

**The National Campaign to Prevent Falls in Construction
2025 Safety Stand-Down Evaluation Report:**

Lessons Learned from Review of OSHA's Certificates of Participation

ROSA GREENBERG, MPH

CPWR 
THE CENTER FOR CONSTRUCTION
RESEARCH AND TRAINING



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BACKGROUND

Falls are the leading cause of workplace death for construction workers. More than one construction worker dies from a fall to a lower level per day in the United States (US).ⁱ In 2024, fall protection in construction remained the most frequently cited standard by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for the thirteenth consecutive fiscal year.^{ii,iii} 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%.^{iv}

The National Campaign to Prevent Falls in Construction (Falls Campaign) has worked to address falls 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 draw attention to fall hazards and prevention strategies. 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.^v

The Stand-Down reaches hundreds of thousands of workers across the United States and its territories, along with many workers who participate internationally. This report captures the fraction of those participants that obtain a certificate from OSHA's website. See [Stop Construction Falls: Evaluation](#) for evaluation reports from previous years.

METHODS

Data analyzed in this report were collected from OSHA's 2025 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 in an online form 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. OSHA, CPWR, and NIOSH promote the questionnaire online alongside Stand-Down promotional communications through channels such as social media posts, webinars, and newsletters. An appendix to this report shares the full questionnaire.



This report is a mixed-methods analysis of the Database. Data were first cleaned: duplicates and entries marked as “Test” were removed, entries with organization names that had small variations in spelling or grammar were consolidated, and entries that provided negative numbers for employee counts were corrected to be positive numbers. Spanish-language entries were translated into English. Quantitative analysis was performed using functions in 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 as needed.

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. All past reports are compiled on the [Falls Campaign's Evaluation page](#).

KEY FINDINGS

- There was **widespread national and international participation in the 2025 Stand-Down**. Participants reported holding 2,286 stand-downs that reached 301,038 workers.
- The 2025 Stand-Down reported the lowest number of events held and workers reached in the event's history.¹ There was a 43% decrease in events held and a 28% decrease in workers reached compared with 2024. Key trends in this decrease include:
 - **The “Other Construction” and “Commercial Construction” sectors reported lower participation.** Historically, these sectors have been the most active sectors in the Stand-Down. However, in 2025, there was a 57% decrease in events held and a 49% decrease in workers reached in the other construction sector, and there was a 36% decrease in events held and a 30% decrease in workers reached in the commercial construction sector.
 - **Fewer organizations registered for certificates.** In 2025, there was a 55% decrease in unique organizations that registered for certificates compared with 2024.
 - **Fewer participants joined for the first time.** In 2025, there was a 61% decrease of participants reporting they were participating for the first time compared with 2024.
 - **Fewer international participants registered for certificates.** In 2025, there was a 75% decrease in international workers reached and a 58% decrease in international events held compared with 2024.
- There continues to be limited reach among the Stand-Down priority groups of residential construction workers, small employers (organizations that hold events with fewer than 20 workers), and Spanish-speaking workers.
 - Residential construction made up 8% of Stand-Downs held and 6% of workers reached. The number of residential construction workers reached and events held decreased in 2025 compared with 2024. The percentage of residential stand-down events held, however, did remain the same.
 - Fewer events were held among small employers. There was a 51% decrease in events held with 1 to 19 workers in 2025 compared with 2024.
 - A total of 7% of participants requested a Certificate of Participation in Spanish and English and 0.4% requested a certificate only in Spanish.
- Although participation decreased in 2025, satisfaction in the event for participants remained steady. Participants described hosting successful events and provided positive feedback about the Stand-Down. The most mentioned activities were trainings, meetings/huddles, toolbox talks, and refreshments, and the most mentioned topics were fall protection, ladders, inspections, and harnesses.

¹ The 2025 Stand-Down reported the lowest number of events held and workers reached for a year in which consistent and reliable data were available. No data were available for Stand-Down participation in 2017 or 2018. The 2016 Stand-Down evaluation data had an artificially low count due to the certificate website not functioning for the first two to three weeks of the event.

RESULTS

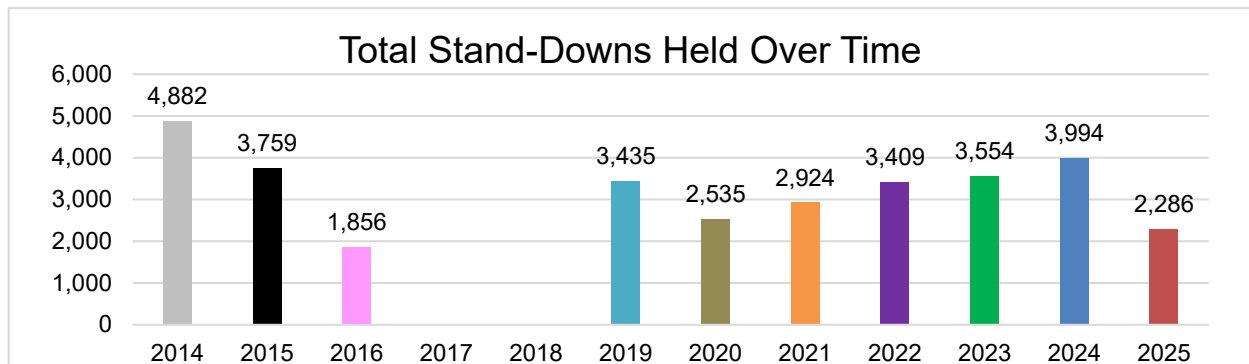
In 2025, a total of **2,286 stand-down events engaged 301,038 workers** across the United States, its territories, and internationally to prevent falls in construction during the National Safety Stand-Down.

