents throughout the year

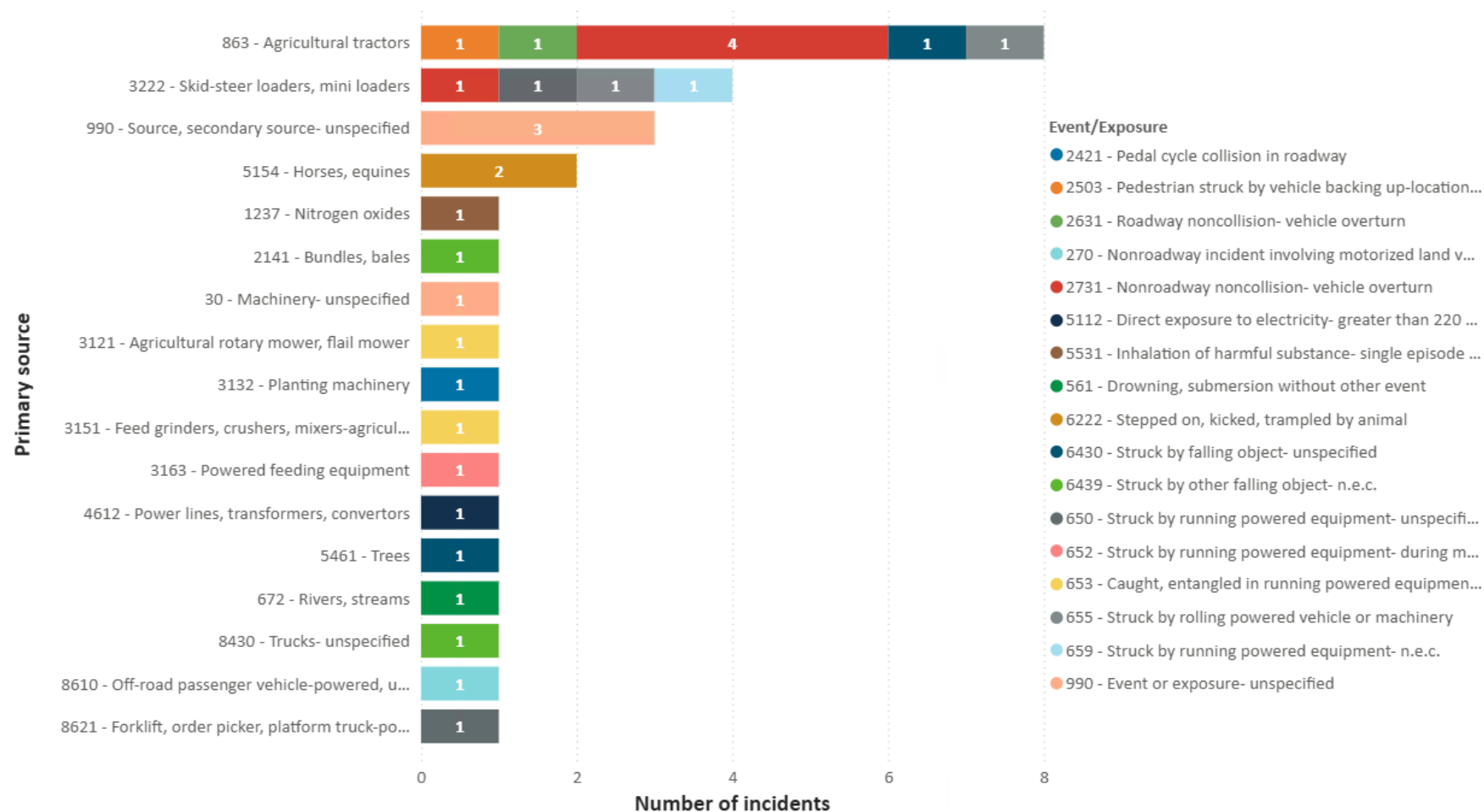


Incidents per county



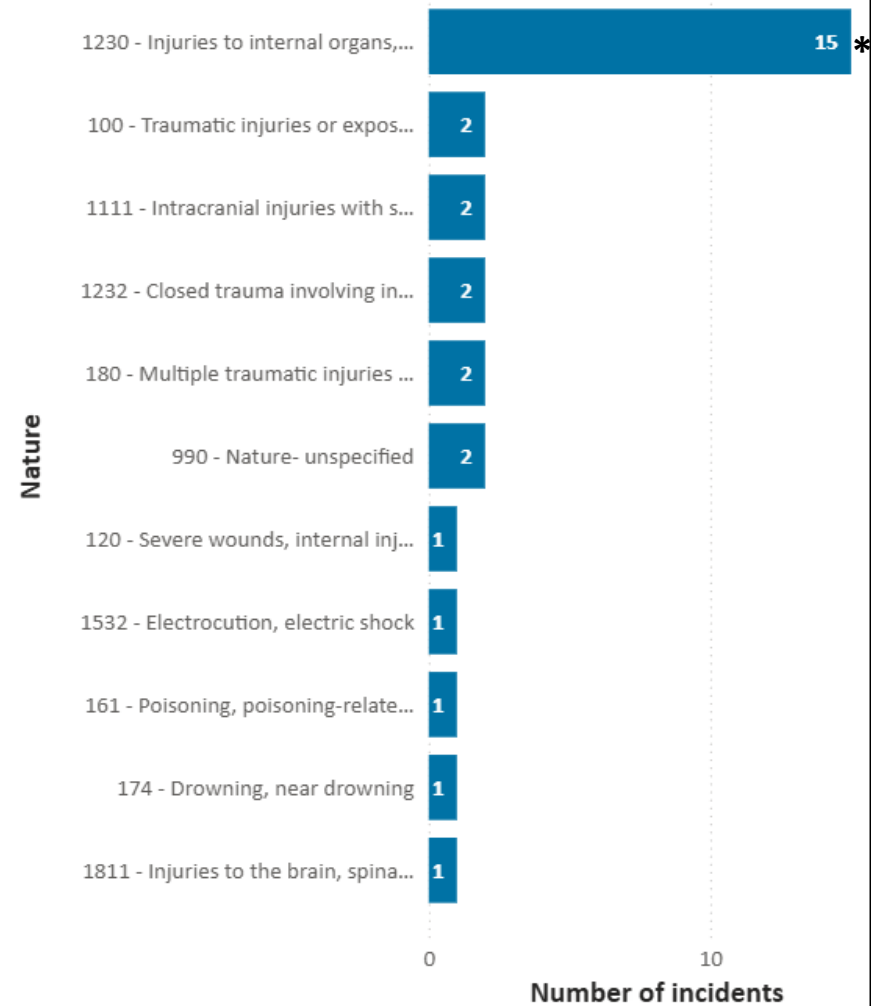
Fatalities

Primary source by event

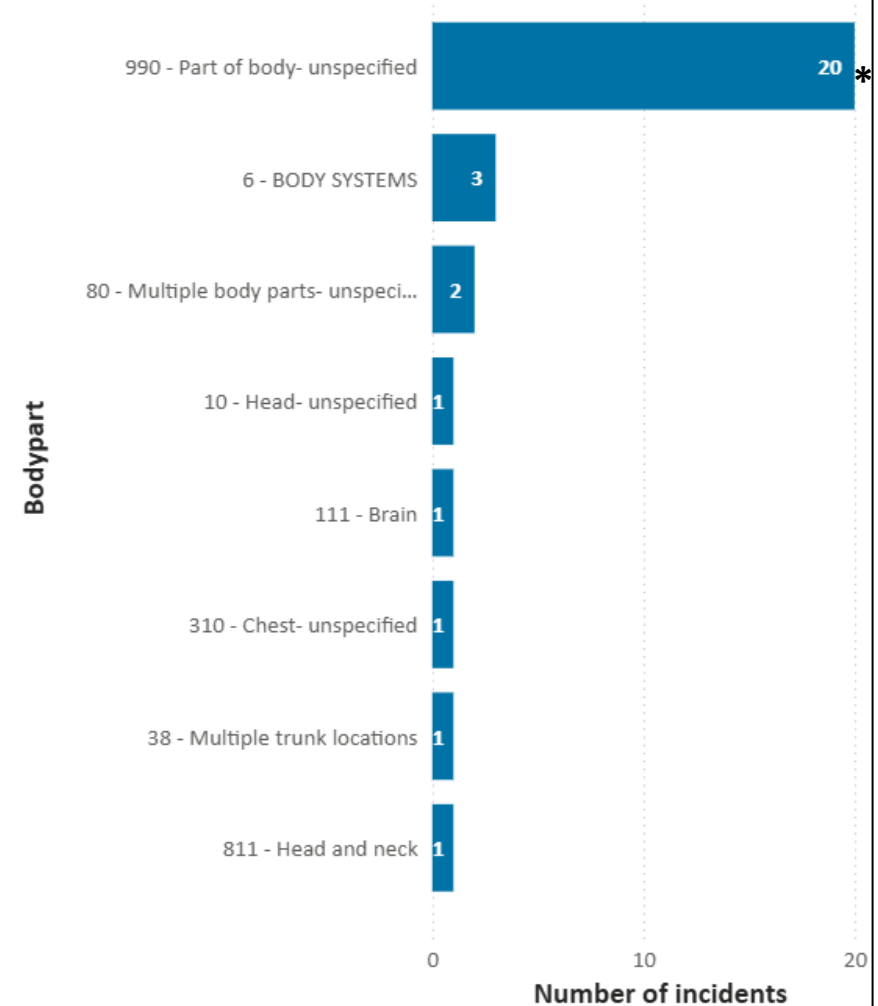


Fatalities

Incidents per nature



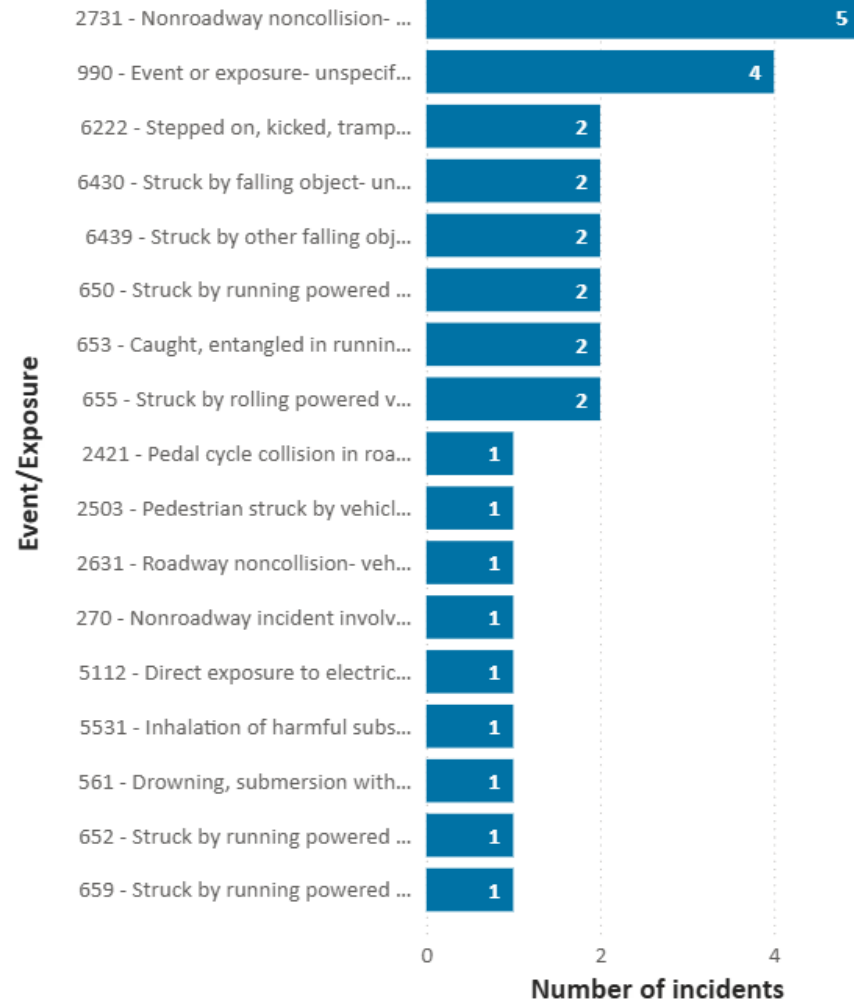
Incidents per part of body



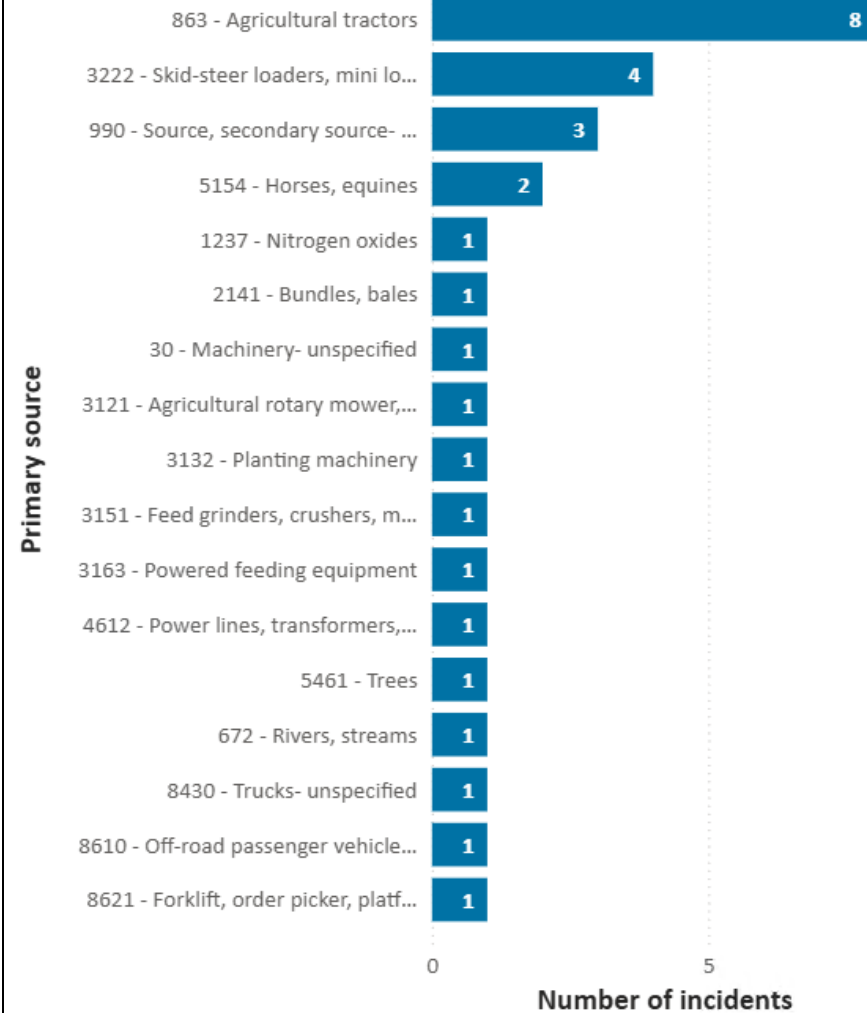
* Not enough details to code into specific categories

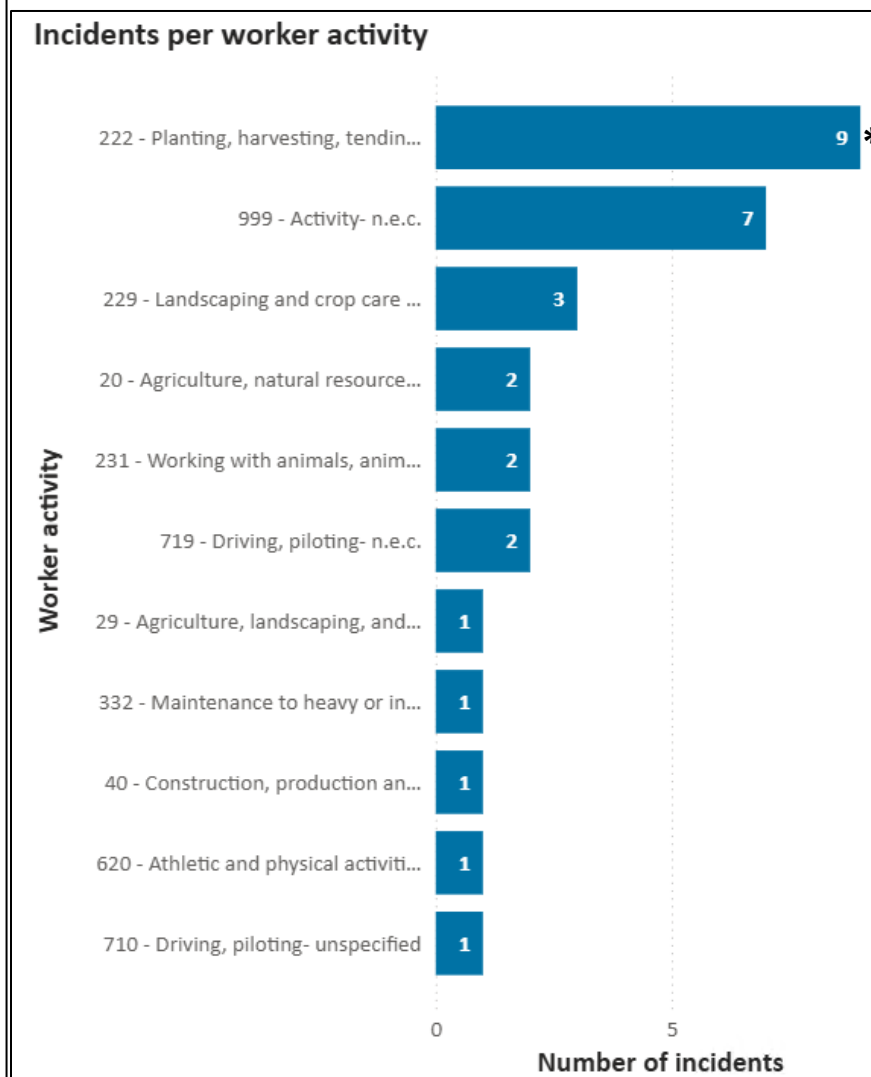
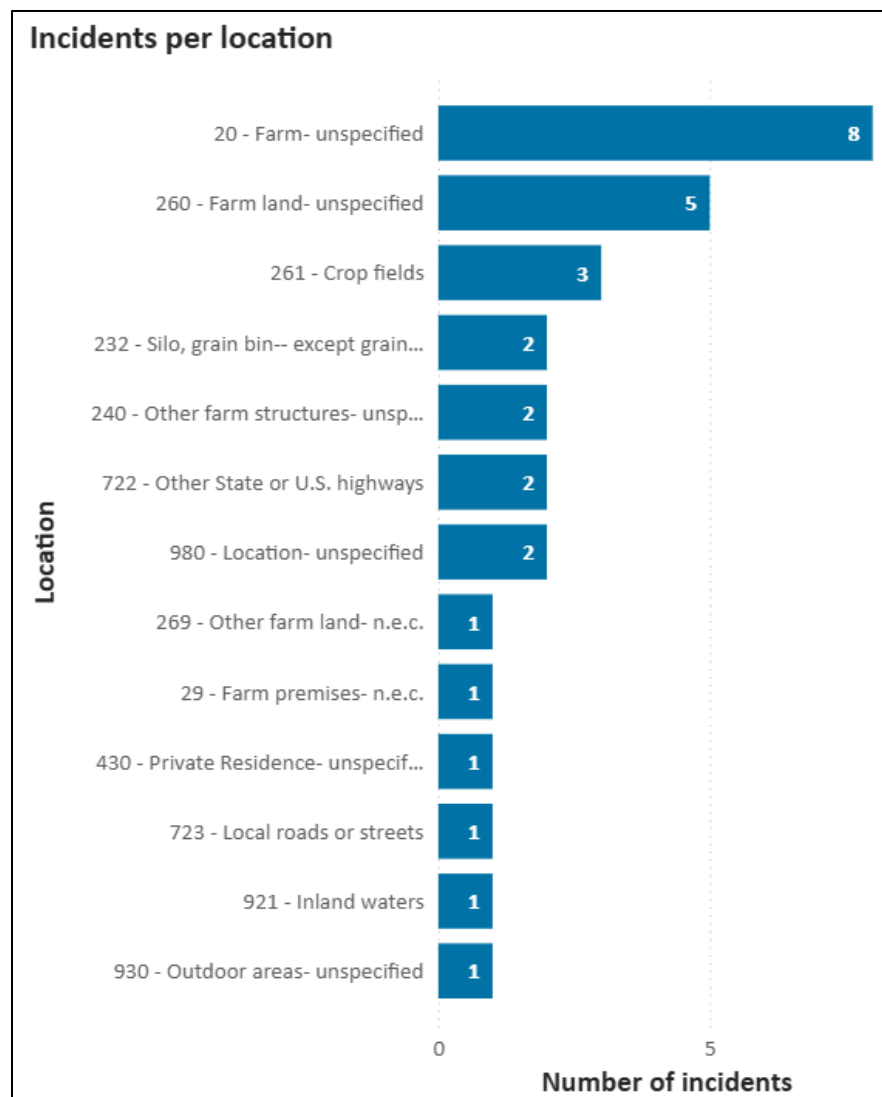
Fatalities

Incidents per event/exposure



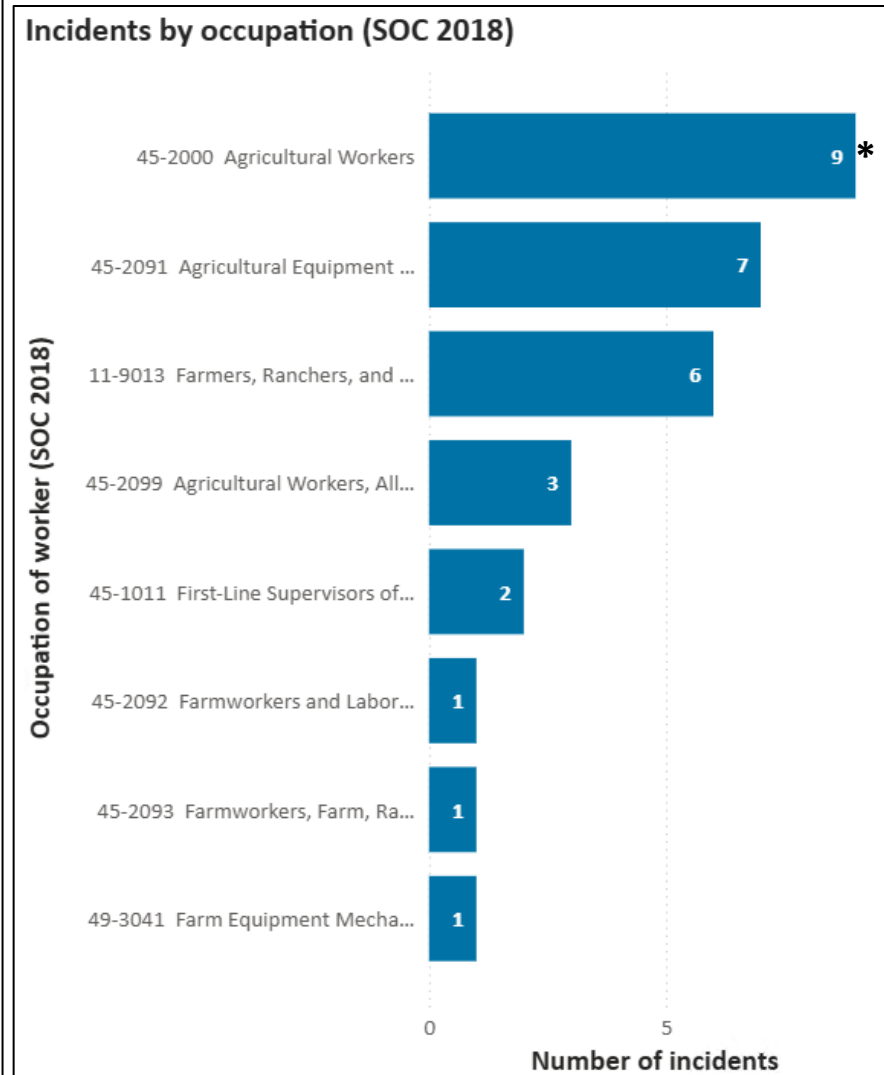
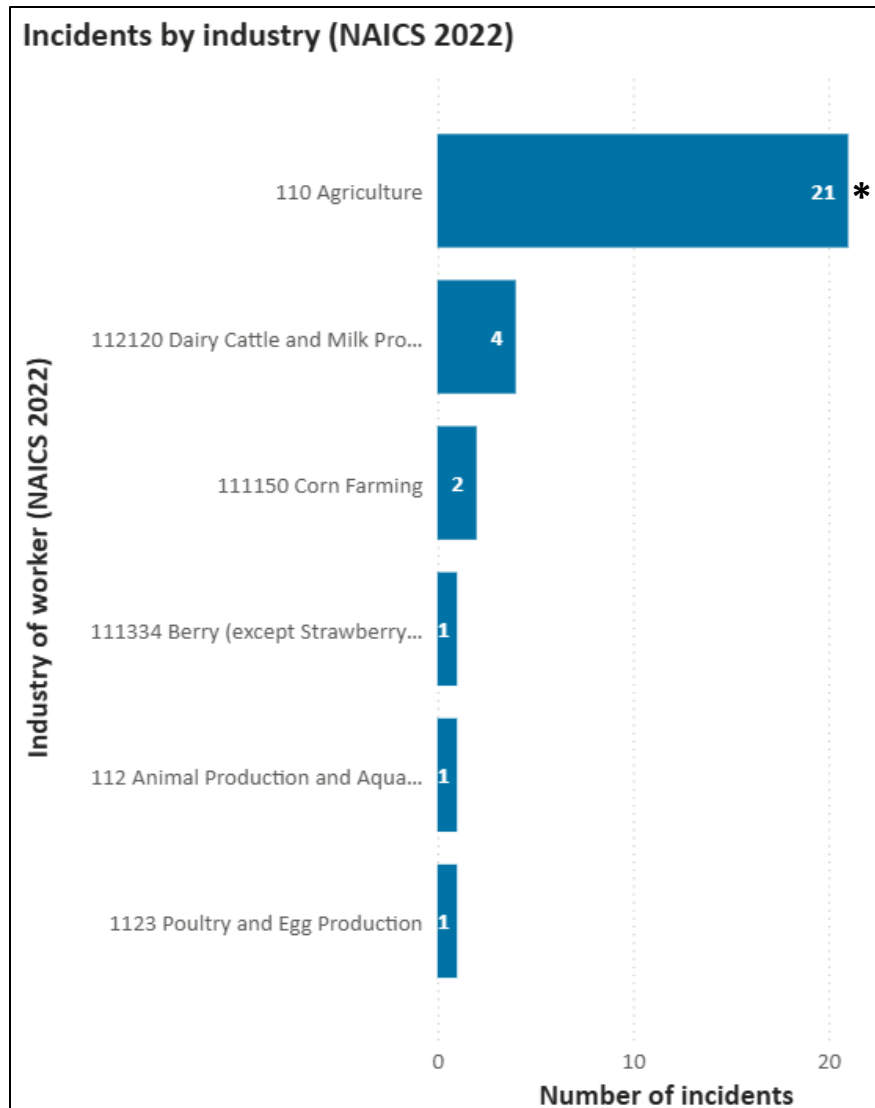
Incidents per primary source





* Driving an agricultural vehicle/machinery is coded under 222 – Planting, harvesting, tending crops using heavy equipment.

Fatalities

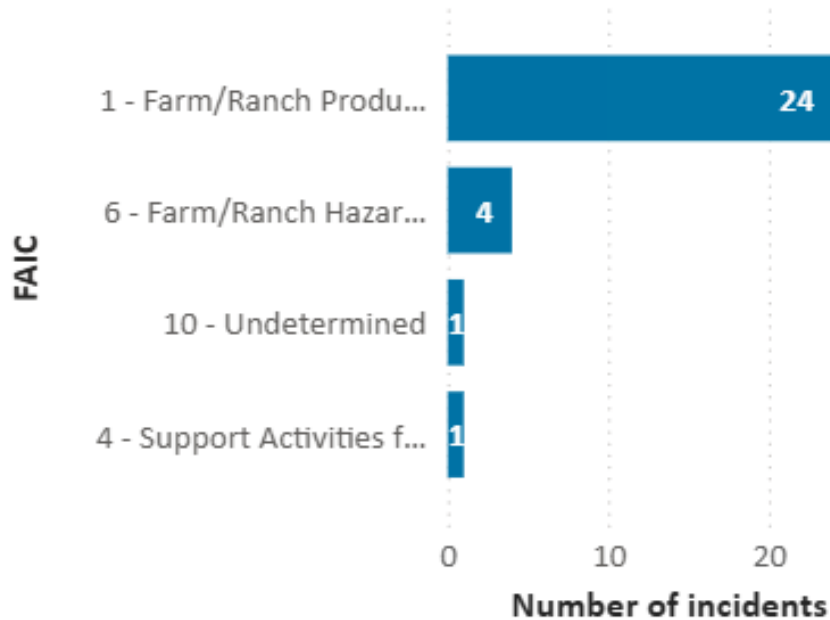


* Not enough details to code into specific categories

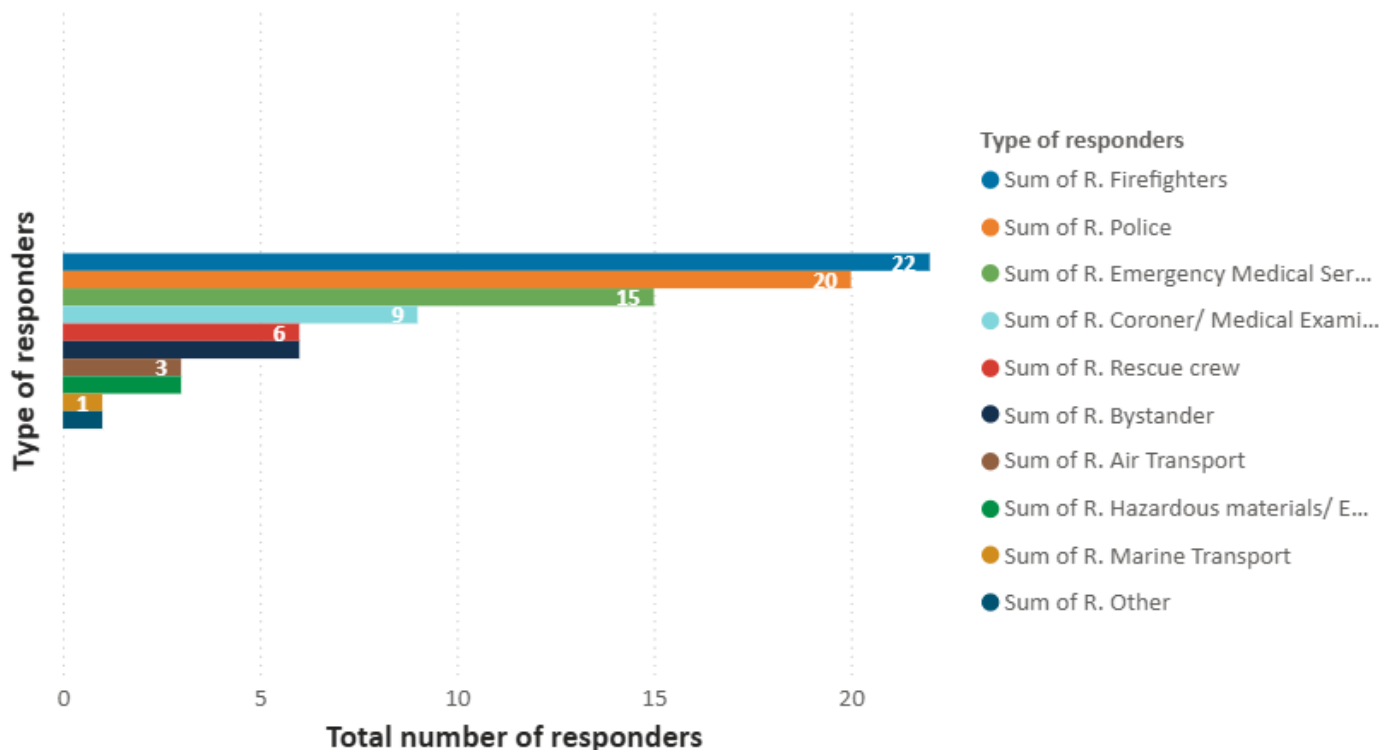
Industry and occupation of person working in agriculture.

Fatalities

Incidents per Farm and Agriculture Injury Classification



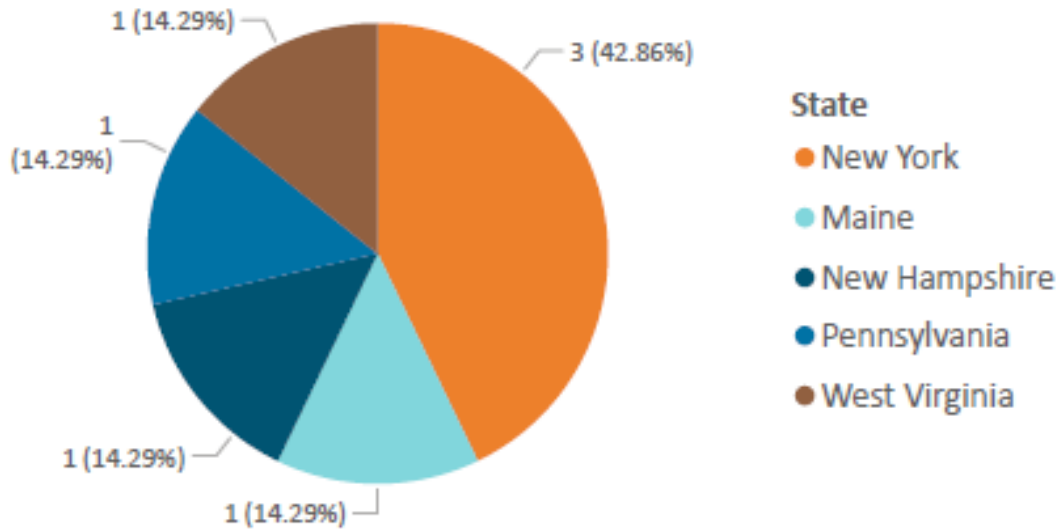
Type of responders at incidents



Fatalities

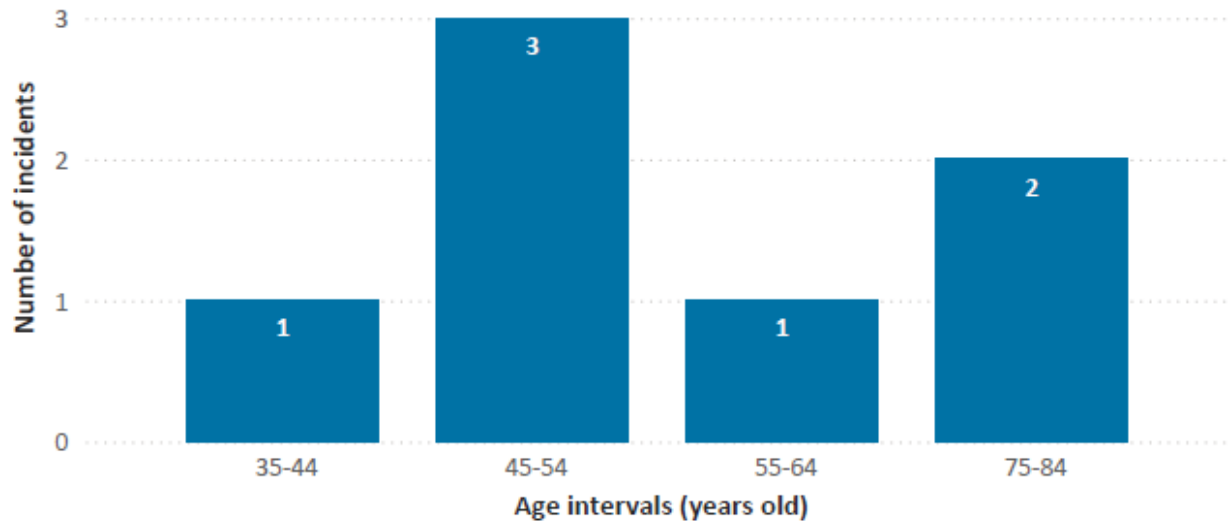
7 in Logging

Incidents per state

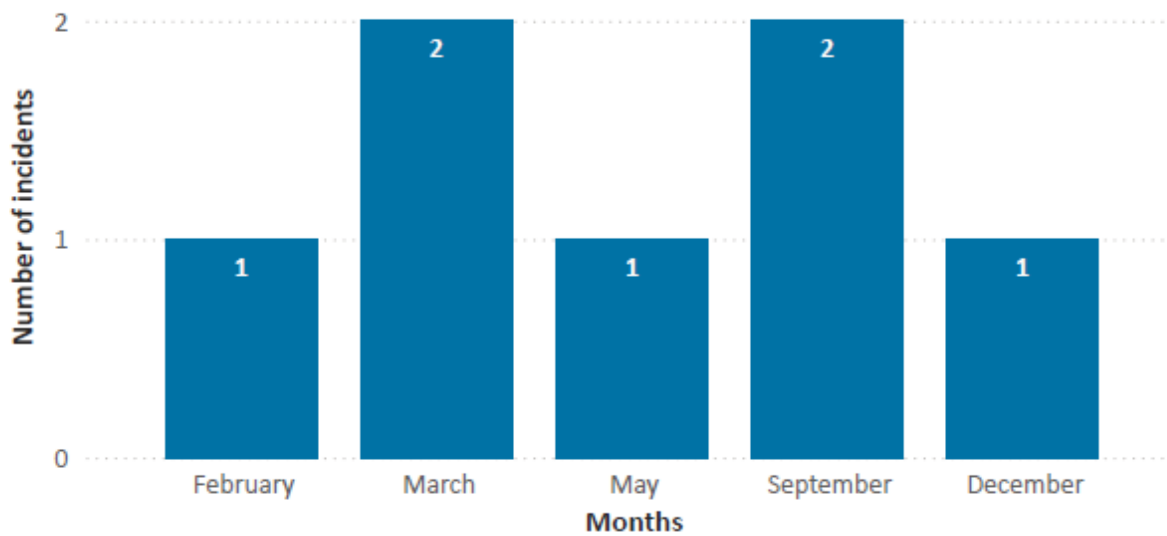


- All seven cases were males.
- All cases were adults.
- Five were workers, one was a non-worker (bystander), and one was unknown.
- All cases were related to work.
- Two workers were alone at the time of incident, two were with others, and the rest were undetermined.
- All cases were unintentional injuries.

