

**The National Campaign to Prevent Falls in Construction
2024 Safety Stand-Down Evaluation Report:**

Lessons Learned from OSHA's Certificate of Participation

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BACKGROUND

Falls are the leading cause of workplace death for construction workers. In 2022, more than one construction worker died from a fall to a lower level per day.¹ In 2023, fall protection in construction remained the most frequently cited standard by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for the twelfth consecutive fiscal year.^{2,3} Despite intensive efforts to prevent falls in the industry, fall fatalities in construction have increased over the last ten years. Between 2011 and 2022, the rate of fatal falls to a lower level in construction increased by 13.3% and the total number of these deaths increased by 52.7%.⁴

In addition, fall deaths in construction are an occupational health equity issue. Immigrants, Hispanic workers, and those employed by small contractors are being disproportionately harmed by this type of workplace injury and fatality. In 2017, the most recent year with available demographic data, the rate of Hispanic construction workers who died because of a fall to a lower level was 50% higher than the rate for their non-Hispanic counterparts.⁵

The National Campaign to Prevent Falls in Construction (Falls Campaign) has worked to address these risks since it was founded in 2012 by the [National Occupational Research Agenda \(NORA\)](#) [Construction Sector Council](#), [OSHA](#), the [National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health \(NIOSH\)](#), and [CPWR—The Center for Construction Research and Training \(CPWR\)](#). Two years later, in 2014, the Falls Campaign held the first National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction (Stand-Down). The Stand-Down brings together employers, workers, safety associations, labor unions, and others to prevent falls. During the Stand-Down, participants pause work to engage in a range of fall-focused activities such as toolbox talks, equipment demonstrations, training, fall prevention planning, and more. The event prioritizes outreach to residential construction employers, small contractors, and Hispanic and immigrant workers given their elevated risk for fatal falls.⁶

The Stand-Down reaches hundreds of thousands of workers across the United States and its territories, along with many workers who participate internationally. See [Stop Construction Falls: Evaluation](#) for evaluation reports from previous years.

¹ 397 fatalities in 2022. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2011–2021 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

² OSHA. (2024). The Top 10 Most Frequently Cited Standards FY 2023. <https://www.osha.gov/top10citedstandards>. (Accessed December 2024).

³ From FY 2012–2023, Fall Protection 1926.501 was the most cited OSHA standard. In 2011, Scaffolding 1926.451 was the most frequently cited OSHA standard. 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, and 2019 were confirmed via the Way Back Machine's internet archives of the OSHA webpage cited above. Archives were not available for FY 2012 and 2016. As such, FY 2012 was confirmed via the following source: Safety and Health Magazine. (2012). Safety and Health, OSHA Announce 'Top 10' Violations of 2012. <https://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/articles/safety-health-oshaannounce-top-10-violations-of-2012-2>. (Accessed November 2023). FY

2016 was confirmed via the following source: Safety and Health Magazine. (2016). OSHA's Top 10 Most Cited Violations for 2016.

<https://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/articles/14927-2016-oshas-top-10-mostcited-violations>. (Accessed March 2021).

⁴ Harris, W., Brooks, R., Trueblood, A., Yohannes, T. & Bunting, J. (2024). "Fatal and Nonfatal Falls in the U.S Construction Industry, 2011-2022." CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training. <https://www.cpwr.com/wp-content/uploads/DataBulletin-March2024.pdf>

⁵ Flood et al. (2021). Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, Current Population Survey: Version 9.0 [dataset].

<https://doi.org/10.18128/D030.V9.0>

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Fatal occupational injuries due to fall to lower level in the construction industry (all ownership), 2017.

<https://www.bls.gov/iif/sqt/fatal-construction-falls-2017.xlsx>.

⁶ Dong, X. S., Wang, X., Largay, J. A., Platner, J. W., Stafford, E., Cain, C. T., & Choi, S. D. (2014). Fatal falls in the U.S. residential construction industry. American Journal of Industrial Medicine. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajim.22341>

METHODS

Data analyzed in this report was collected from the OSHA 2024 Safety Stand-Down Certificate of Participation Database. This database compiles all entries from participants who registered for certificates. To receive a certificate, participants are asked to share information about their event such as their location, how many workers attended, what took place, and any suggestions they had for how to improve the Stand-Down through an online form. The questionnaire is promoted online alongside Stand-Down promotional communications by OSHA, CPWR, and NIOSH through channels such as social media posts, webinars, and newsletters. The full questionnaire is shared as an appendix to this report.



This report is a mixed-methods analysis of the Database. Data was cleaned: duplicates were removed and entries with organization names that had small variations in spelling or grammar were consolidated. Spanish-language entries were translated into English. Quantitative analysis was performed using Excel. Maps were created using Datawrapper. Data are reported in aggregate and, when quotes are used by participants who gave permission for OSHA to publish their responses, identifying details have been removed.

There are a set of limitations to the Certificate of Participation Database. All data are voluntarily reported by participants and thus are subject to selection and recall bias. Moreover, Falls Campaign leaders have been informed that some organizations participate without registering for certificates, so the data represent an undercount of total events held and workers reached.

CPWR has collaborated with OSHA since the start of the Stand-Down in 2014 to analyze the OSHA Certificate of Participation Database. However, because of variations in data availability and subsequent gaps in analysis, this report primarily includes data and addresses trends in participation beginning in 2019. For reports on participation between 2014-2016, see the [Falls Campaign's Evaluation page](#).

KEY FINDINGS

- There was **widespread national and international participation in the 2024 Stand-Down**. Participants reported holding **3,994 events that reached 415,793 workers**.
- Participation reported in 2024 departed from historic patterns to some extent.
 - **The 2024 Stand-Down reported the second largest number of events recorded in the Stand-Down’s history**. The number of total individual stand-downs held rose by 12% compared with 2023. A factor in this increase was a 74% increase in events held in the “other construction” sector compared with 2023. An additional factor was an increase in reported events in Puerto Rico and Guam; 59% of the total increase in events in 2024 can be attributed to events in these territories.
 - **The 2024 Stand-Down reported the lowest number of workers reached in the event’s history, but the number of workers reached domestically did not shift compared with 2023**. The overall number of workers reached fell by 10% compared with 2023. Central factors in this decrease were a 42% drop in international workers reached and 60% decline in workers reached in the “government” sector compared with 2023.
- **Multiple indicators suggest continued limited reach among the Stand-Down priority groups of residential construction workers and Spanish-speaking workers, although there was an increase in small events held**.
 - Residential construction participation continues to be limited: 8% of Stand-Downs held and 5% of workers reached were in this sector. Both residential construction workers reached and events held decreased in 2024 compared with 2023.
 - Use of the Spanish-language option for the Certificate of Participation continues to be low and did not increase in 2024. A total of 5% of participants requested a Certificate of Participation in Spanish and English, and 0.7% requested a certificate only in Spanish.
- Participants described hosting **successful Stand-Down events and reported positive experiences**. Events commonly included activities such as **training, meetings/huddles, and toolbox talks**. The most-mentioned topics were **fall protection, ladders, and inspections**. **The number of mentions of the term “rescue” continued to increase in 2024**: in total, between 2022 and 2024, the number of times the term “rescue” was mentioned more than doubled.