Participation Over Time

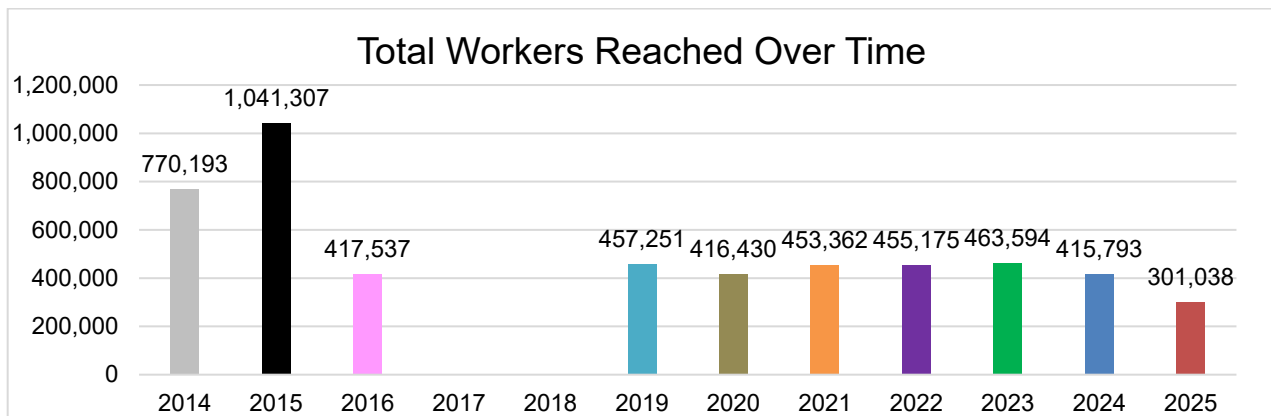
A. Stand-Downs Held & Workers Reached

Reported participation decreased substantially in 2025.

With 2,286 events reported in 2025, there was a 43% drop when compared with 2024 (3,994). This was the **fewest reported events in Stand-Down history** for which consistent data are available.² This was a reversal of a previous trend of recovery after a decrease in participation in 2020 amid the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.



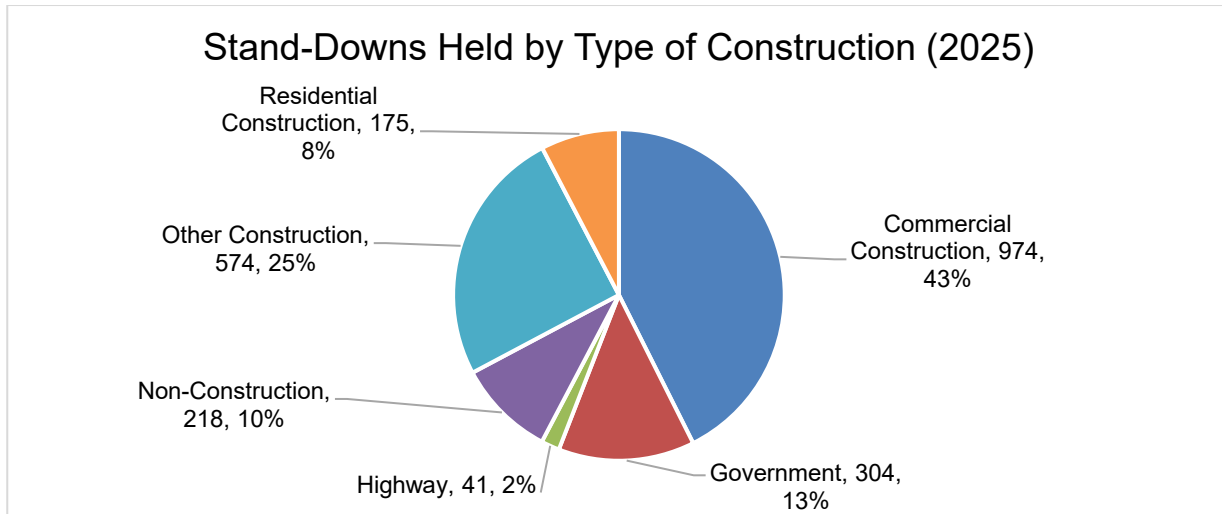
In addition, 2025 was also the **lowest recorded year of workers reached in the Stand-Down's all-time history (301,038)**. Compared with 2024 (415,793), the total number of workers reached by the event decreased by 28%.