Incidents through age intervals

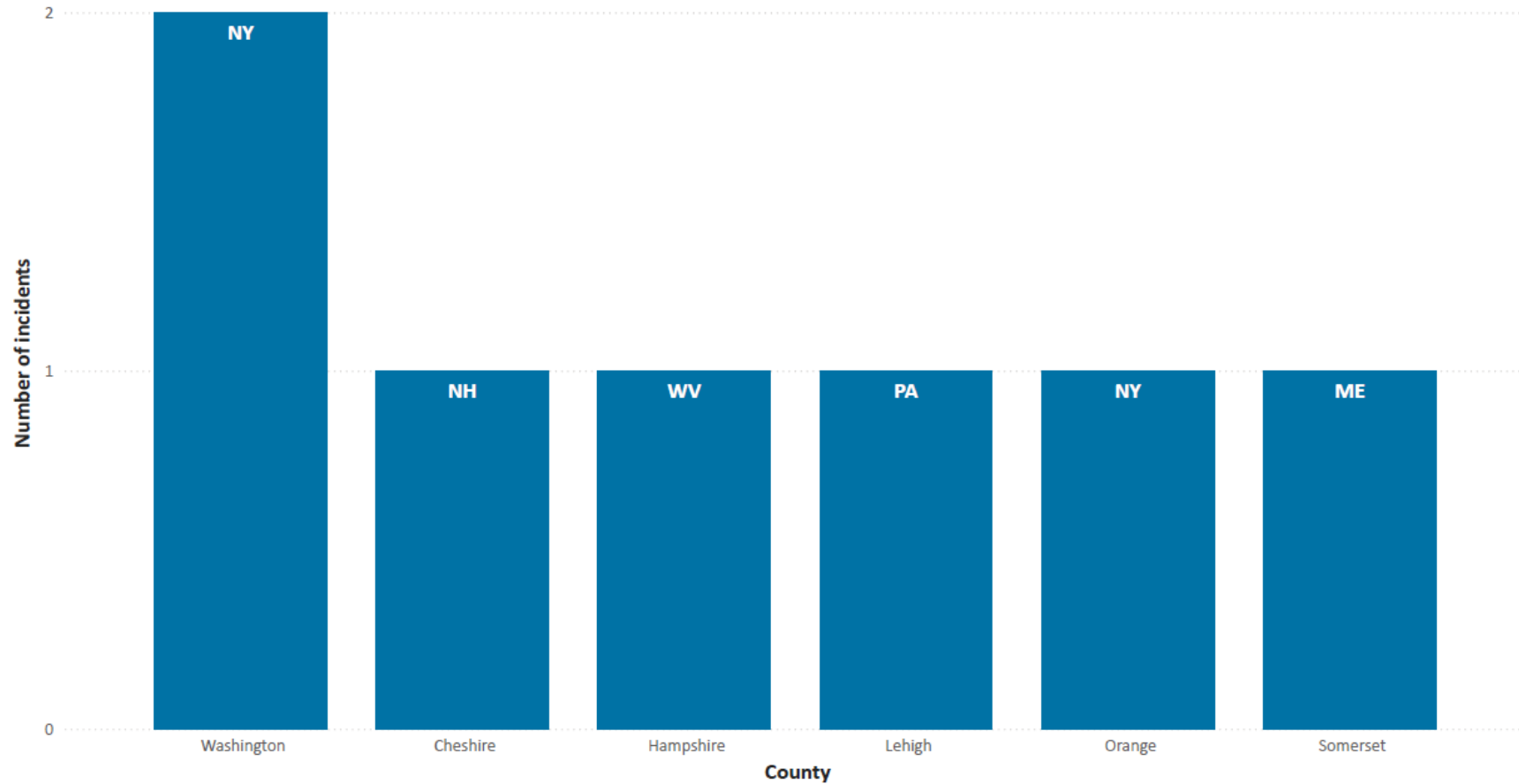


Incidents throughout the year



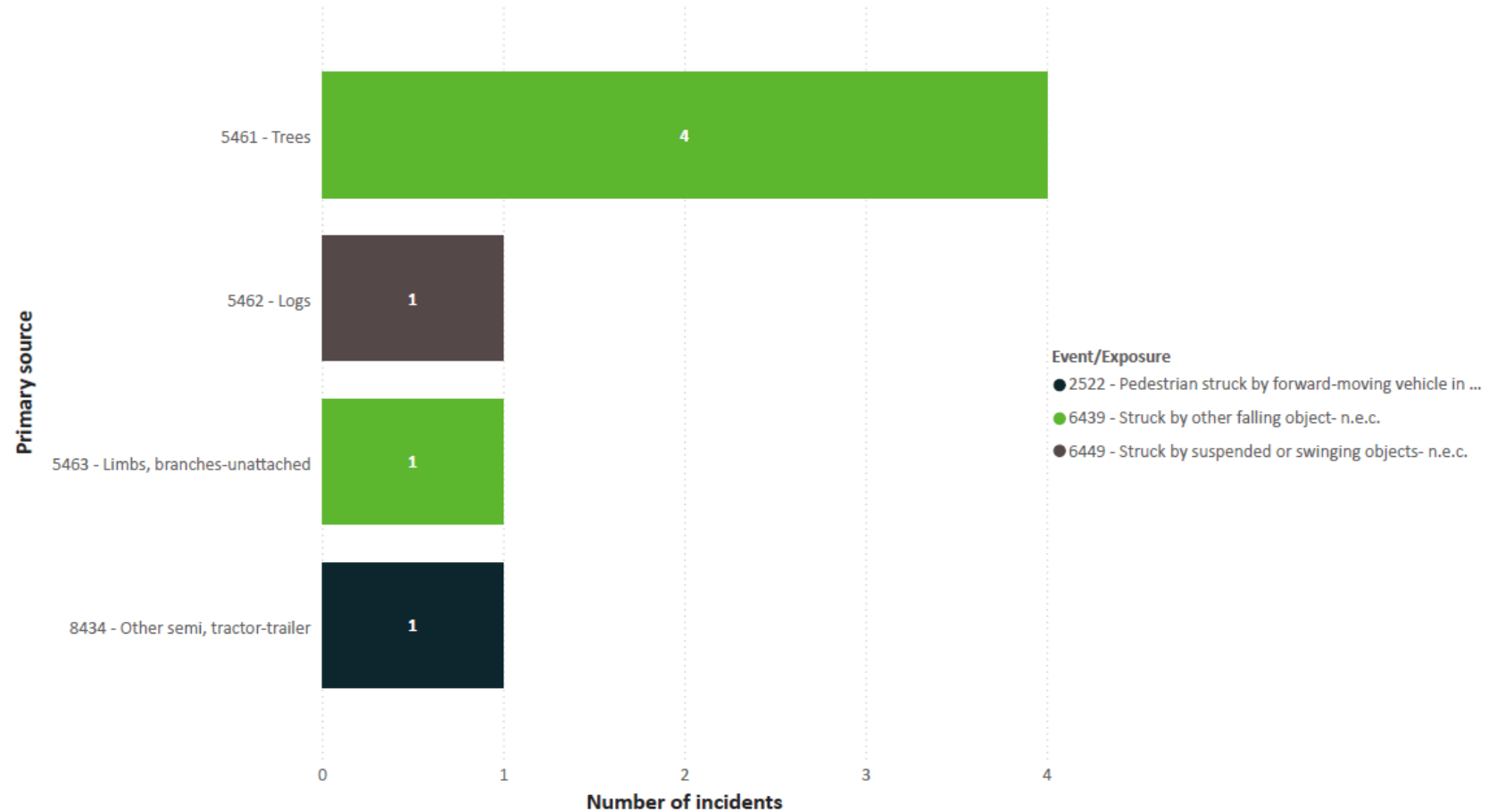
Fatalities

Incidents per county

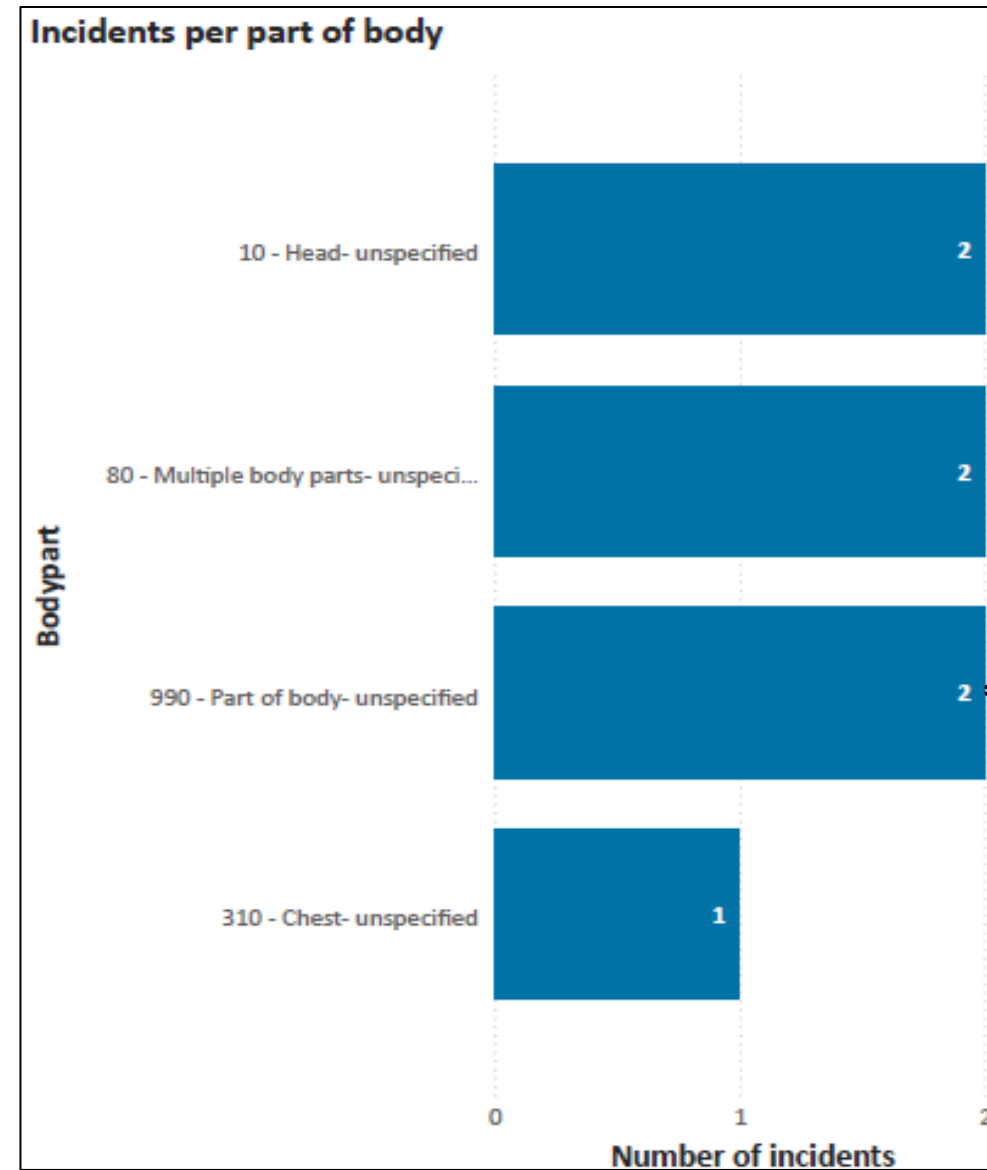
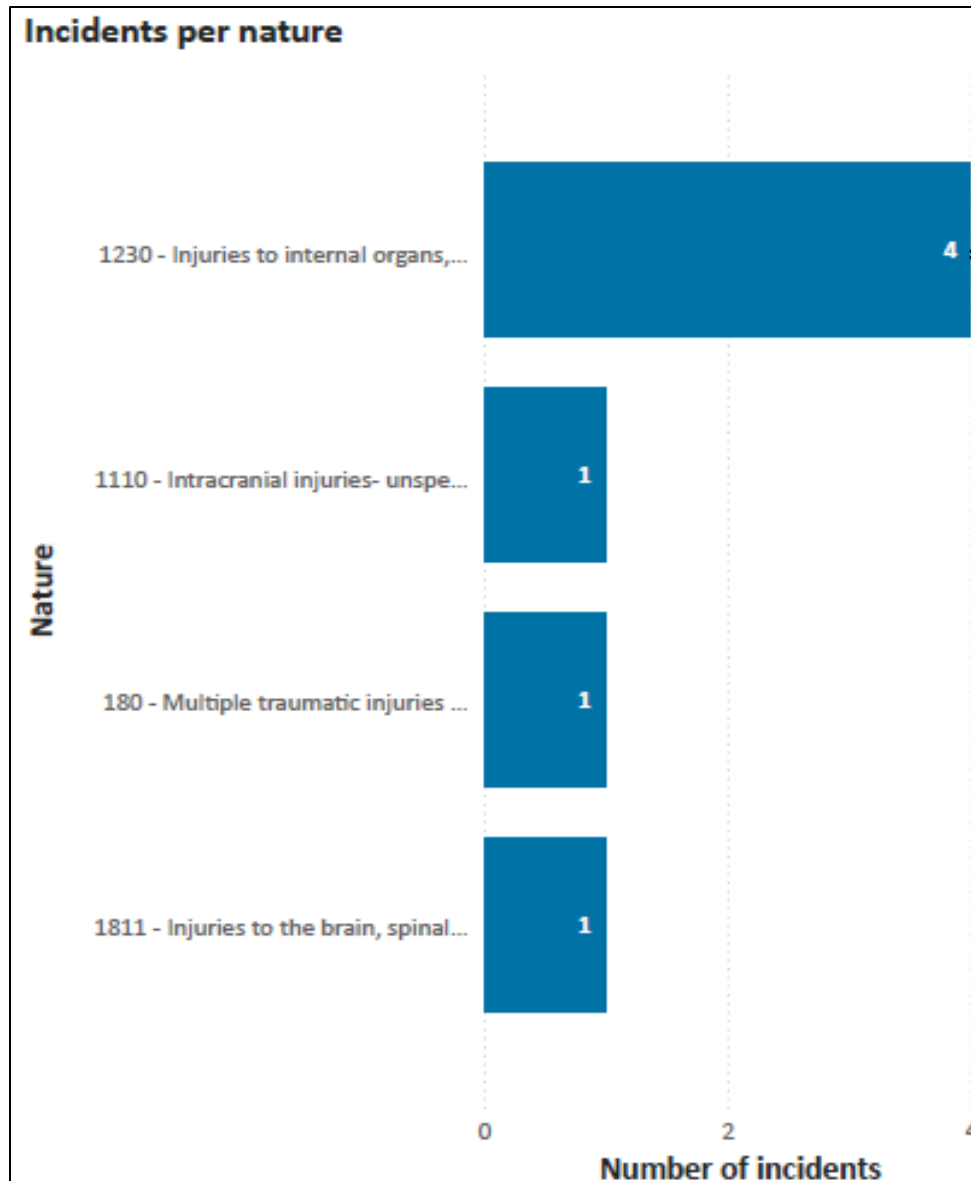


Fatalities

Primary source by event



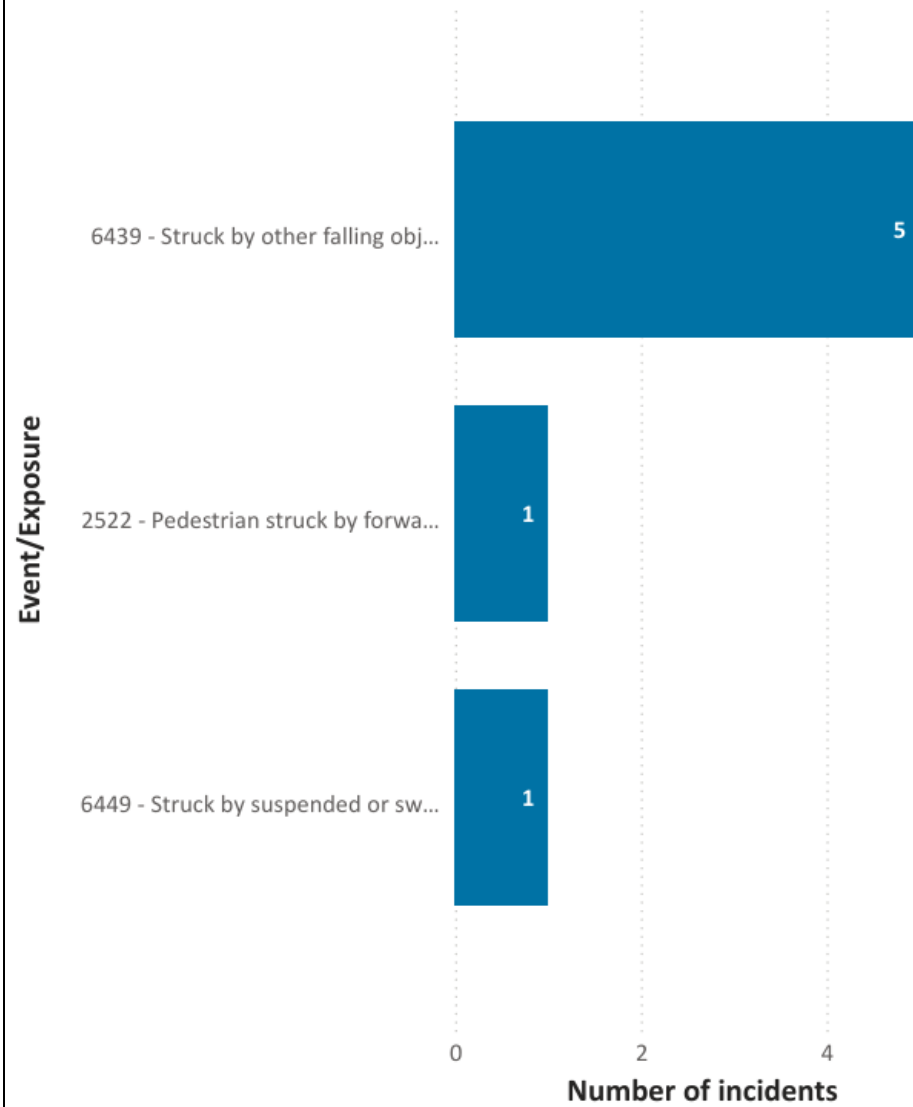
Fatalities



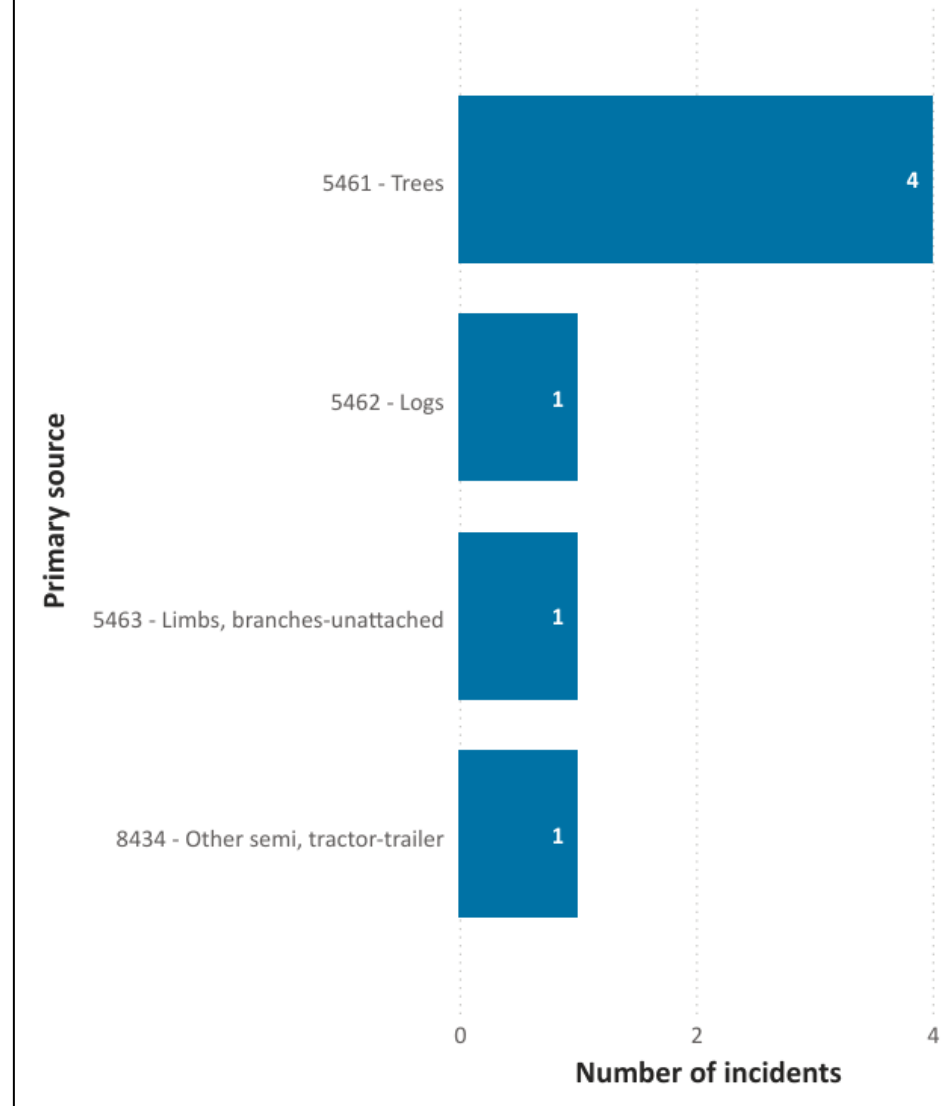
* Not enough details to code into specific categories

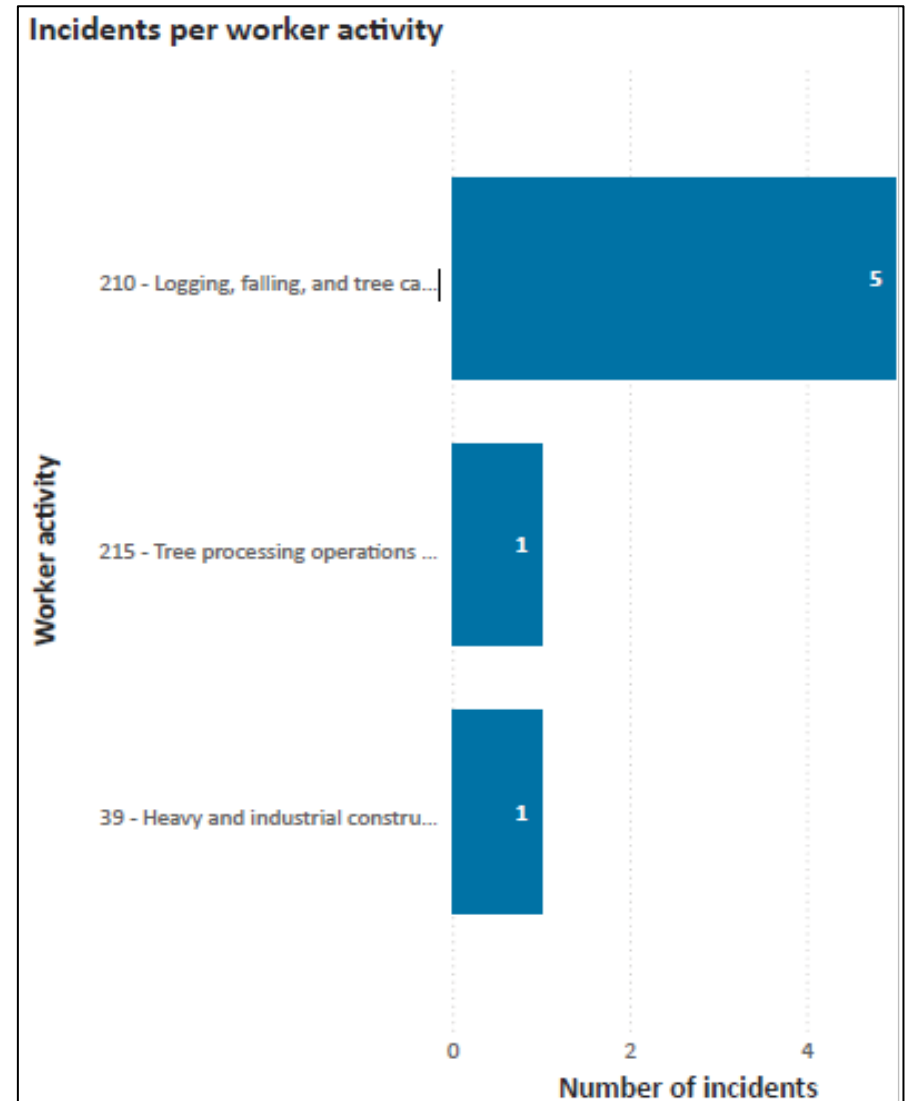
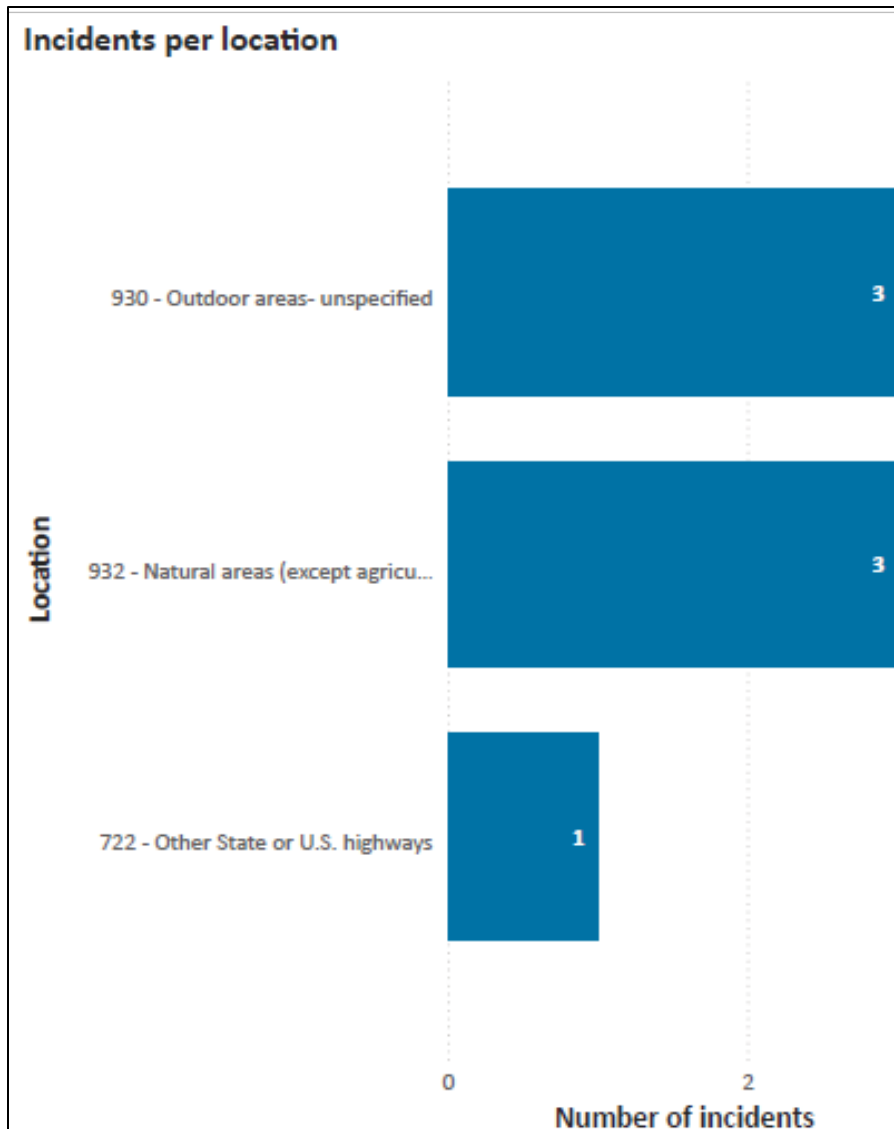
Fatalities

Incidents per event/exposure

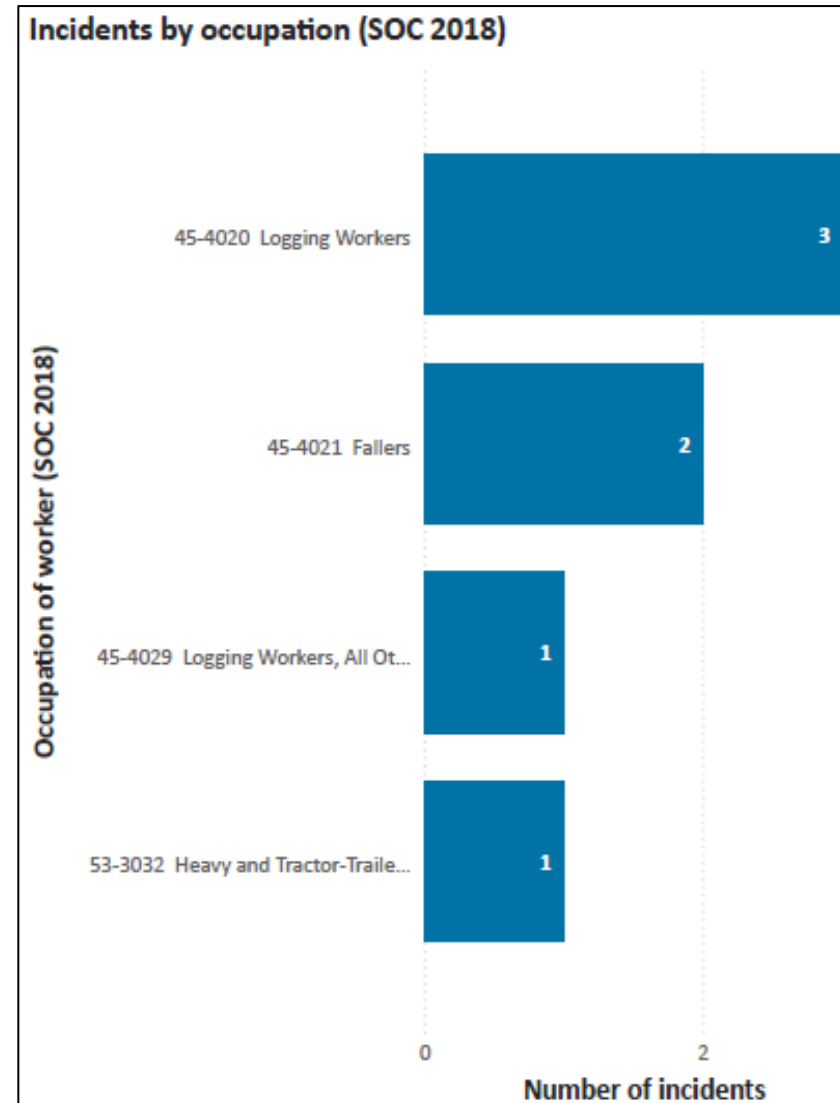
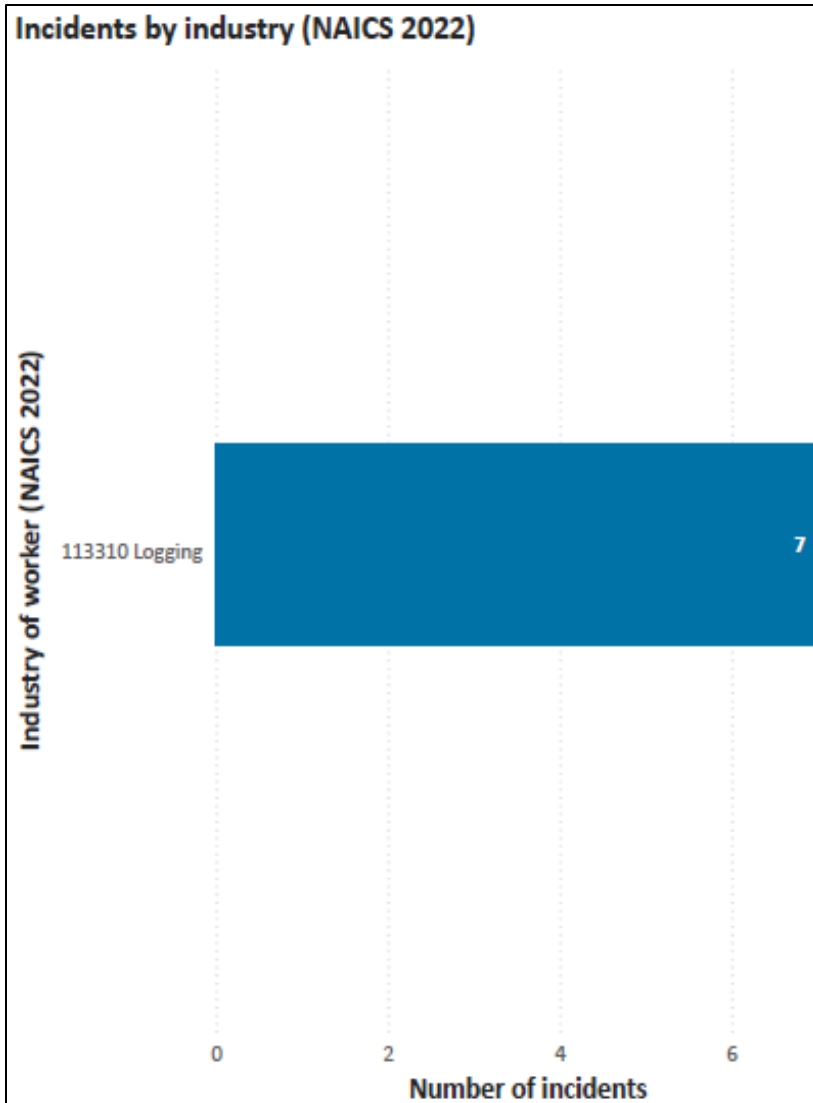


Incidents per primary source





Fatalities

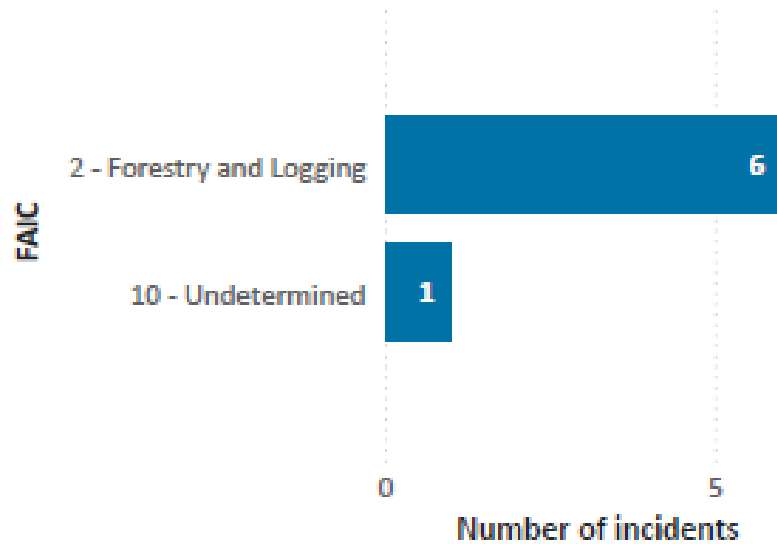


* Not enough details to code into specific categories

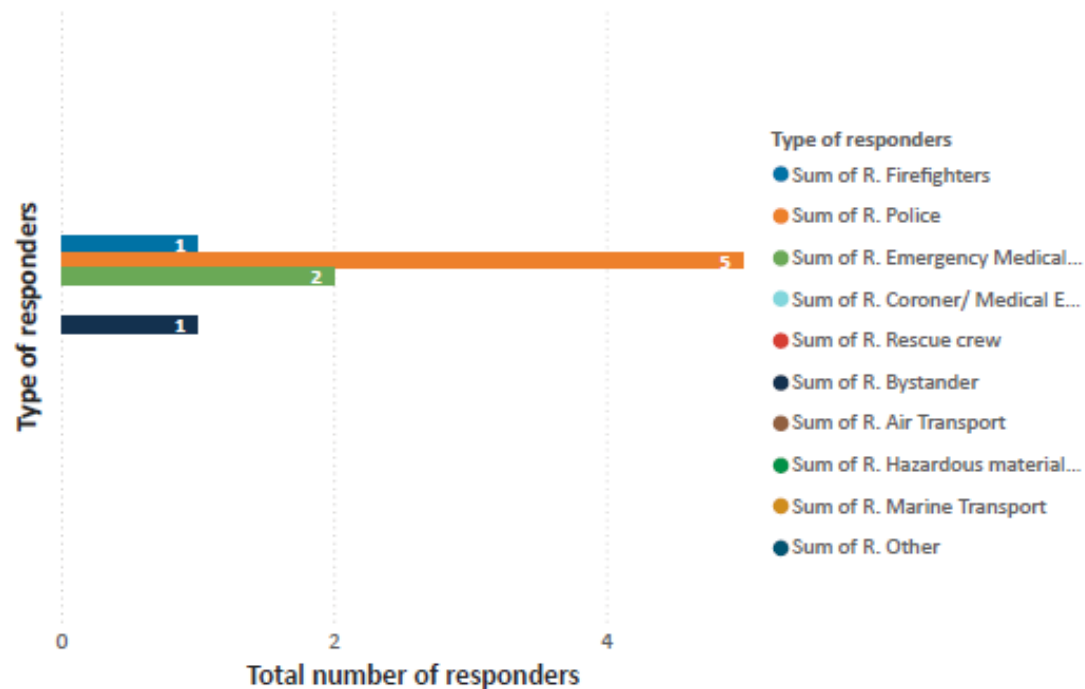
Industry and occupation of person working at the logging site.

Fatalities

Incidents per Farm and Agriculture Injury Classification

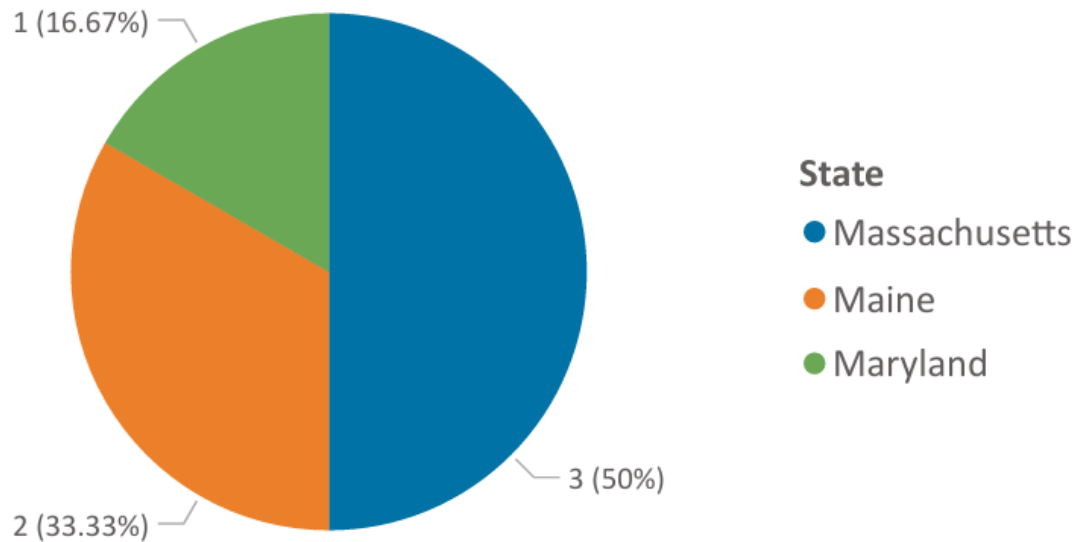


Type of responders at incidents



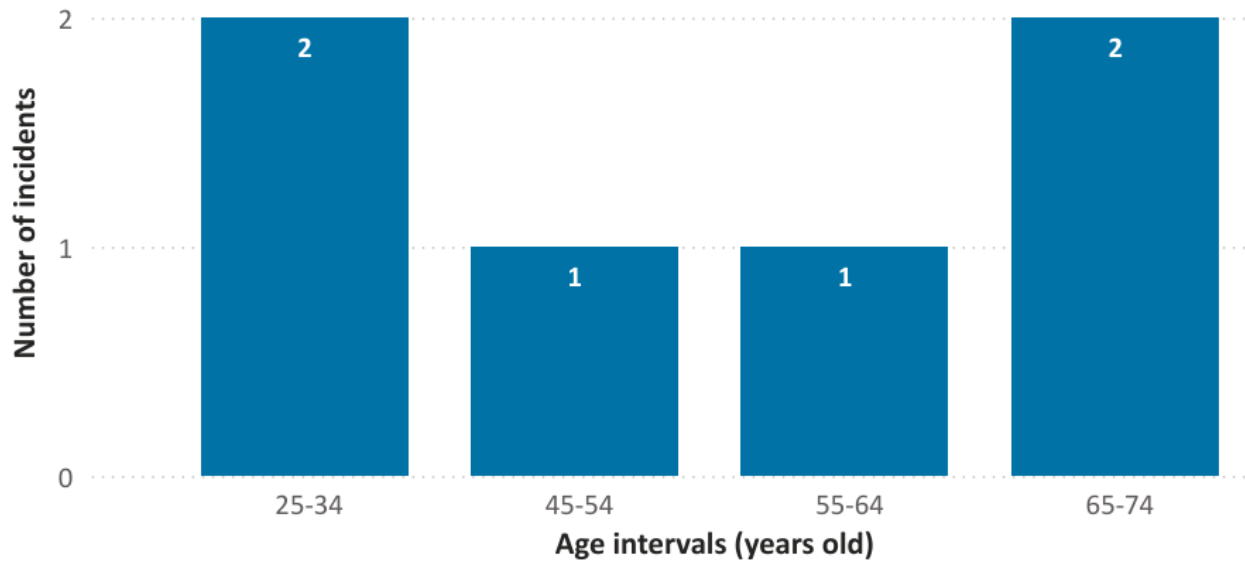
Fatalities

6 in Commercial Fishing Incidents per state

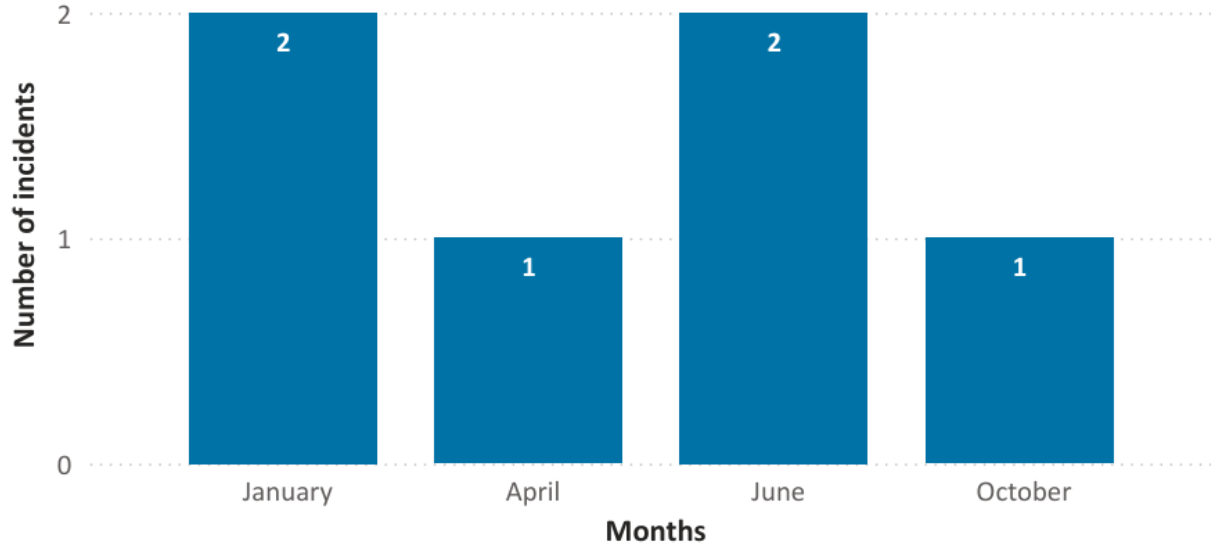


- Five were male, one was female.
- All were adults.
- Five were workers, and one unknown.
- All were related to work.
- Five were with others, and one is undetermined.
- Four were unintentional injuries, and two are unknown.