RESULTS

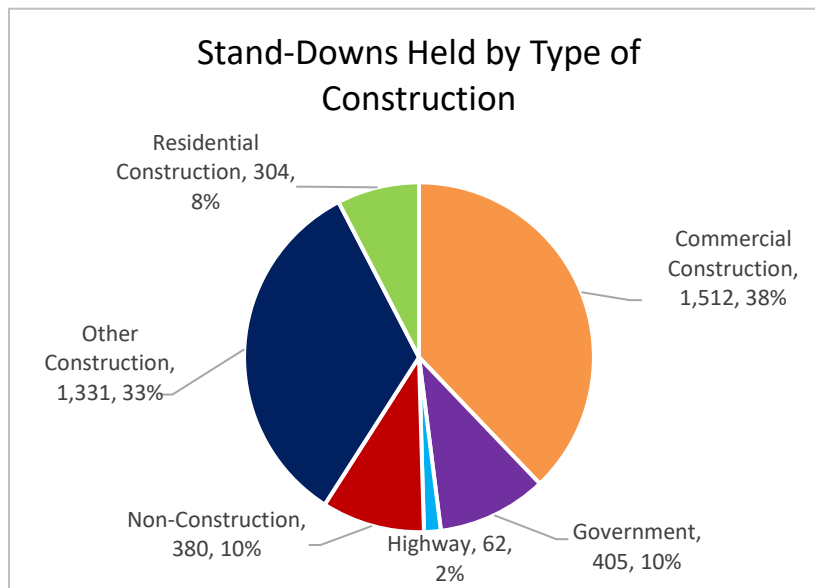
In 2024, thousands of events engaged hundreds of thousands of employers, workers, and others to prevent falls in construction for the National Safety Stand-Down. A total of **3,994 stand-downs reached 415,793 workers** across the United States, its territories, and internationally. As one participant stated, the Stand-Down is a “[g]reat opportunity to engage workers and focus attention on these critical safety topics in the construction industry!”

Participation by Sector

A. Stand-Downs by Sector

Respondents were asked to report whether they primarily worked in the commercial construction, residential construction, other construction, non-construction, highway, or government sectors. As in previous years, **commercial construction was the most selected sector in 2024**, with 38% (1,512) of the total stand-downs.

Other construction was the second-most selected category, making up 33% (1,331) of the stand-downs. Although other construction remained the second-most selected category, the number of **other construction submissions increased by 74% in 2024 compared with 2023** (763 in 2023 compared with 1,331 in 2024).

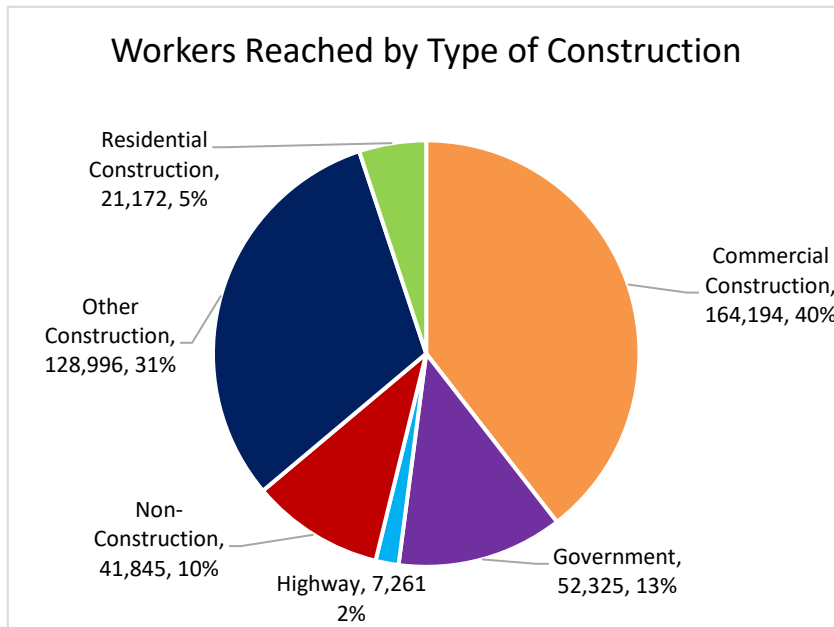


B. Workers Reached by Sector

Respondents were asked what type of construction they perform and how many workers attended the stand-downs they hosted. This data is an indicator of how many workers were performing that type of construction when the Stand-Down occurred. However, it is not conclusive as to whether the workers attending the event self-identify as part of that sector: individuals completing the certificate form can only choose one sector and likely default to the primary sector for their company, which may or may not reflect the primary sector of the

workers who attended. For example, a general contractor who selected “commercial construction” as their type of construction may have hosted workers who primarily work in a different sector.

Based on the data available, the **three most selected sectors were commercial construction (40%, 164,194), other construction (31%, 128,996), and government (13%, 52,325)**. The **number of workers reached in the government sector decreased by 60% percent in 2024 compared with 2023 (52,235 in 2024 compared with 130,754 in 2023)**. The **decrease in workers reached in the government sector is a factor in the drop in total workers reached in 2024**.