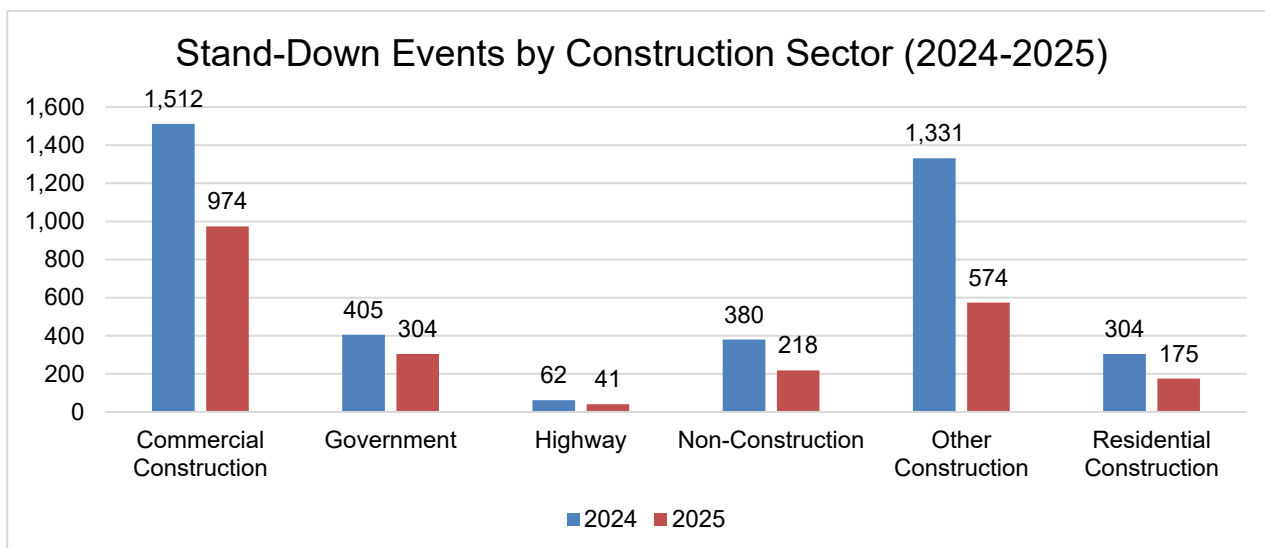
² CPWR has collaborated with OSHA since the start of the Stand-Down in 2014 to analyze the OSHA Certificate of Participation Database. However, data were not available in 2017 or 2018, and 2016 data underestimates full participation due to a technical issue with the certificate form that year.

B. 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. **Commercial construction was the most selected sector in 2025**, with 43% (974) of the total stand-downs. Other construction was the second-most selected category, making up 25% (574) of the stand-downs.



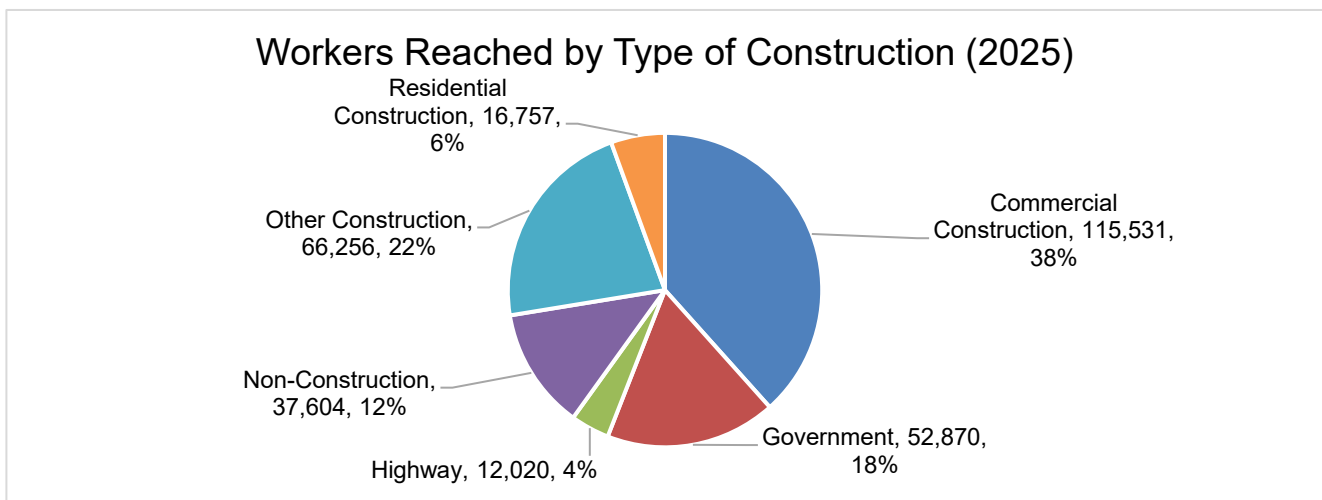
While there was a decrease in events held in every sector in 2025 compared with the prior year, the **57% decrease in other construction events held** (1,331; 574) was a key factor in the overall decrease in events held. In addition, there was also a **36% decrease in commercial construction events held** (1,512; 974).