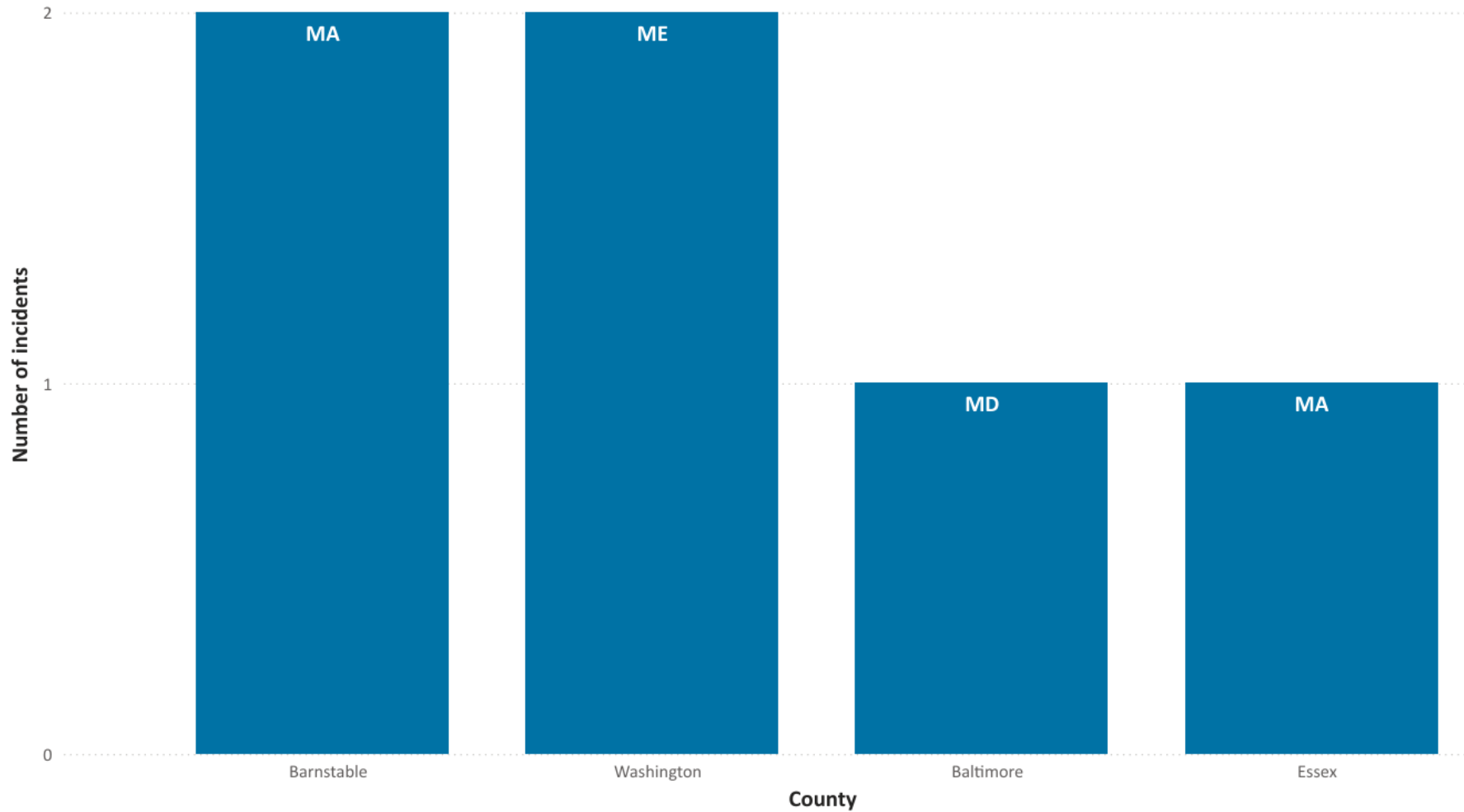
Incidents through age intervals



Incidents throughout the year

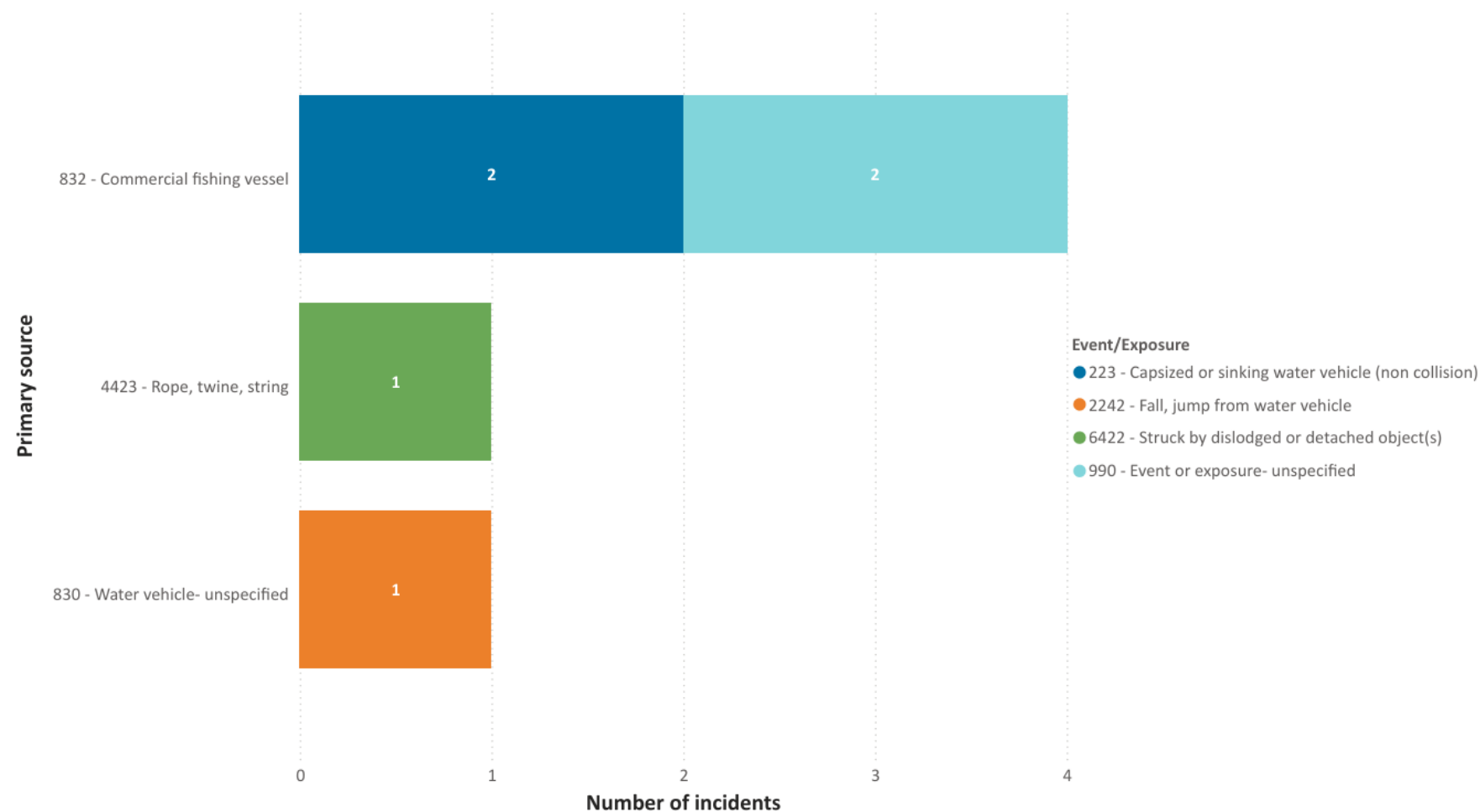


Incidents per county

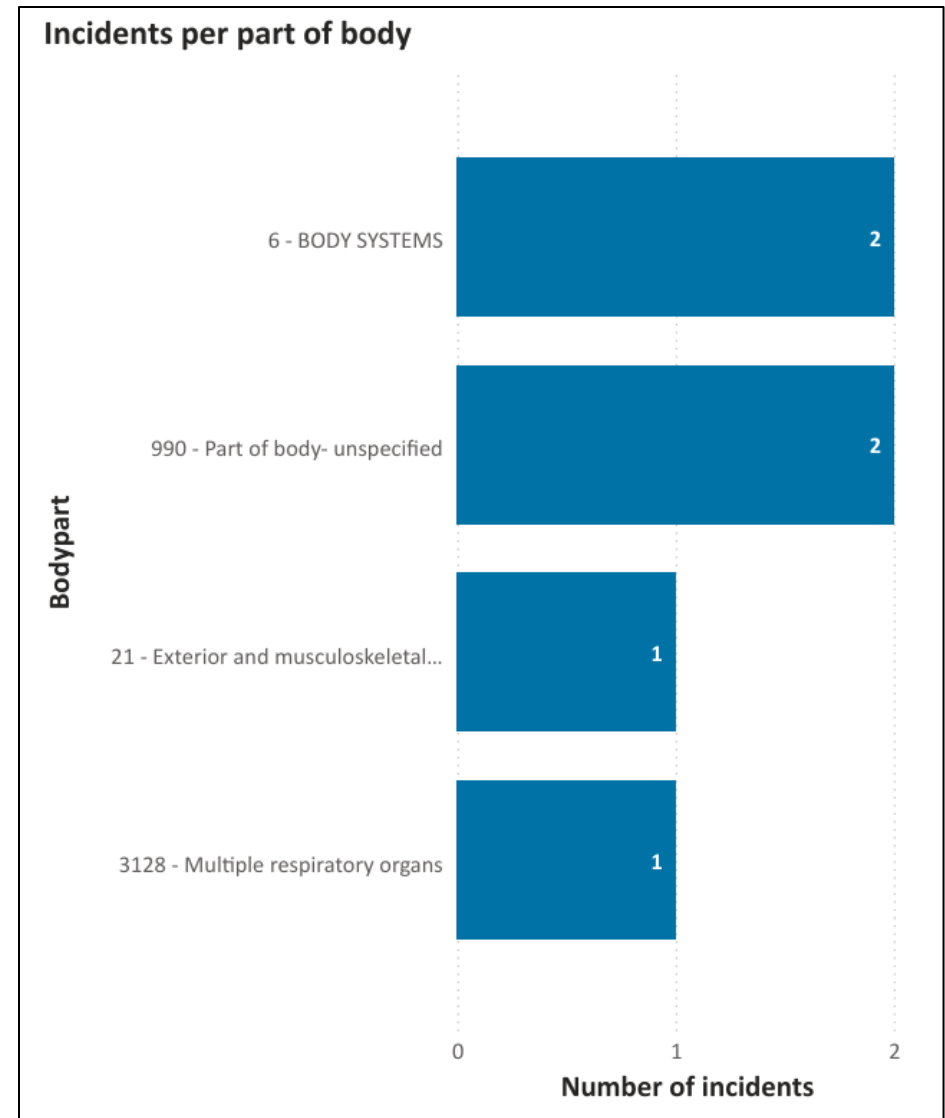
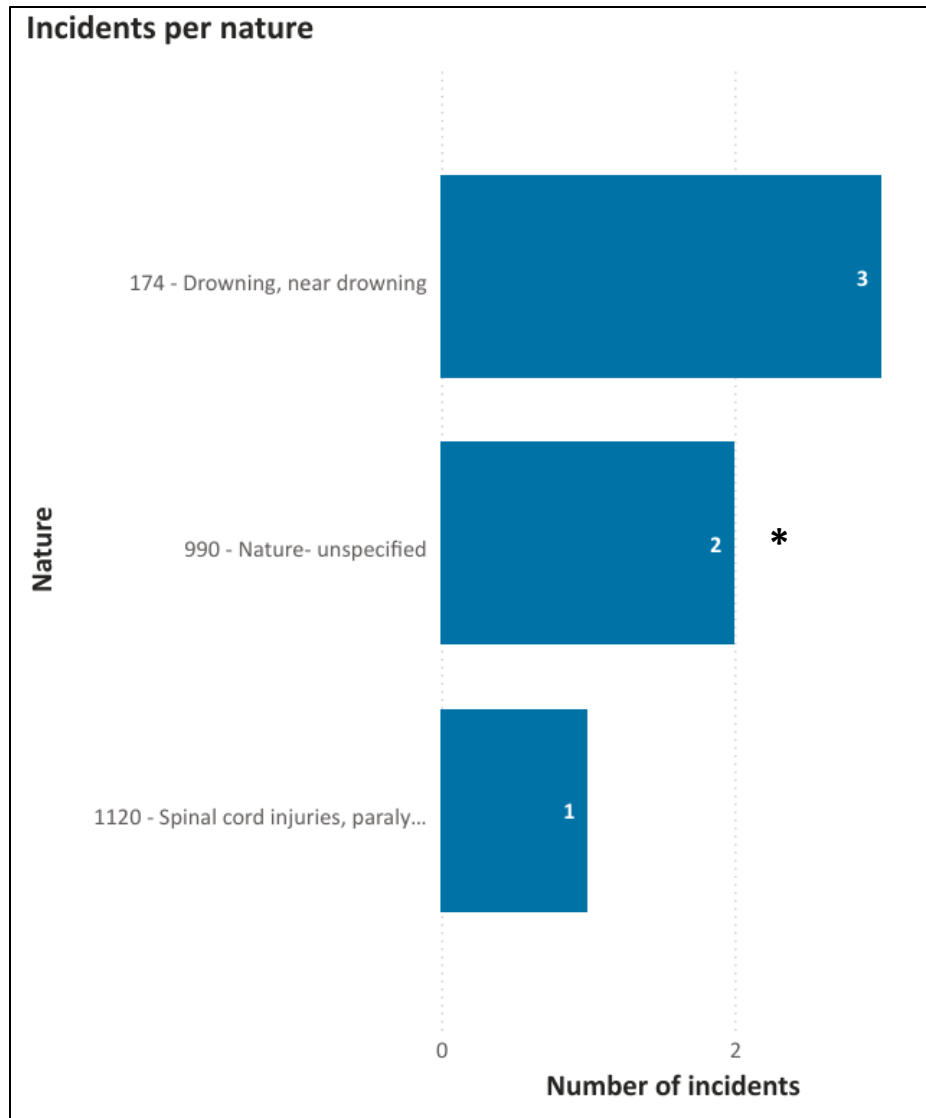


Fatalities

Primary source by event

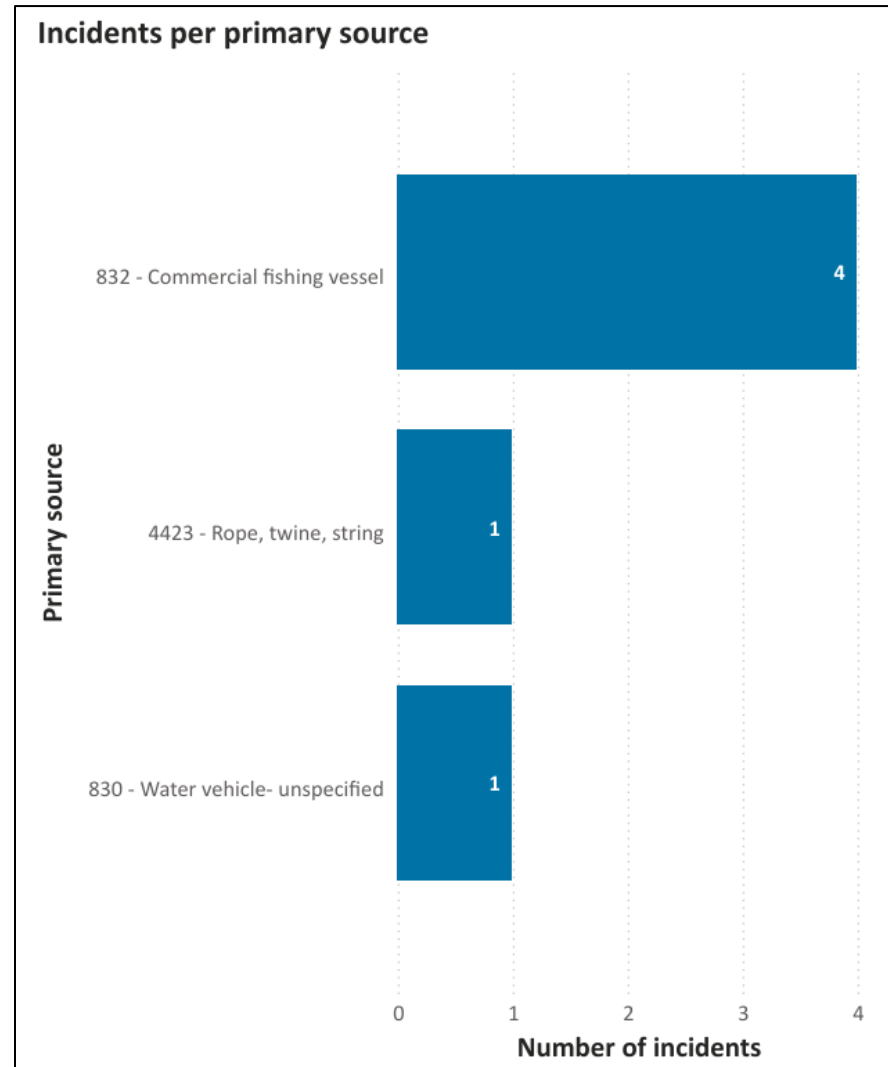
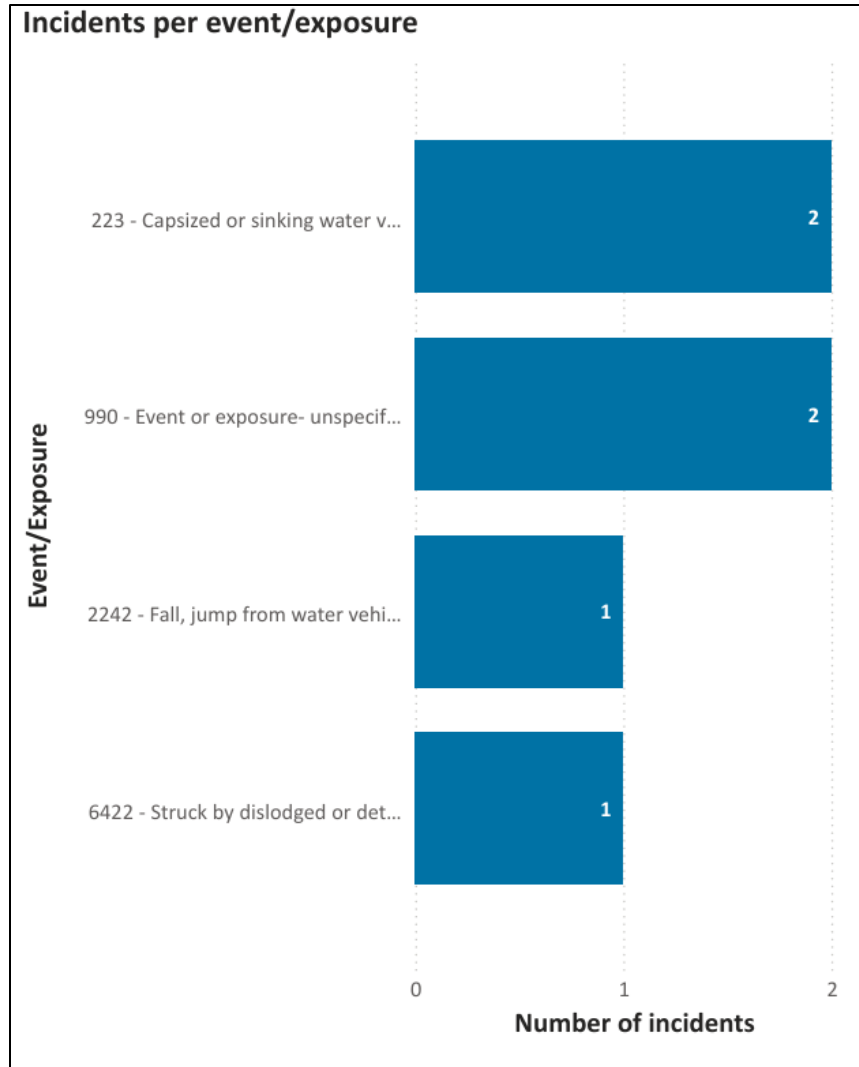


Fatalities



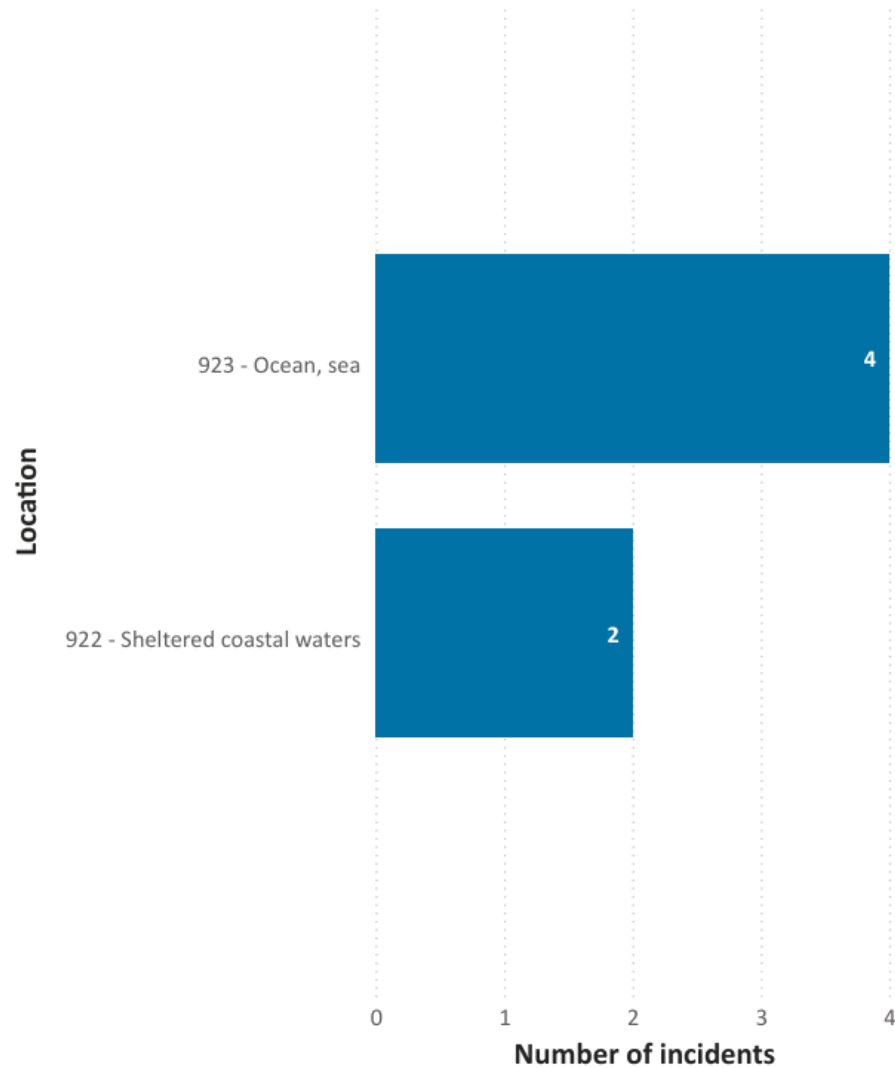
* Not enough details to code into specific categories

Fatalities

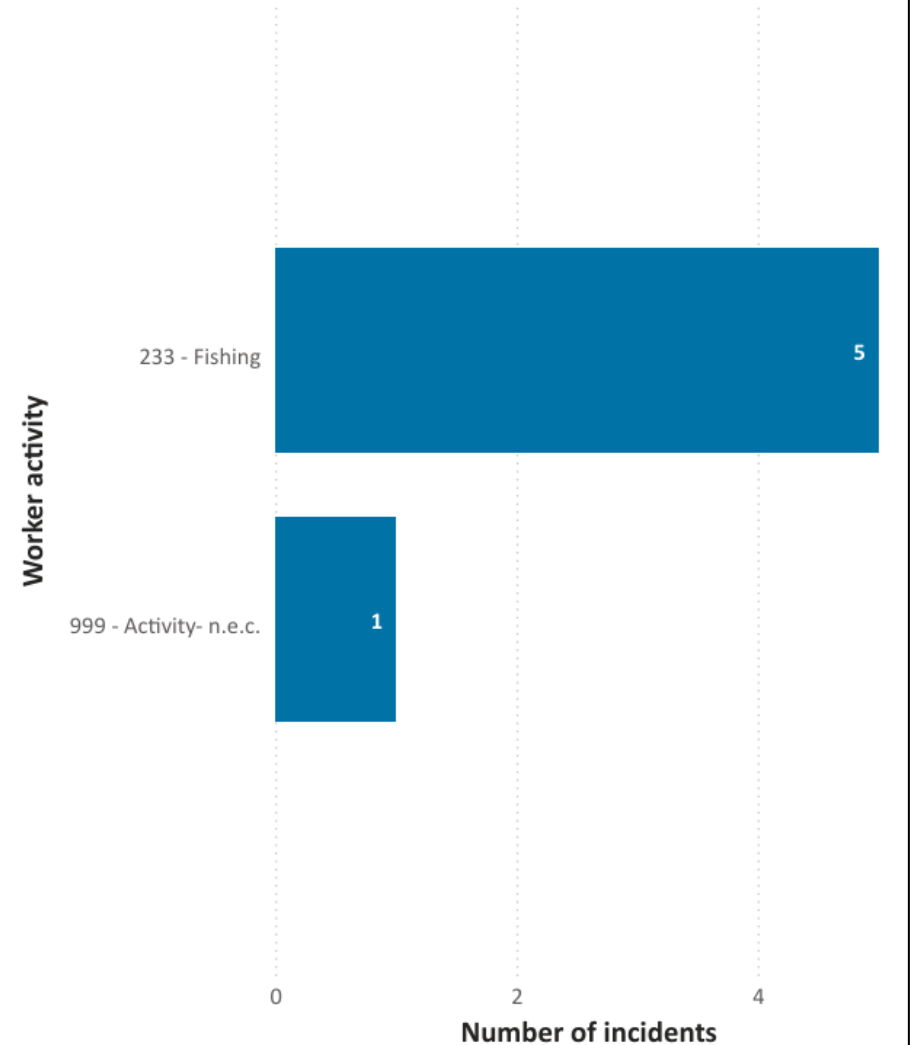


Fatalities

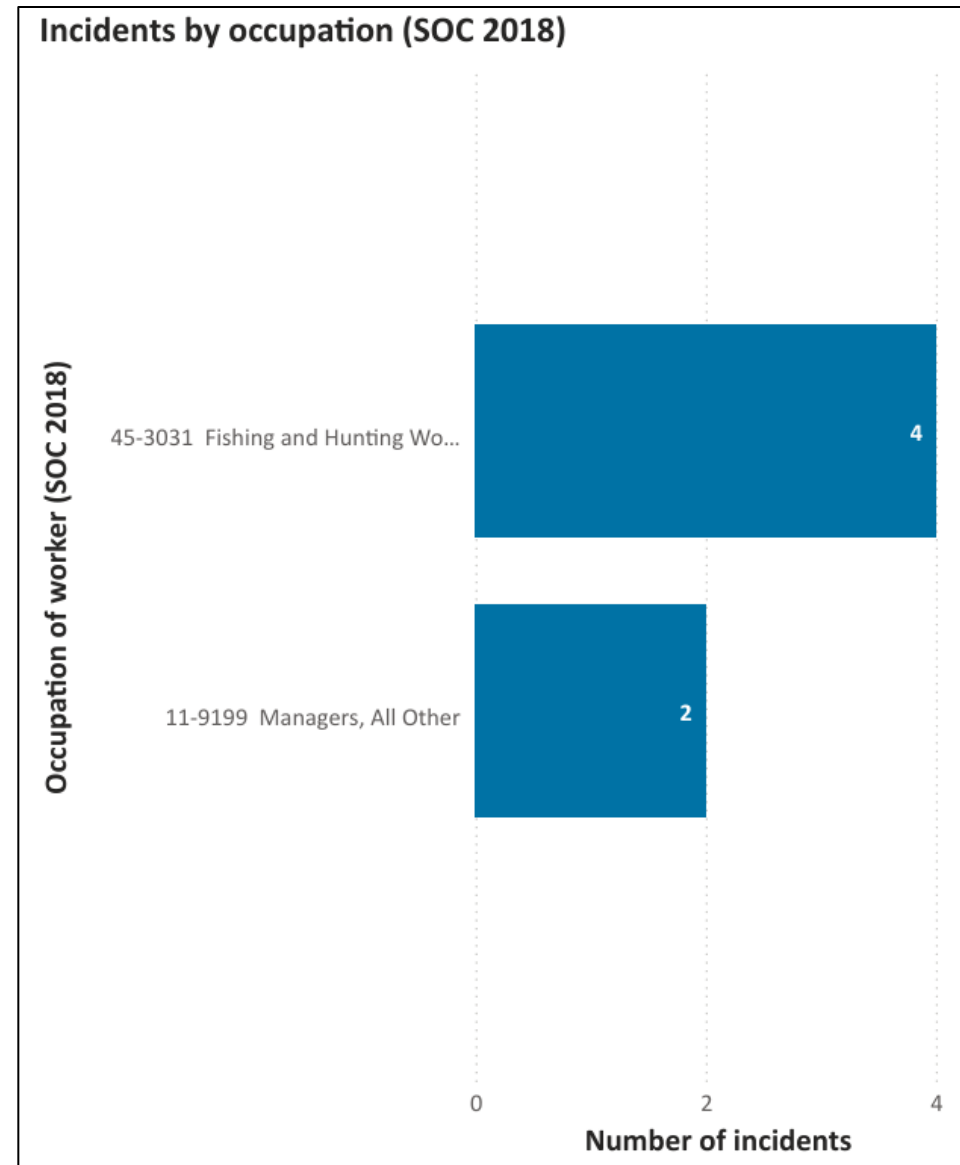
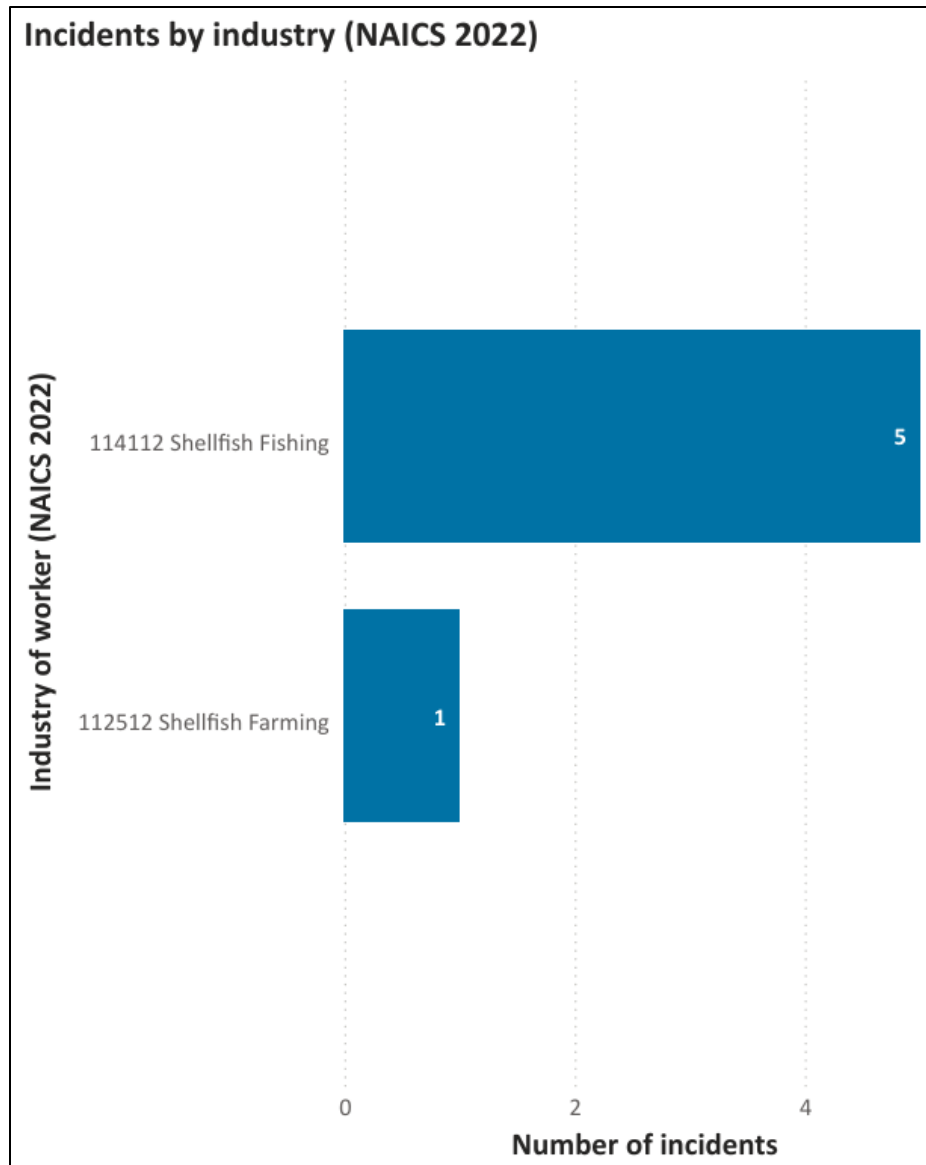
Incidents per location



Incidents per worker activity

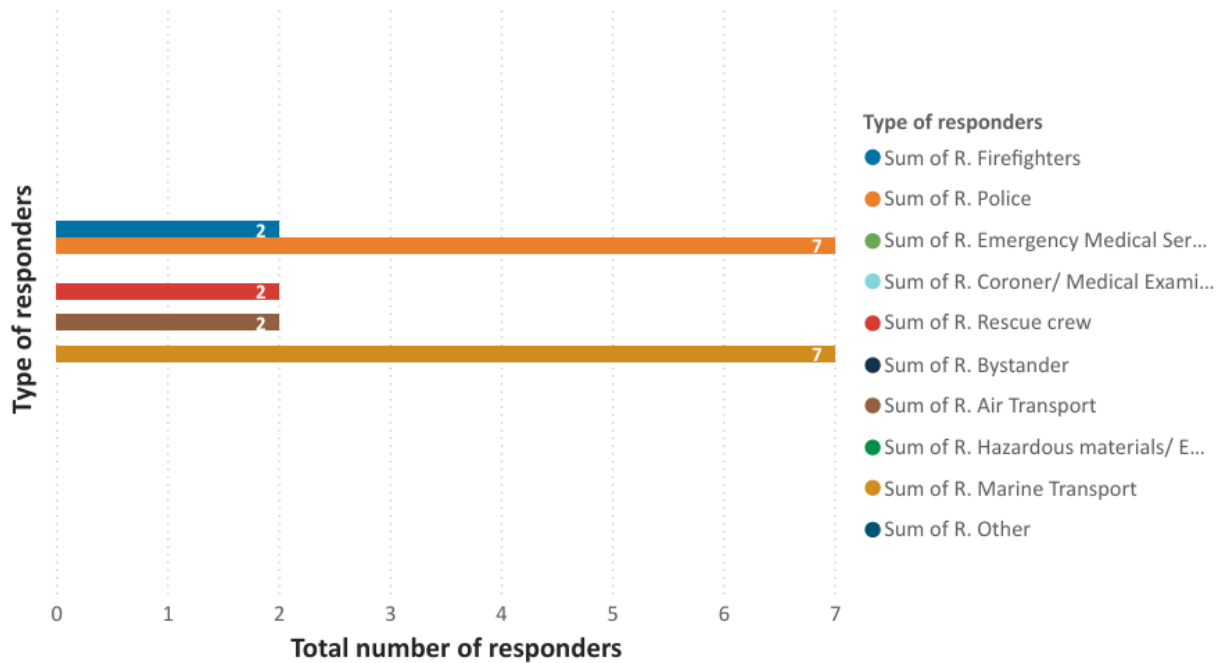


Fatalities



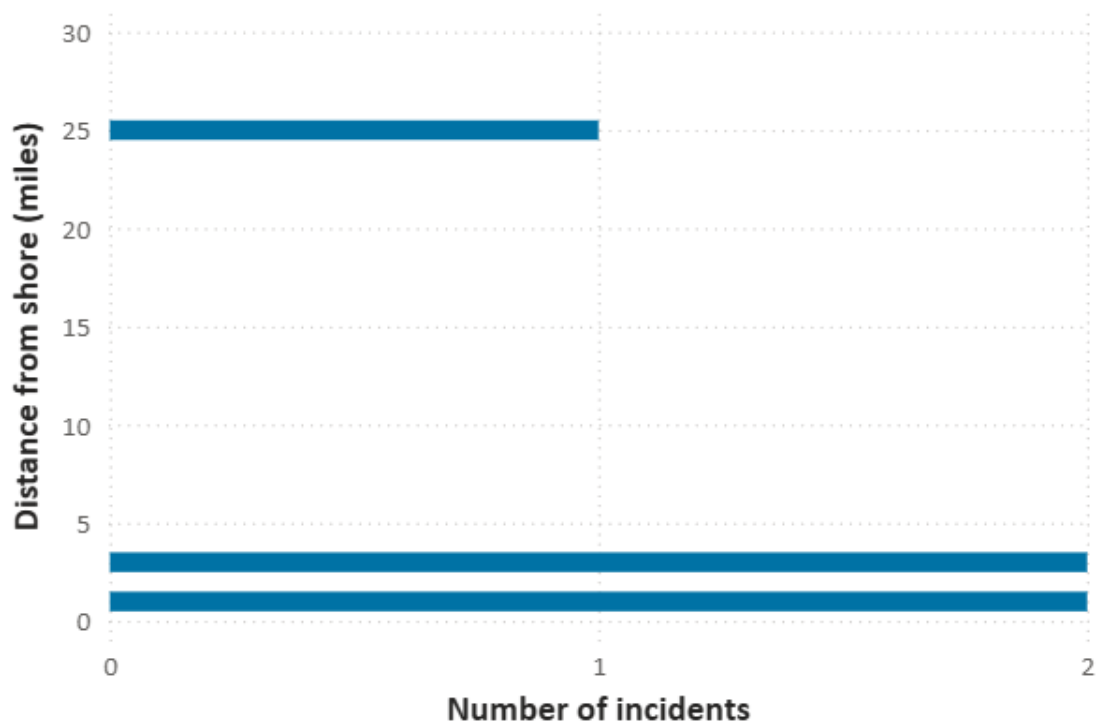
- All were classified as FAIC 3- Fishing, Hunting & Trapping

Type of responders at incidents



- All happened in the Northeast district (ME, VT, NH, RI, CT, MA, part NY, part NJ).
- Five fell overboard, and one was a vessel casualty.

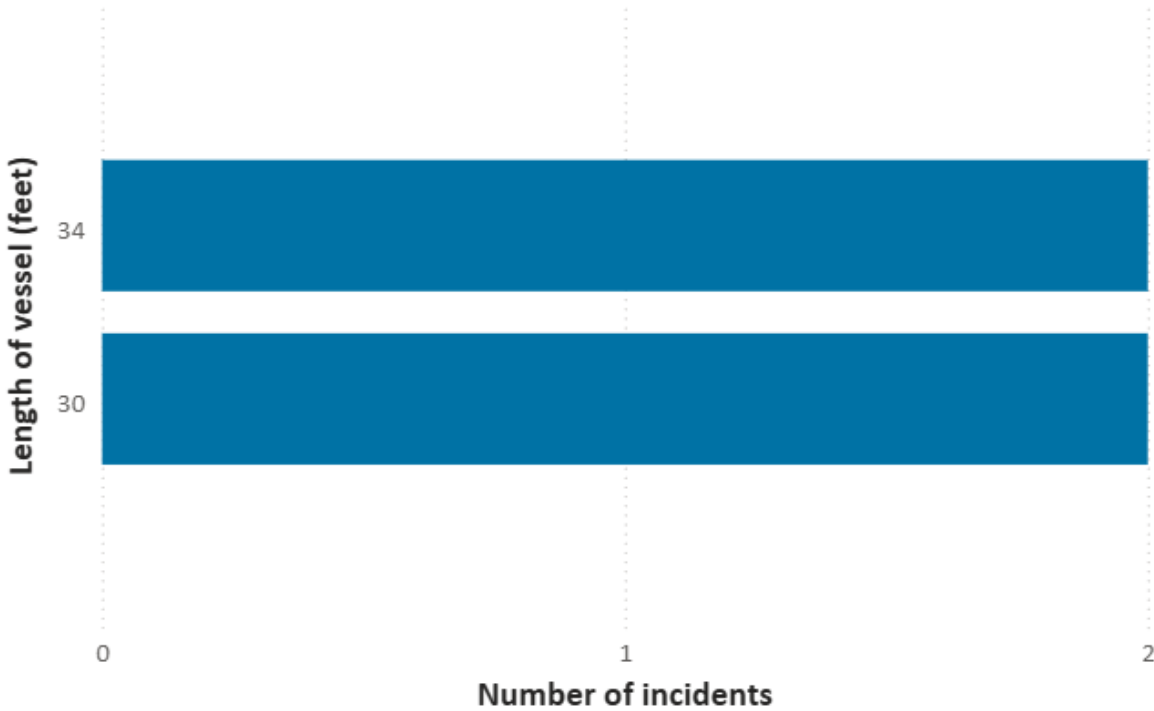
Incidents by distance from shore



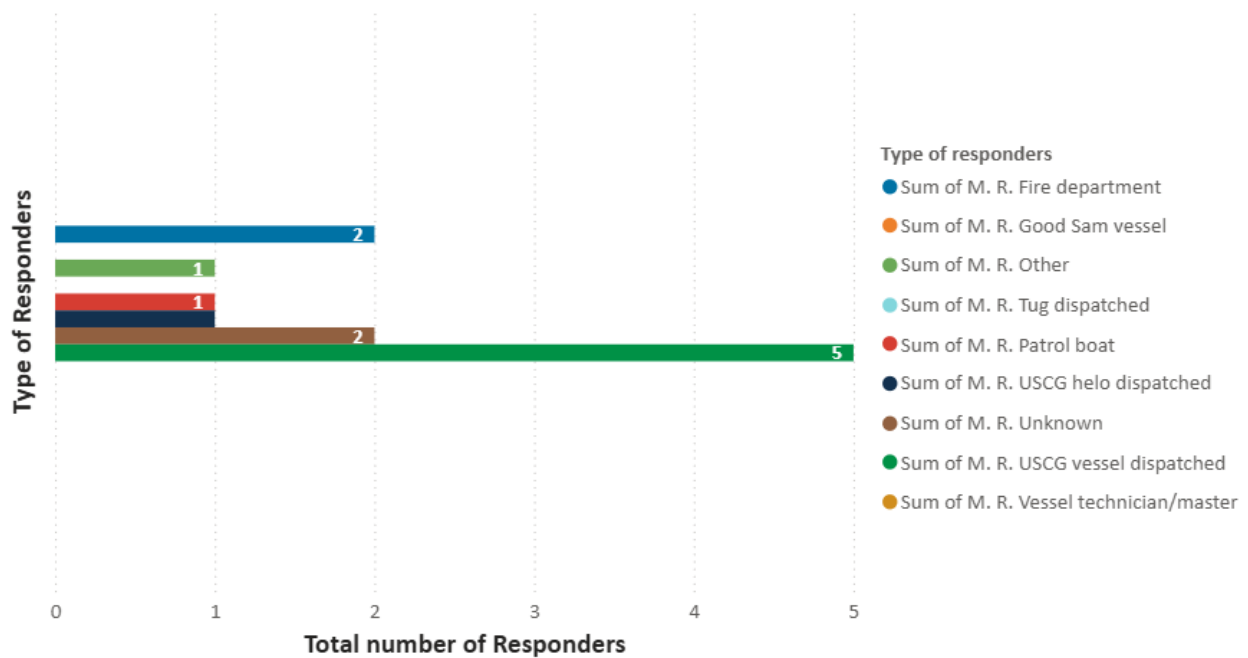
Fatalities

- Mayday methods were not used in two of the incidents, and unknown in four incidents.
- In four incidents there were two people aboard the vessel.

Incidents by length of vessel



Type of Mayday Responders

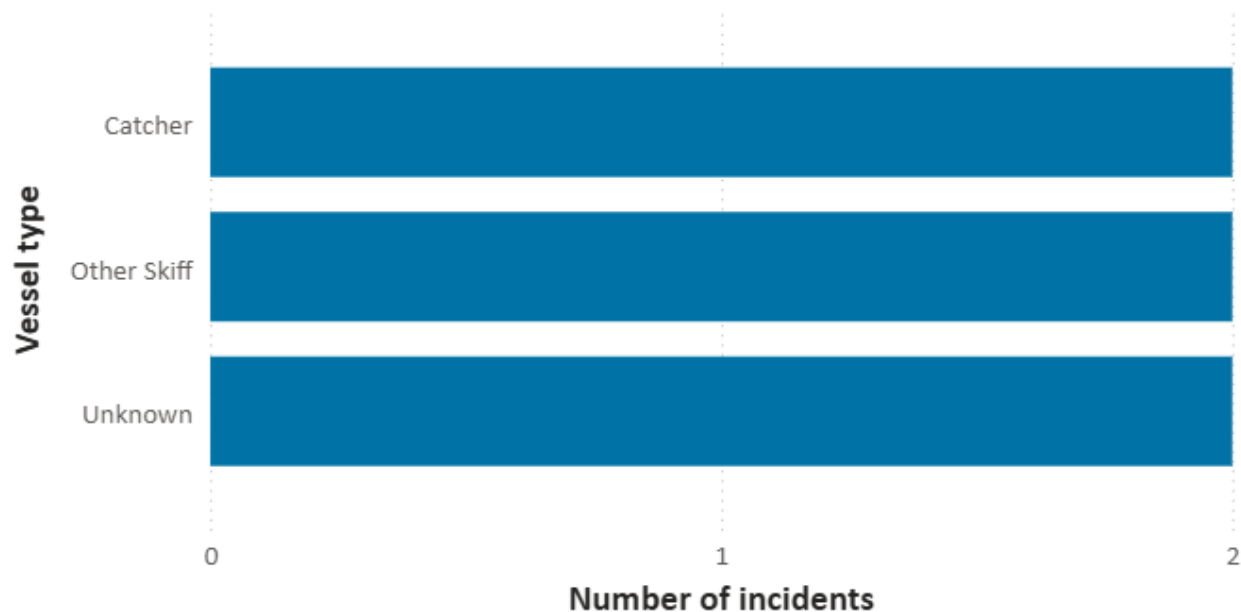


- Three cases were fishing incidents.

Fatalities

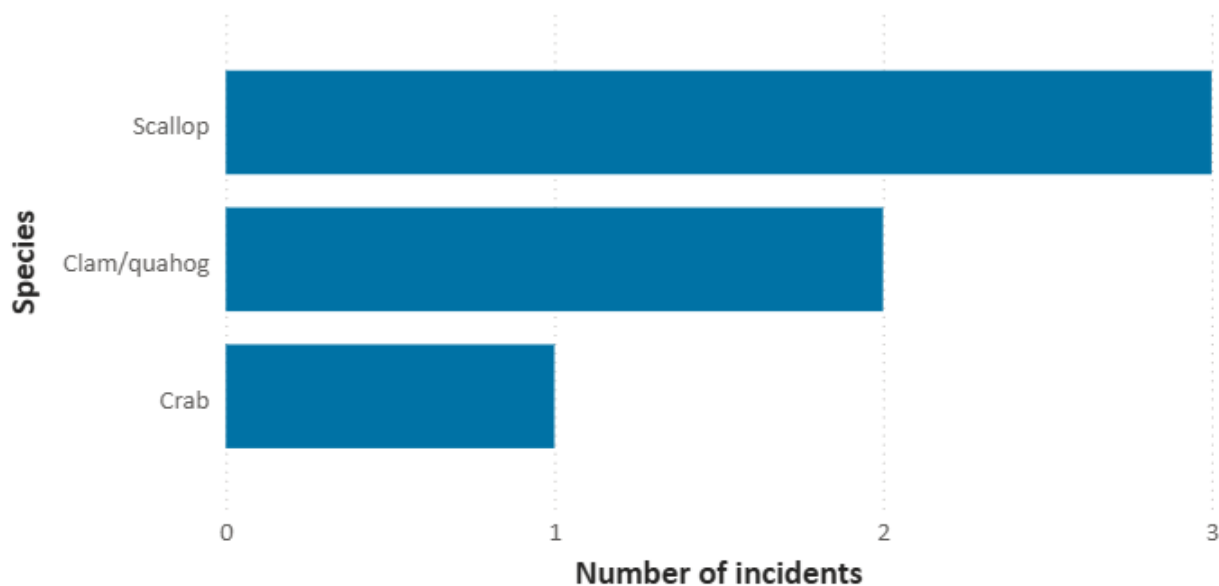
- Orleans was the home port city in two incidents.