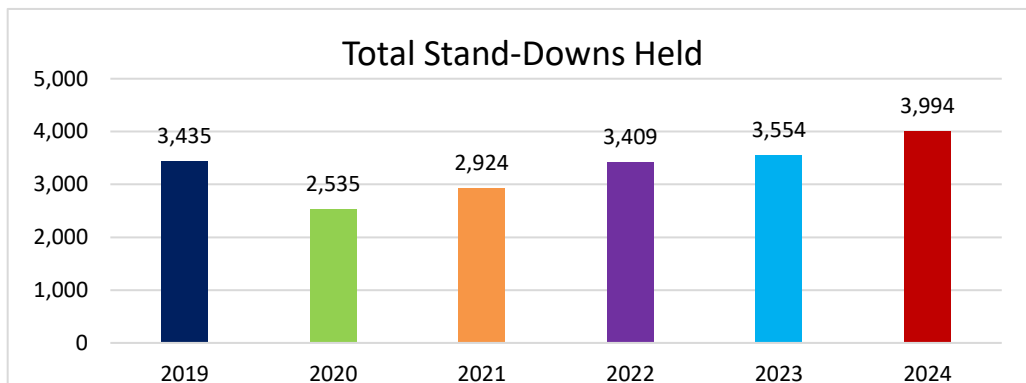


Participation Over Time

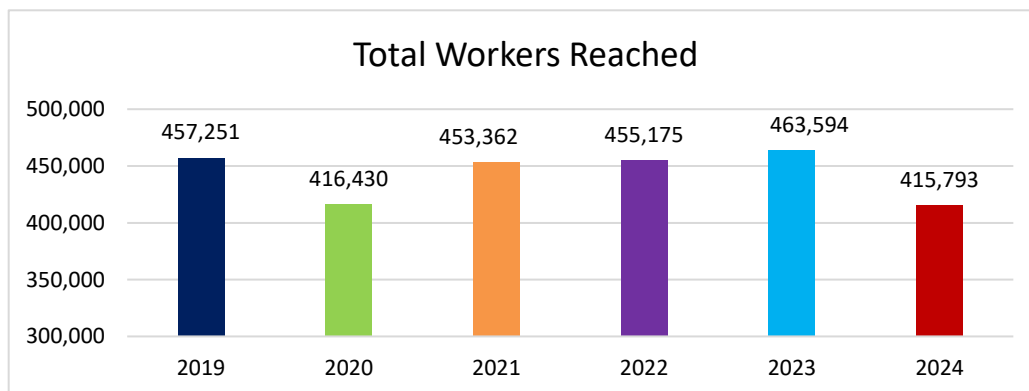
A. Stand-Downs Held & Workers Reached Over Time¹

Reported participation departed from typical patterns in 2024. In 2024, **the number of total events held rose whereas the number of workers reached fell.**

There were 3,994 events reported in 2024, a 12% increase compared with 2023 (3,554). This was the **largest number of recorded events since 2014, the year in which the Stand-Down began** (4,882). This change is partially explained by a 74% increase in reported participation in the “other construction” sector (see more information on this trend on page 5). This increase is also partially attributable to a significant increase in events held in Puerto Rico and Guam (see more information on this trend on page 14).



However, compared with 2023, the total number of workers reached decreased by 10% and was the **lowest recorded year of workers reached in the Stand-Down’s history.** This was a reversal of a previous trend of recovery from 2021 to 2023 after a decrease in participation in 2020 amid the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The total number of workers reached in 2024 was approximately the number reached during 2020. Analysis indicates a central factor in **this drop was the 60% decrease in workers reached reported by the government sector** (see more on page 6) and a **42% decrease in international workers reached** (see more on page 19).

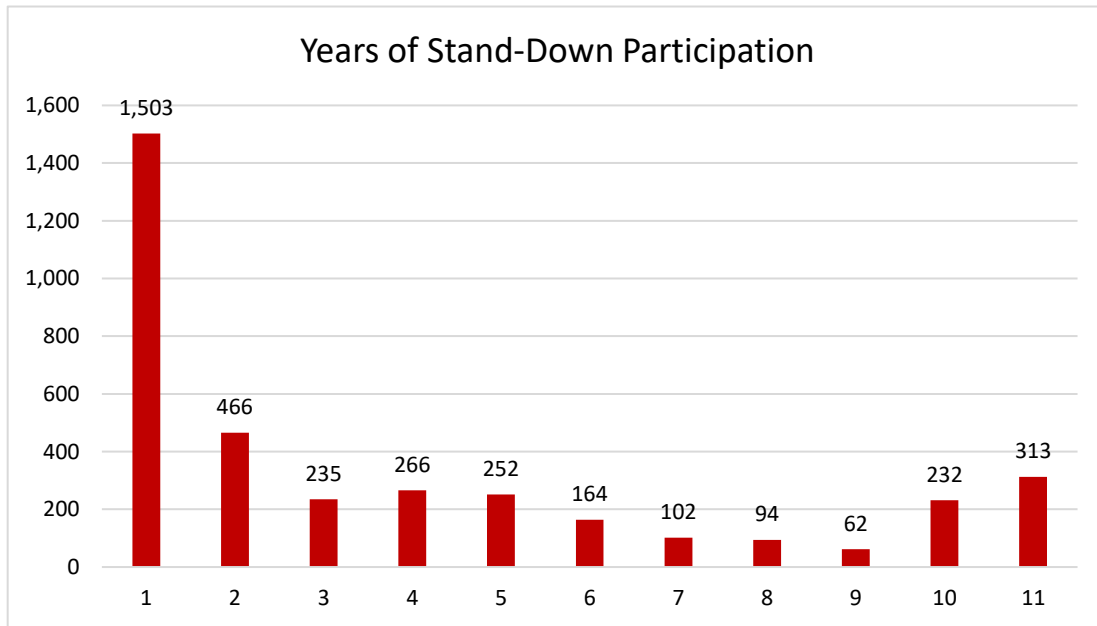


¹ CPWR has collaborated with OSHA since the start of the Stand-Down in 2014 to analyze the OSHA Certificate of Participation Database. However, because of variations in data availability and subsequent gaps in analysis, this report primarily includes data and addresses trends in participation beginning in 2019. For reports on participation between 2014-2016, see the [Falls Campaign’s Evaluation page](#).

B. Multiple Stand-Downs Across Years

The Stand-Down attracted substantial new participants in 2024. Among organizations that reported their number of years participating, **over one-third of organizations reported they were participating for the first time** in 2024 (37%, 1,503).

In addition to attracting new participants, the Stand-Down continues to retain long-term participation. **One in three participants (33%, 1,219) reported they had been participating for five or more years**, and 15% of participants said they had participated for ten or more years (545).



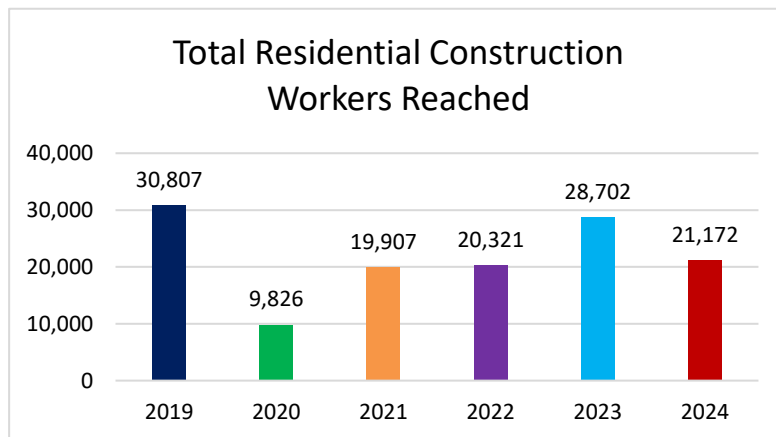
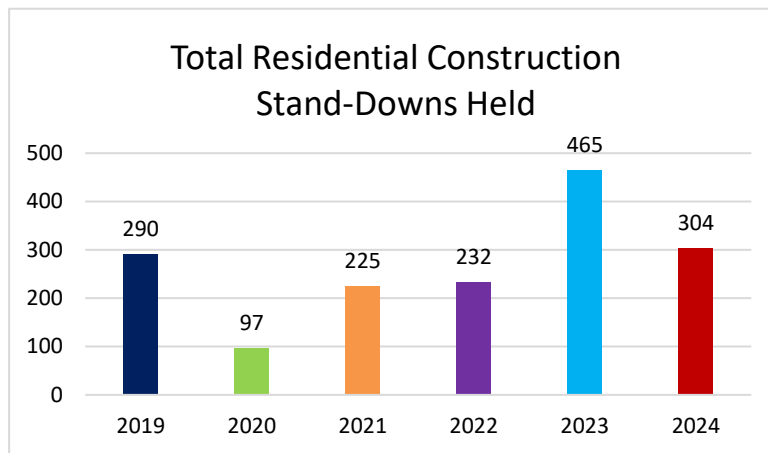
Some participants described how repeated participation affected their workplaces and staff over time. As one participant stated: *“This is the [company’s] second year participation with the National Stand Down- the Safety Directors 7th. The **culture builds with this program**, and it aids with looking at all workers in the area that the personnel are working in.”* This response emphasizes the ways in which participants believe continuing to participate positively affects safety culture over time.