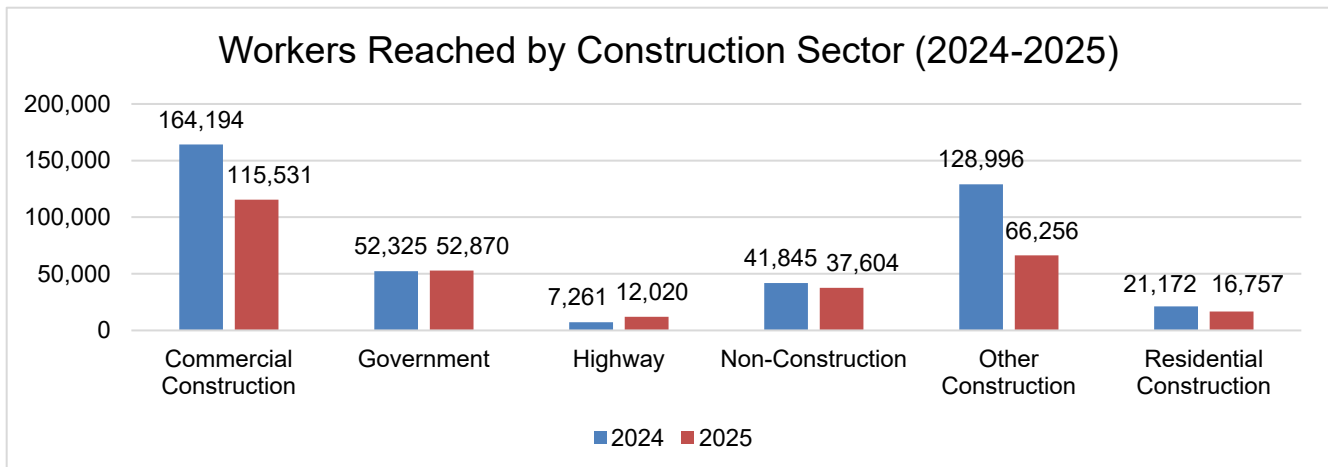
C. Workers Reached by Sector

Respondents were asked what type of construction they perform and how many workers attended the events 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” may have hosted workers who primarily work in a different sector.

The **three most selected sectors in 2025 were commercial construction (38%, 115,531), other construction (22%, 66,256), and government (18%, 52,870).**



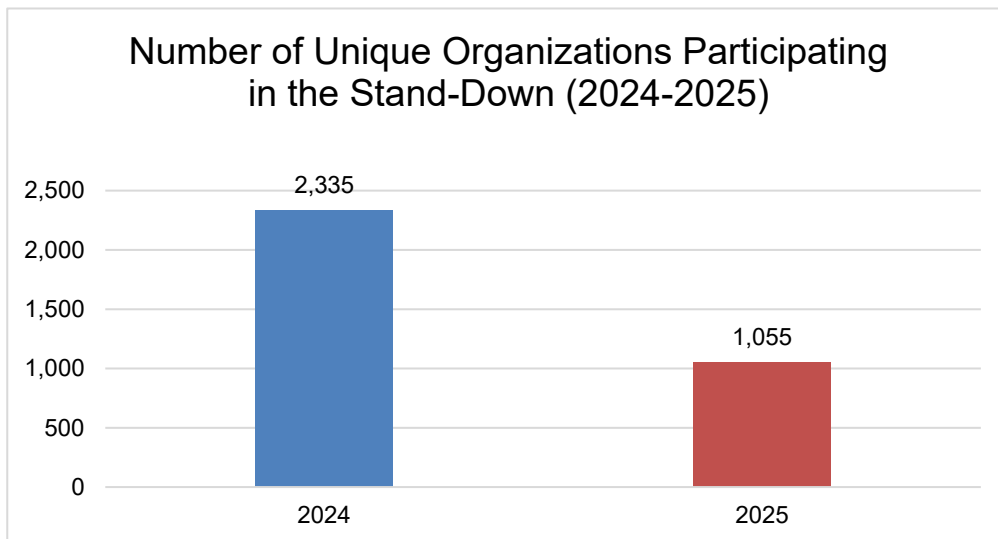
Between 2024 and 2025, there were varied trends in how many workers were reached by sector. The number of workers reached in the highway sector – the least represented sector in the Stand-Down – increased by 66% (7,261; 12,020). The number of **workers reached in the government sector stayed stable** (52,325; 52,870). All other sectors decreased in workers reached. The **largest total decreases were seen in other construction (49%; 128,996, 66,256) and commercial construction (30%; 164,194, 115,531).**



D. Unique Organizations

Each year, a number of unique organizations register for Certificates of Participation. Unique organizations are defined in the following way: when an organization registers, they are asked to state the name of their business. In the data analysis process, similar organizations' names are consolidated. For example, when two organizations have almost identical names except for a typo or a minor spelling difference, those names are consolidated for analysis. In addition, when a large national company registers events in different cities with designations such as "Company Name – City A" and "Company Name – City B", then those entries are consolidated to be titled "Company Name" and counted as a single unique organization instead of multiple separate organizations.