Incidents by vessel type



- All incidents captured in the news belonged to shellfish fisheries.

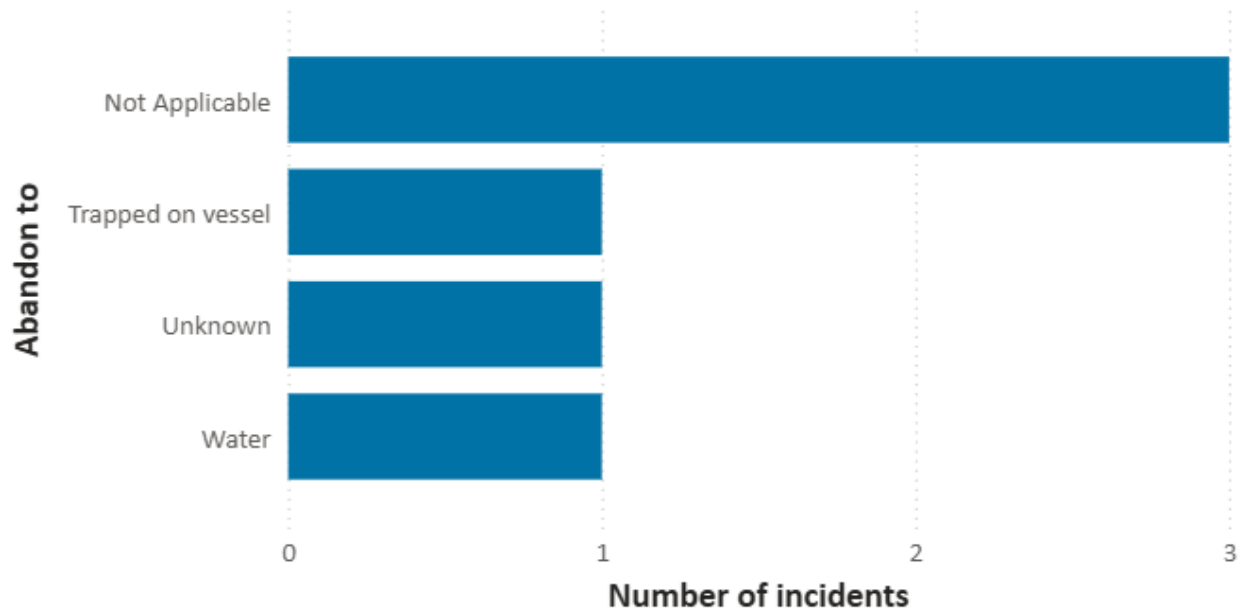
Incidents by species being captured



- In five incidents the gear type used was dredge.
- All incidents were classified as serious by the US Coast Guard
- All were considered as disaster.
- All incidents happened at sea, and it is unknown whether the individuals were wearing a protective flotation device.

Fatalities

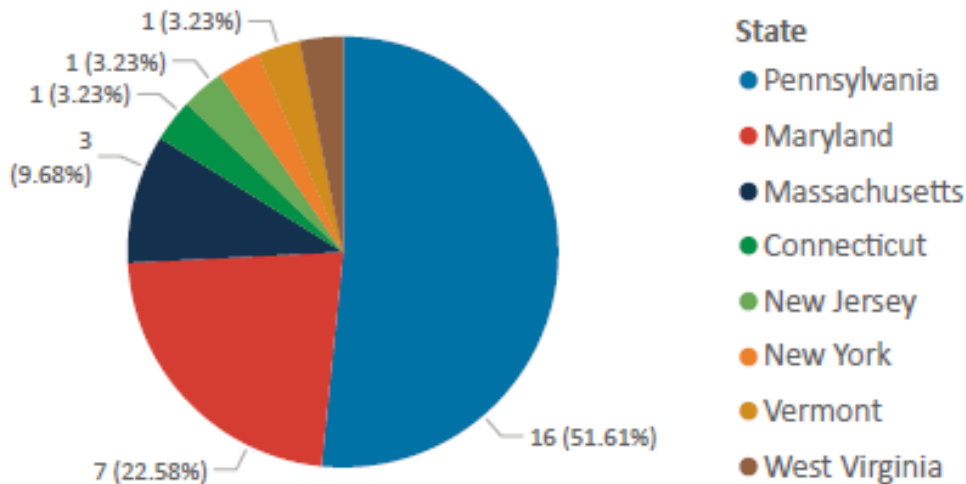
Incidents by where they abandon the vessel to



Non-Fatal Injuries Captured in the News

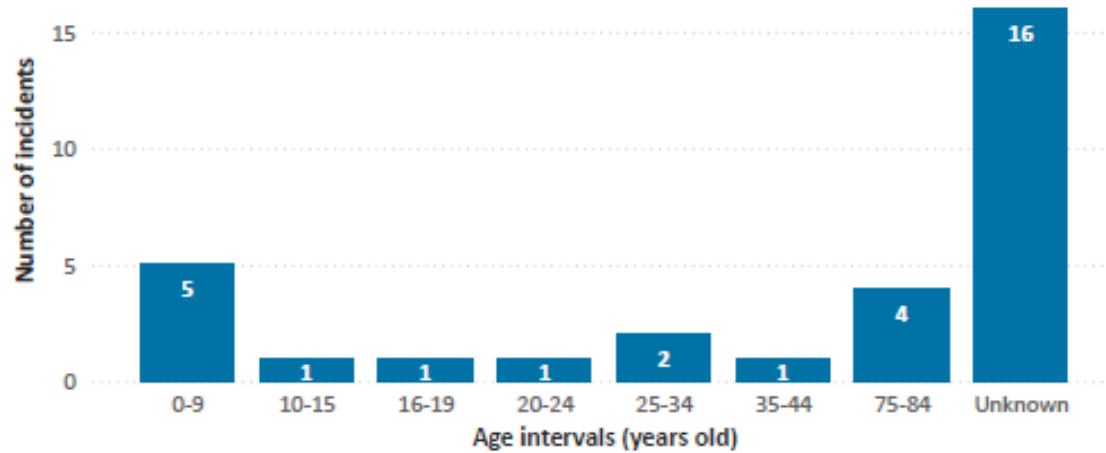
31 in Agriculture

Incidents per state

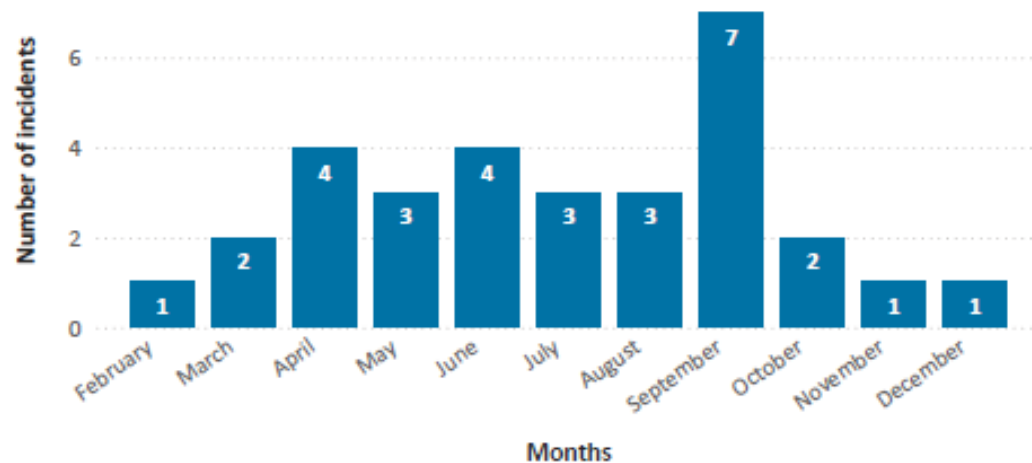


- Seventeen cases were males, two were females, and 12 were unknown.
- Fourteen cases were adults, seven were children under 18, and 10 were unknown.
- Sixteen were workers, 12 were non-workers (bystanders), and three were unknown.
- Twenty-five cases were related to work, two cases were unrelated, and four were undetermined.
- Six workers were alone at the time of incident, nine were with others, and the remaining 16 were undetermined.
- Twenty-seven of the cases were unintentional injuries, and in four of the cases the intention was unknown.

Incidents through age intervals

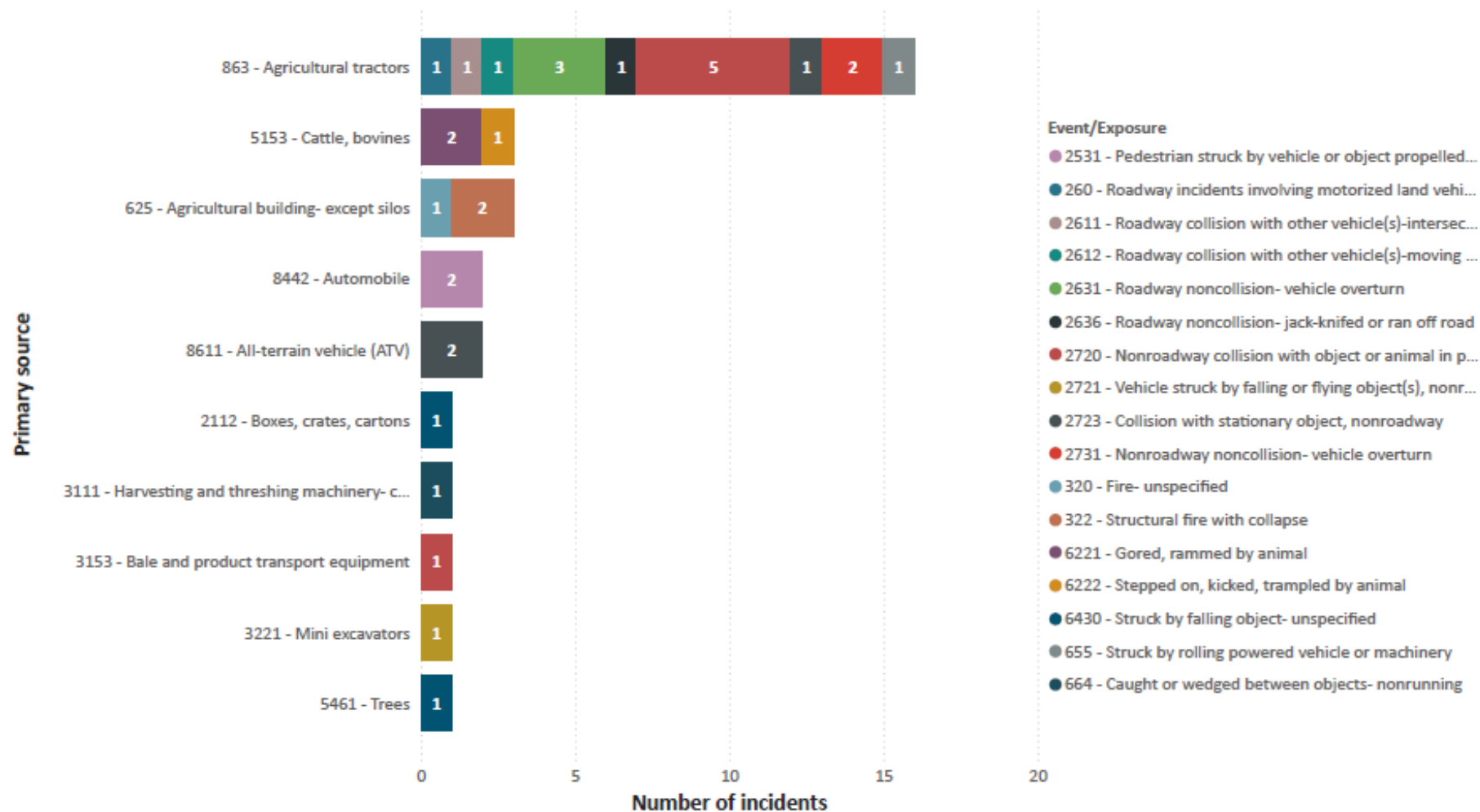


Incidents throughout the year

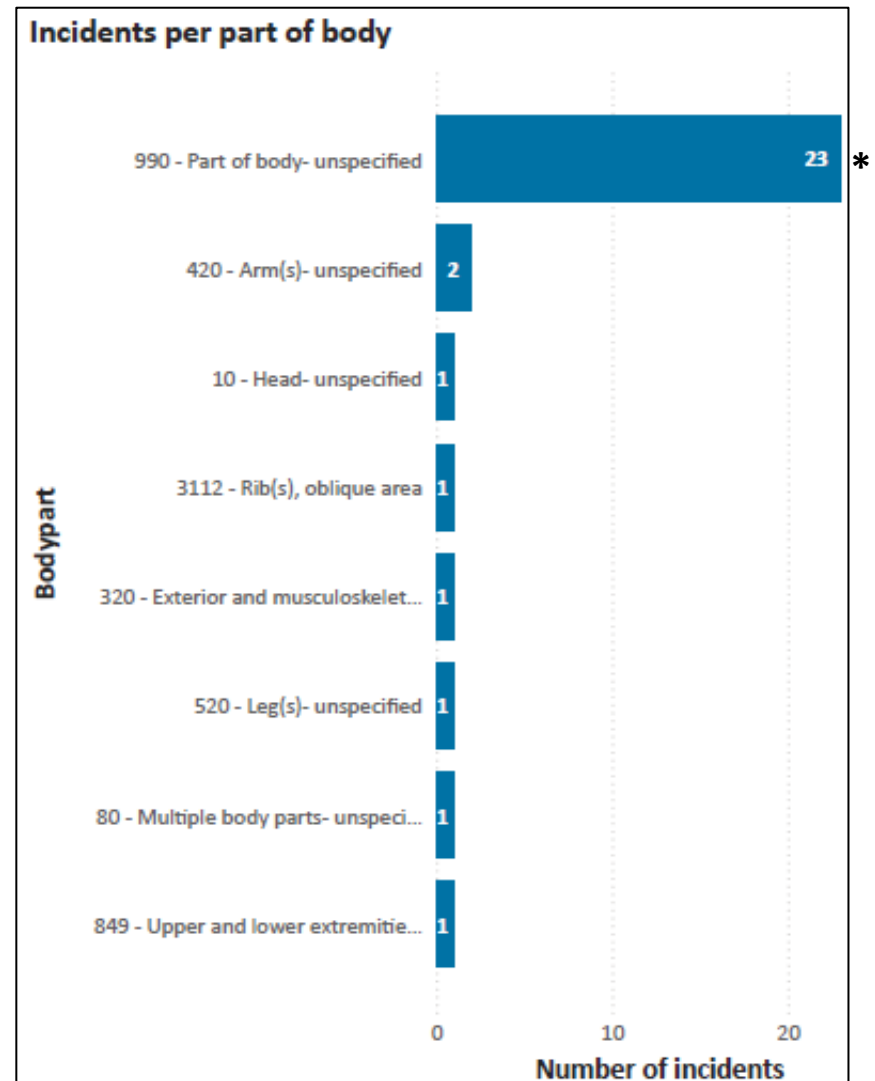
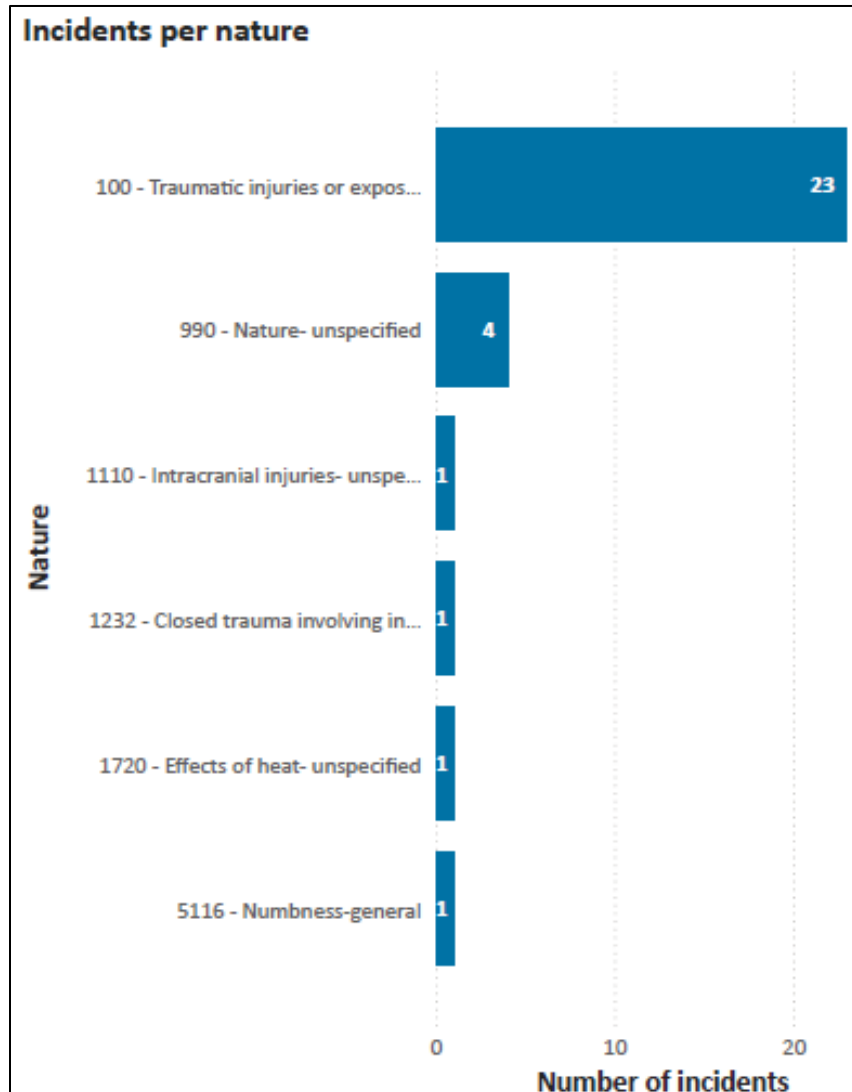


Incidents through age intervals

Primary source by event



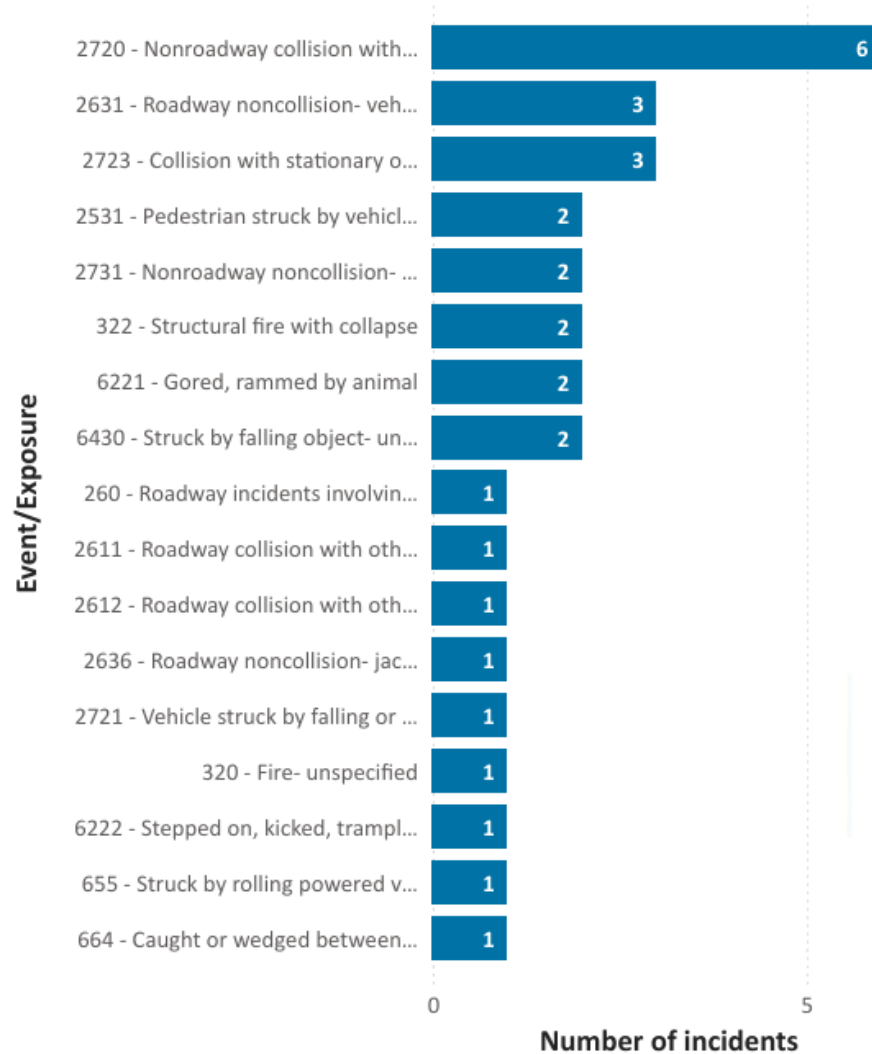
Non-fatal injuries



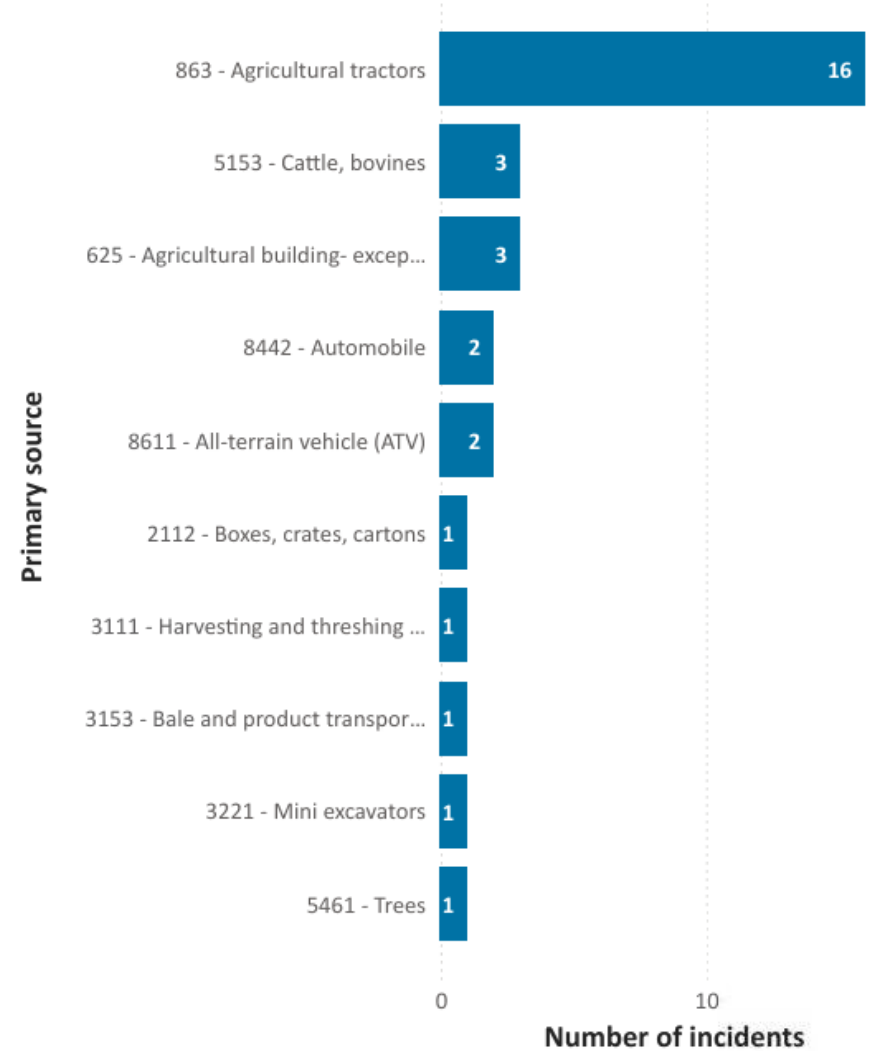
* Not enough details to code into specific categories

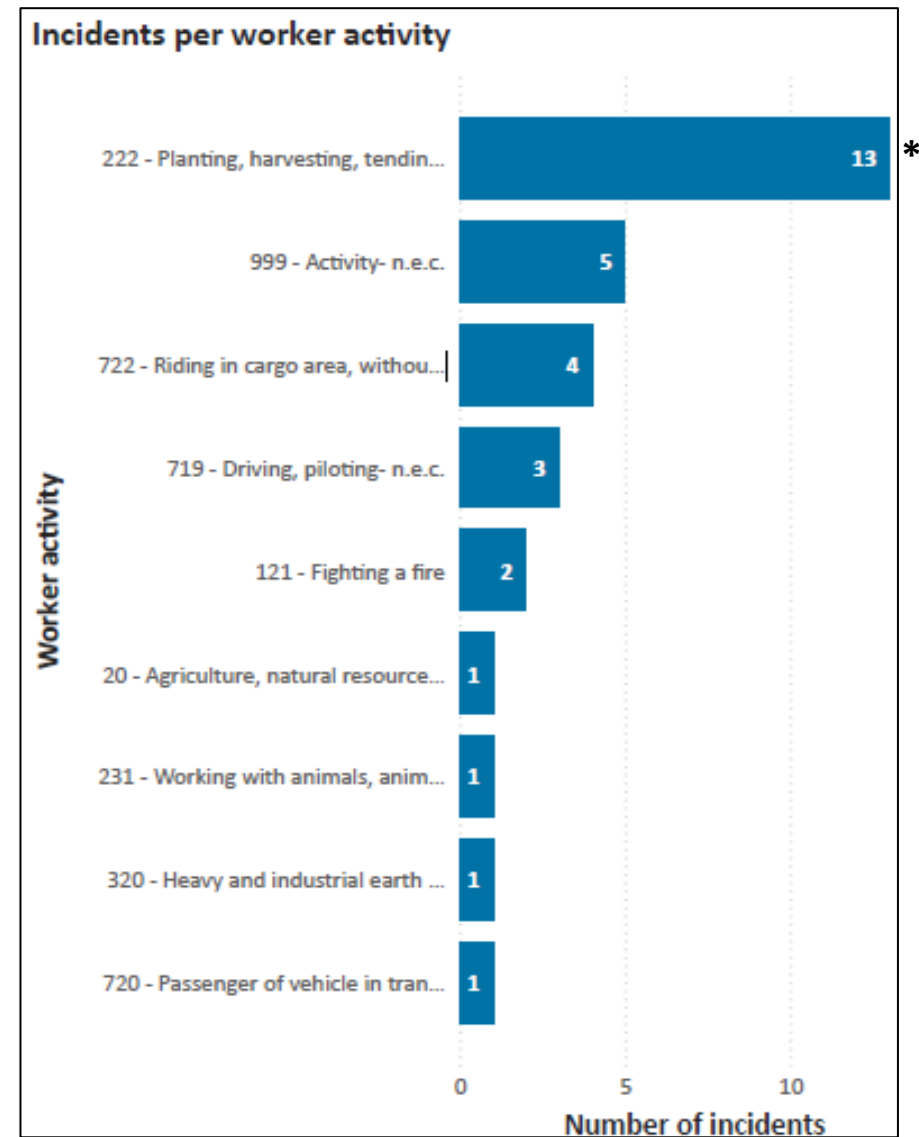
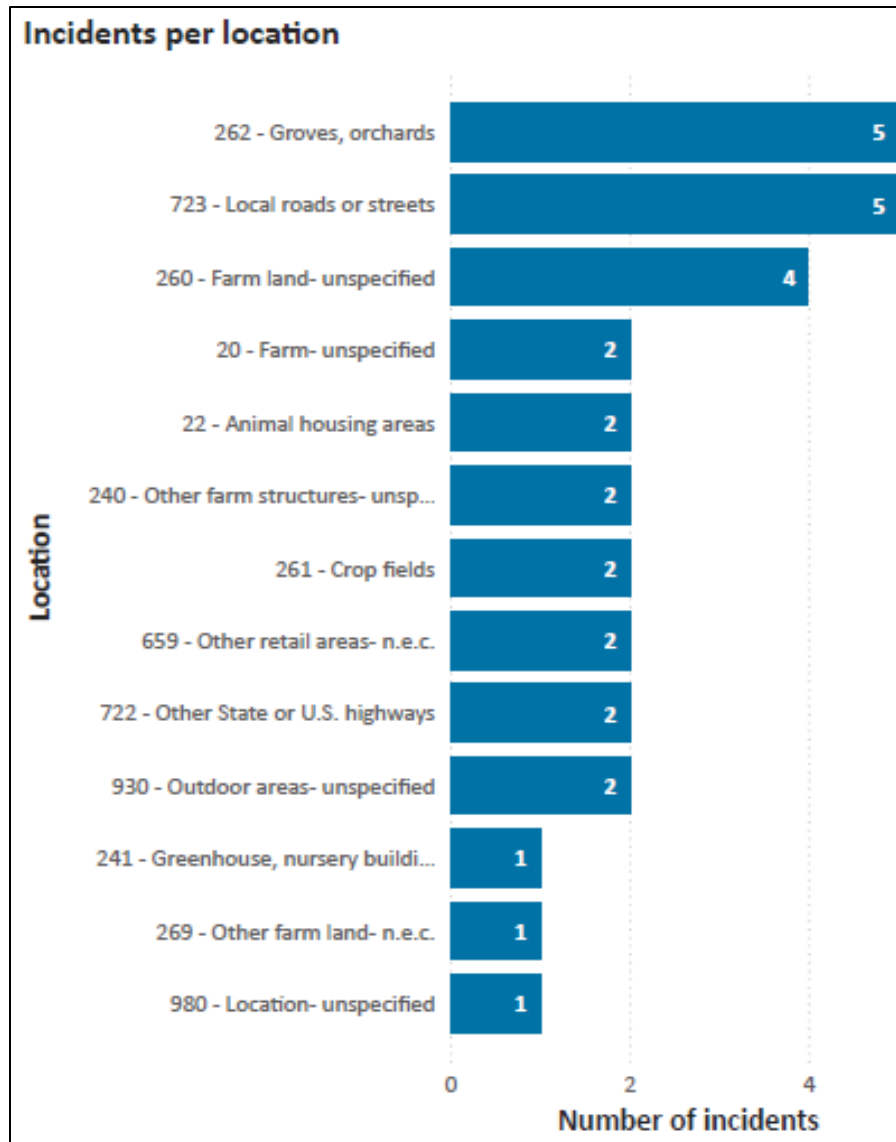
Non-fatal injuries

Incidents per event/exposure



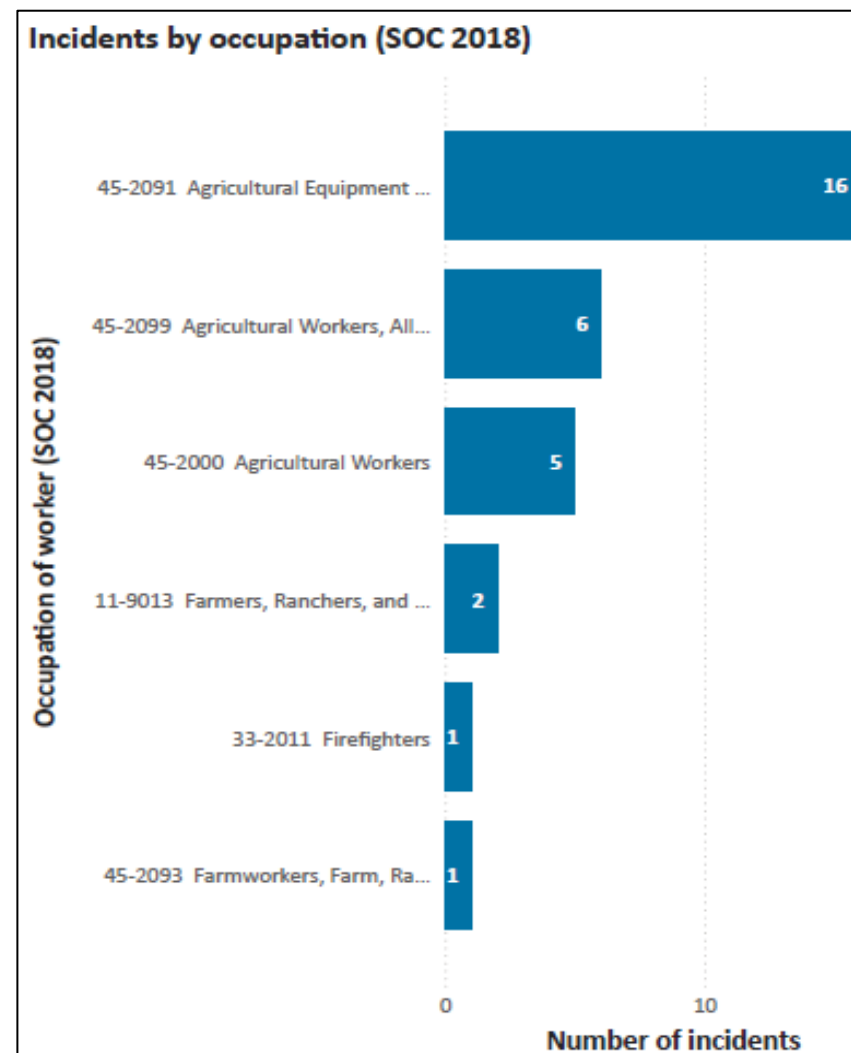
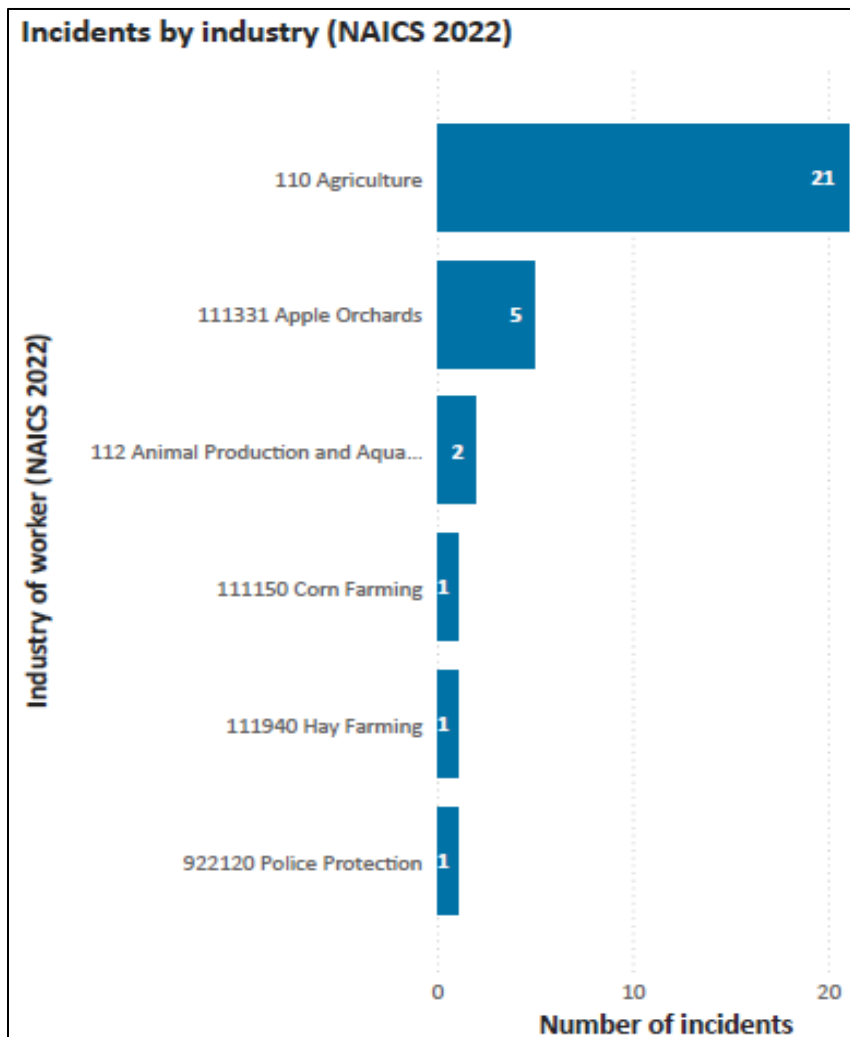
Incidents per primary source





* Driving an agricultural vehicle/machinery is coded under 222 – Planting, harvesting, tending crops using heavy equipment.

Non-fatal injuries

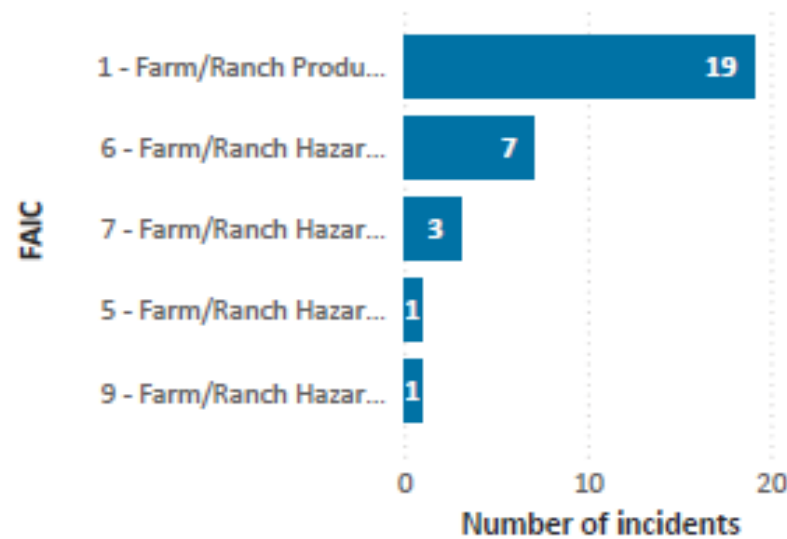


* Not enough details to code into specific categories

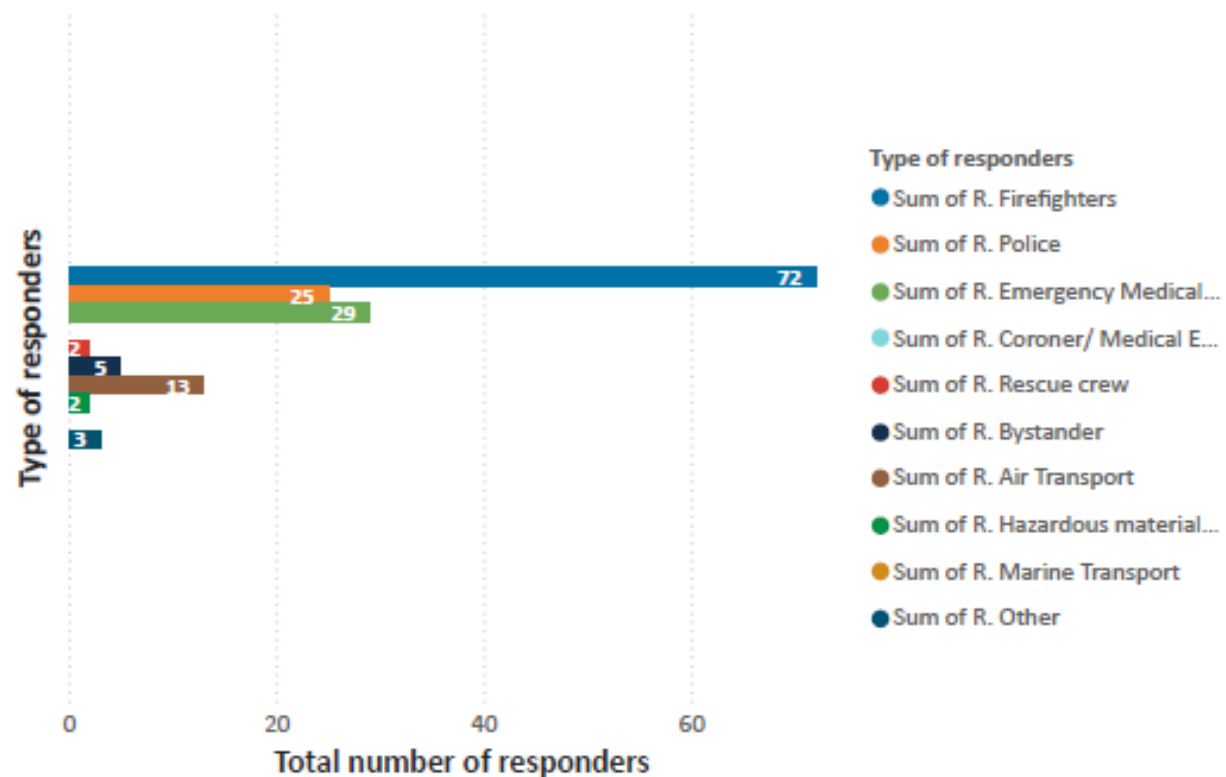
Industry and occupation of person working in agriculture.