Priority Group Indicators

The Falls Campaign seeks to prioritize residential construction workers, Hispanic workers, immigrant workers, and small employers because they have a greater risk for fatal falls. In 2024, most indicators of engagement with these priority groups did not improve compared with previous years, although there was an increase in the number of small events held. Overall, these **indicators suggest continued limited reach among priority groups.**

A. Residential Construction

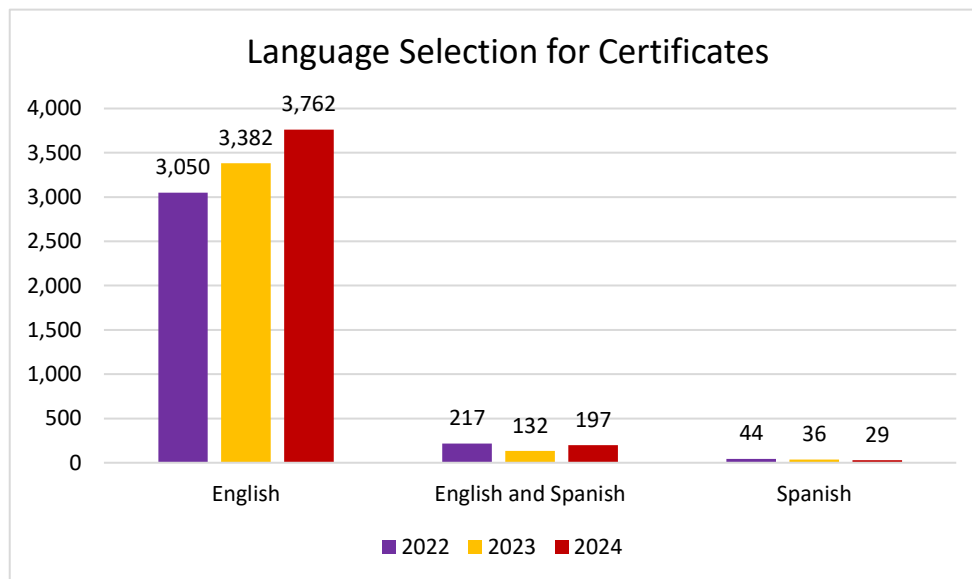
In 2024, **residential construction organizations made up 8% (304) of all stand-downs held and 5% (21,172) of workers reached.** This was a 35% decrease in events held and a 26% drop in workers reached compared with 2023. However, some of this decrease reflects a shift in participation within a sole organization: in 2023, one residential construction organization held 128 events, whereas in 2024, this same company held 24 events. Regardless of the shifts in participation in that individual organization, **overall residential construction participation remains low, is not increasing, and is not a substantial percentage of overall Stand-Down participation.**



B. Certificate Language Selection

An additional indicator of participation among priority groups is use of the option to receive a Certificate of Participation in Spanish. In 2022, OSHA updated the Certificate of Participation to allow participants to receive certificates in Spanish. Participants are now able to choose between receiving a certificate in English, in Spanish, or both.

In 2024, **5% of participants requested a certificate in Spanish and English (197)**. In addition, **0.7% received a certificate only in Spanish and did not request a certificate in English at all (29)**. While these numbers are largely consistent with previous years, the continued low number of requests for Spanish certificates is a possible indicator of continued limited reach to Spanish-speaking workers. Although this indicator has strong limitations – for example, a bilingual construction professional may deliver training in Spanish but not request a certificate in Spanish – it is, nonetheless, a reflection of an area of possible growth for the Stand-Down.



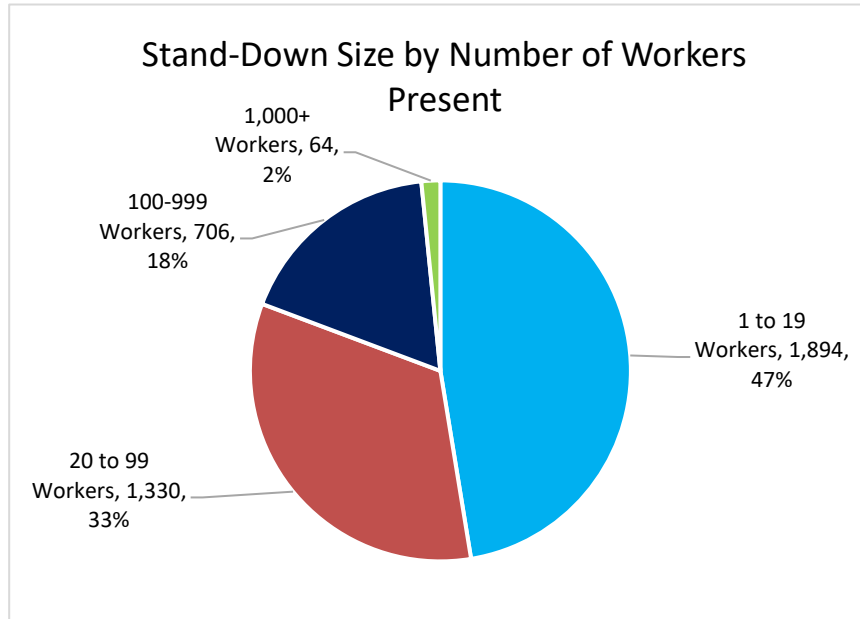
C. Event Size

The Certificate of Participation database does not ask respondents to state their organization's total size, but it does ask how many employees were present at the stand-down event. Responses do not distinguish between different stand-down structures – such as when a large employer split their events into multiple events with small groups of employees or when an individual registered for their own Certificate and entered the event size as “1” – and a participant reporting that “X” number of employees attended an event does not mean the company has “X” number of employees. However, the data provides broad insight into jobsite size where stand-downs occur.