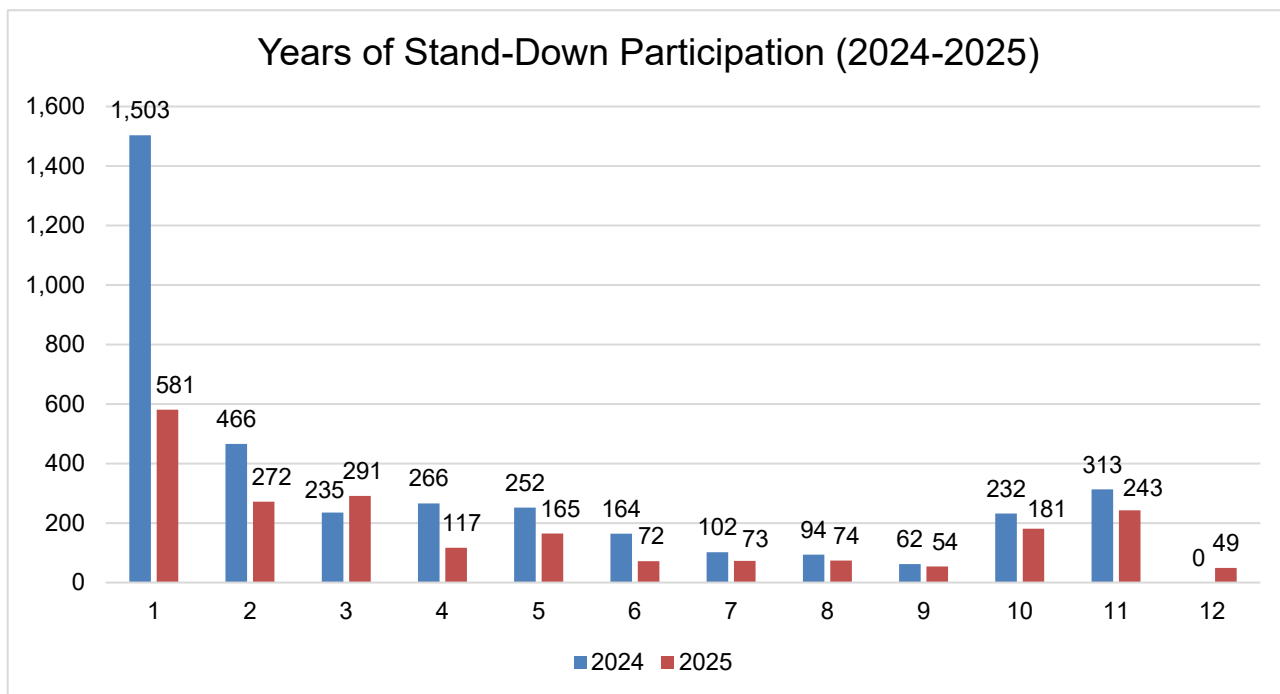
There was a significant decrease (55%) in unique organizations that registered for certificates in 2025 compared with 2024. While a total of 2,335 unique organizations registered for certificates in 2024, only 1,055 distinct organizations registered in 2025.



E. New and Returning Participants³

There were fewer first-time participants in 2025, although first-time participants continued to make up a substantial percentage of overall participants. There was a 61% decrease in the number of first-time participants in 2025 compared with 2024 (1,503; 581). Despite this decrease, first-time participants were still common: in 2025, approximately one quarter of organizations reported they were participating for the first time (27%, 581). In comparison, in 2024, over one third of organizations reported they were participating for the first time (37%, 1,503).

One possible overall contributing factor for the decrease in first-time participants in 2025 is that, since the Stand-Down has now completed its twelfth year, there are increasingly fewer construction organizations that have never participated. However, this consideration does not explain the abrupt decrease in first-time participants seen between 2024 and 2025.



Approximately three-quarters of participants had previously participated in the Stand-Down and decided to return for another year (73%, 1,591). As one organization explained, *“This is our third year participating in this National Safety Stand Down, and, so far, I’ve noticed very good feedback from our personnel and others that are involved.”* Similarly, a participant returning for the seventh year said, *“I think the annual [Stand-Down] builds on itself every year.”*

³ The Stand-Down was in its twelfth year in 2025. Due to an error on the Certificate of Participation form, participants were able to select 1-14 years of participation instead of 1-12 years of participation. As such, respondents who selected 13 or 14 years were combined with 12 years for data analysis.