Non-fatal injuries

Incidents per Farm and Agriculture Injury Classification



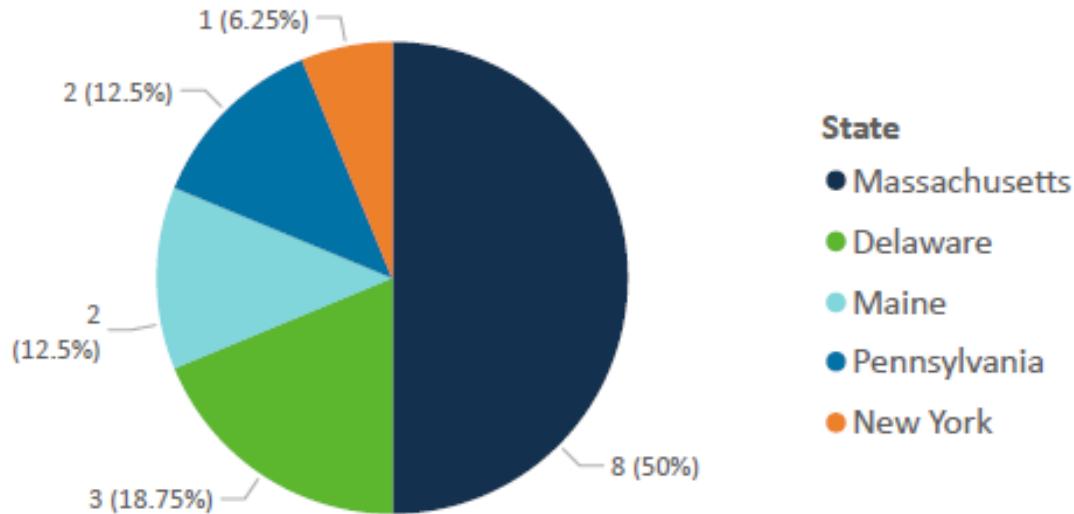
Type of responders at incidents



Non-fatal injuries

16 in Logging

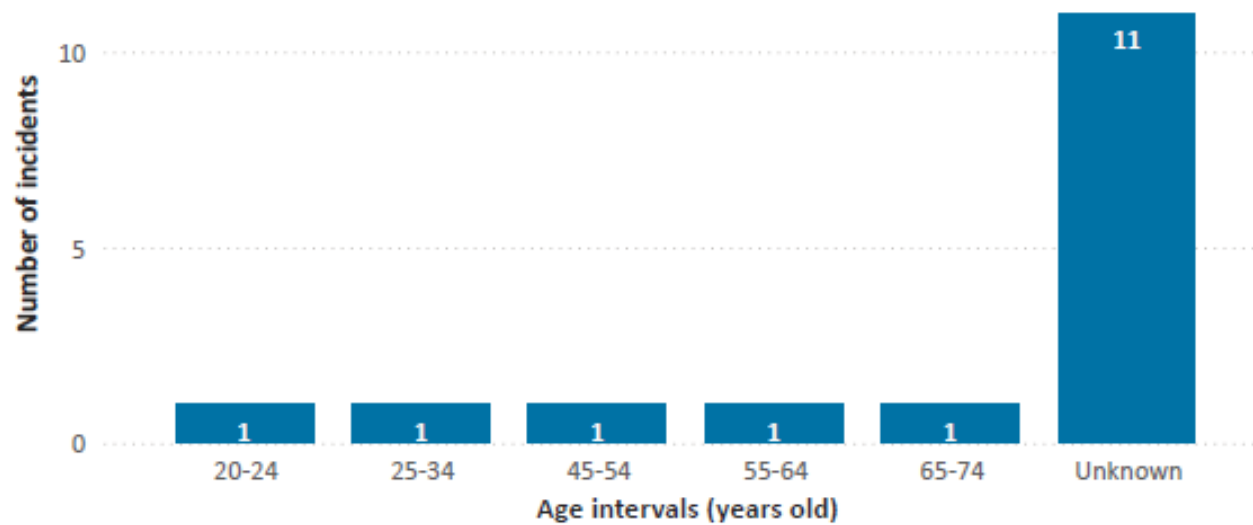
Incidents per state



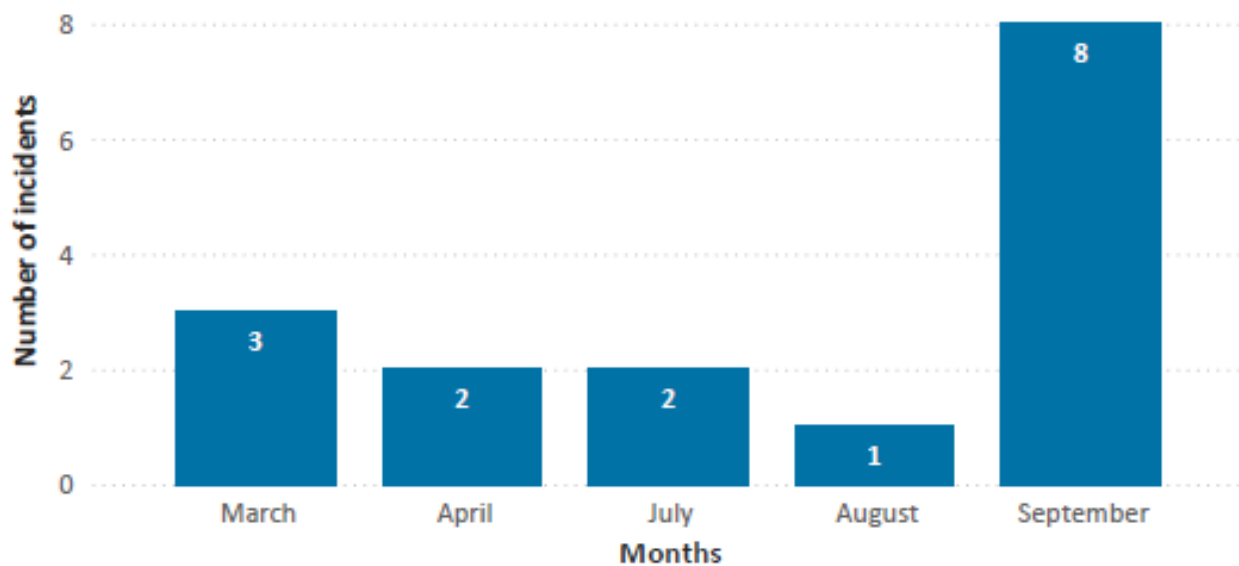
- Five were male, two were female, and nine were unknown.
- Six were adults and 10 were unknown.
- Four were workers, four non workers (bystanders), eight were unknown.
- All 16 were related to work.
- Fifteen were alone, one was with others.
- All 16 were unintentional injuries.

Non-fatal injuries

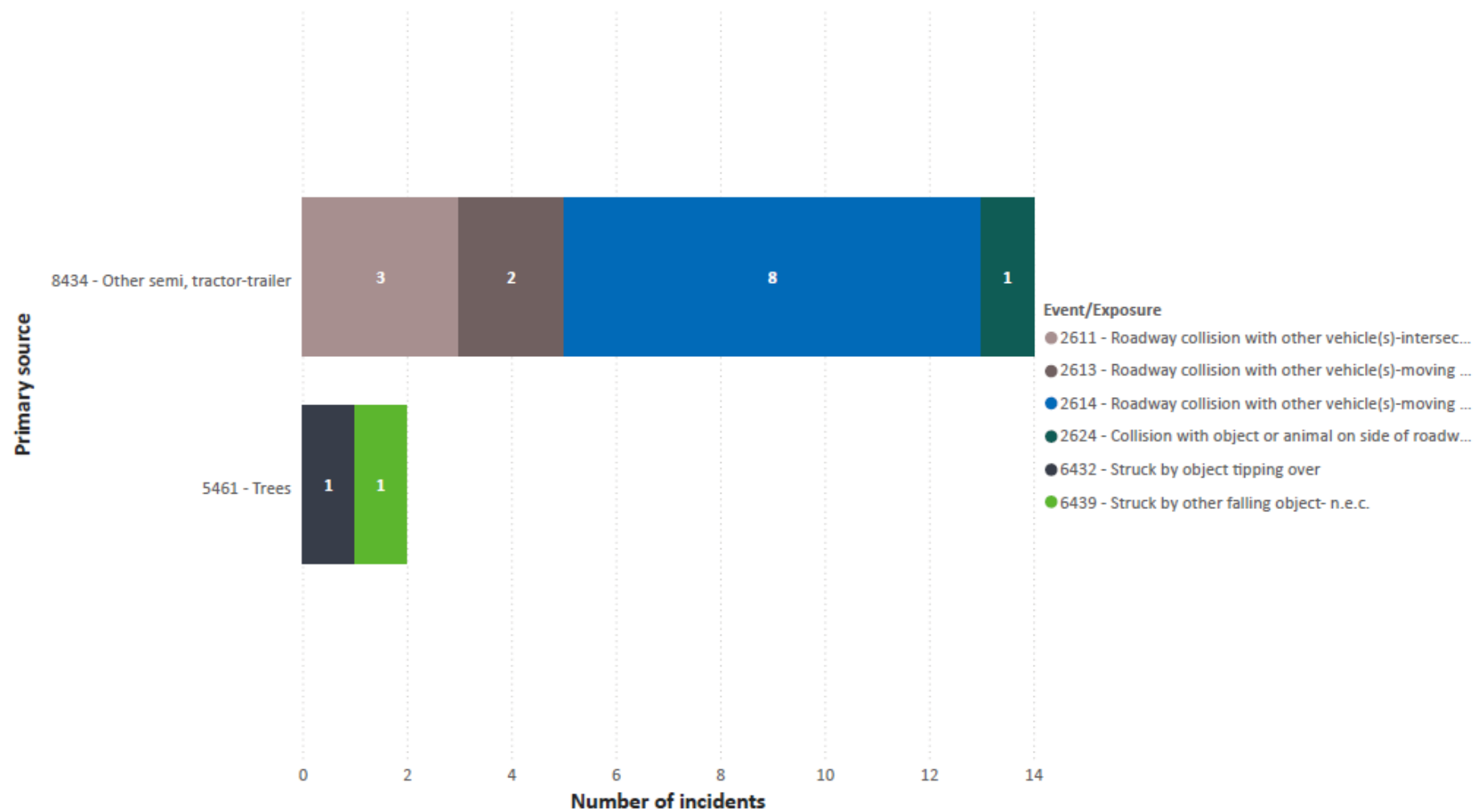
Incidents through age intervals



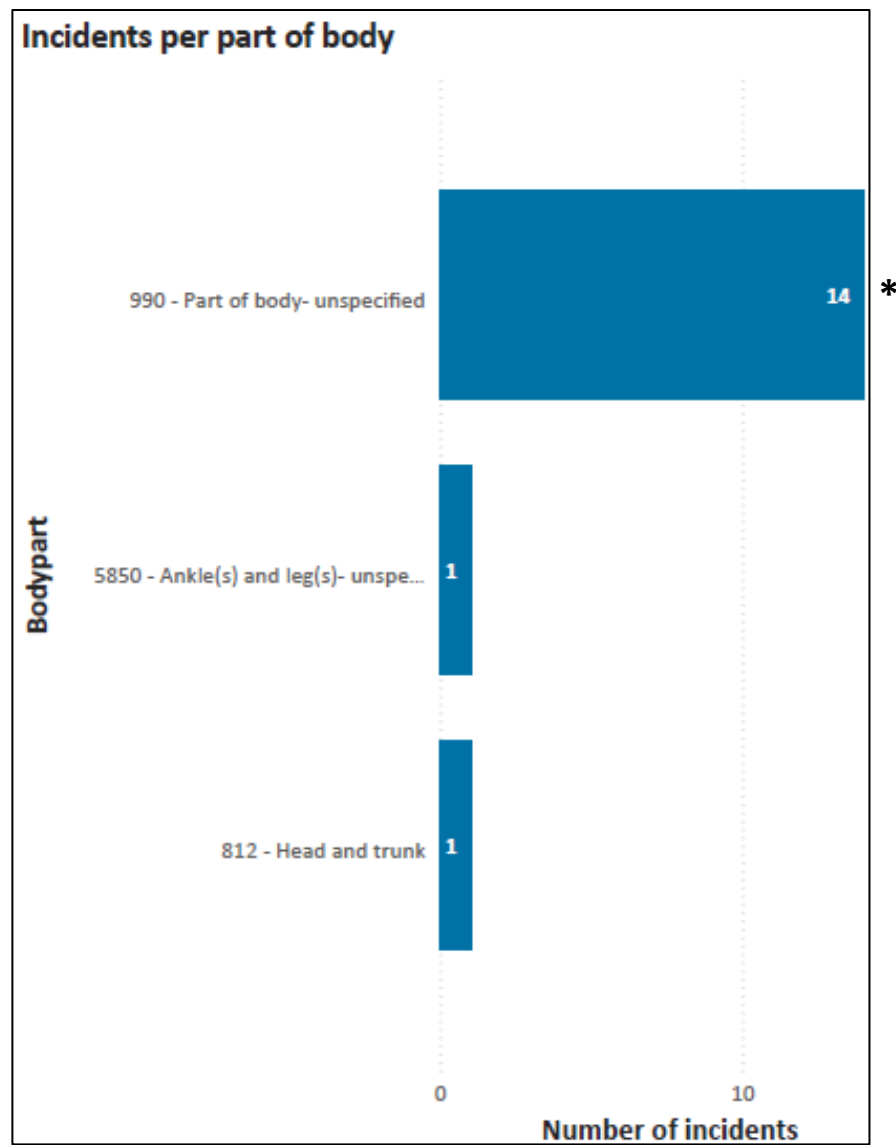
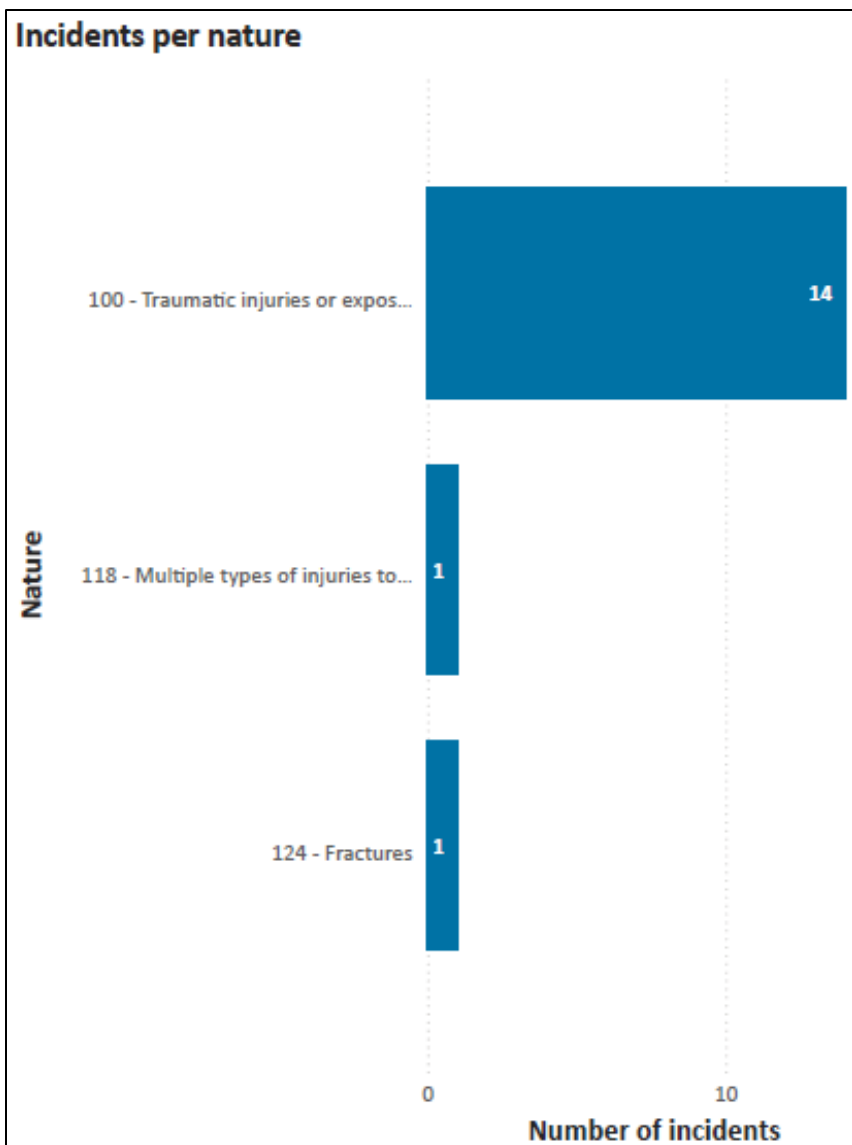
Incidents throughout the year



Primary source by event

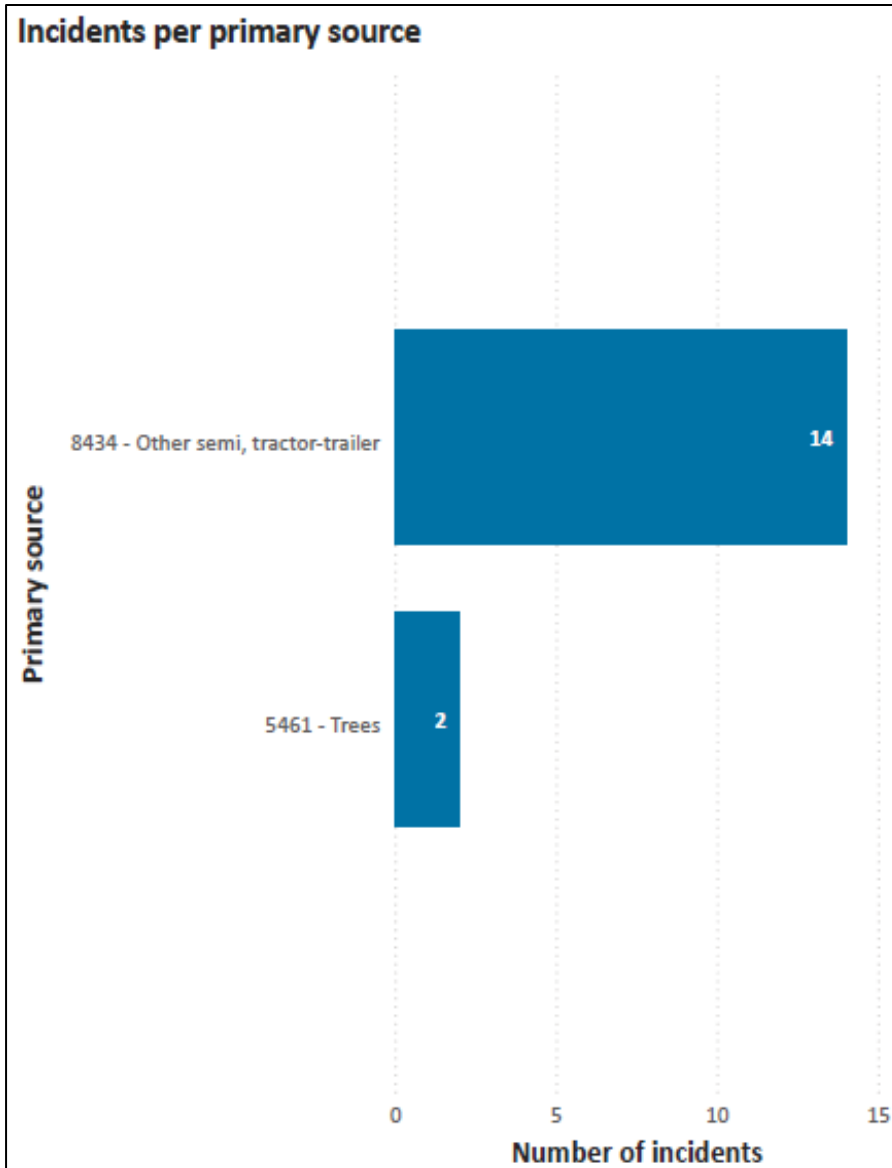
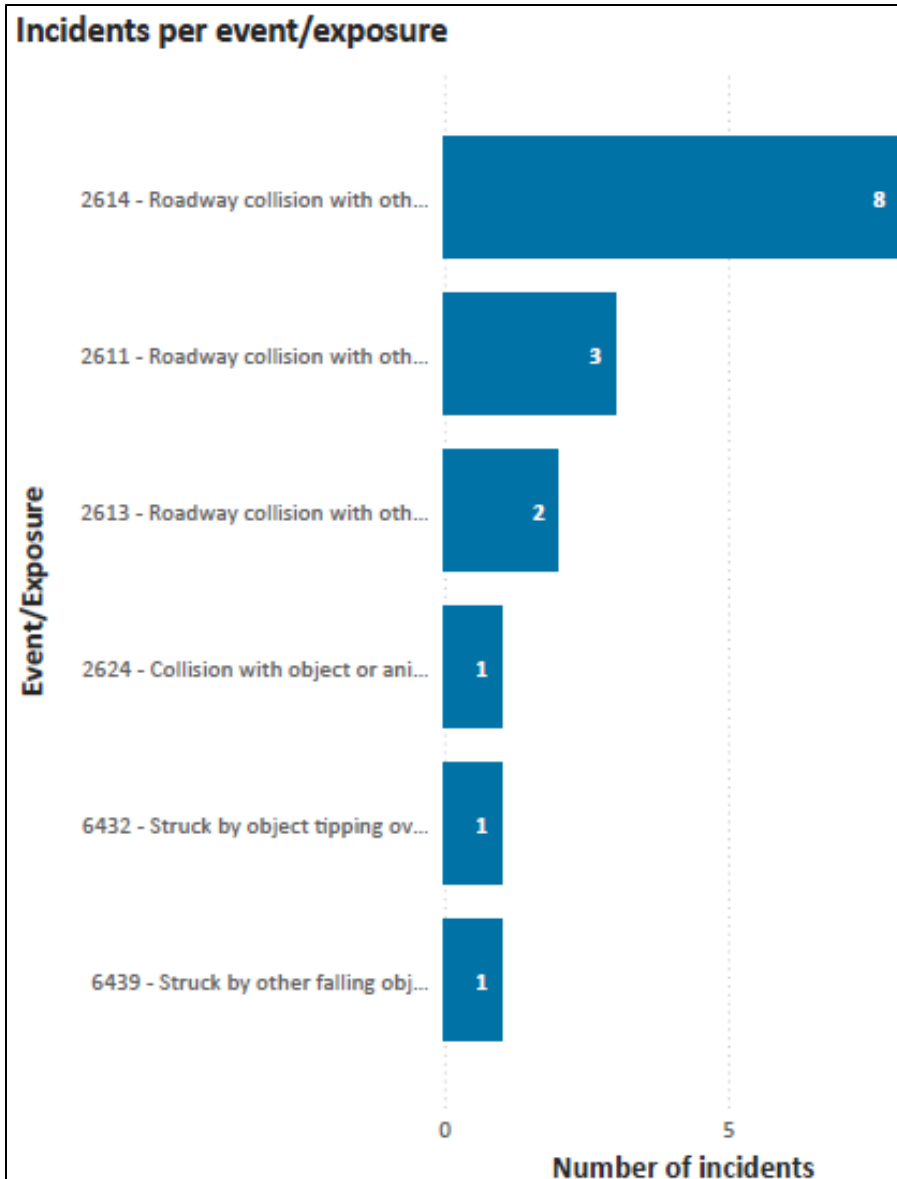


Non-fatal injuries

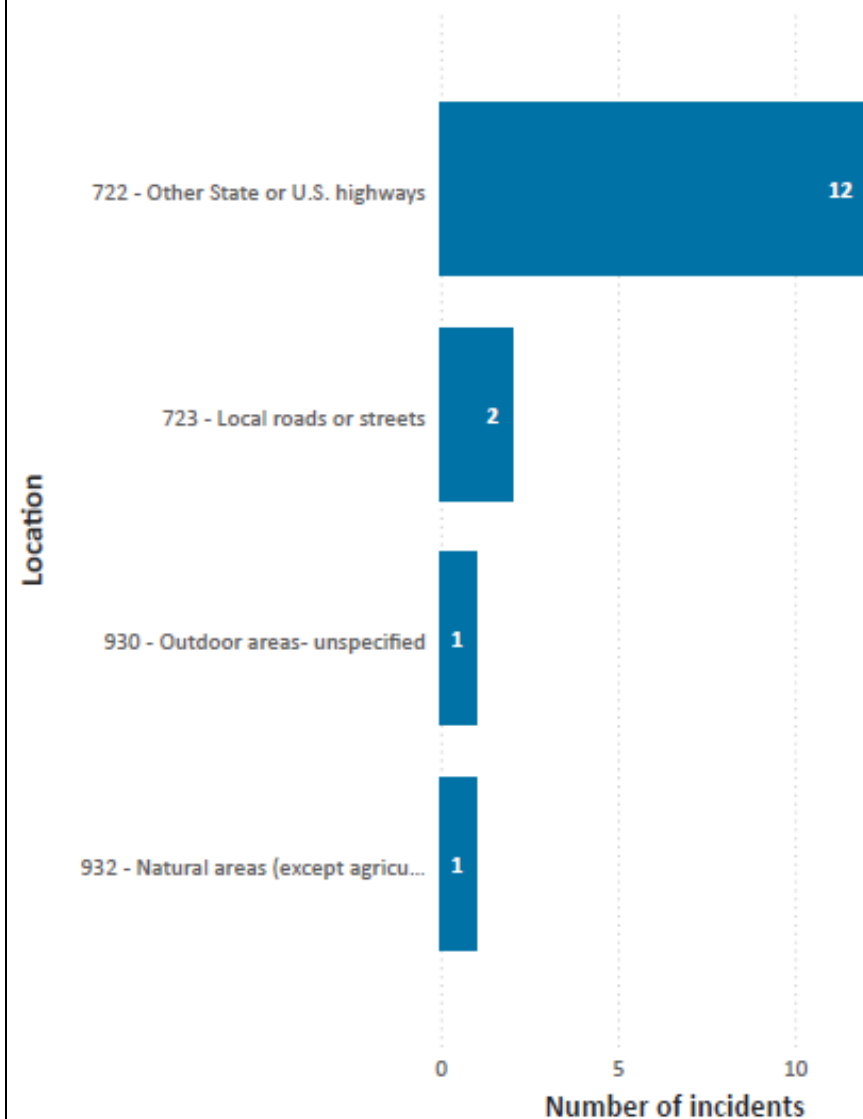


* Not enough details to code into specific categories

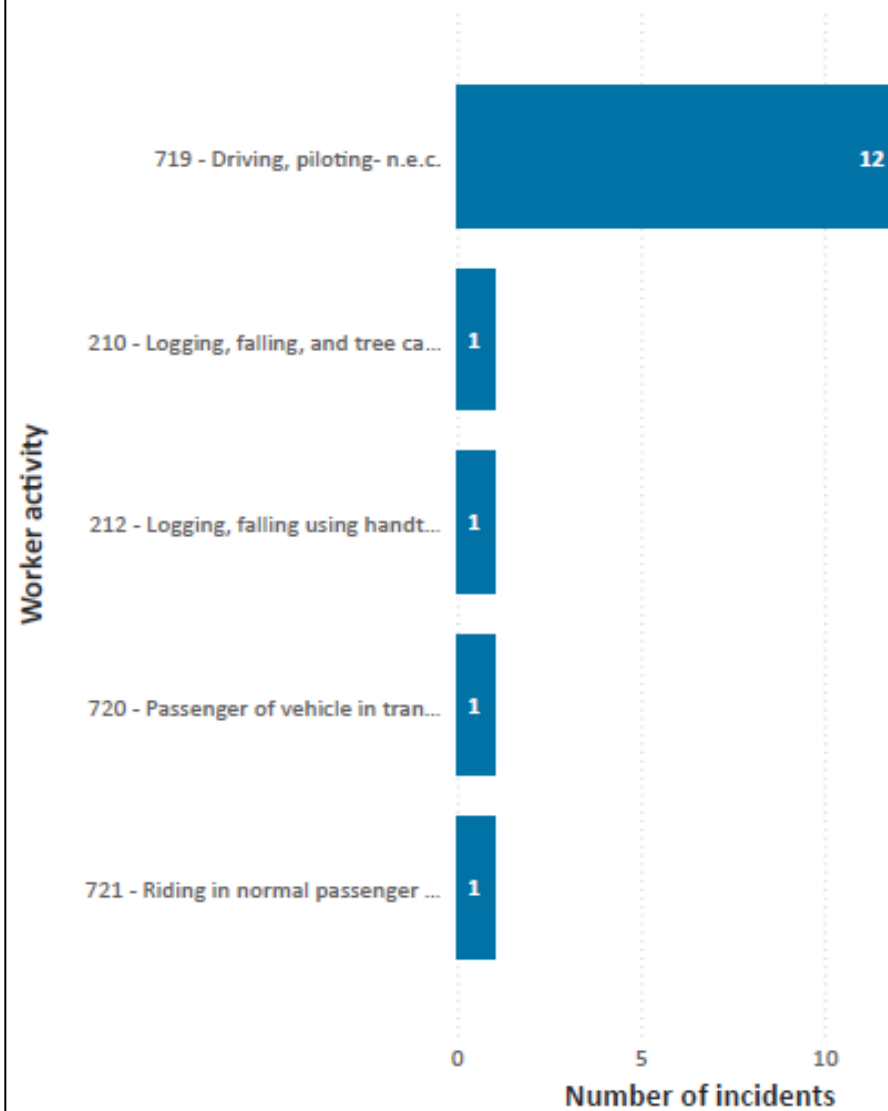
Non-fatal injuries



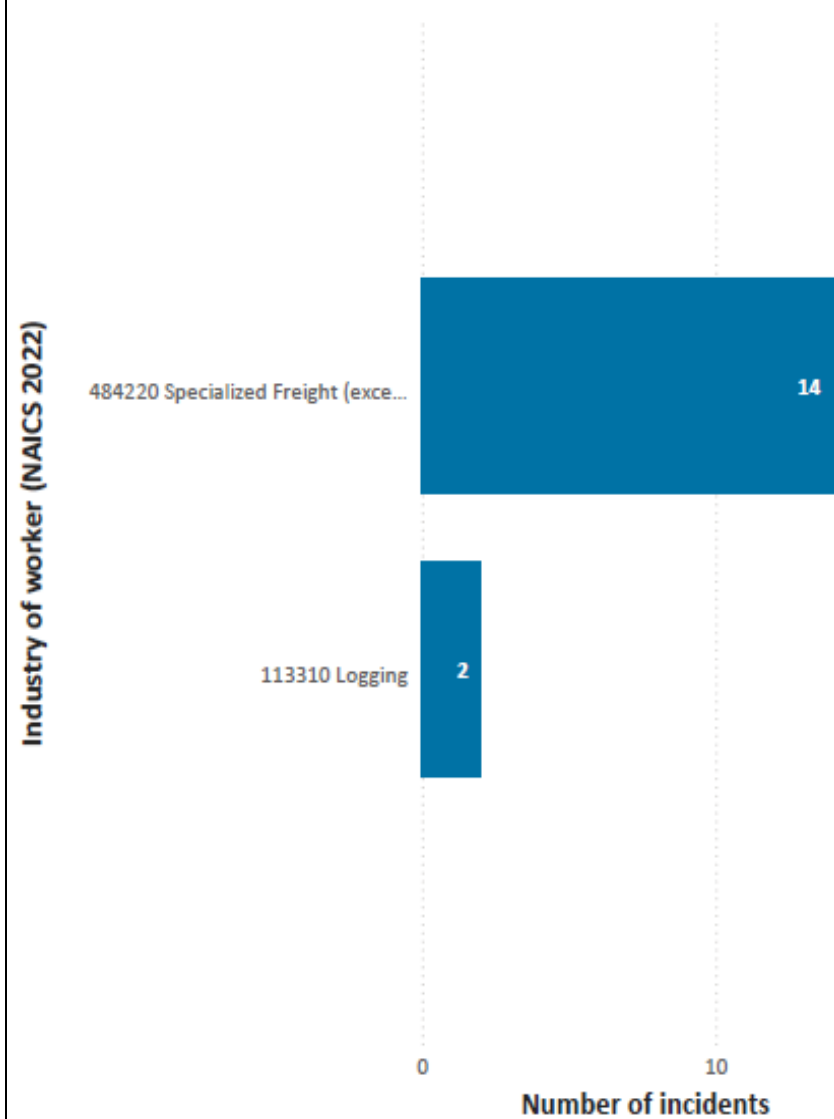
Incidents per location



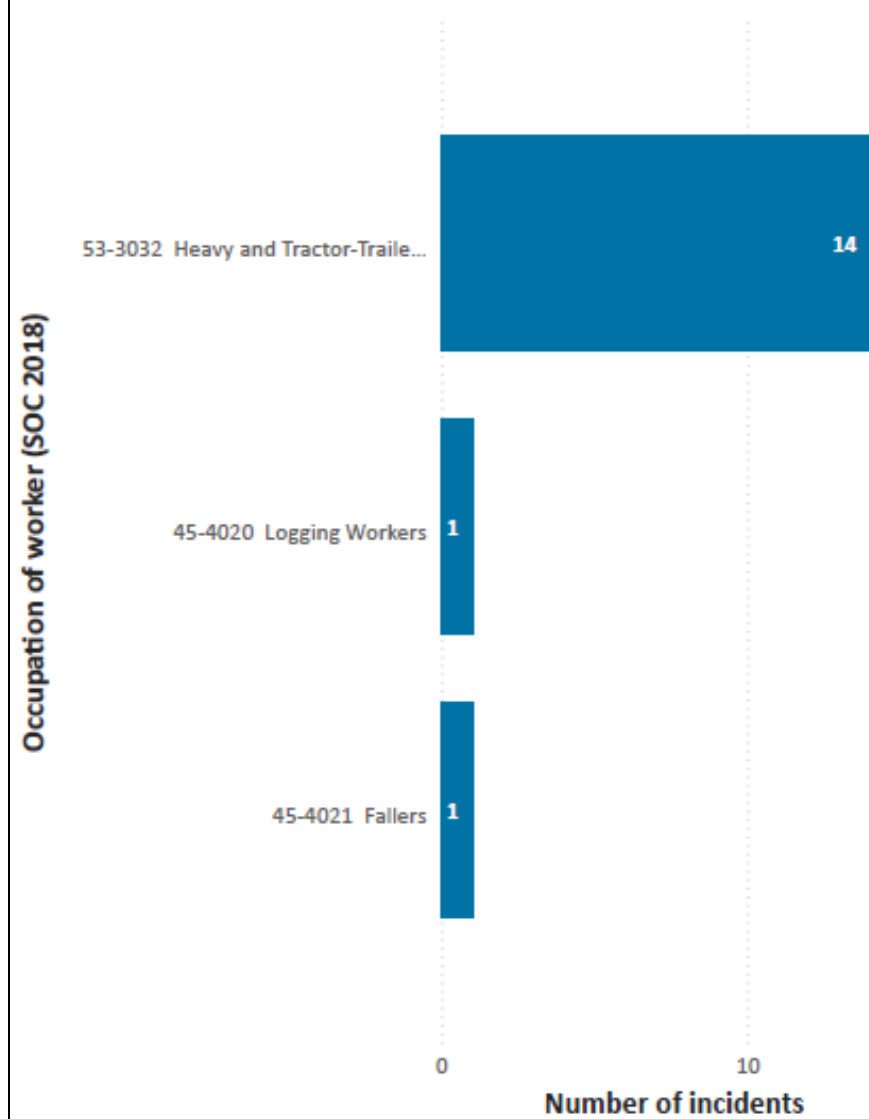
Incidents per worker activity



Incidents by industry (NAICS 2022)

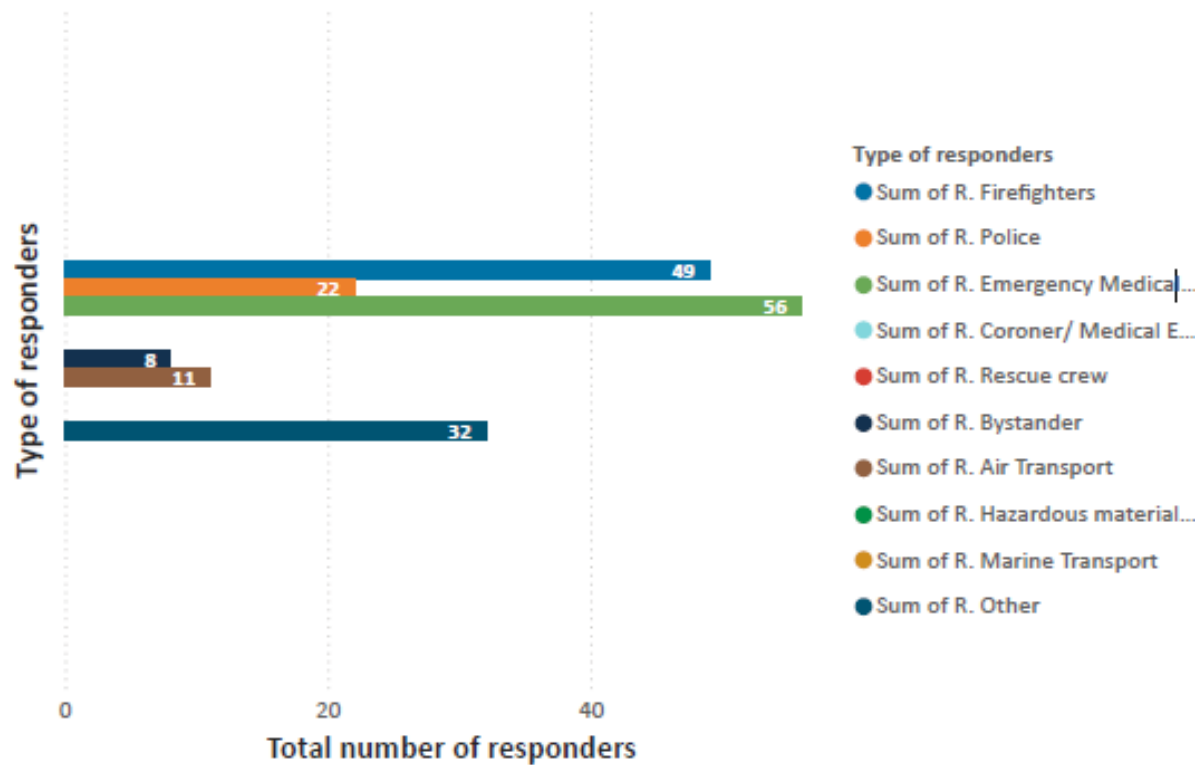


Incidents by occupation (SOC 2018)



- All were classified as FAIC 2- Forestry and Logging

Type of responders at incidents

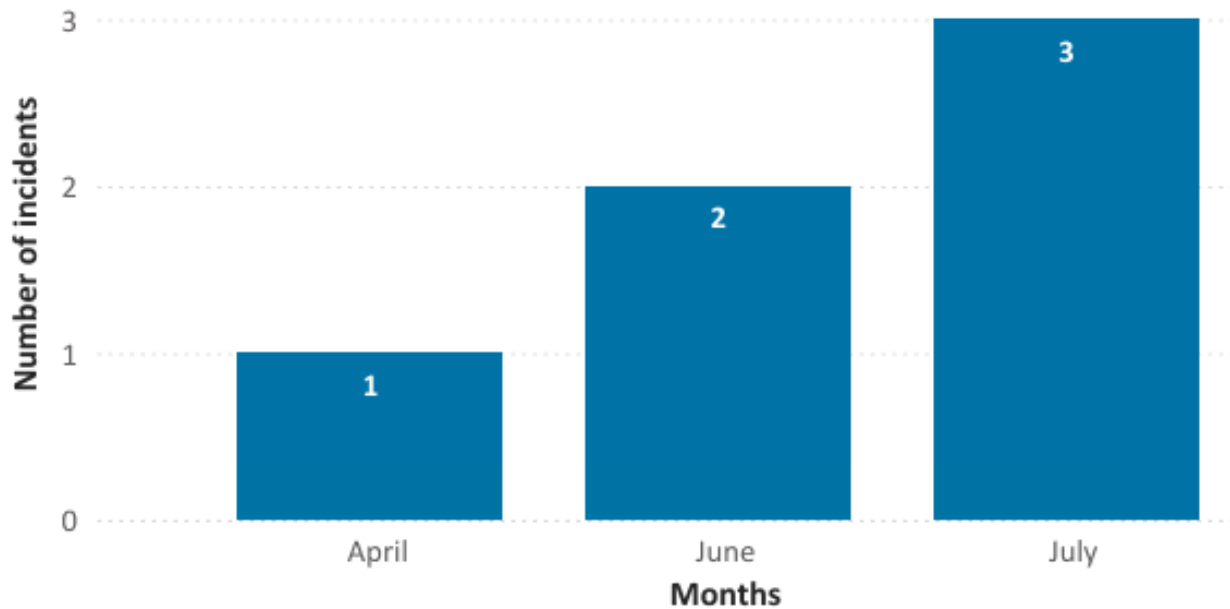


Non-fatal injuries

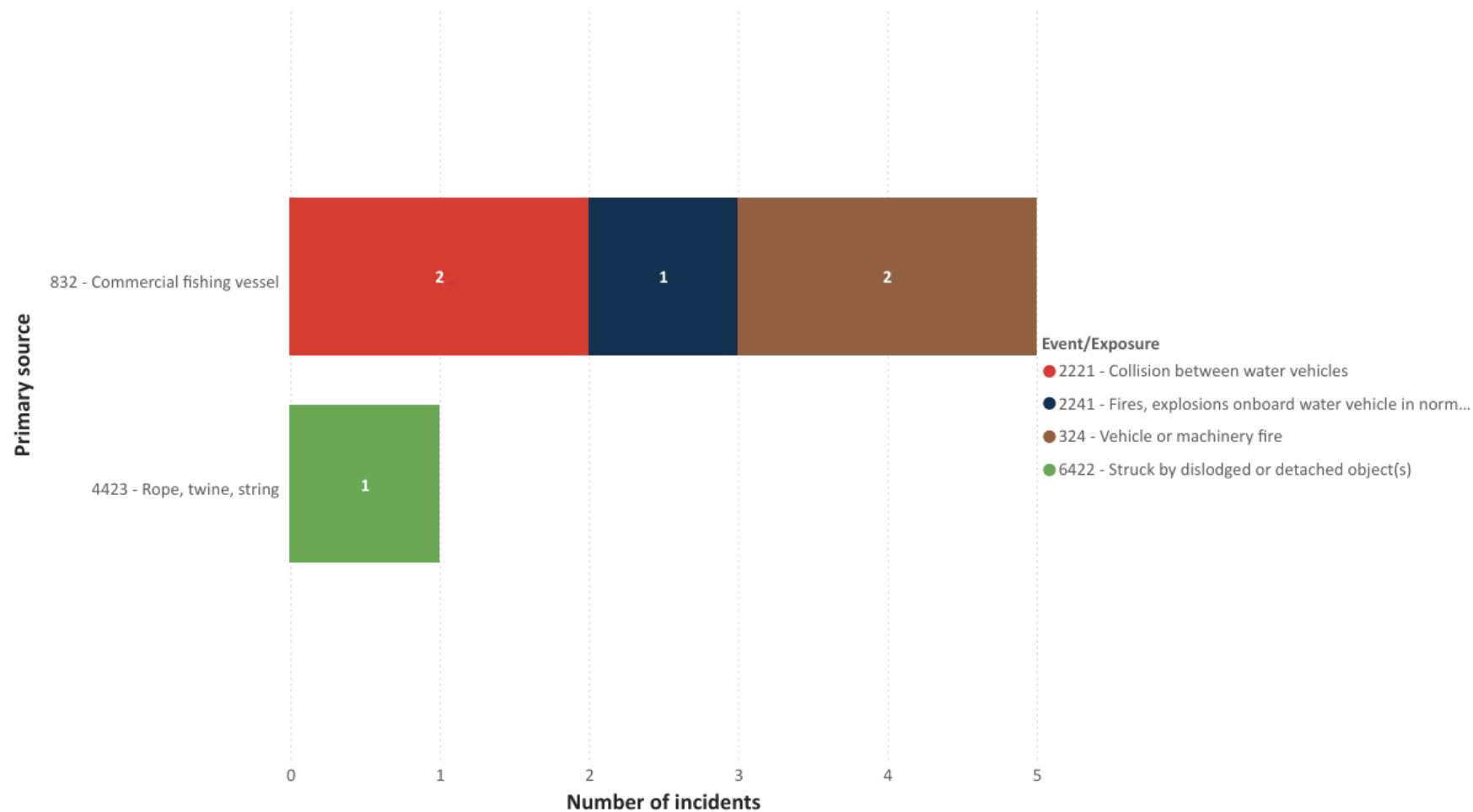
6 in Commercial Fishing

- Five took place in Maine, one in Massachusetts.
- Two were male, one was female, and three were of unknown sex.
- One was an adult, five were unknown.
- Five were workers, one was a non-worker (bystander).
- All were related to work.
- One was alone, five were with others.
- Four were unintentional injuries, and two were unknown.
- Ages could not be determined for all.