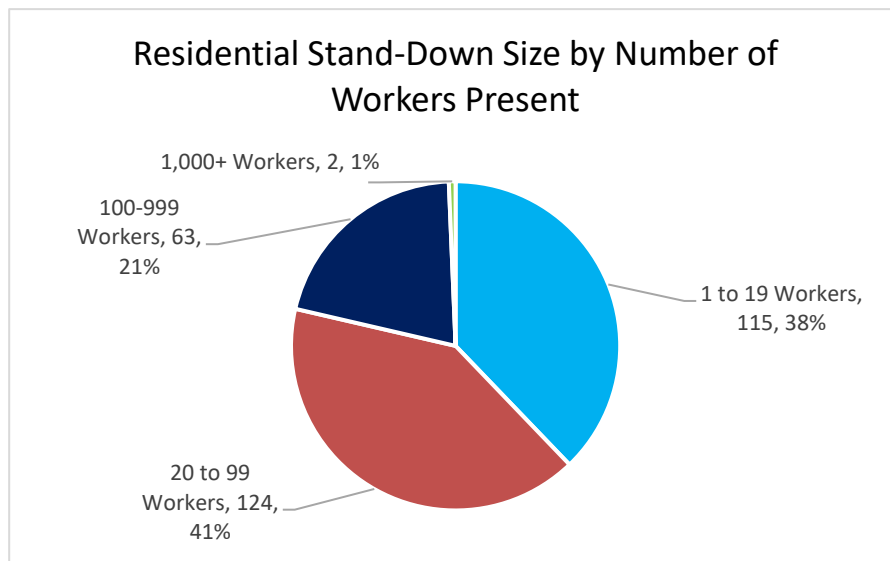
Small employers in any sector are at a higher risk for falls, and the Falls Campaign seeks to prioritize small contractors. In 2024, there was a **26% increase in events with 1 to 19 workers present compared to 2023** (1,894 in 2024 and 1,508 in 2023). This **may suggest an increase in**

smaller firms holding events and is an encouraging indicator of reach among smaller firms.

Moreover, as was true in past years, stand-downs were mostly held with small groups of workers: 47% (1,894) of stand-downs were held at sites with 1 to 19 workers present. The next most common size was 20 to 99 workers, which represented 33% (1,330) of stand-downs held.



Residential construction stand-downs were slightly more likely to report stand-downs with larger groups of workers compared with events across all sectors. In total, 38% (115) of residential construction events had 1 to 19 workers and 41% (124) had 20 to 99 workers.



Event Structure and Content

A. Multiple Stand-Downs Within Organizations

To evaluate how widespread participation was within organizations, an analysis was performed of how common it was for organizations to report they held multiple stand-down events. This captures organizations that held stand-downs at different jobsites, organizations that held multiple stand-downs on separate days, and similar combinations of stand-down event structures within organizations.

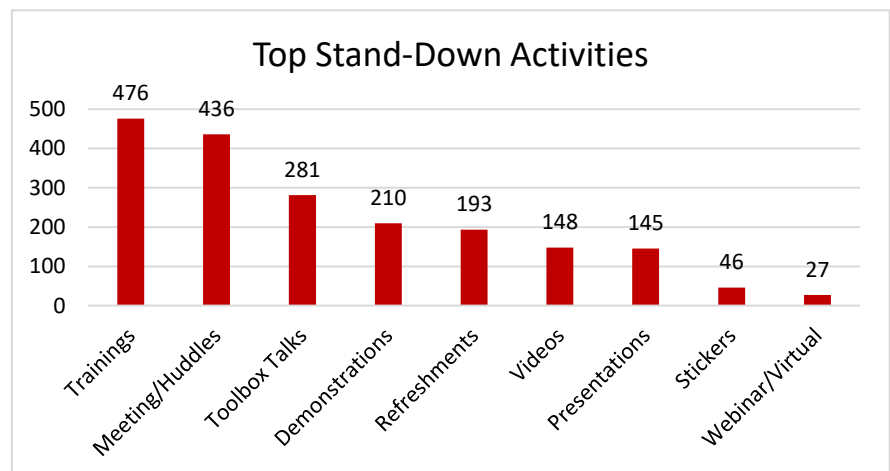
Most participating organizations hosted a single event rather than multiple events. Among the 2,335 organizations that registered for certificates of participation, 83% (1,948) hosted a single stand-down whereas 17% (387) hosted multiple events. This trend was similar for residential construction stand-downs: 76% (137) of participating residential construction organizations held a single event, whereas 24% (44) held multiple events.

B. Stand-Down Content

Respondents were asked to describe their Stand-Down events in an open-ended format. They were asked what they did, what materials they used, how the event went, and what they expected to happen because of the event.

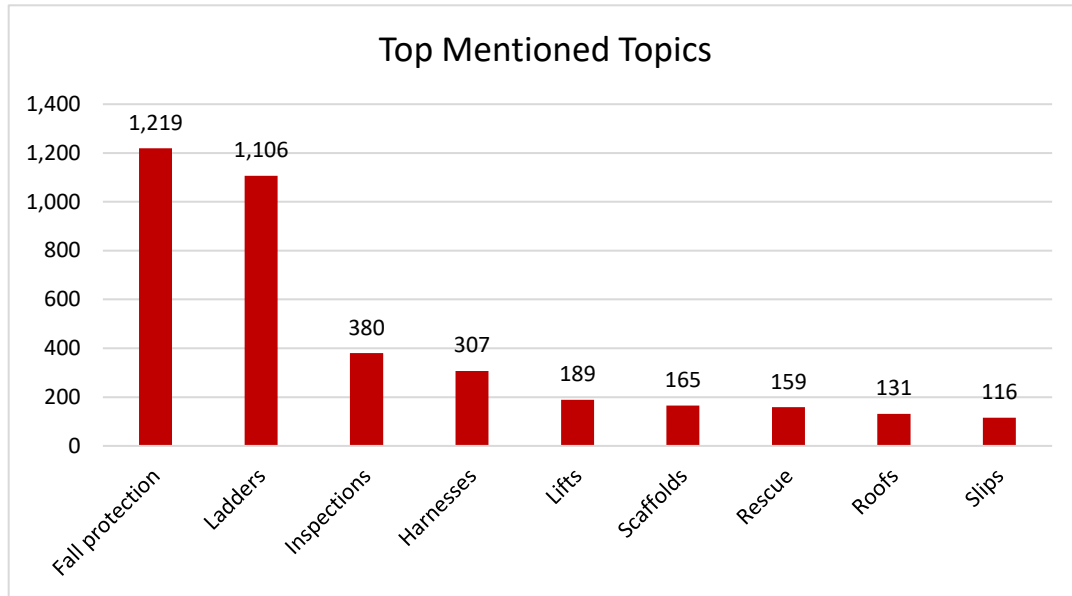
Participants reported widespread success in their events. They described positive experiences in their Stand-Downs; as one participant said: *“We received tons of good feedback from the workers.”* Another explained: *“We had a great time, and it was very productive. We had a lot of discussion...the discussion was great to bring up past experiences and [re-engage] everyone’s brains as to why we actually perform this job.”*

When participants wrote about what they did in their events, many described specific activities. The activities they mentioned most often were **trainings** (476), **meetings/huddles** (436), **toolbox talks** (281), **demonstrations** (210), and **refreshments** (193). As in past years, it was common for participants to combine multiple activities during an individual event or during multiple events throughout the week. For example, one participant described hosting an event in which there was training on fall hazards and personal protective equipment (PPE) usage, an upgrade of safety equipment by the employer, checks by field representatives for hazardous conditions, follow-up training for employees when hazardous conditions were identified (for example, clutter that could have caused a trip hazard), education on heat and hydration, and



distribution of safety data sheets from OSHA in English and Spanish.