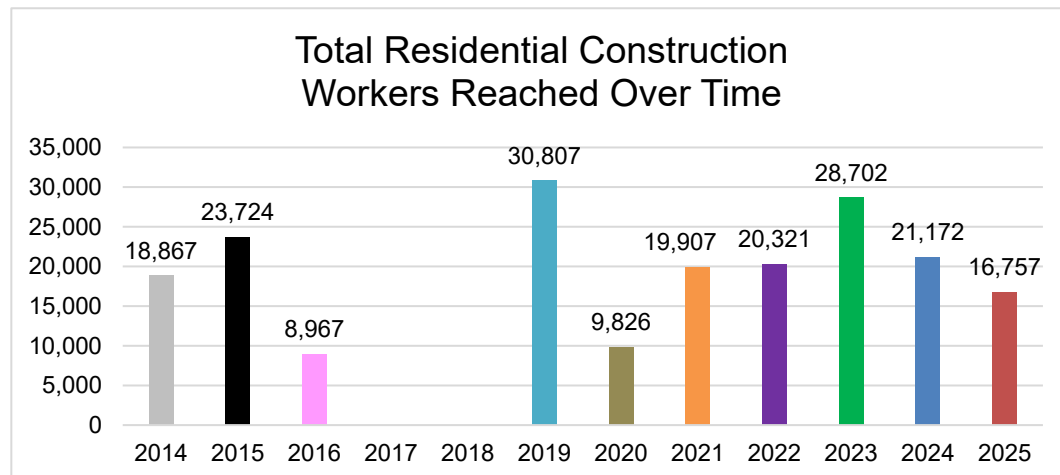
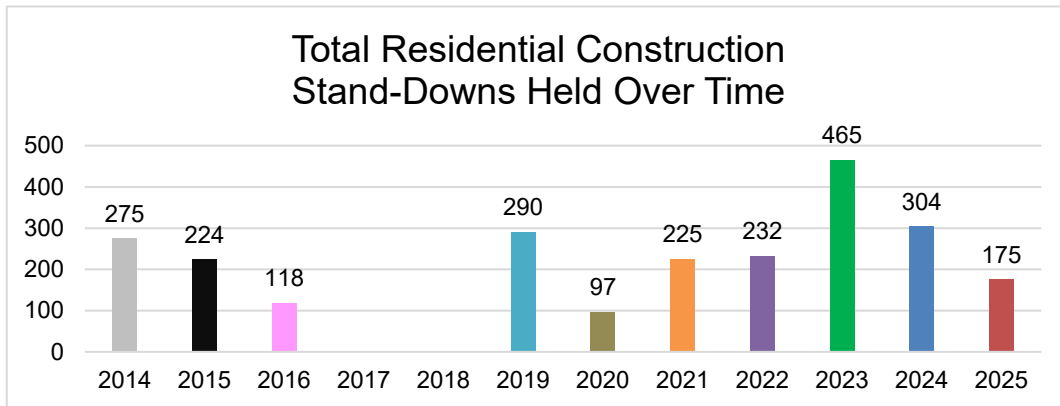
Priority Group Indicators

The Falls Campaign emphasizes outreach to residential construction workers, Hispanic workers, immigrant workers, and small employers because data suggest that they have a greater risk for fatal falls. In 2025, indicators of engagement with these priority groups did not improve compared with previous years. Overall, these **indicators suggest continued limited reach among priority groups.**

A. Residential Construction⁴

Residential construction participation remains low, is decreasing, and is not a substantial percentage of overall Stand-Down participation.

In 2025, residential construction events decreased to the lowest levels since 2020. Residential construction organizations made up 8% (175) of all events held and 6% (16,757) of workers reached in 2025. There was a 42% decrease in events held and a 21% drop in workers reached compared with 2024.

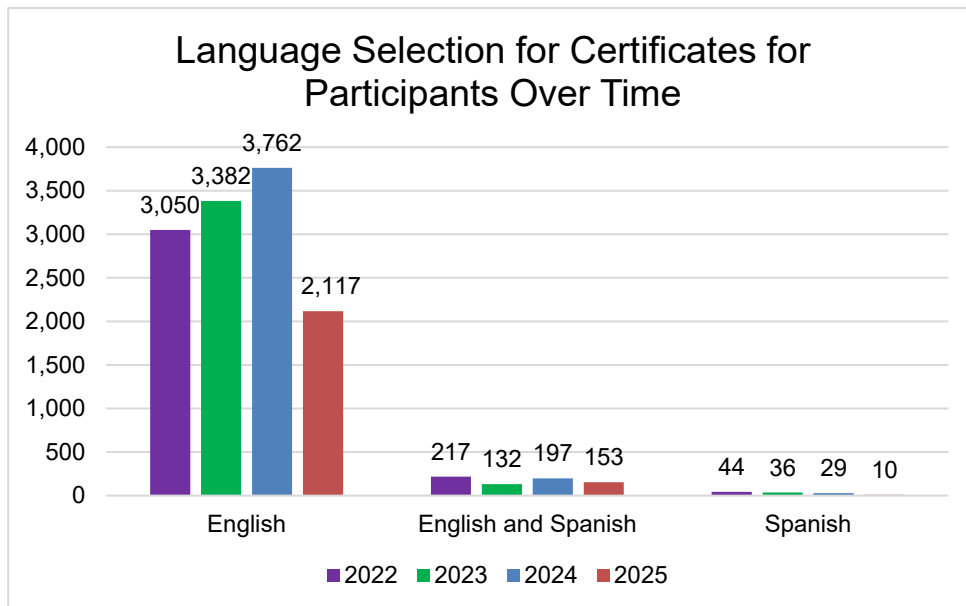


⁴ CPWR has collaborated with OSHA since the start of the Stand-Down in 2014 to analyze the OSHA Certificate of Participation Database. However, data were not available in 2017 or 2018. In addition, 2016 data had an artificially low count due to the certificate website not functioning for the first two to three weeks of the event.