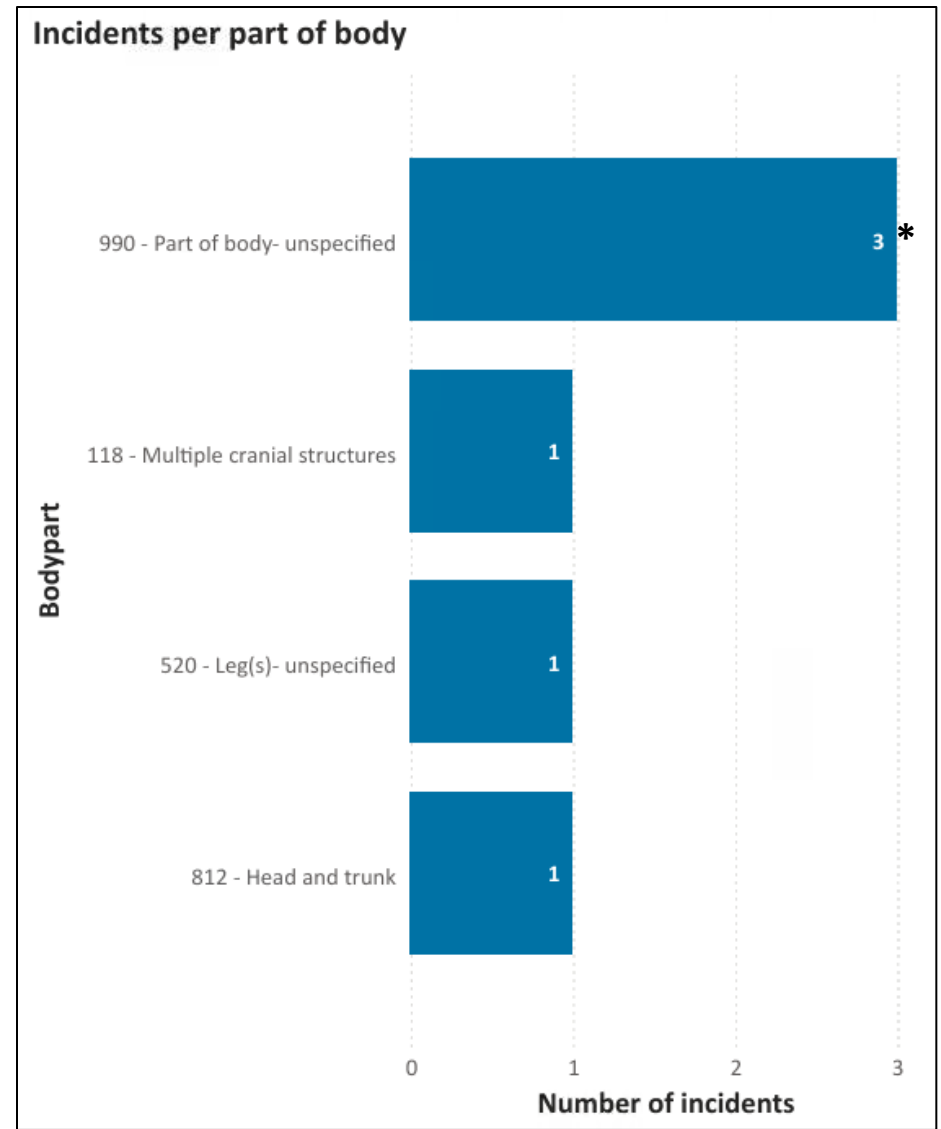
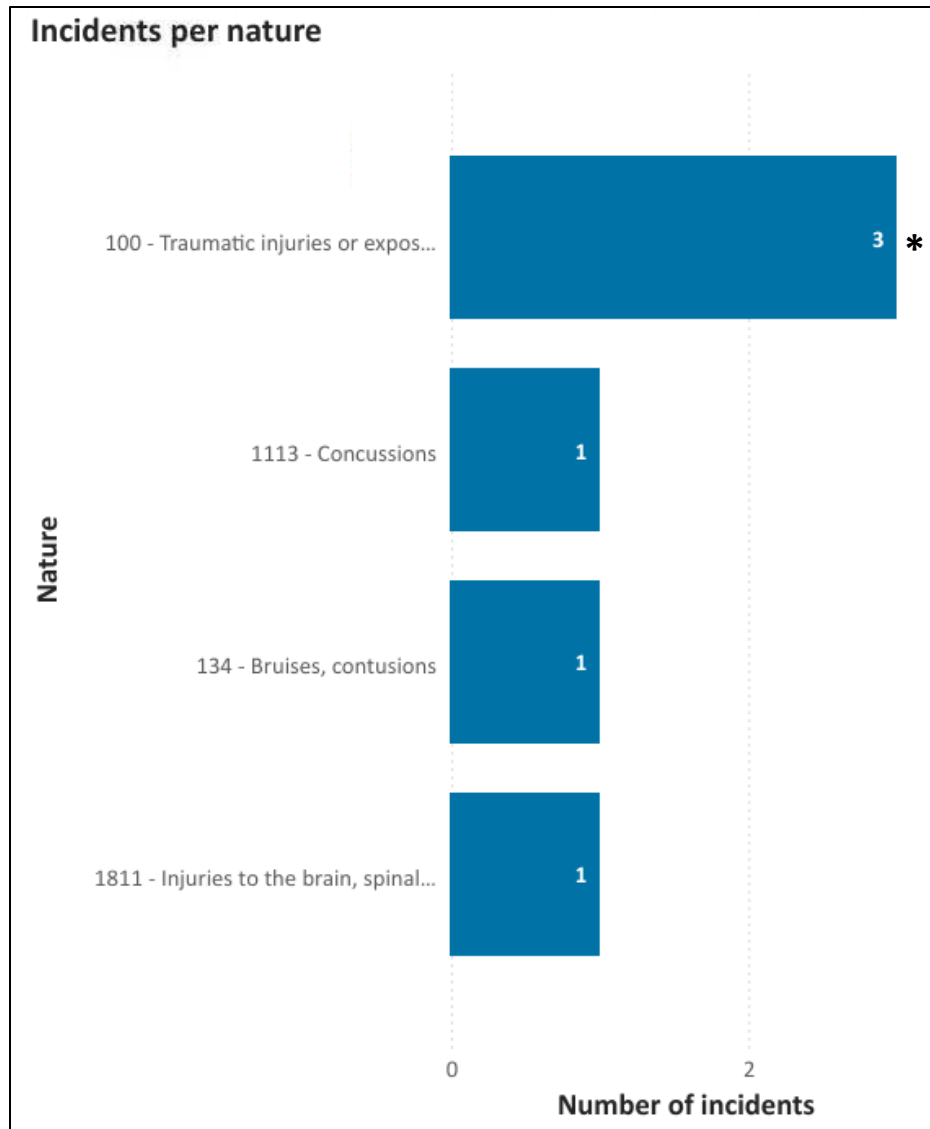
Incidents throughout the year



Primary source by event

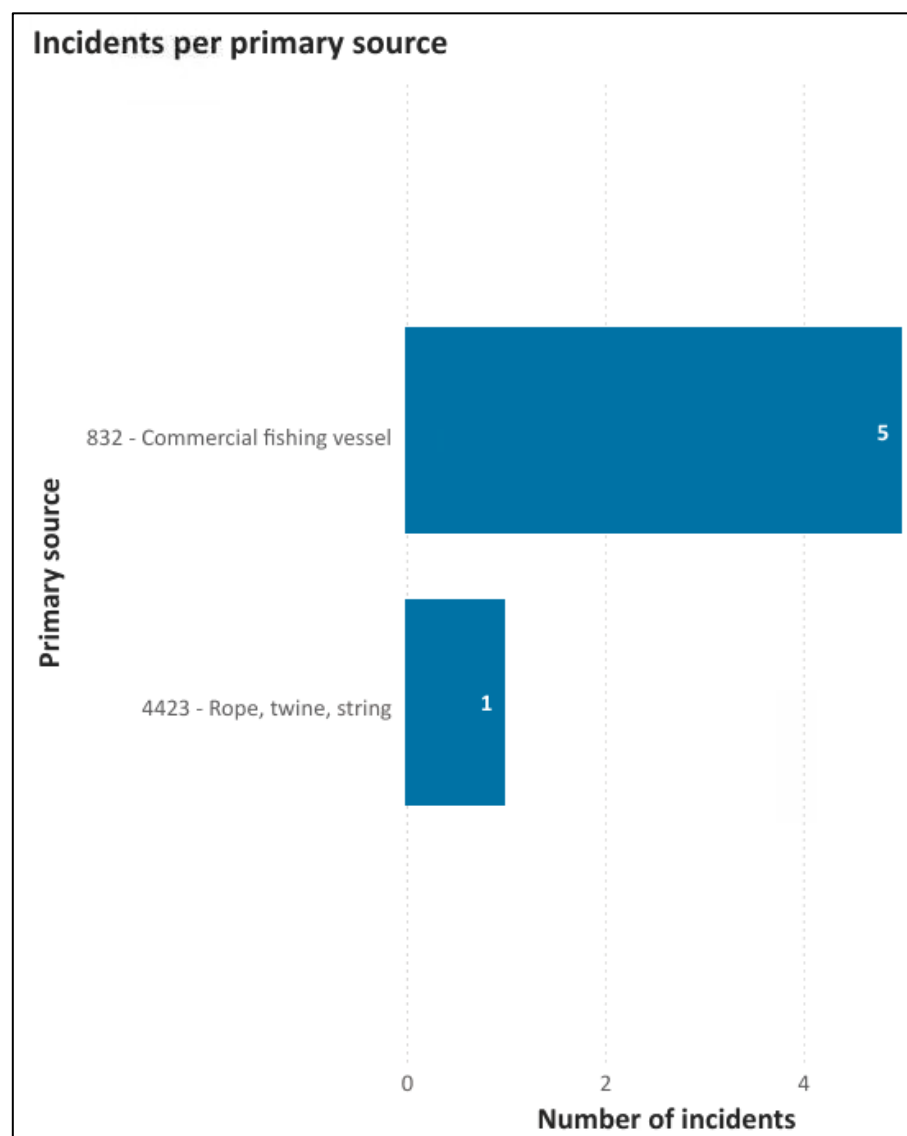
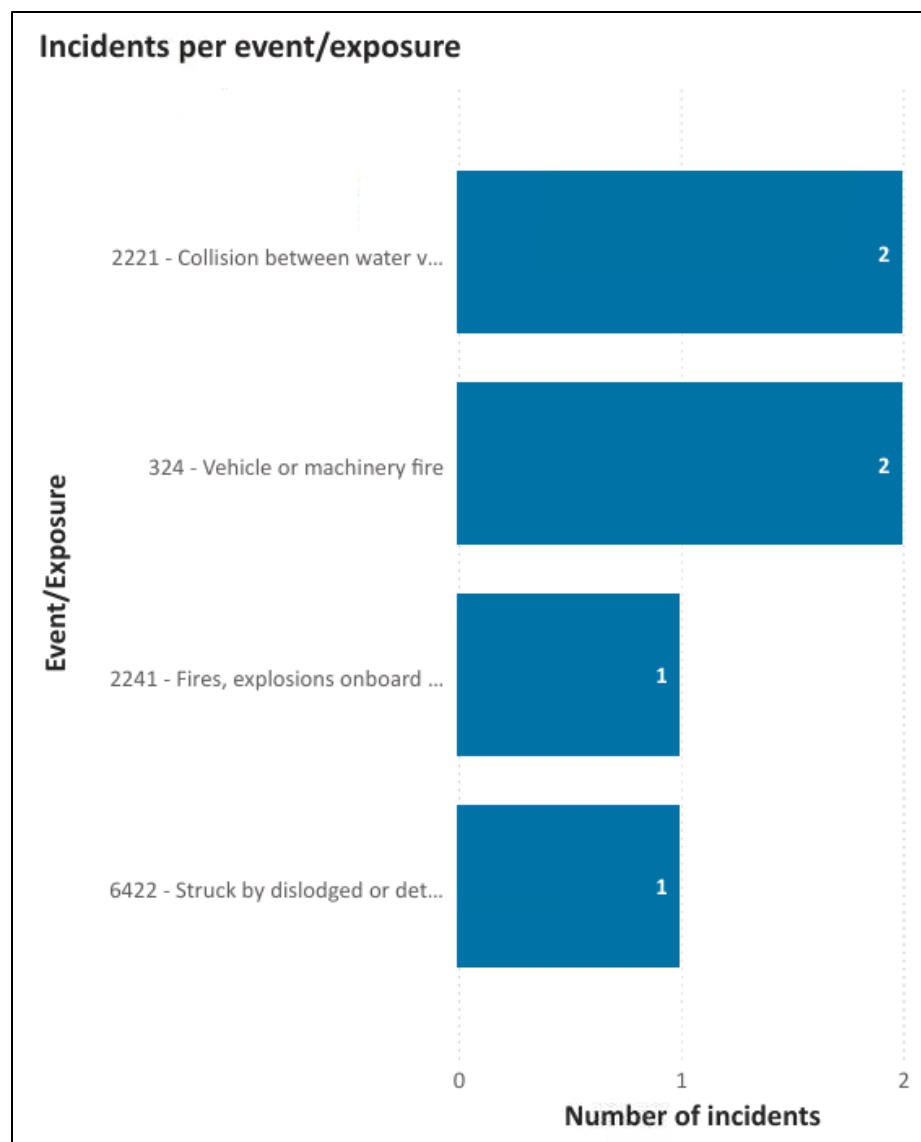


Non-fatal injuries

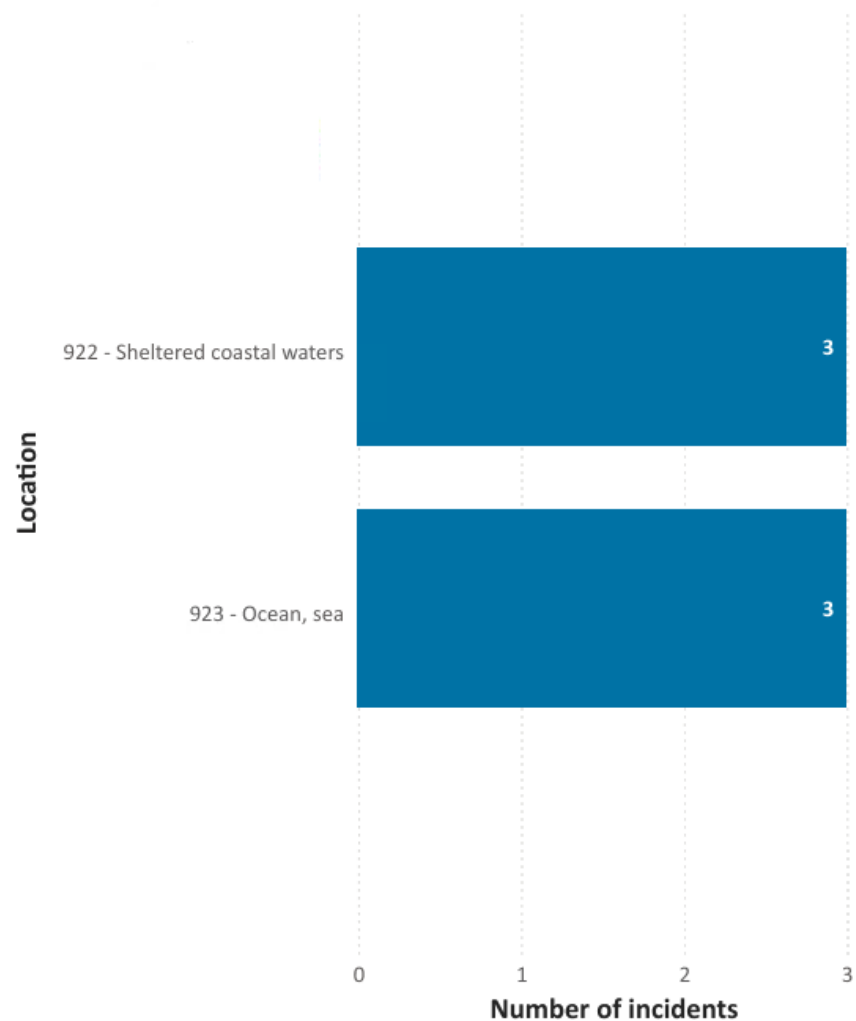


* Not enough details to code into specific categories

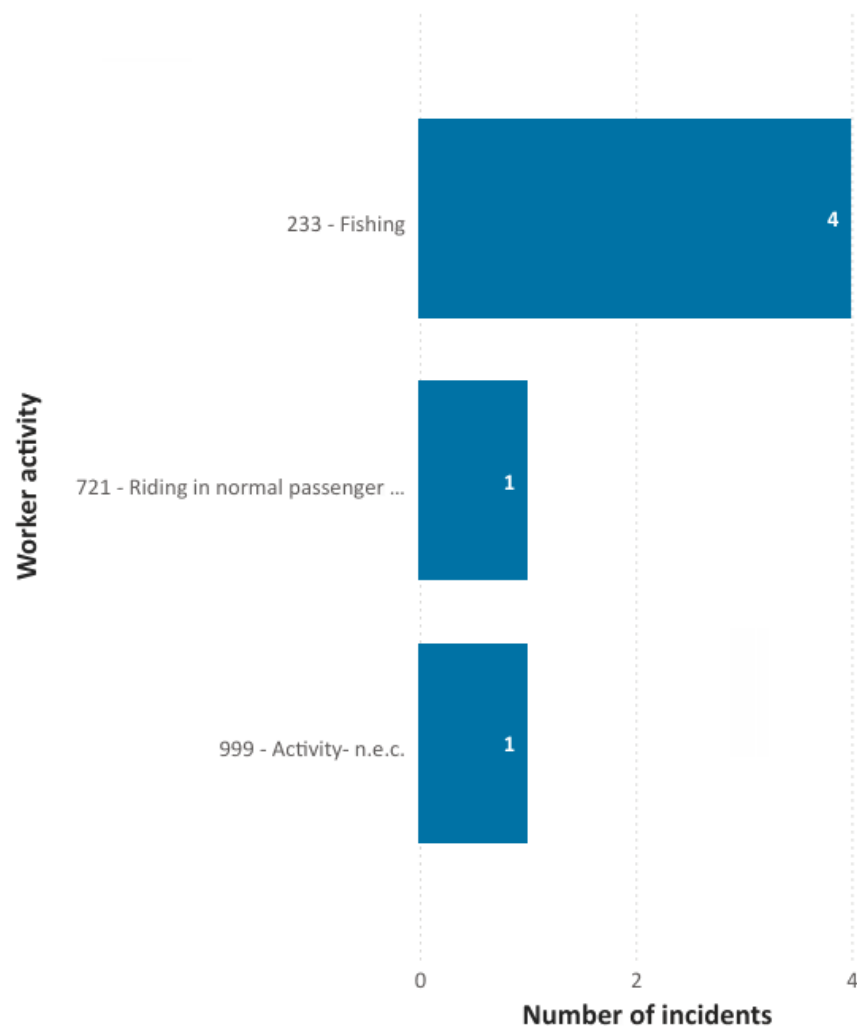
Non-fatal injuries



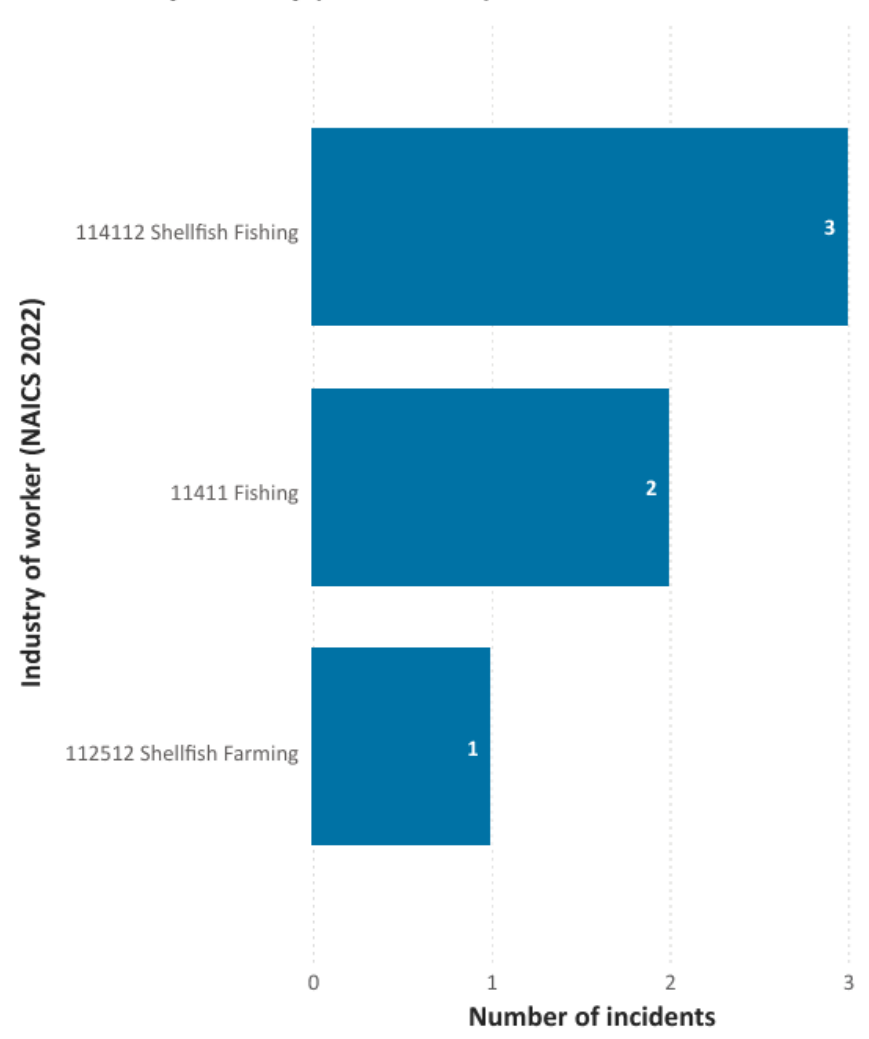
Incidents per location



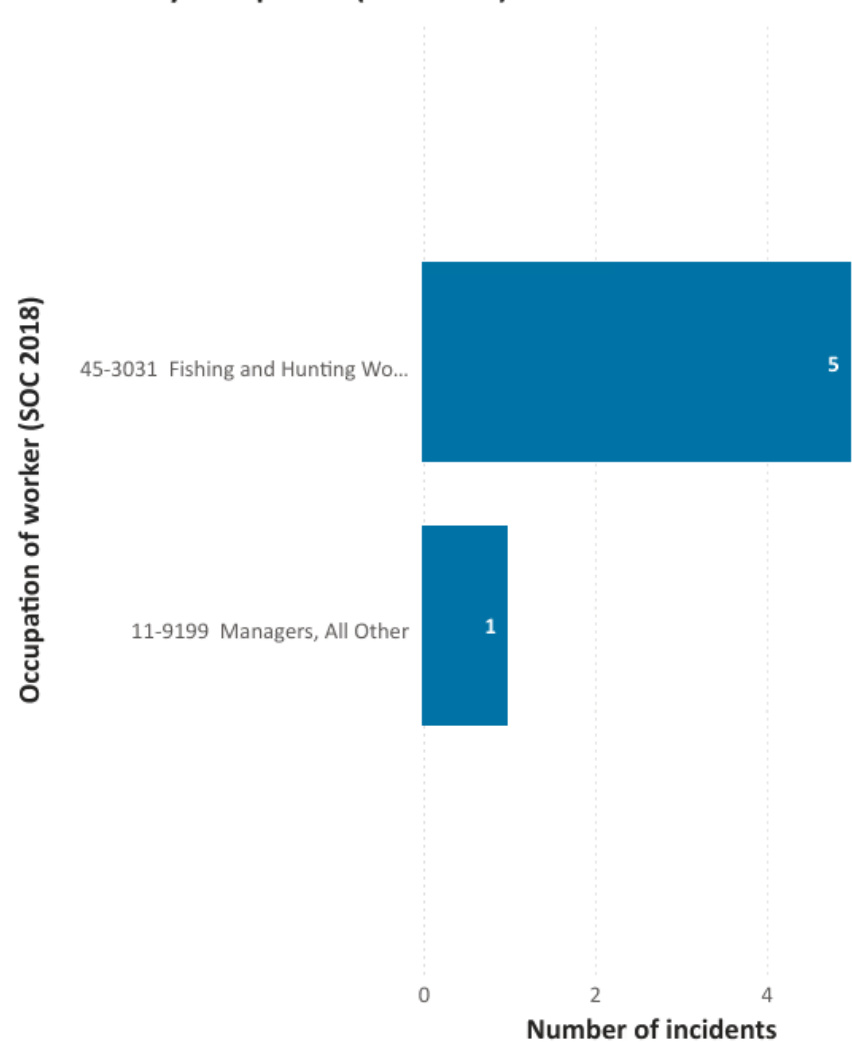
Incidents per worker activity



Incidents by industry (NAICS 2022)

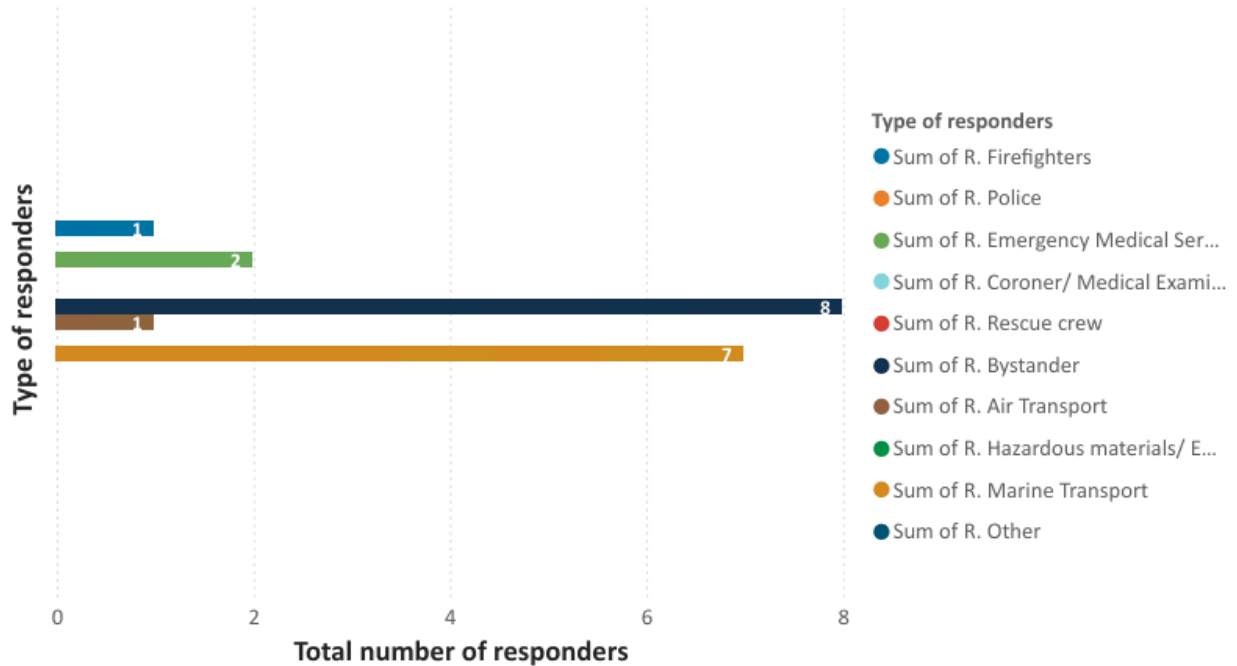


Incidents by occupation (SOC 2018)



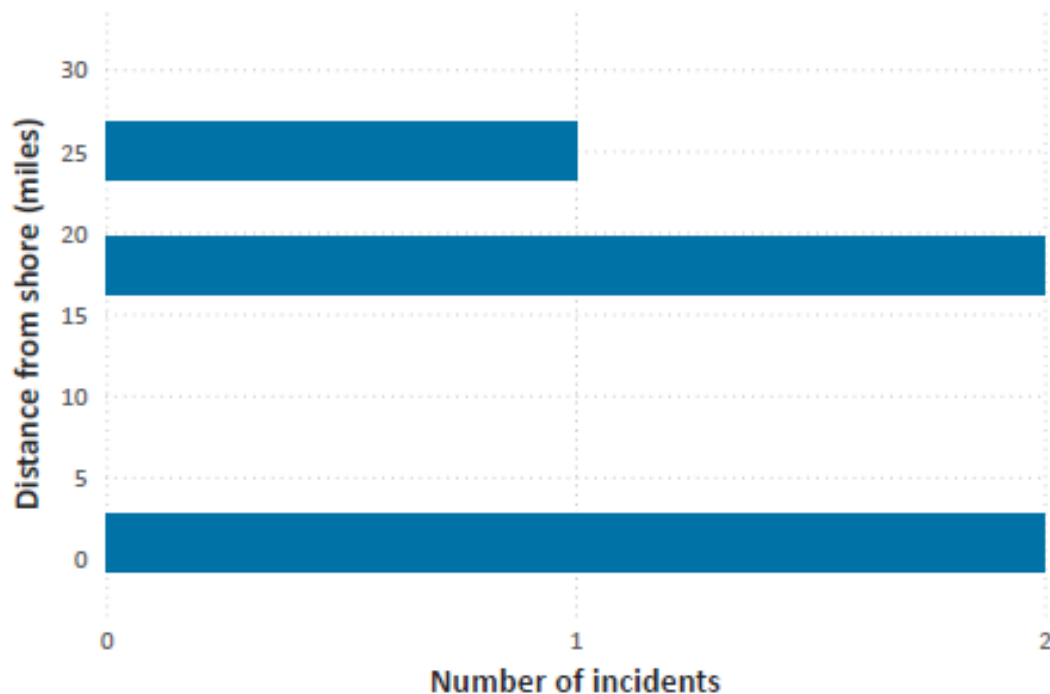
- All were classified as FAIC 3- Fishing, Hunting & Trapping

Type of responders at incidents



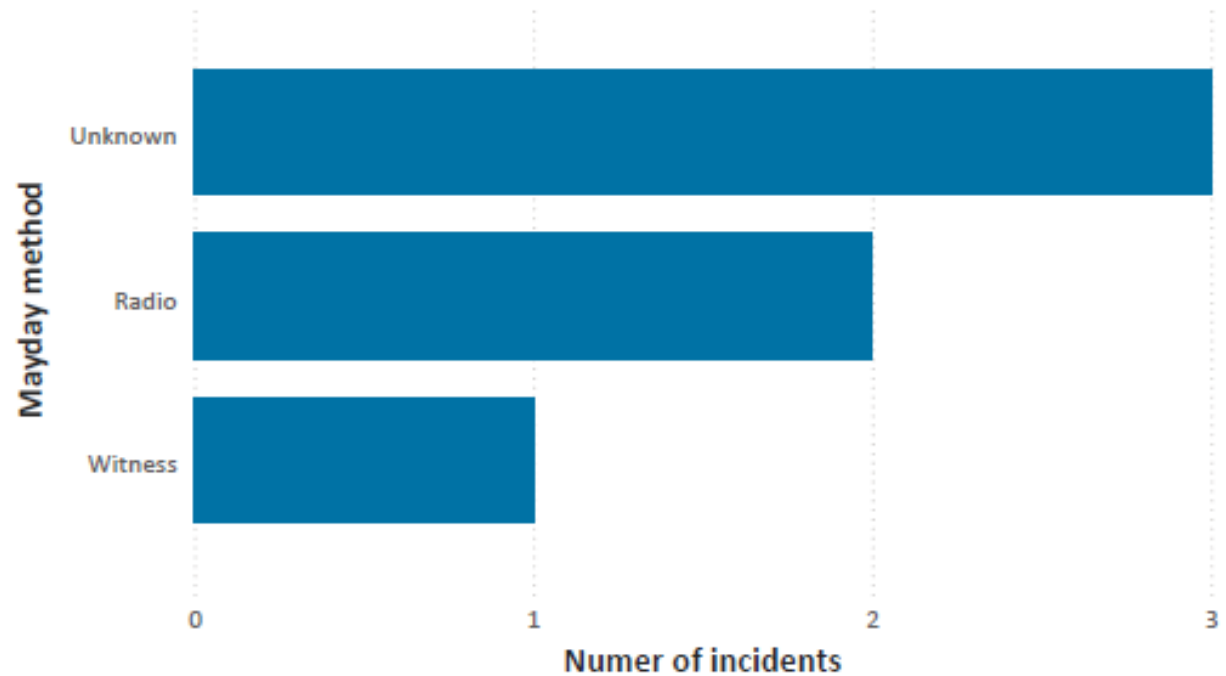
- All happened in the Northeast district (ME, VT, NH, RI, CT, MA, part NY, part NJ).
- Three were onboard injuries or illnesses, and three were vessel casualties.

Incidents by distance from shore

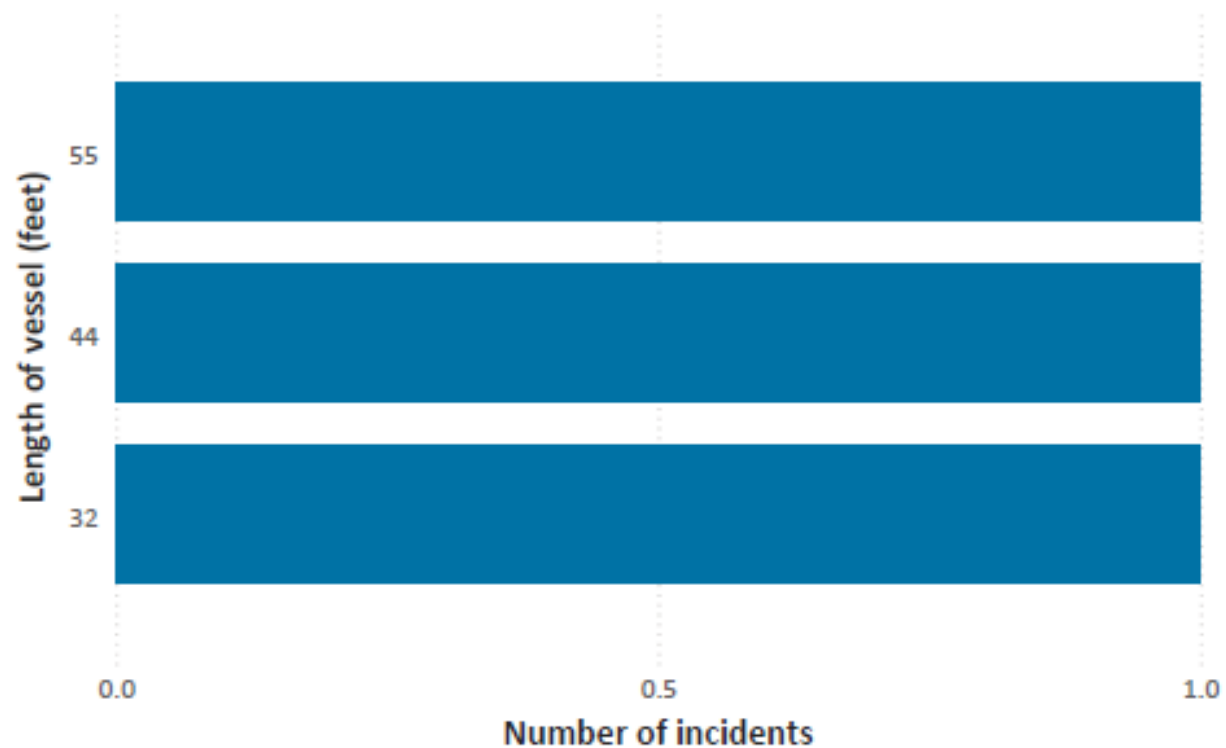


Non-fatal injuries

Mayday methods used

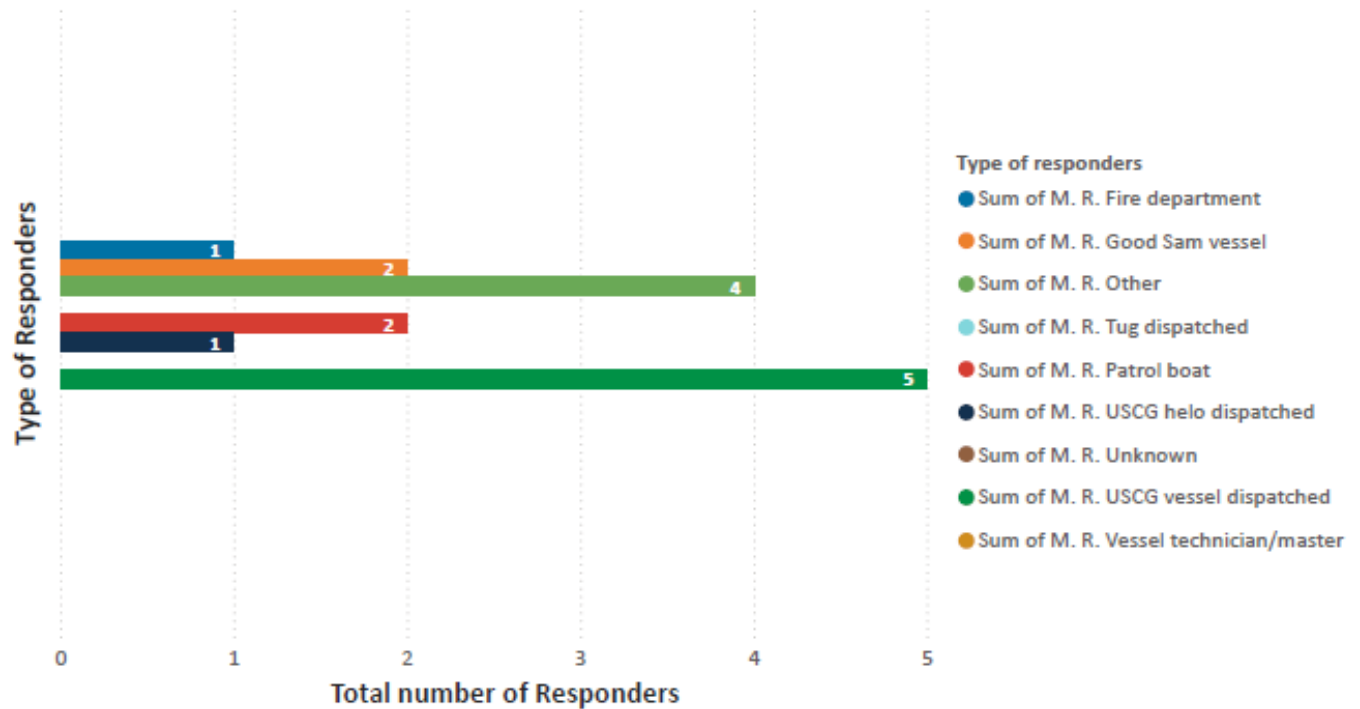


Incidents by length of vessel



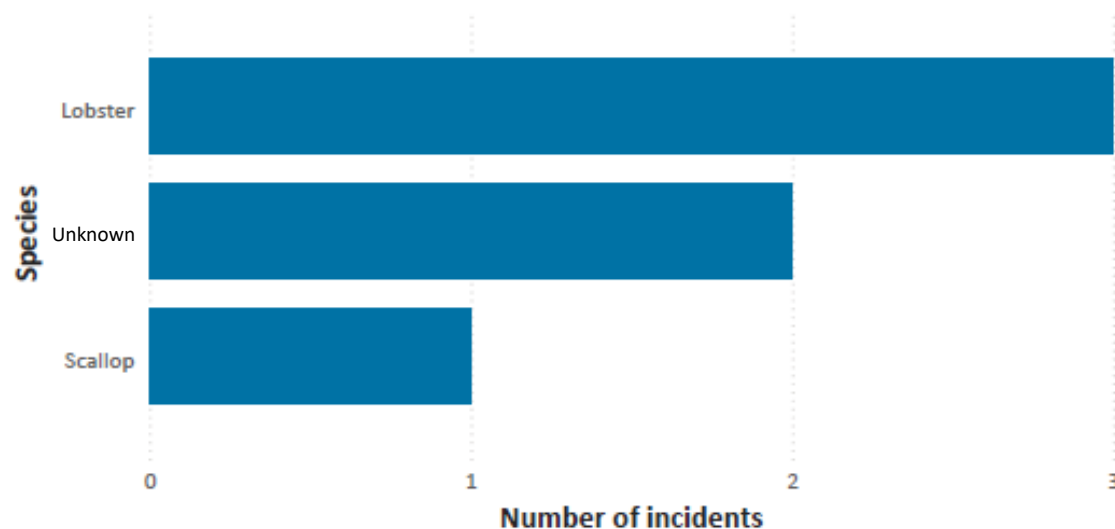
Non-fatal injuries

Type of Mayday Responders



- In two cases the activity was fishing, and was unknown in the other four cases.
- In four cases the vessel type was a catcher, and was unknown for the other four.
- The fishery type is unknown in two of the cases, the remaining four were fishing for shellfish.

Incidents by species being captured

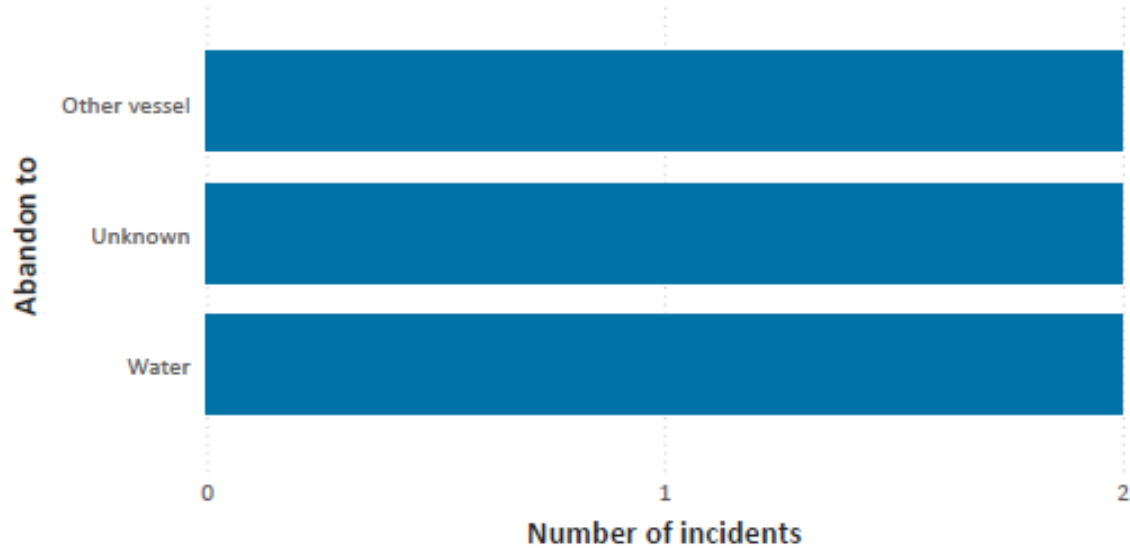


- In two incidents the gear type used was a dredge.
- Four incidents were classified as serious by the US Coast Guard, and two were reportable but not serious.
- Four were considered a disaster, and two were not.

Non-fatal injuries

- Three incidents occurred at sea, and three occurred near an ocean shore or estuary.
- The use of a personal flotation device is unknown in all cases.