Many respondents used key fall-related topics in their descriptions of their stand-down activities. The topics mentioned most often were **fall protection** (1,219) and **ladders** (1,106). After that, the next most mentioned topics were **inspections** (380), **harnesses** (307), and **lifts** (189).



The number of mentions of the term “rescue” continued to increase in 2024. In 2023, there had been a 47% increase in the number of times the term was used compared with 2022 (76 in 2022 and 112 in 2023). In 2024, mentions increased again. In total, **between 2022 and 2024, the number of times the term “rescue” was mentioned more than doubled** (76 in 2022 and 159 in 2024). While rescue was still not a top-mentioned topic in 2024, the continued increase is of note and may reflect increased focus on this priority topic for the Stand-Down. In 2024, OSHA-NIOSH-CPWR hosted Stand-Down webinars that focused on the topic of rescue.

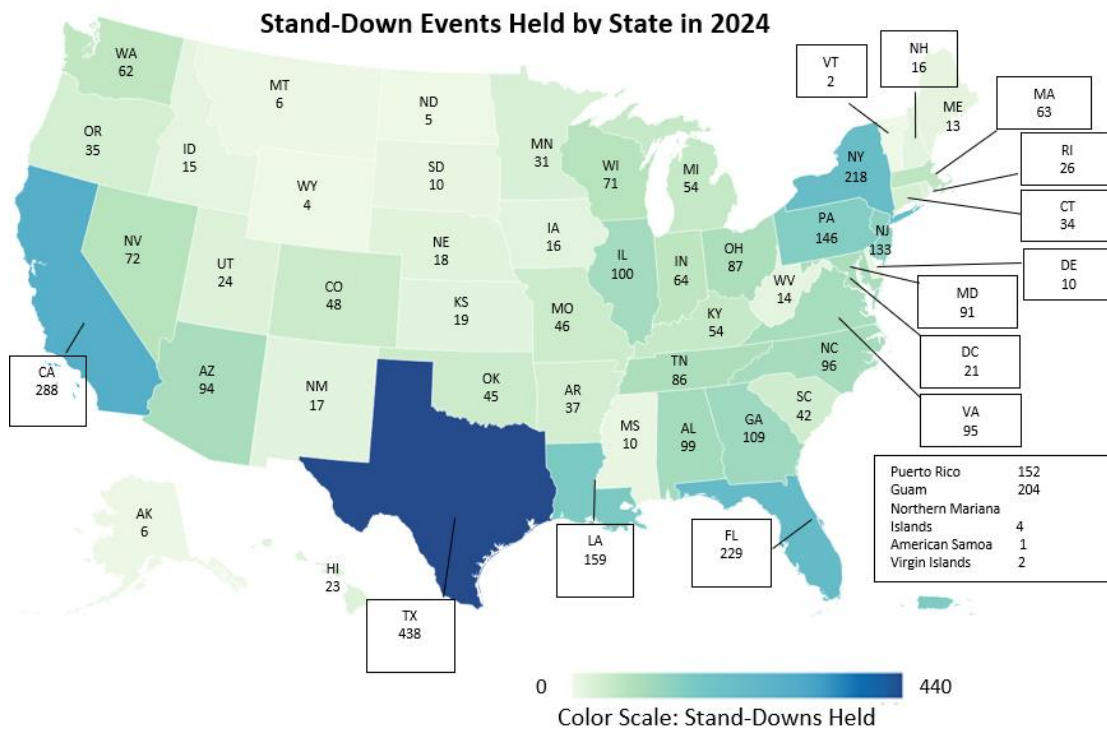
Stand-Down Locations

Stand-Downs by State

A total of 3,864 stand-downs were held in U.S. states and territories in 2024. Stand-downs were held in **every state and territory** in 2024. The states and territories with the highest number of stand-downs were **Texas (438)**, **California, (288)**, **Florida (229)**, **New York (218)**, and **Guam (204)**.

The evaluation of the OSHA Certificate of Participation database does not typically assess trends in participation in individual states or territories. However, given the shifts in participation in this year's event, there was additional analysis to evaluate areas of changes in trends. In this process, it was noted that **there was a 274% increase in events held in Guam and Puerto Rico in 2024** compared with 2023 (356 in 2024 compared with 95 in 2023). Some of the variation in total events held in Guam and Puerto Rico was attributable to annual shifts in how individuals and organizations fill out the Certificate of Participation. Sometimes the form is filled out separately for each individual who participates in the event, whereas other times it is filled out a single time to register the event as a whole. When the form is filled out for each participating individual instead of a single time for the group, the total number of registered events increases.