B. Certificate Language Selection

An additional indicator of participation is the option to receive a Certificate of Participation in Spanish. In 2022, OSHA updated the Certificate of Participation to allow participants to request certificates in Spanish. Since then, participants have been able to choose between receiving a certificate in English, in Spanish, or both.

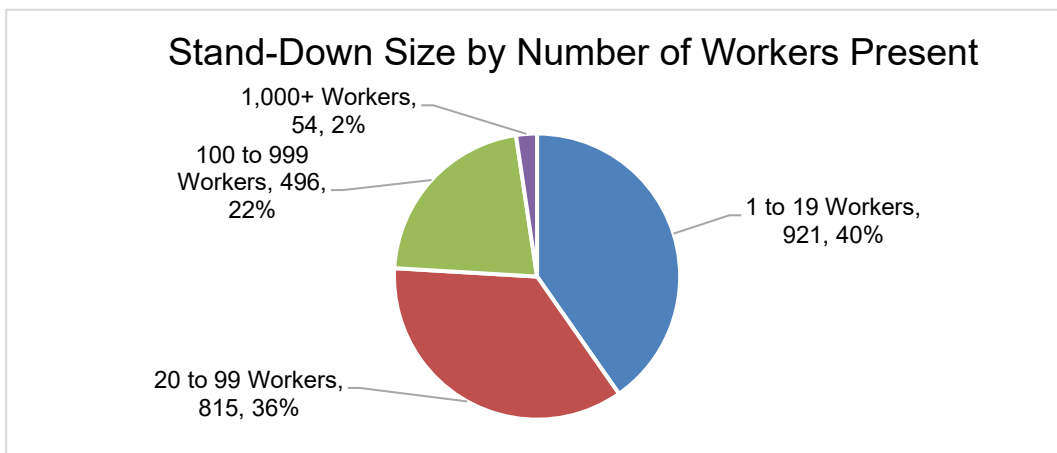
There **continues to be a low number of requests for Spanish certificates**. In 2025, **7% of participants requested a certificate in Spanish and English** (153). In addition, **0.4% received a certificate only in Spanish and did not request a certificate in English at all** (10). The low number of requests for Spanish certificates is a possible indicator of 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.



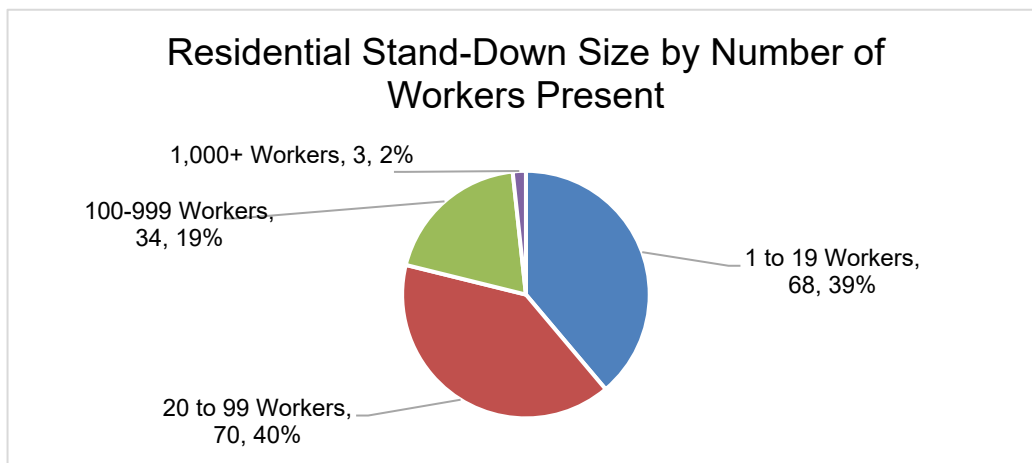
C. Event Size

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

Small employers in any sector are at a higher risk for falls, and so the Falls Campaign prioritizes small contractors. In 2025, the majority of events were held with 1-19 workers (921, 40%) and 20 to 99 workers (815, 36%). **There was a 51% decrease in events held with 1 to 19 workers in 2025 compared with 2024.** Given the Stand-Down's goal of reaching smaller employers, this is a notable decrease.



Residential construction events followed a similar trend as all sectors of events. In total, 39% (68) of residential construction events had 1 to 19 workers and 40% (70) had 20 to 99 workers. This was a 41% decrease in the number of events held with 1 to 19 workers compared with 2024.