Incidents by where they abandon the vessel to

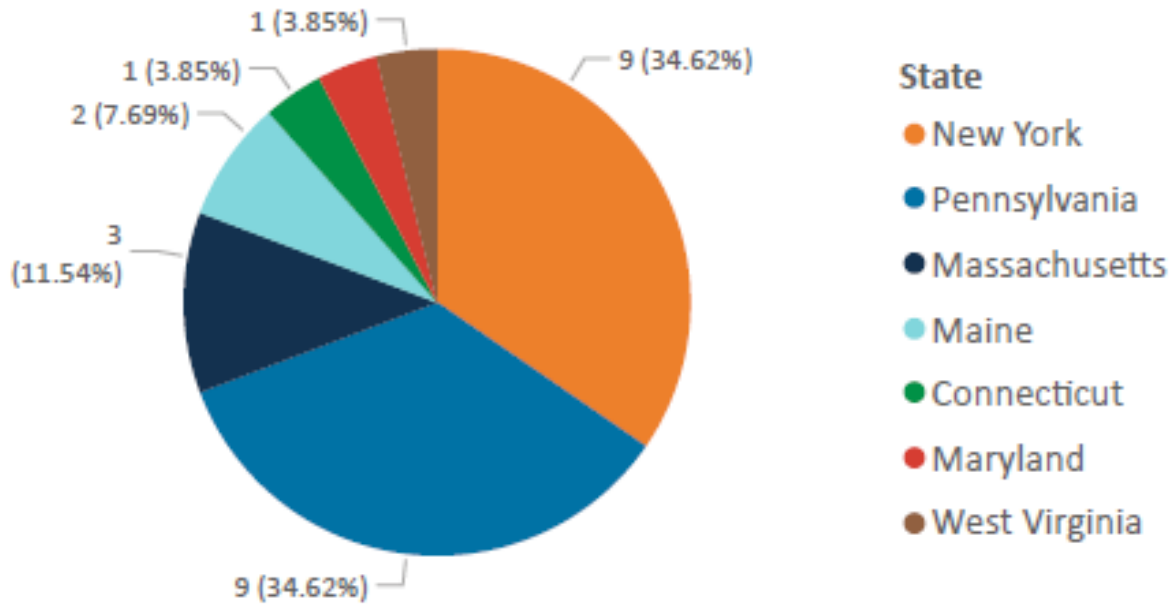


Incidents by type of location

Near Misses Captured in the News

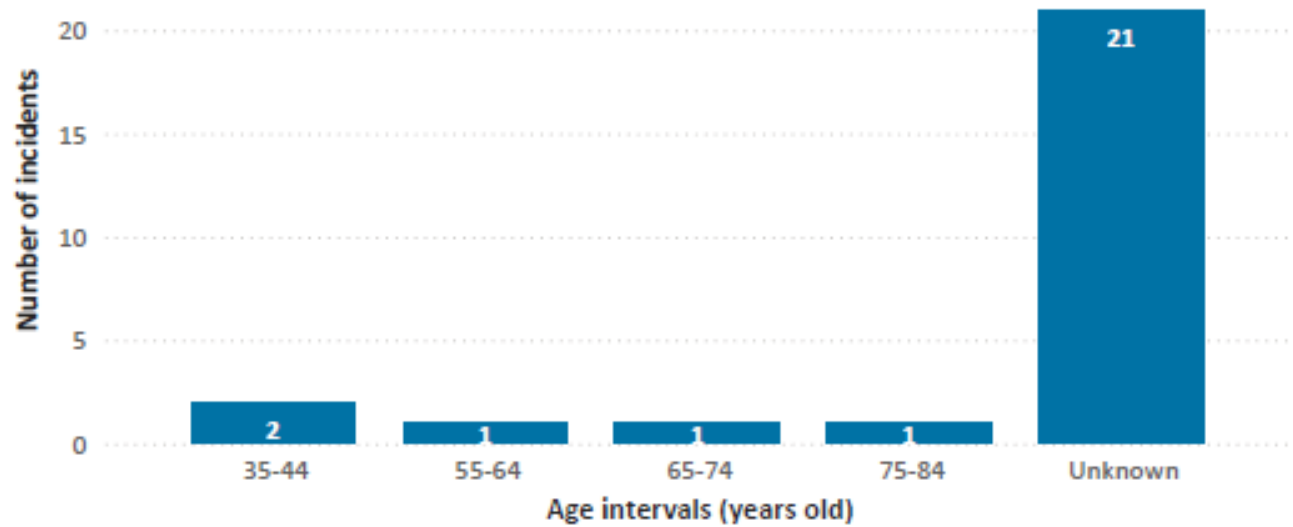
26 in Agriculture

Incidents per state



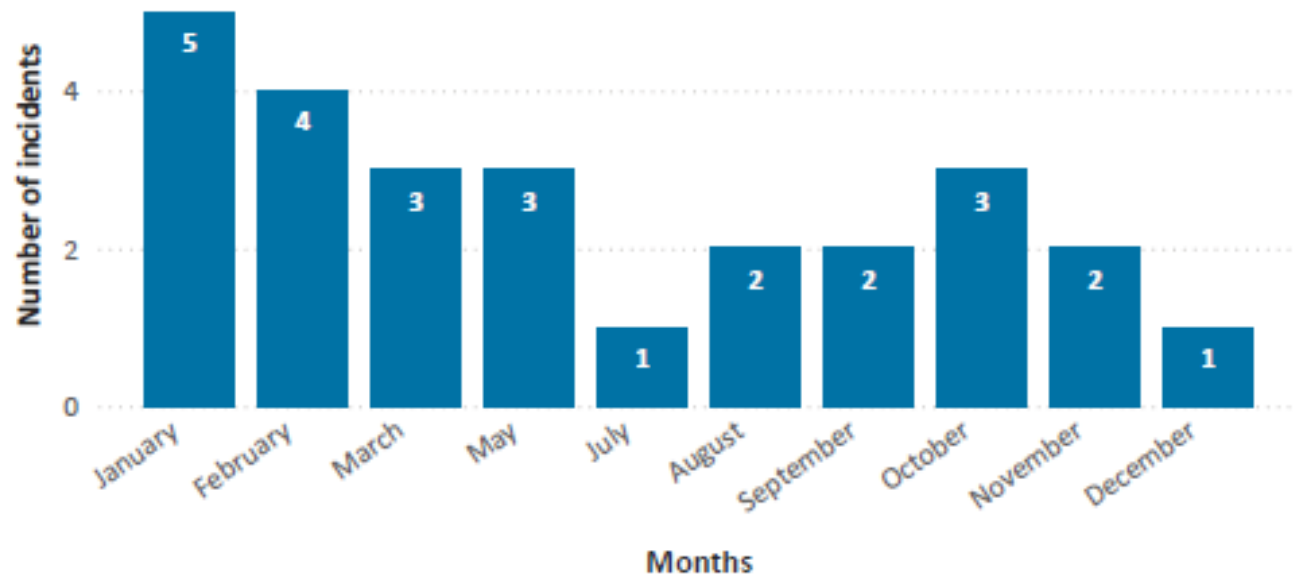
- Nine were male and 17 were unknown.
- Ten were adults and 16 were unknown.
- Ten were workers, one was a non-worker (bystander), and 15 were unknown.
- Twenty-two were related to work, one was not, and three were undetermined.
- One was alone, two were with others, and the rest were undetermined.
- Twenty-five were unintentional, and one was unknown.

Incidents through age intervals

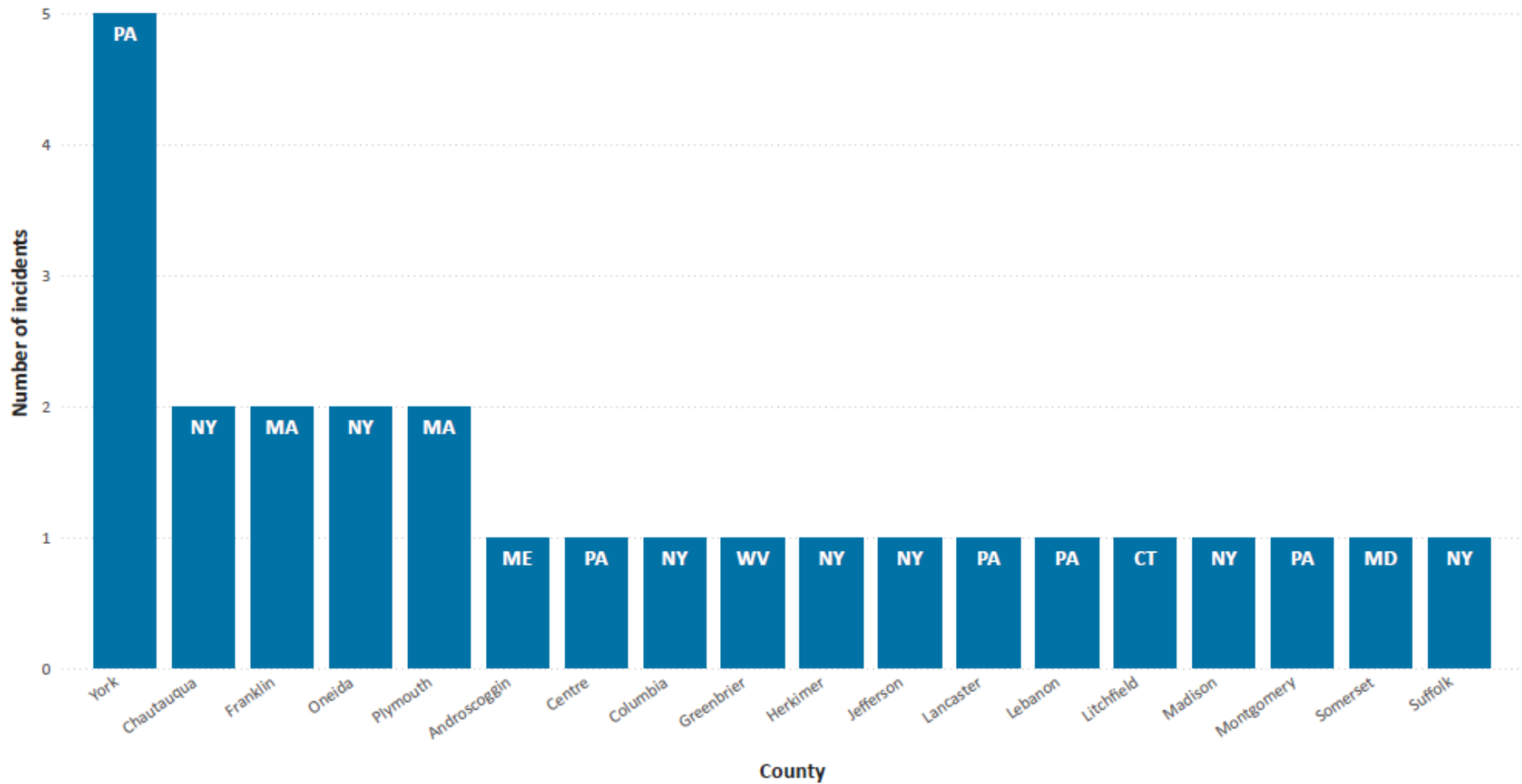


Age interval is for the manager/owner.

Incidents throughout the year

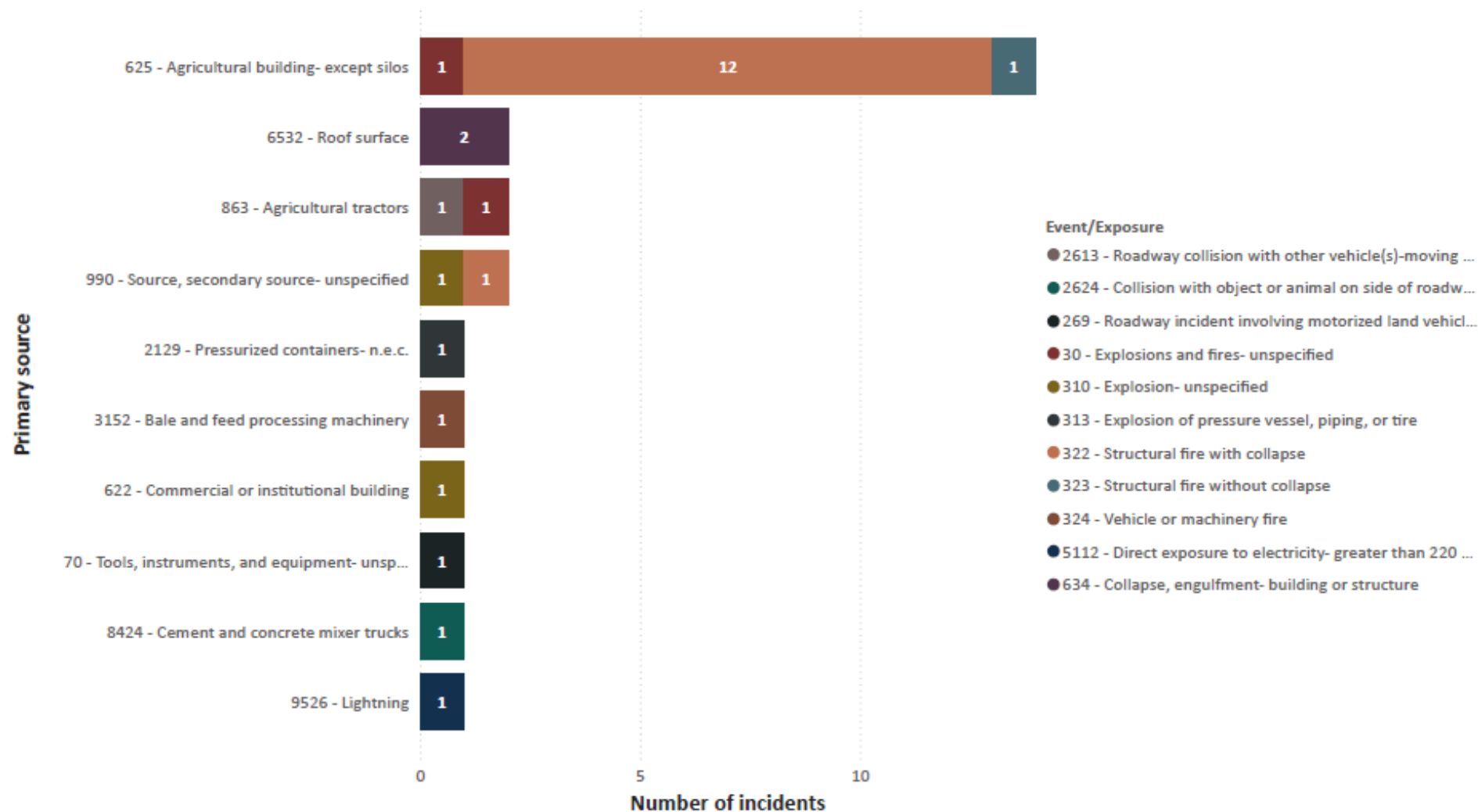


Incidents per county



Near Misses

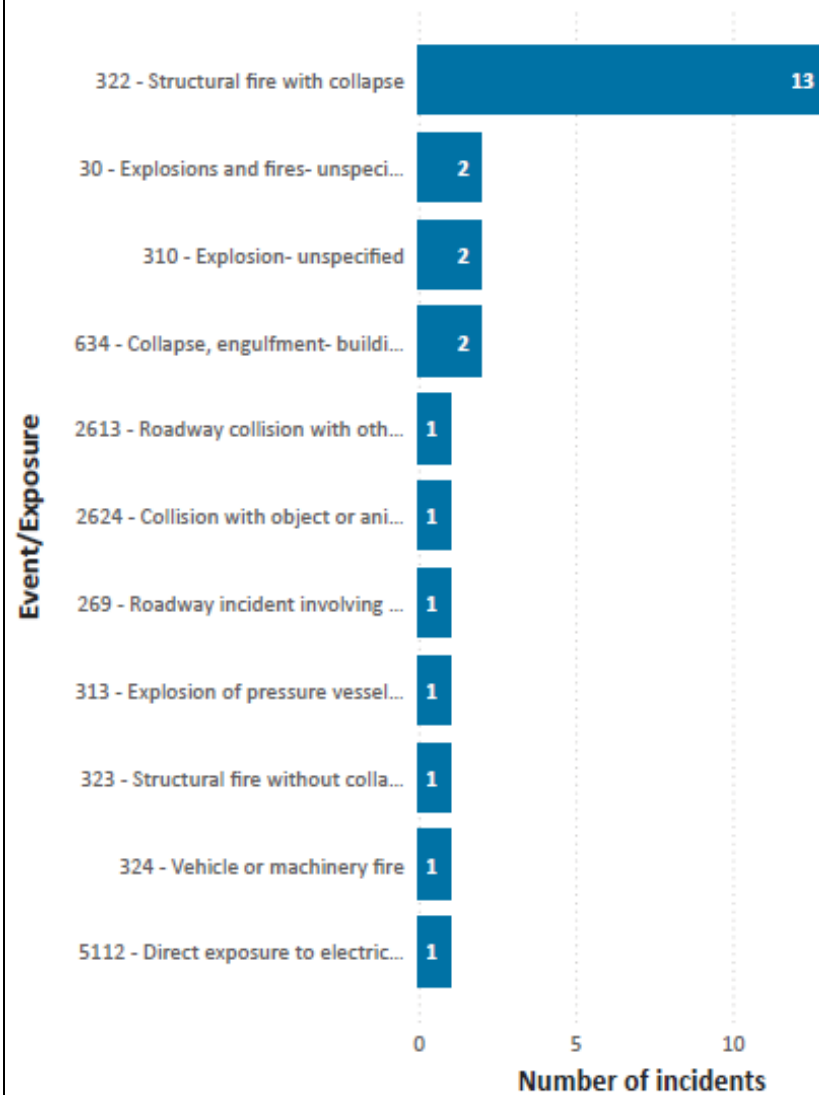
Primary source by event



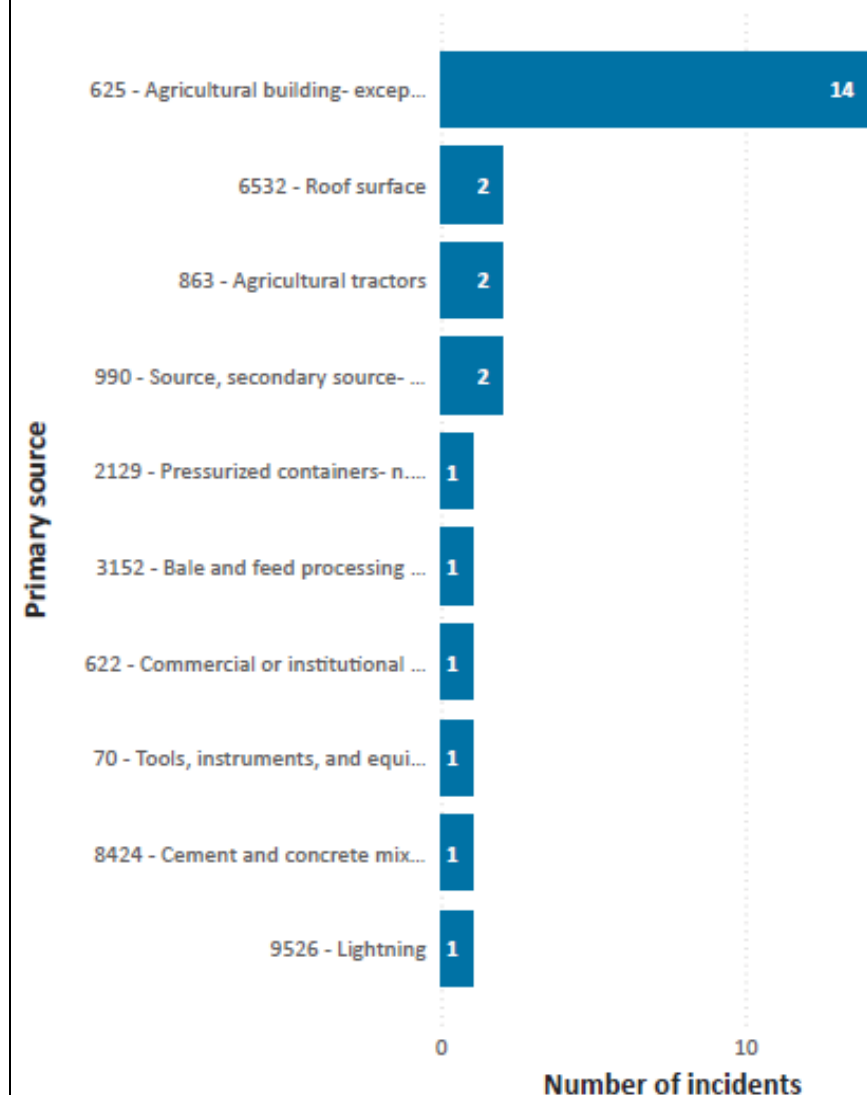
* There are no data on incidents per nature, nor incidents per part of body.

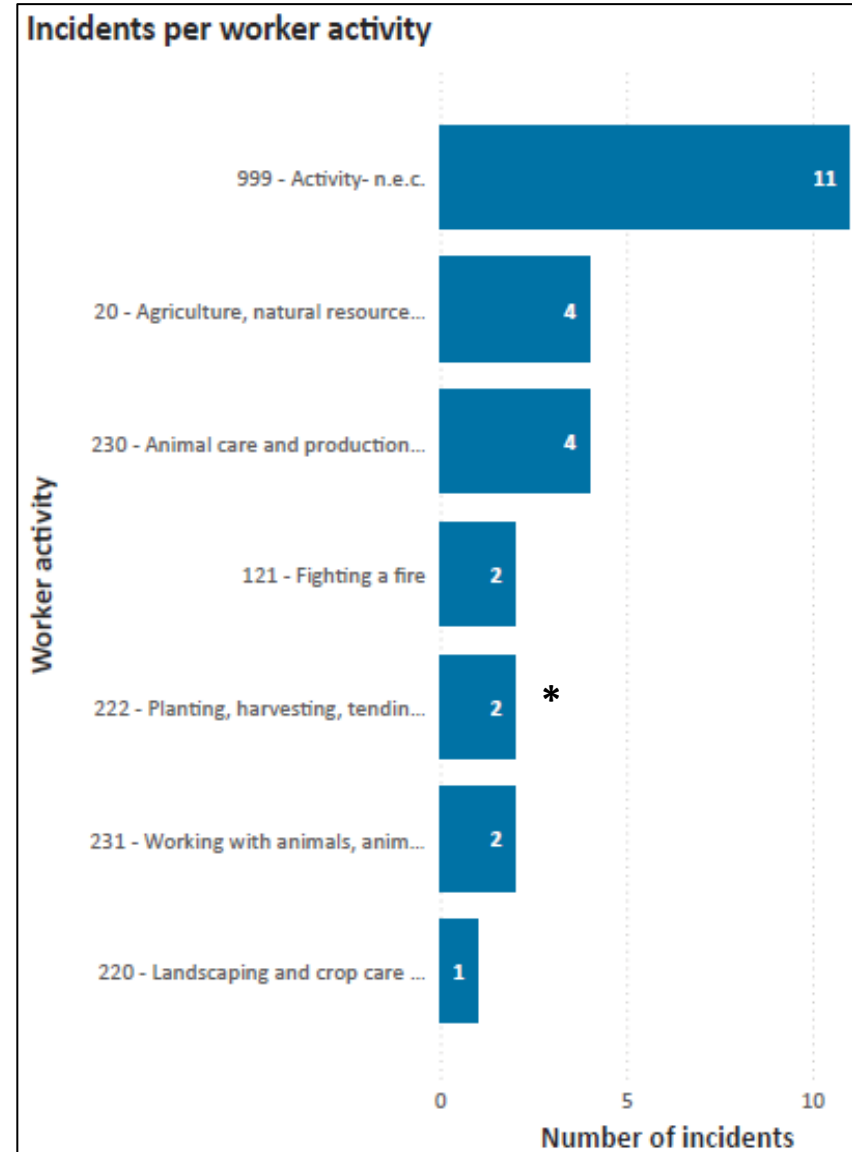
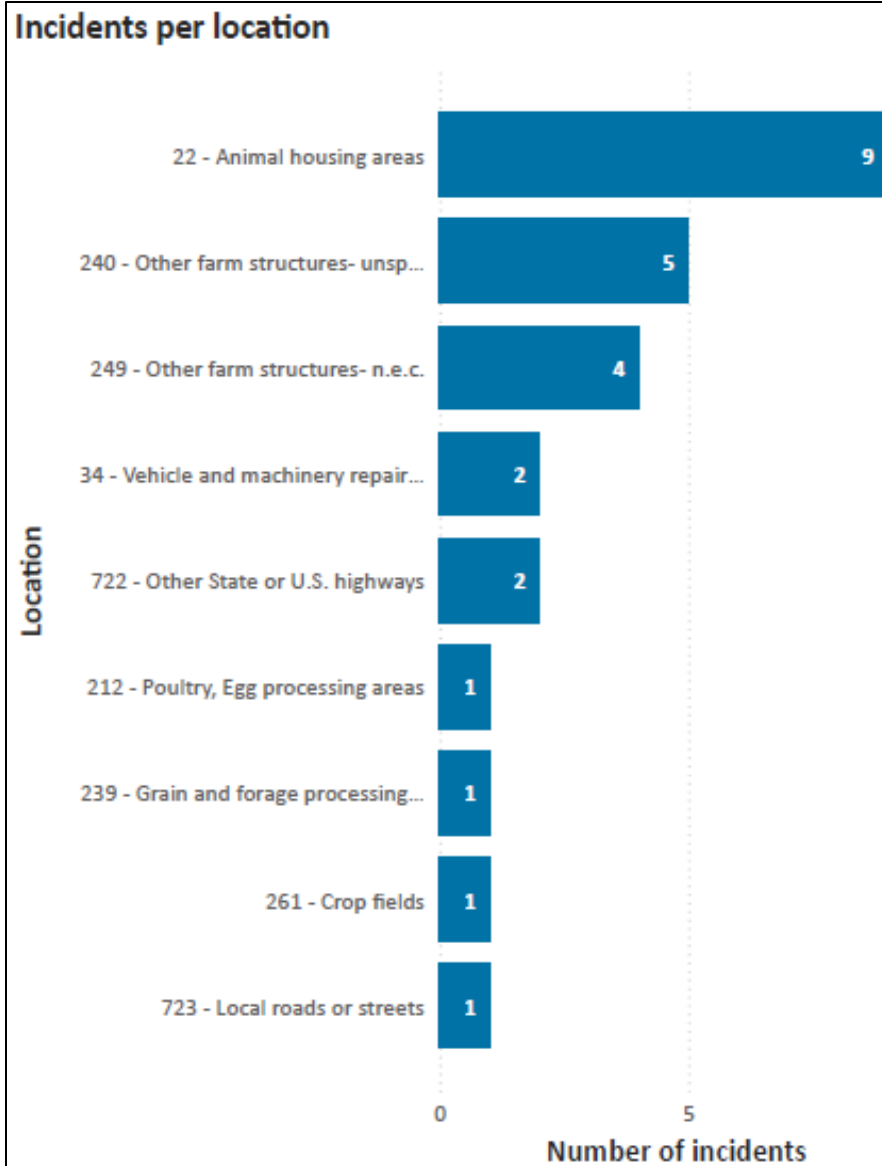
Near Misses

Incidents per event/exposure



Incidents per primary source

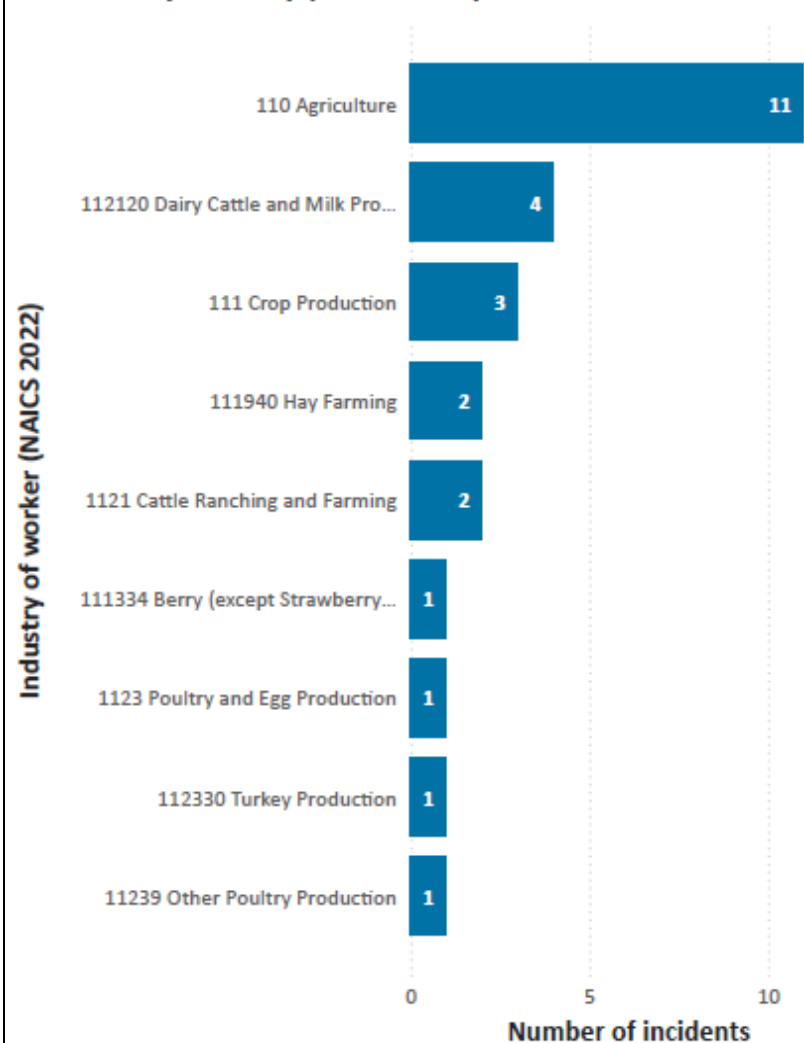




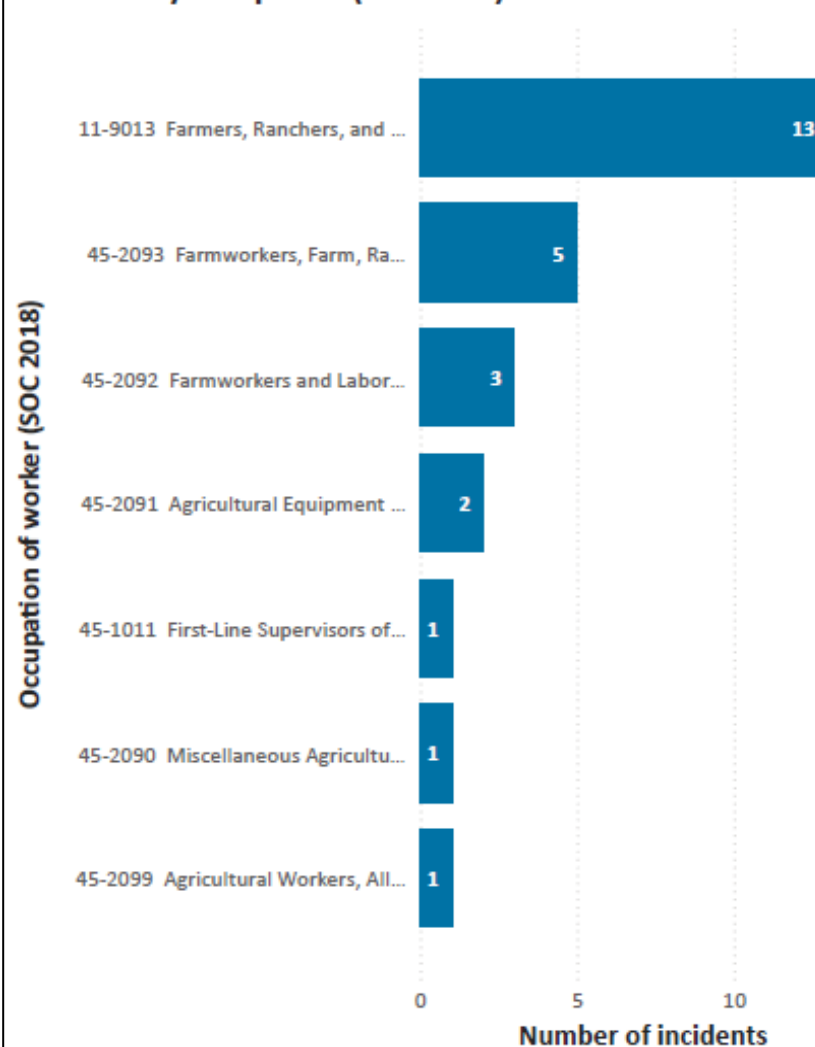
* Driving an agricultural vehicle/machinery is coded under 222 – Planting, harvesting, tending crops using heavy equipment.

Near Misses

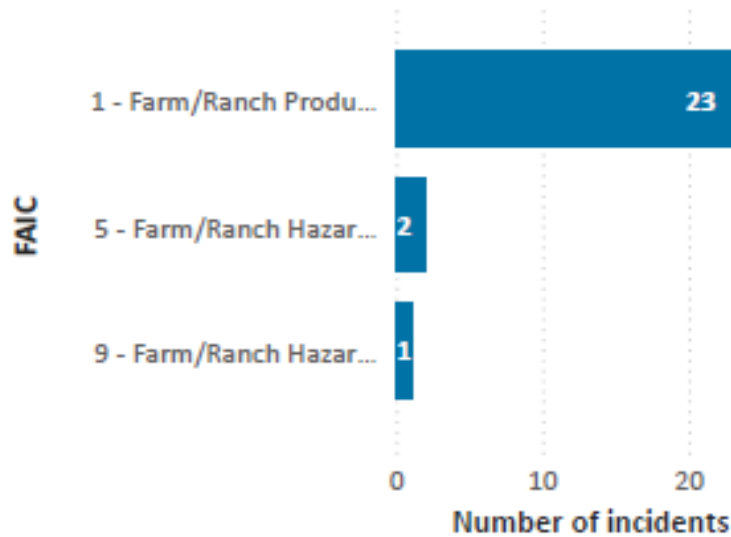
Incidents by industry (NAICS 2022)



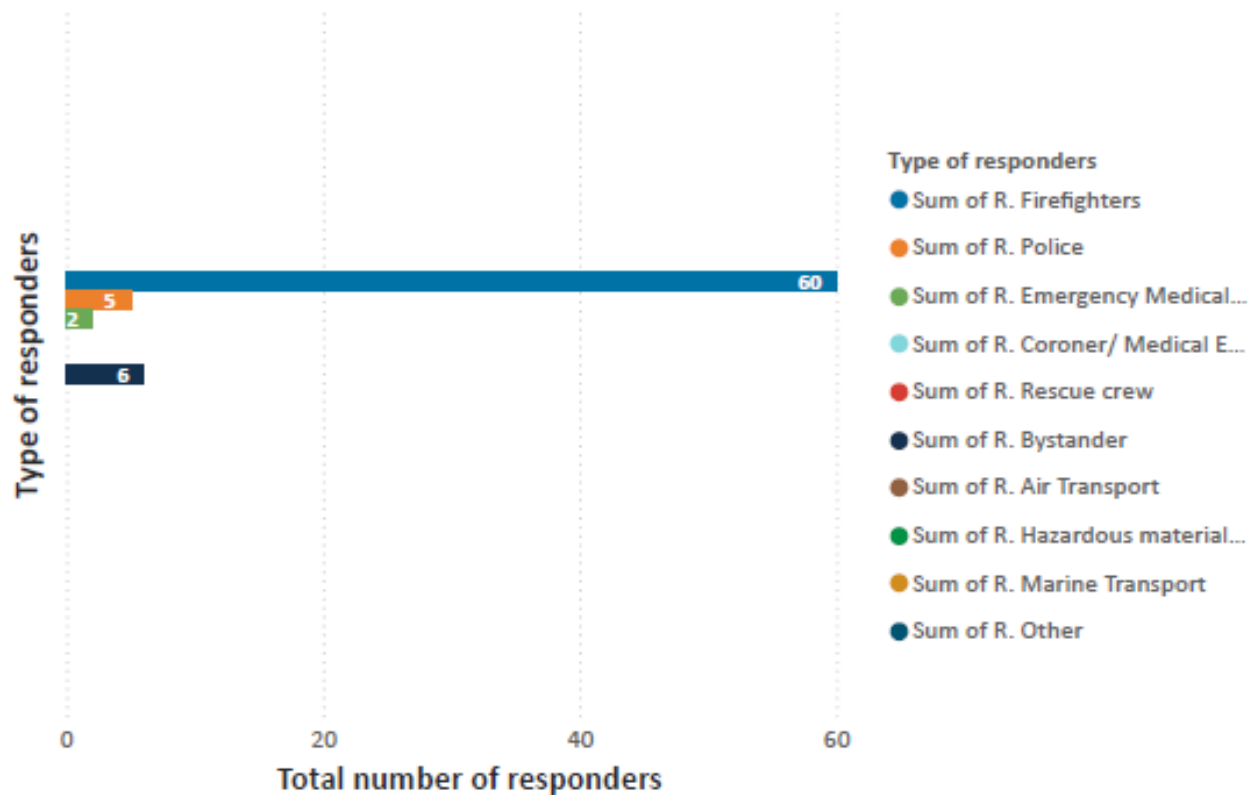
Incidents by occupation (SOC 2018)



Incidents per Farm and Agriculture Injury Classification



Type of responders at incidents



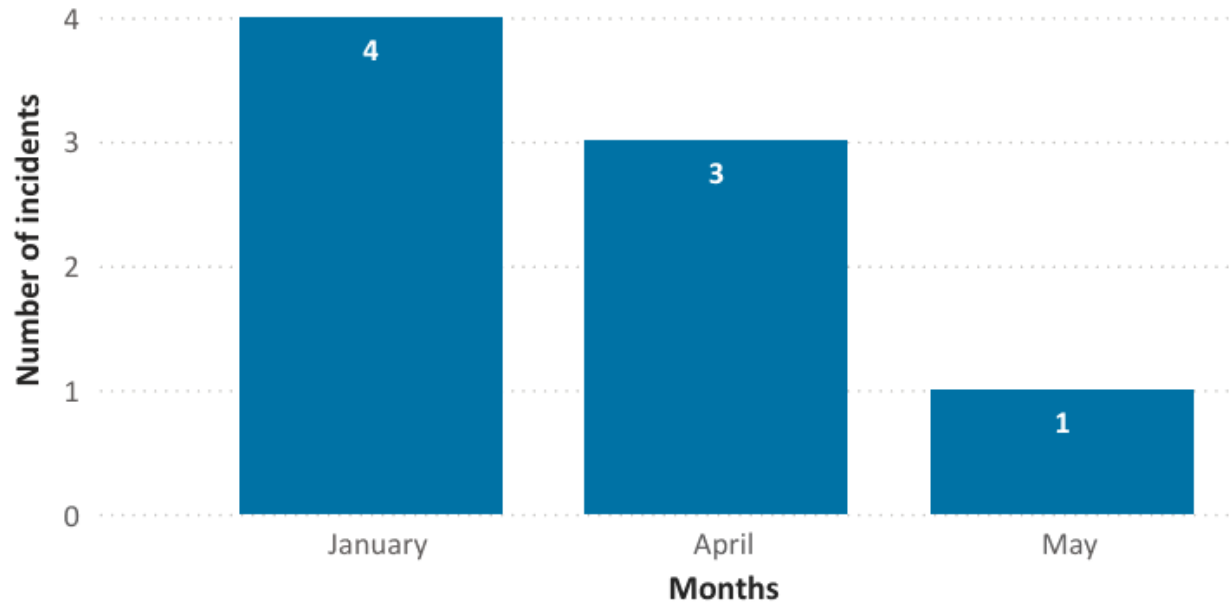
2 in Logging

- There were two cases occurring in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.
- Sex and age are unknown in both cases.
- One was a worker and one was unknown.
- Both cases were related to work.
- One worker was alone at the time of incident and one was undetermined.
- One case was intentional and one case was unintentional.
- Of the two incidents, one occurred in September and one occurred in December.
- The incidents took place in the counties of Kanawha, WV, and Montgomery, PA.
- The primary source in both cases was 8434 – Other semi, tractor trailer. In one case the event/exposure was 2610 – Roadway collision with other vehicle(s) – unspecified, and in the other 2612 – Roadway collision with other vehicle(s) – moving in the same direction.
- There are no data for incidents per nature, nor for incidents per part of body.
- One incident occurred on state/U.S. highways, and the other occurred on local roads or streets.
- In both incidents the worker's activity was driving/piloting. Both incidents had a NAICS (2022) industry code of 484220 Specialized Freight (except Used Goods) Trucking, Local, and a SOC (2018) occupation code of 53-3032 Heavy and Tractor Trailer Truck Drivers.
- Both incidents were FAIC code 2 – Forestry and Logging.
- Across both cases, two police units, one firefighter unit, and one EMS unit responded to the scene.

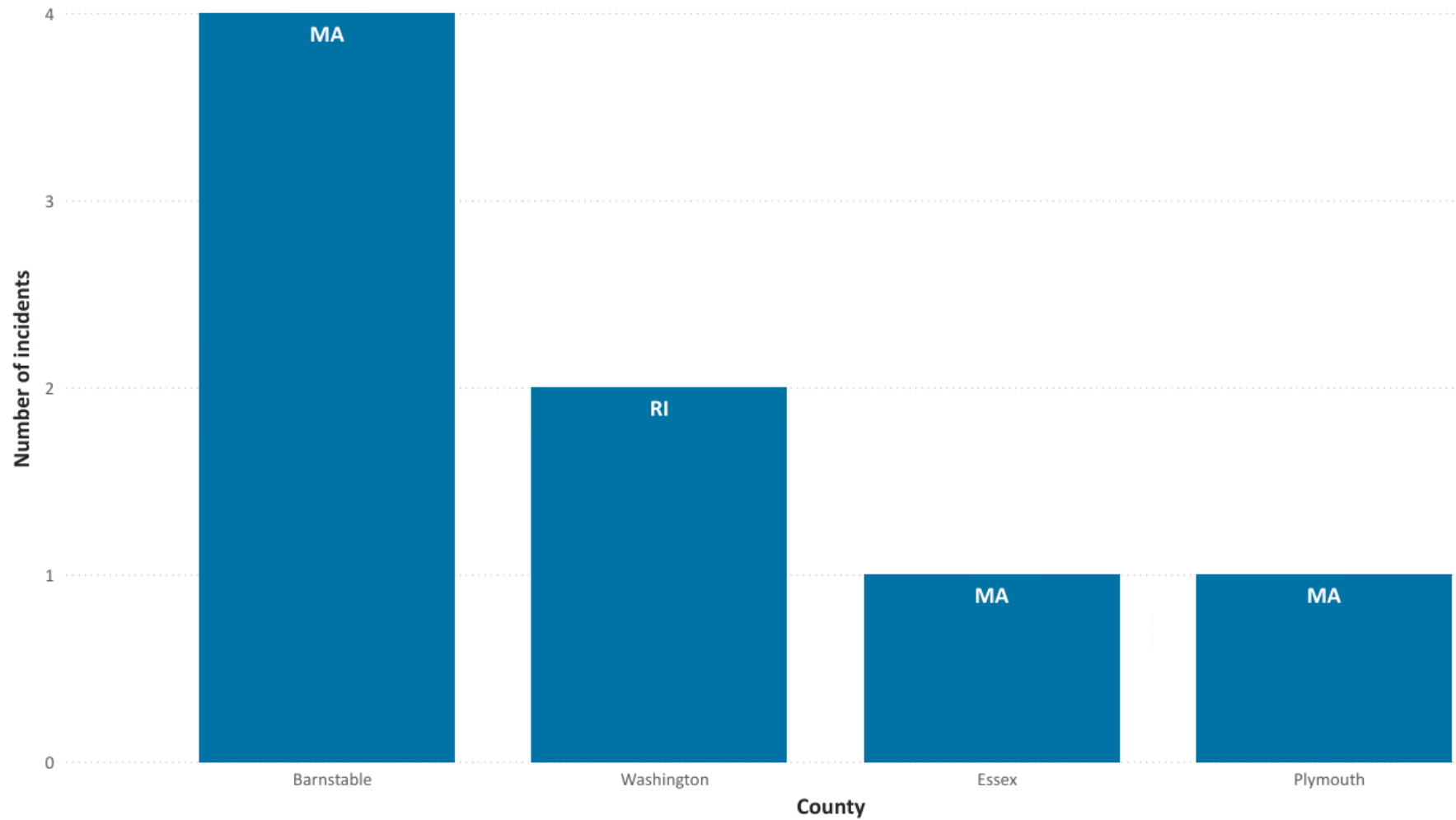
8 in Commercial Fishing

- Six happened in Massachusetts, two happened in Rhode Island.
- Four were males, and four were of unknown sex.
- Four were adults, and four unknown.
- All were workers, related to work, and unintentional.
- Six were with others at the time of the incident, two were undetermined.
- One was between 55 and 64 years-old, while seven were of unknown age.