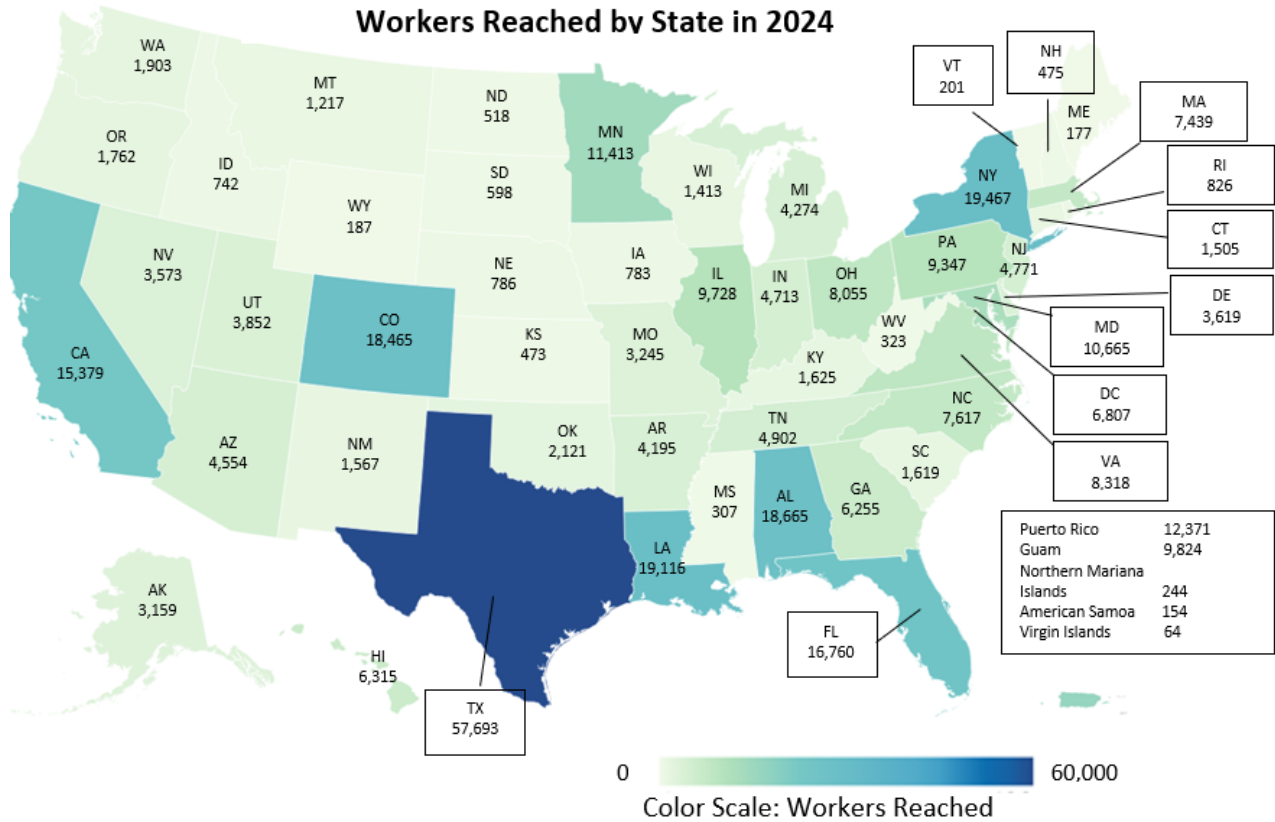
For additional information on fall fatalities by state, consult [CPWR's Construction Fatality Map Dashboard](#).



Workers Reached by State

A total of **346,198 workers** in the U.S. and its territories were reached in the 2024 Stand-Down. The states and territories where events reached the highest number of workers were **Texas** (57,693), **New York** (19,467), **Louisiana** (19,116), **Alabama** (18,665), and **Colorado** (18,465).

For additional information on fall fatalities by state, consult [CPWR's Construction Fatality Map Dashboard](#).



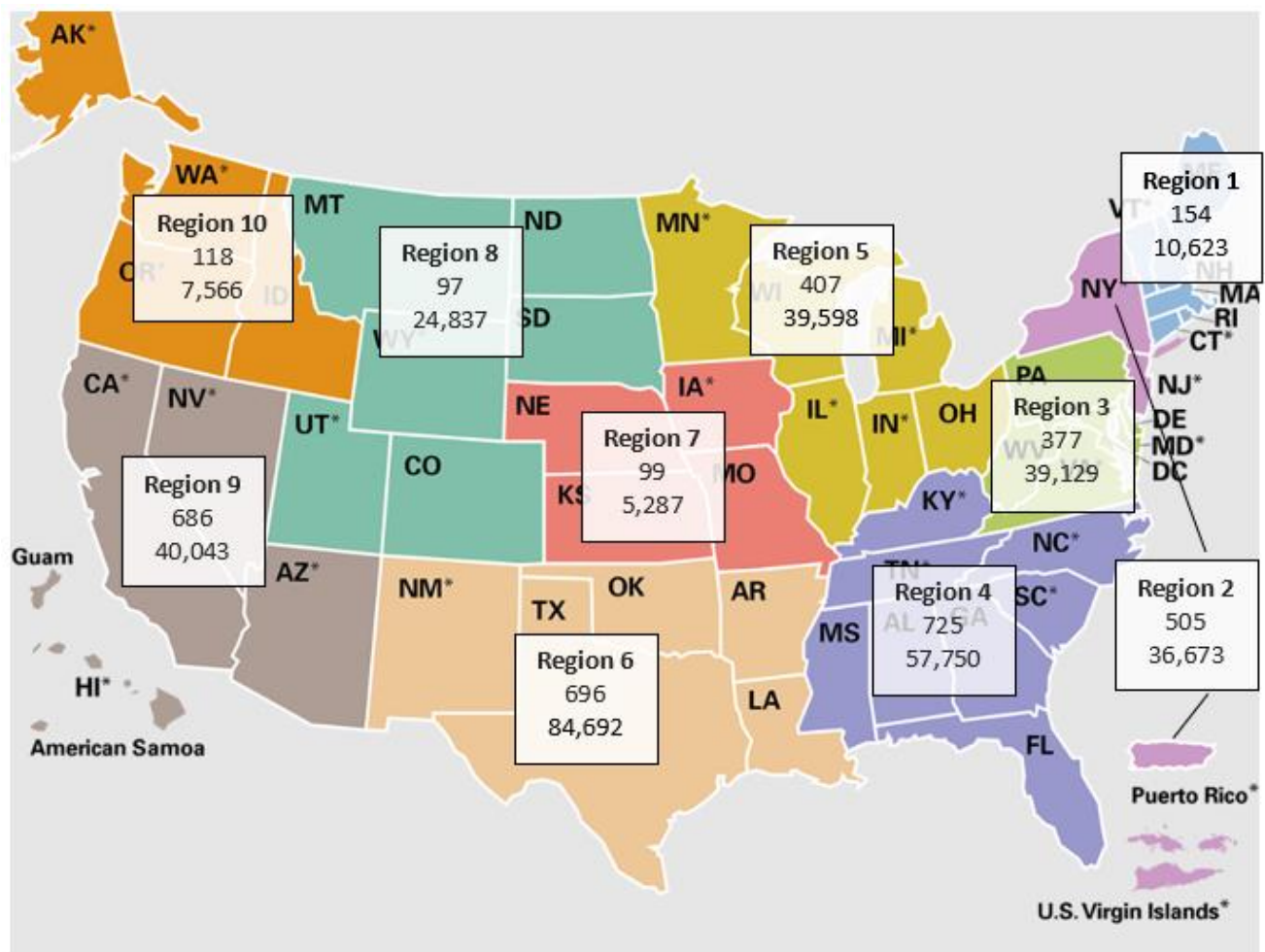
Stand-Downs and Workers Reached by OSHA Region

OSHA regional offices and training centers play a key role in promoting and facilitating stand-down events nationally and throughout the territories.

Events held and workers reached were analyzed by OSHA region. The largest number of stand-downs were held by **Region 4** (725), **Region 6** (696), and **Region 9** (686). In terms of workers reached, **Region 6** (84,692), **Region 4** (57,750), and **Region 9** (40,043) reported reaching the largest number of employees in their events.

Since this data was collected, the OSHA regions have been updated and the names have been changed. The information below reflects the regions at the time of the 2024 Stand-Down.

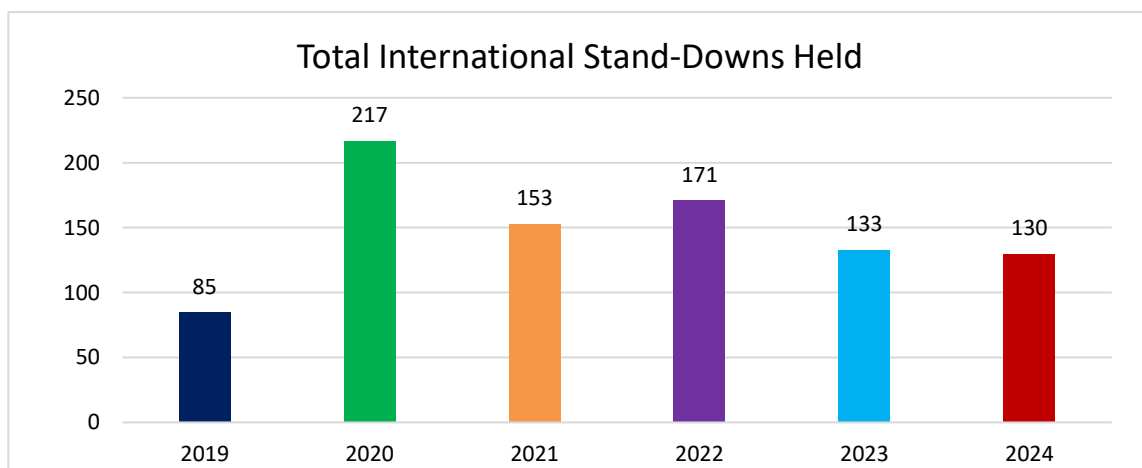
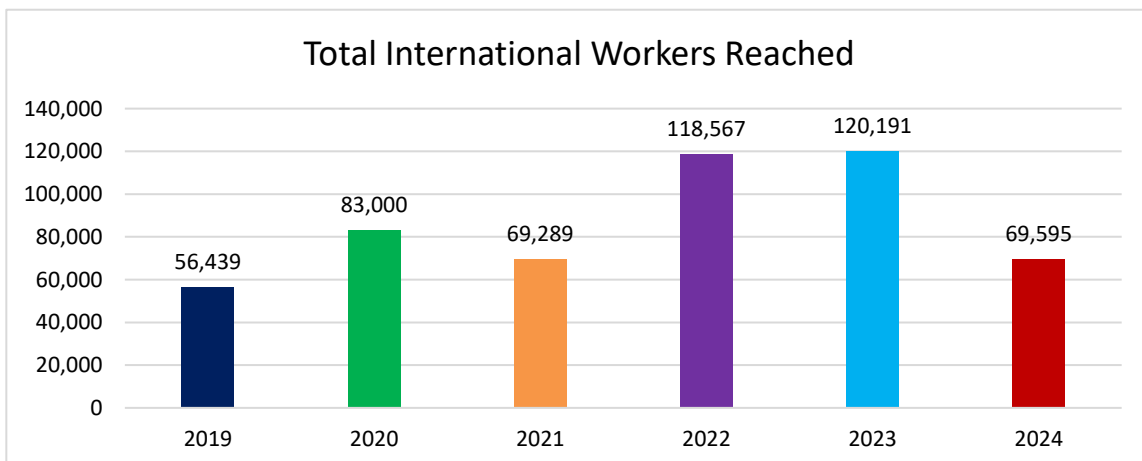
	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
Stand-Downs	154	505	377	725	407	696	99	97	686	118
Workers Reached	10,623	36,673	39,129	57,750	39,598	84,692	5,287	24,837	40,043	7,566



International Participation

There was substantial international participation in the 2024 Stand-Down, although participation decreased compared with previous recent years. In 2024, there were **130 Stand-Downs held internationally that reported reaching 69,595 workers**. International participants are not asked to report which country they were in on the form, but some participants identified their location in their entries through their event descriptions or the names of their organizations. Participants reported holding events in countries such as Brazil, Japan, India, Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Botswana, and Mexico.

Fewer international workers were reached in 2024 compared with 2022 and 2023. Although the number of events held stayed consistent between 2023 (133) and 2024 (130), the number of workers reached decreased by 42% (120,191 in 2023 compared with 69,595 in 2024). Since the data are erased annually and the OSHA Certificate of Participation Form does not ask international participants to identify a country, more in-depth analysis of this decrease in workers reached is not available. However, **it is common for the U.S. military to participate internationally and given the decrease in events registered in the “government” sector, it is possible that this drop in workers reached abroad was related to shifts or patterns in participation among this group.**



CONCLUSION

Falls are the leading cause of workplace death for construction workers. The National Safety Stand-Down engages participants to take action to prevent workplace injury and fatality from falls. In 2024, the Falls Campaign held the eleventh annual Stand-Down event.

Analysis of OSHA's 2024 Certificate of Participation Database found that the event continued to have widespread national and international reach. There was a record number of events held: there were 3,994 stand-downs, which was the highest number of events registered since 2014, the first year in which the Stand-Down was held. However, there was a decrease in reported workers reached: the event reached 415,793 workers, the lowest reported number in the event's history. This decrease was largely attributable to a decrease in international participation and a decrease in reported participation in the government sector. Moreover, although the number of small events held increased, other indicators of priority group engagement, such as residential construction participation and use of the Spanish-language option on the Certificate of Participation, stayed low and did not increase, suggesting continued limited reach among these priority groups and an area of possible growth for the Stand-Down.

Participants continue to report widespread satisfaction and positive experiences at their events. Individuals completing the Certificate of Participation form commonly engaged in activities such as training, equipment demonstrations, and toolbox talks, and described successful events about key priority fall topics in fall prevention and protection.



For more information on the National Campaign to Prevent Falls in Construction and the Safety Stand-Down, visit the OSHA-NIOSH-CPWR campaign site:

www.stopconstructionfalls.com

Appendix: OSHA Certificate of Participation Survey Text

1. Name of Business*

2. Project Title:

3. State*:

4. Type of Industry*: Choose [Commercial Construction; Government; Highway; Non-Construction; Other Construction; Residential Construction]

5. Number of Employees who Participated*:

6. Number of years of participation:

7. Please tell us about your Stand-Down. What did you do? What materials did you use? How did it go? What do you expect to happen as a result of the Stand-Down? (**Optional. Limit entry to 1500 characters.**)

Please indicate if you give the Agency consent to use your comments in our program assessment and promotional activities. Yes No

8. How can we improve future initiatives like this? What could have been better? (**Optional. Limit entry to 1500 characters.**)

Please indicate if you give the Agency consent to use your comments in our program assessment and promotional activities. Yes No