Incidents throughout the year

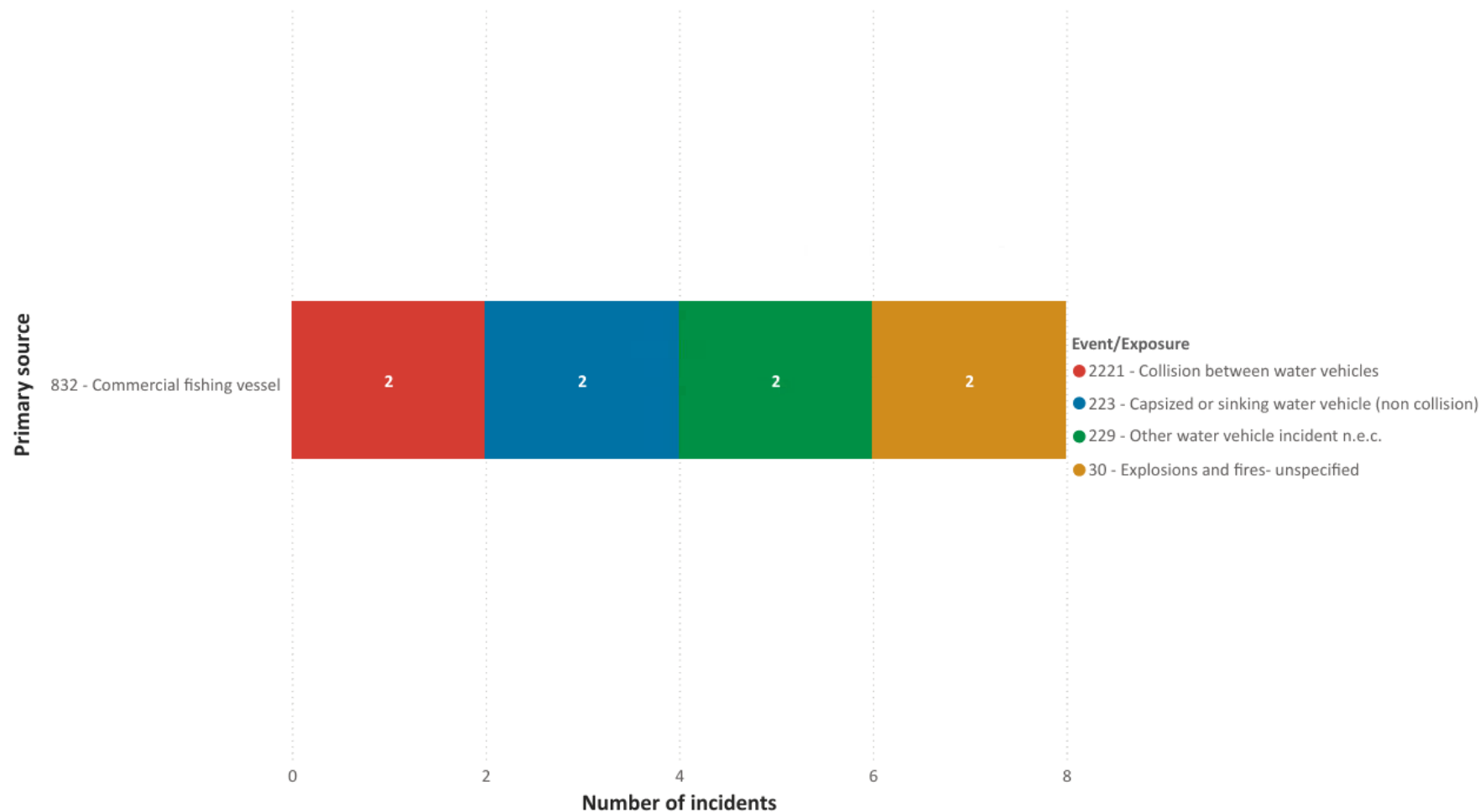


Incidents per county



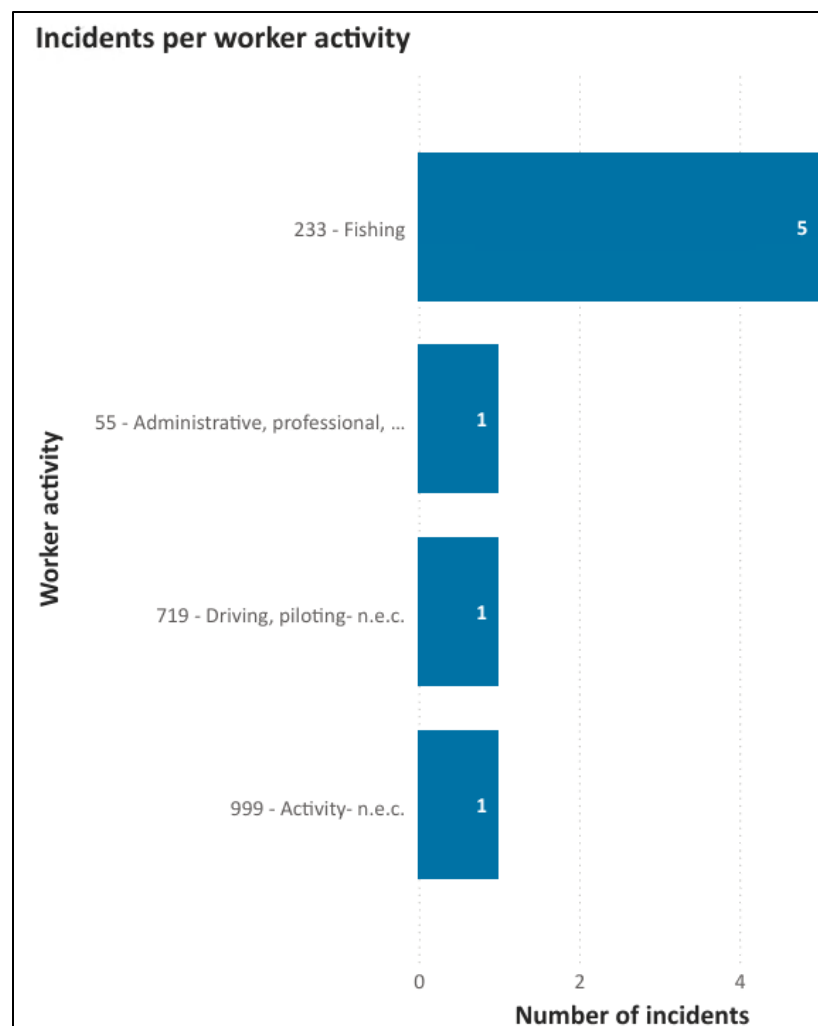
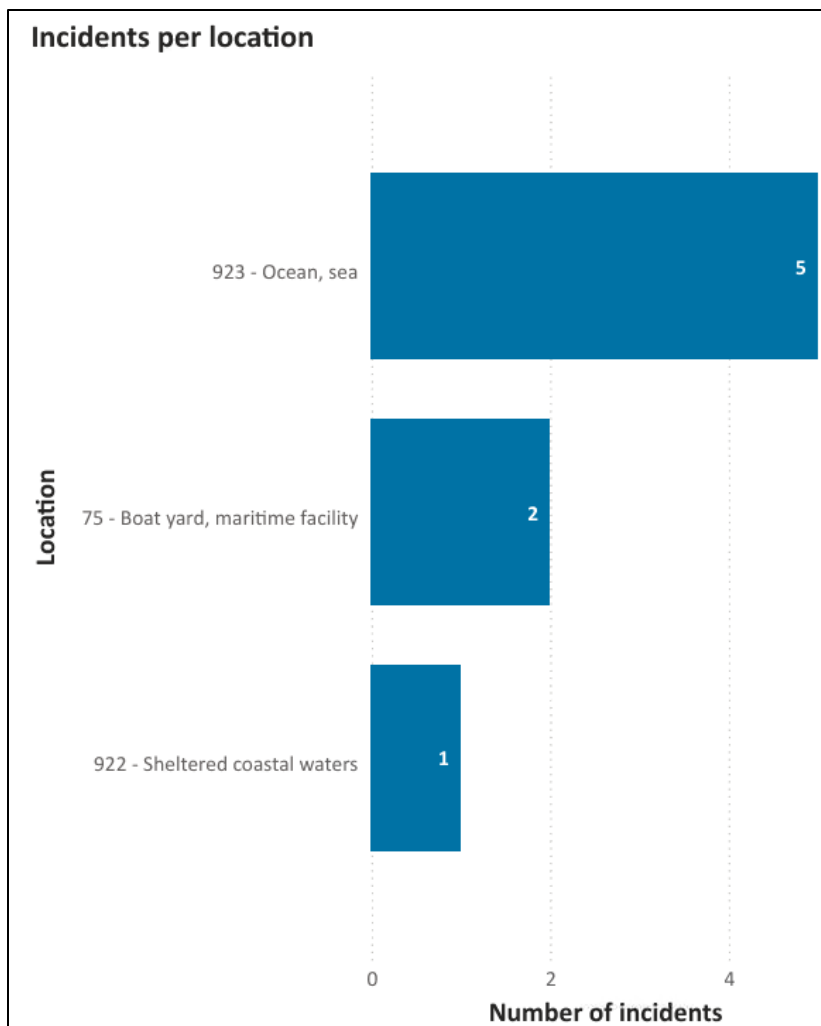
Near Misses

Primary source by event



- There are no data on incidents per nature, nor incidents per part of body.

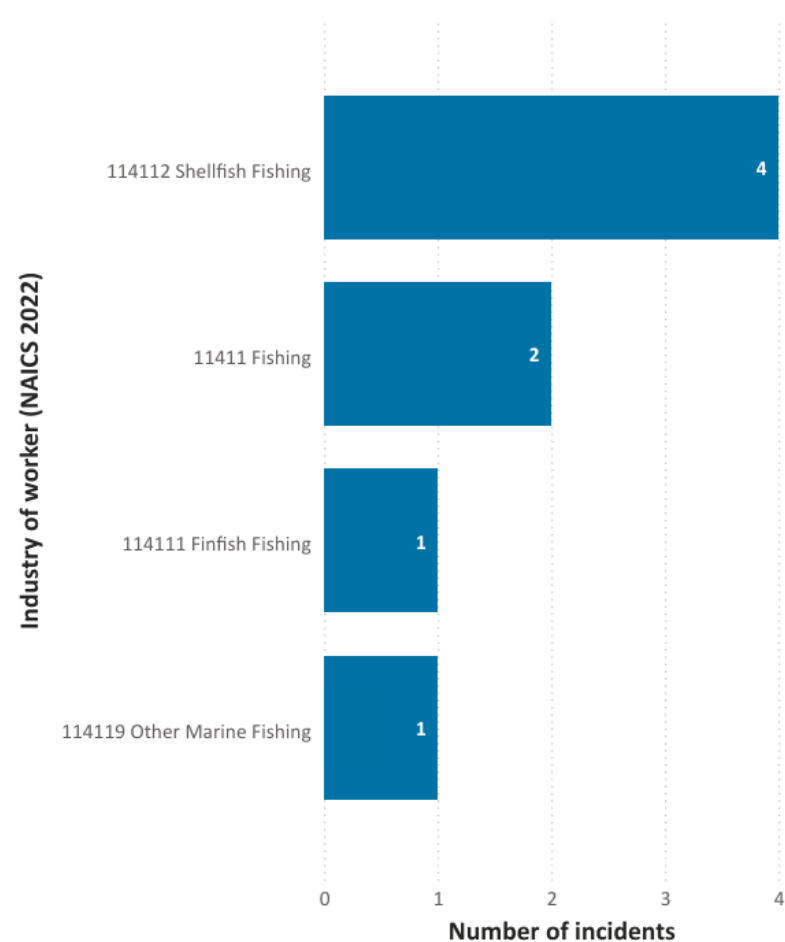
Near Misses



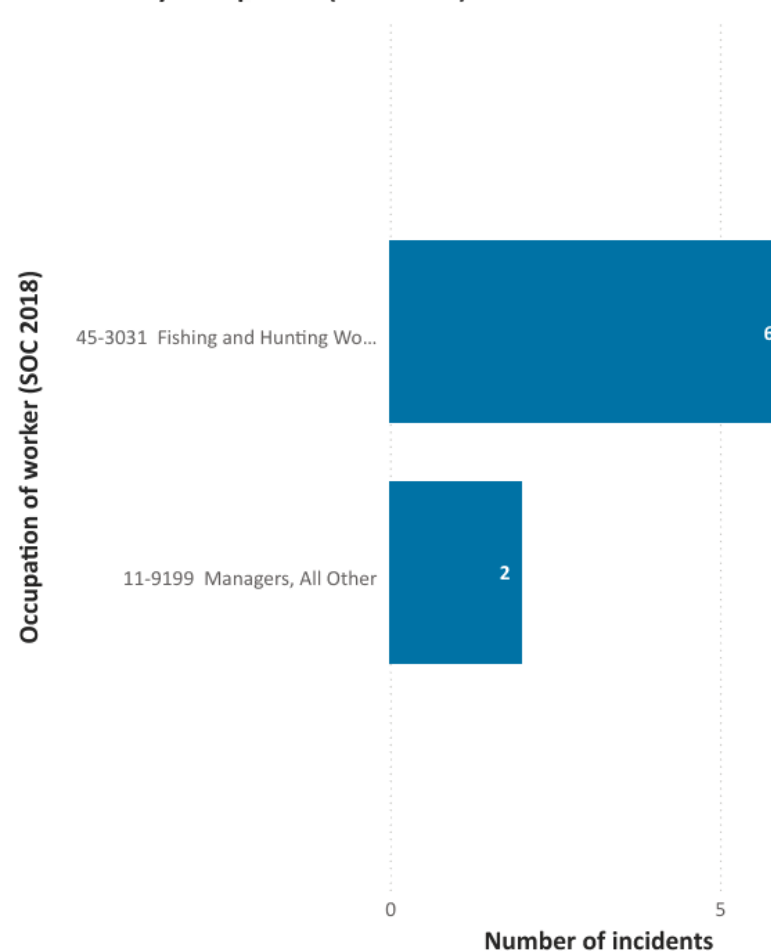
n.e.c.: not elsewhere classified

Near Misses

Incidents by industry (NAICS 2022)

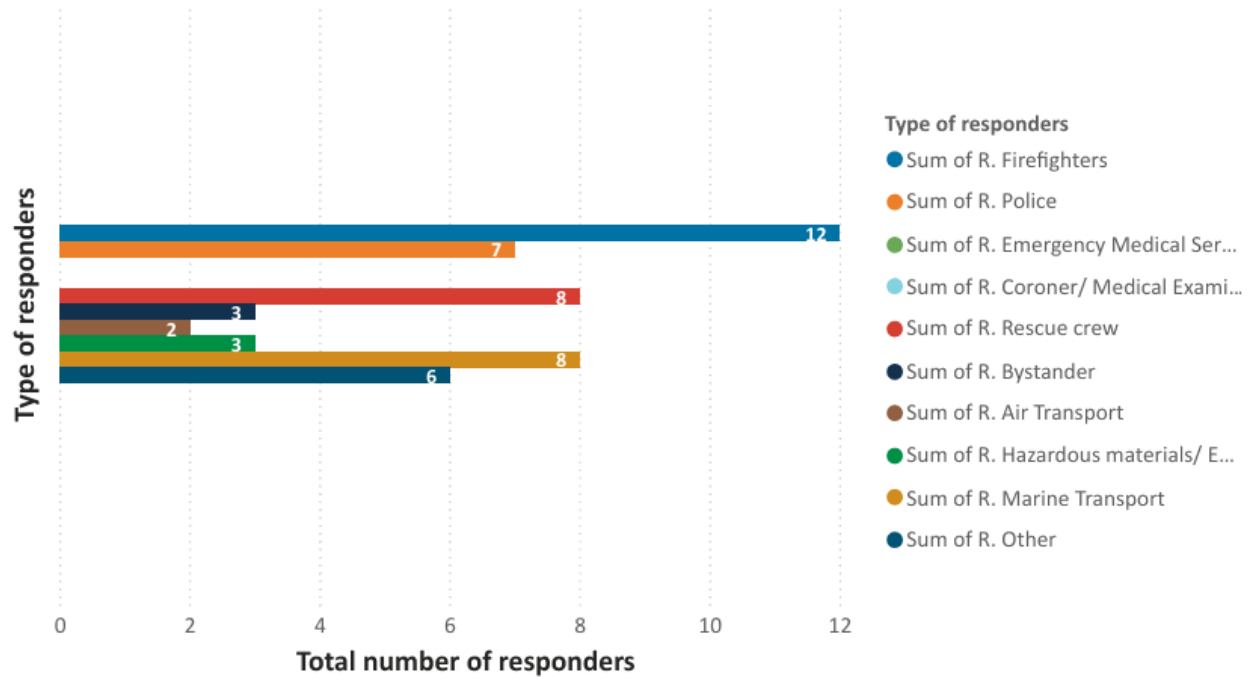


Incidents by occupation (SOC 2018)



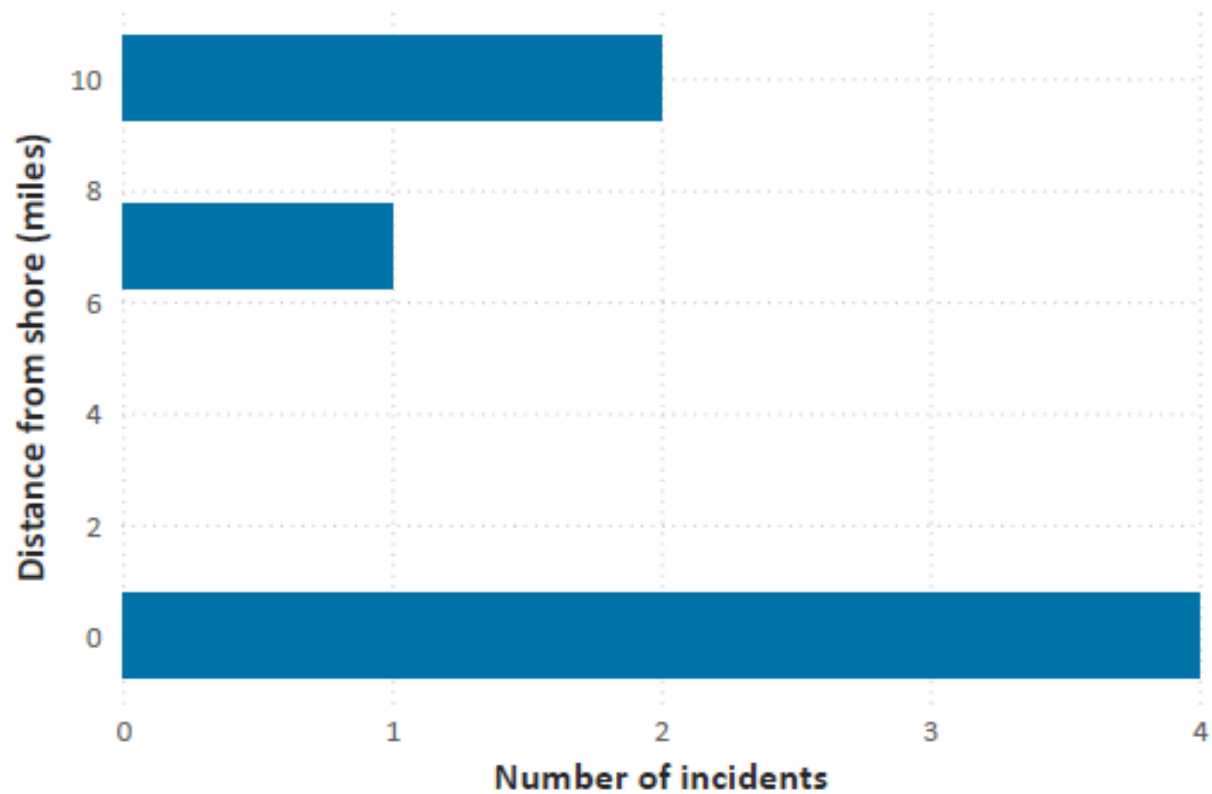
- All were classified as FAIC 3- Fishing, Hunting & Trapping

Type of responders at incidents

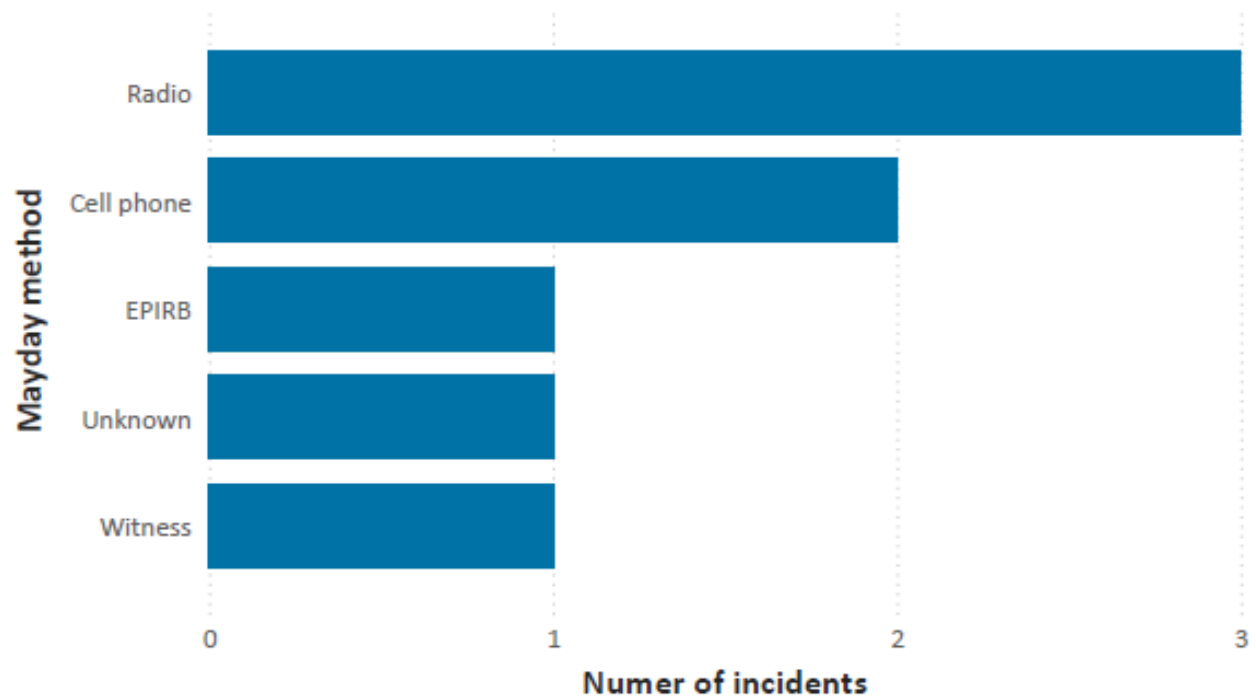


- All happened in the Northeast district (ME, VT, NH, RI, CT, MA, part NY, part NJ).
- One was a vessel casualty, and the rest were near misses.

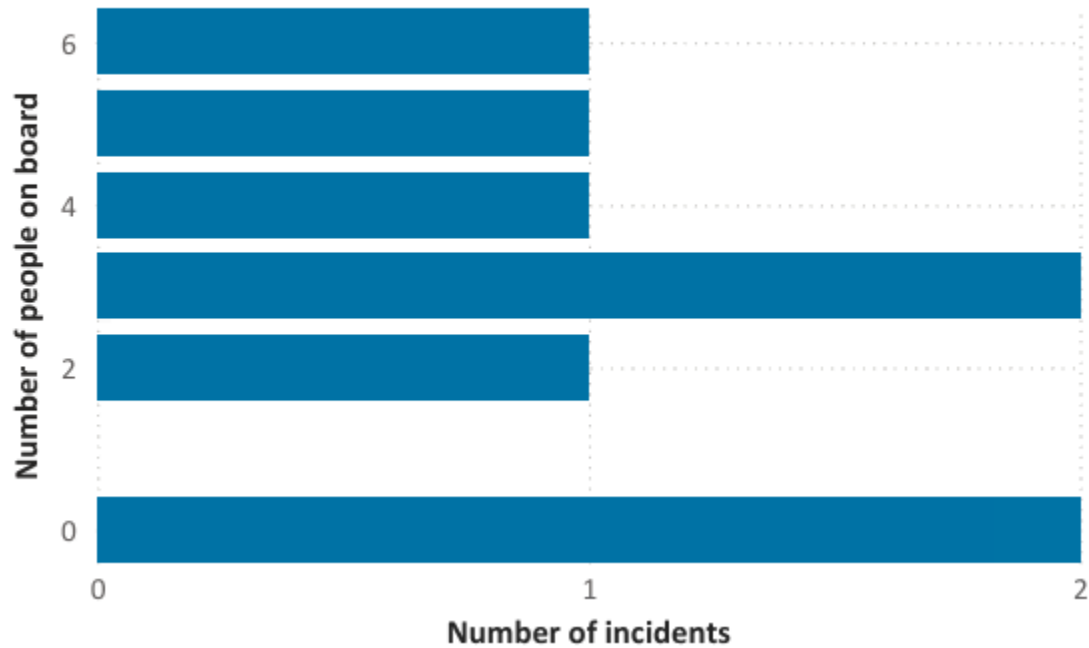
Incidents by distance from shore



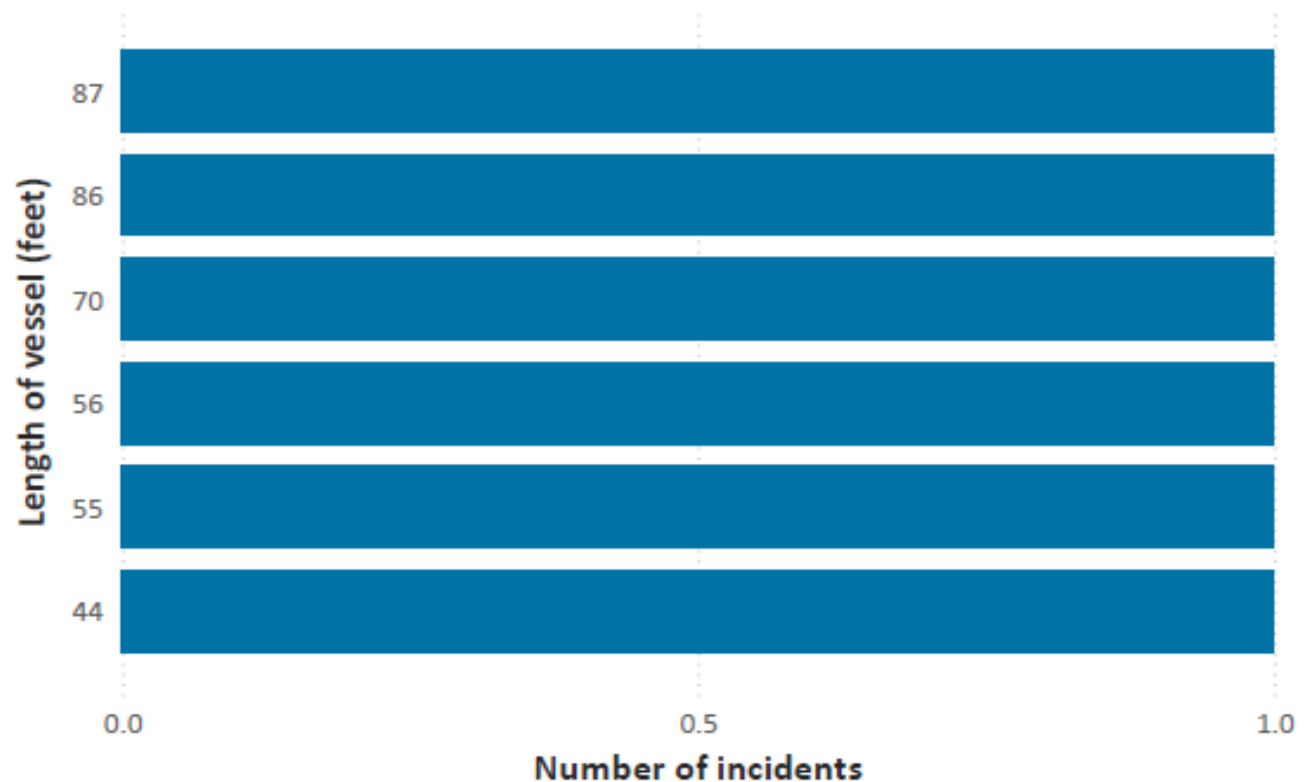
Mayday methods used



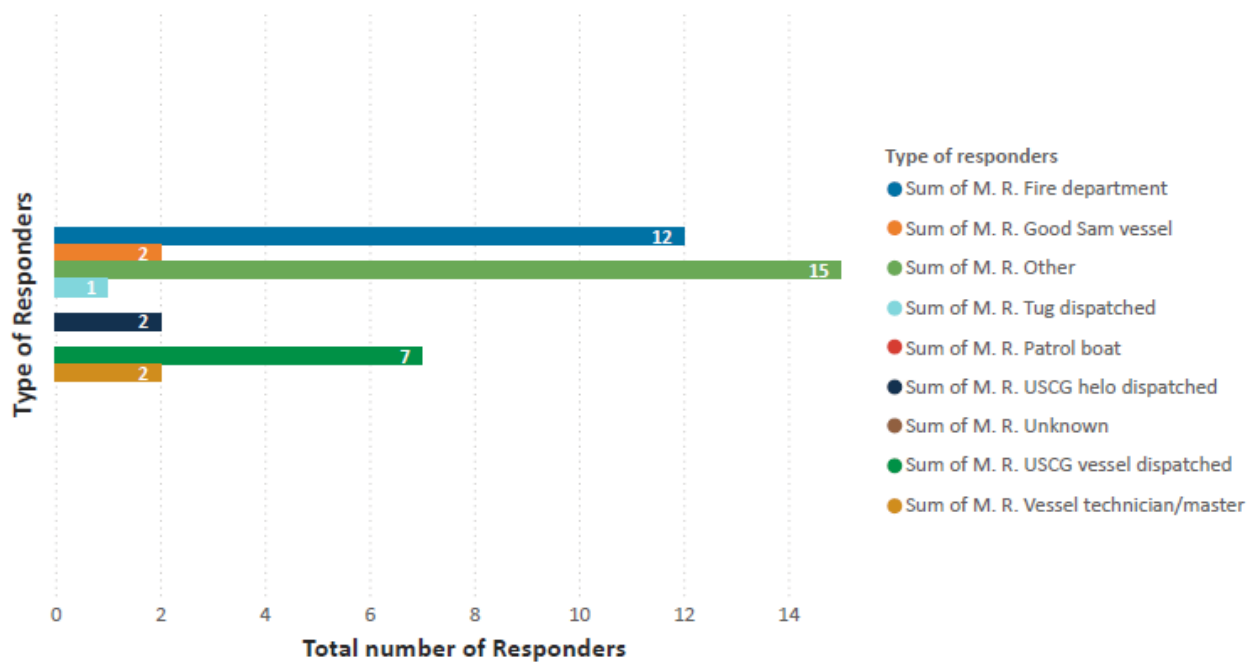
People on board



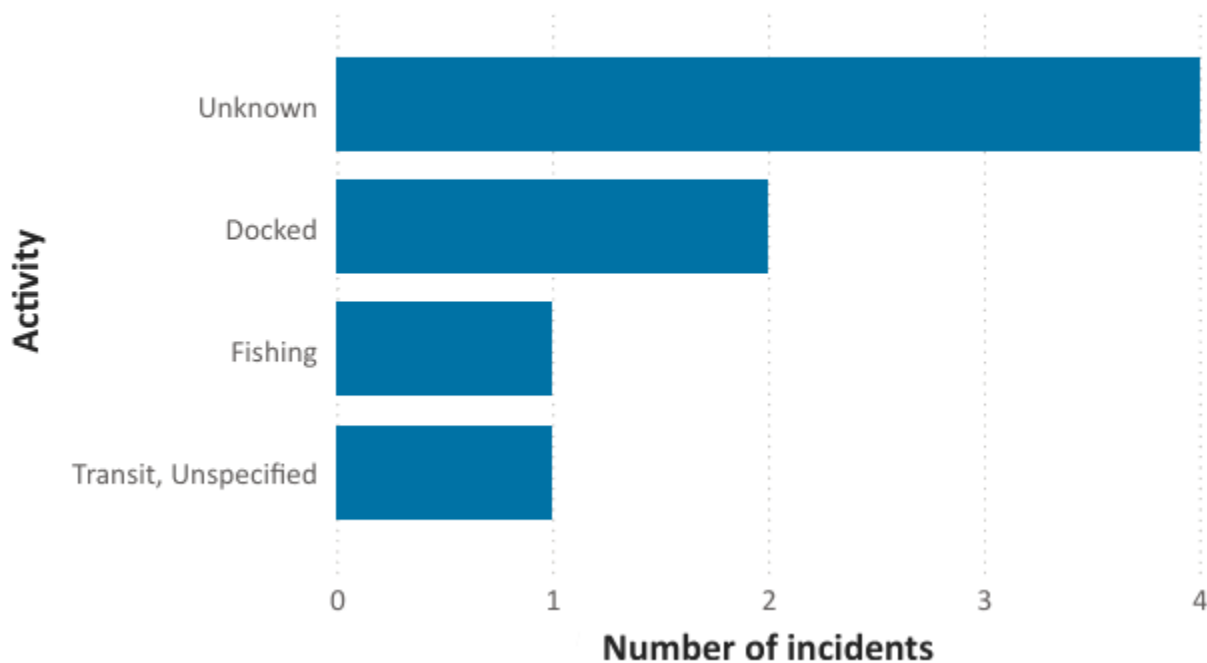
Incidents by length of vessel



Type of Mayday Responders



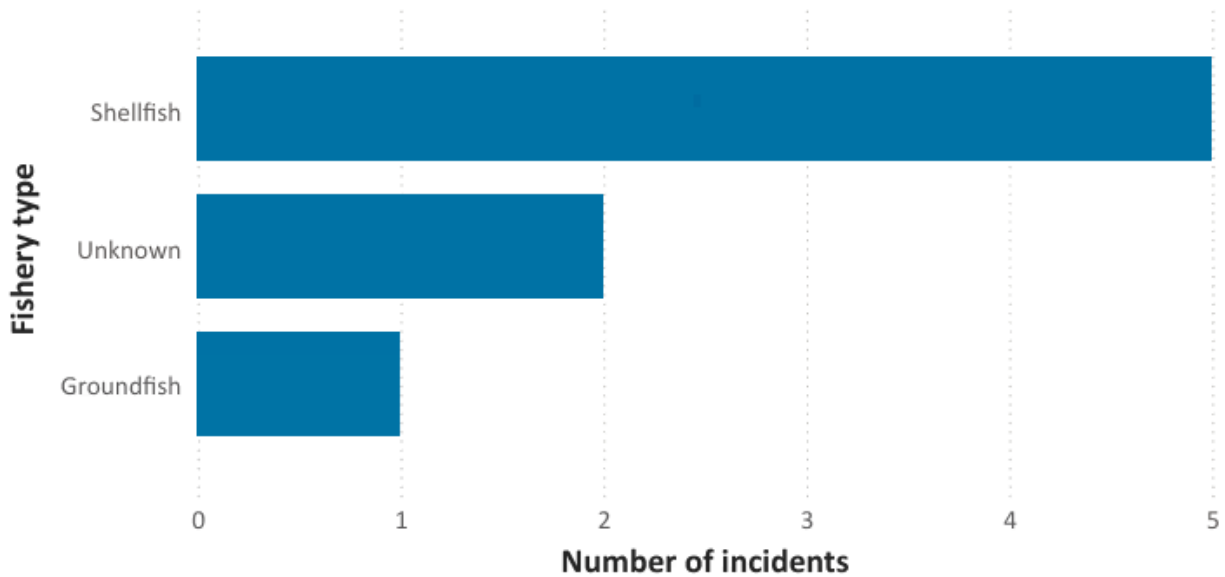
Incidents by activity



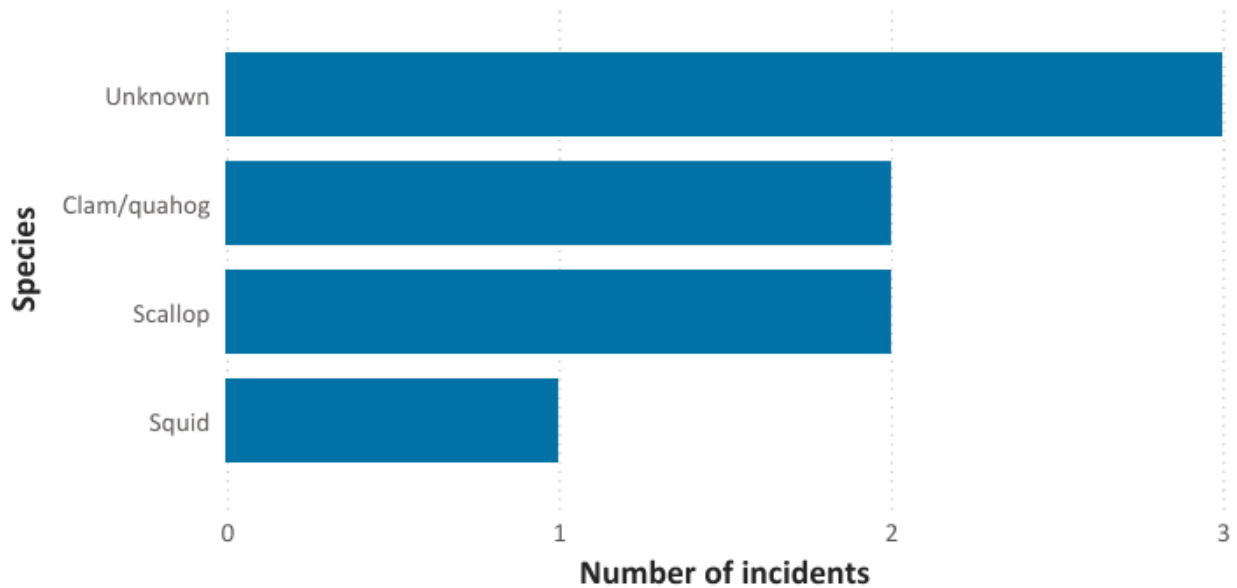
- Four were catchers, and four have an unknown vessel type.

Near Misses

Incidents by fishery type

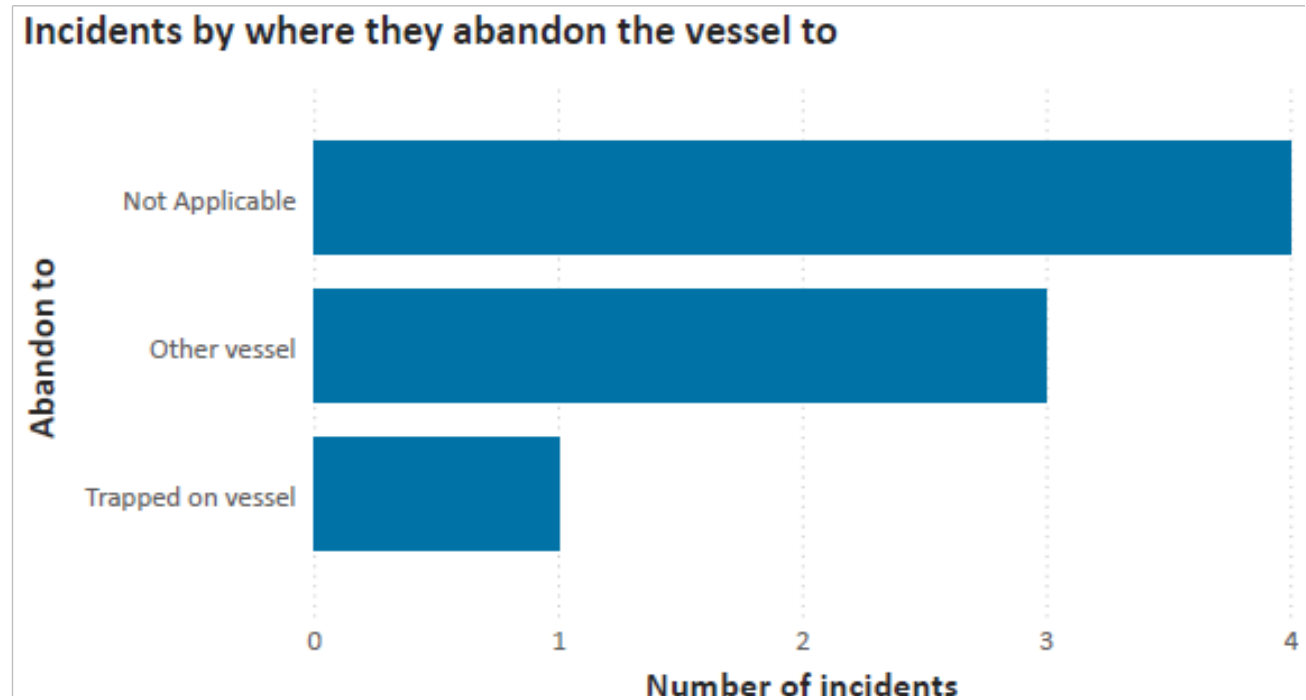


Incidents by species being captured



- In three incidents the gear type was a dredge, and in one was a trawl.
- Four incidents were classified as serious disasters by the US Coast and four were not.
- Four of the incidents were considered a disaster.
- Four incidents happened at sea, two at an ocean shore or estuary, and two in a boat yard.
- Immersion suits were worn in two of the cases.

Near Misses



Prevention Resources

The usage of slow-moving vehicle emblems on both vehicles and implements, observing speed limits, hazard light usage, oversized load signage, and escort vehicles all help contribute to safer transportation. In addition, tractor and ATV safety training can educate operators about roadway dangers. Non-agricultural driver education helps the public be aware of agricultural roadway usage. Additional resources on tractor operation and roadway safety can be found on our website.

The appropriateness of certain agricultural tasks is partly dictated by the developmental age and ability of a child. Some of these children lost their lives doing work tasks that were not recommended for children their age. In agricultural safety literature, recommendations exist to match types of agricultural tasks with age groups as well as to have a designated safe play area for children on farms. This would shield them as bystanders to work which carries risk.

Injury prevention resources for agriculture, logging, and commercial fishing, are available online through the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH) and the Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety (NEC) websites: www.nycamh.org and www.necenter.org, respectively. In addition, national resources are available from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (CDC-NIOSH) at: www.cdc.gov/niosh/research-programs/portfolio/aff.html

Where to get more information

Do you have a specific question related to these data? We'd love to help you and are available for questions. Please reach out via email at info@necenter.org or by calling our office at (800) 343-7527.

Citations

1. Weichelt, B., Salzwedel, M., Heiberger, S., Lee, B.C. (2018). Establishing a publicly available national database of US news articles reporting agriculture-related injuries and fatalities. American journal of industrial medicine. 61(8), 667-674. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajim.22860>
2. United States Department of Agriculture. Economic Research Service, Cash Receipts by State [database on the Internet]. 2023. Available from: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/state-agricultural-trade-data>.
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Mission Statement

The mission of the Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety (NEC) is to enhance the health of AgFF workers by identifying priority health and safety issues and working with AgFF communities and stakeholders to develop prevention solutions.

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