Event Structure and Content

A. Multiple Stand-Downs Within Organizations

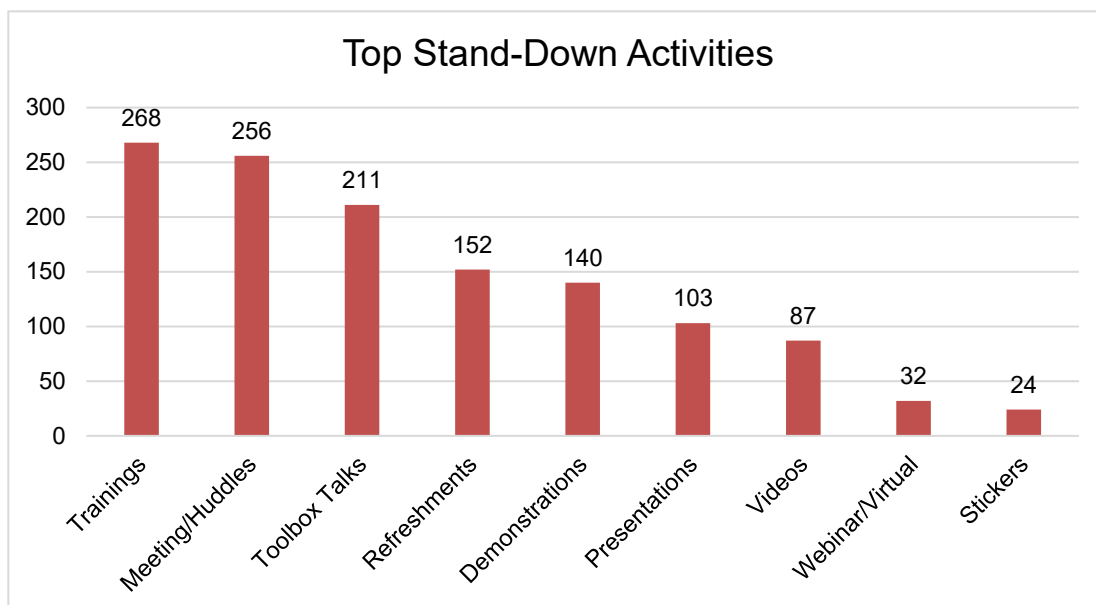
To evaluate how widespread participation was within organizations, an analysis was performed of how common it was for organizations to report they held multiple stand-down events. This captures organizations that held stand-downs at different jobsites, organizations that held multiple stand-downs on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

Despite the decrease in total participating organizations, trends in what percentage of participating organizations hosted a single event rather than multiple events remained steady. Among the 1,055 organizations that registered for certificates of participation, 76% (806) hosted a single stand-down whereas 24% (249) hosted multiple events. This trend was similar for residential construction stand-downs: 77% (75) of participating residential construction organizations held a single event, whereas 24% (23) held multiple events.

B. Stand-Down Content

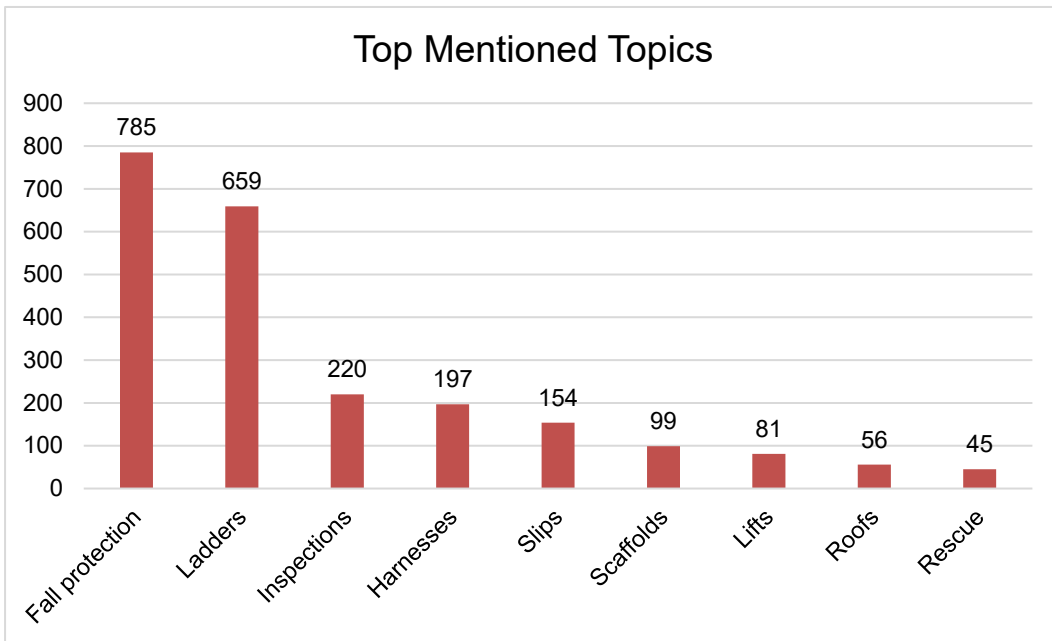
Respondents were asked to describe their Stand-Down events in an open-ended format. They were asked what they did, what materials they used, how the event went, and what they expected to happen because of the event.

Participants reported widespread success in their events. They described positive experiences in their Stand-Downs; as one participant said: *“...the [Stand-Down] was a success, with strong participation from the crew. Everyone was engaged and contributed valuable insights and questions, which led to a more in-depth understanding of the hazards involved and the protective measures in place.”*



When participants wrote about what they did in their events, many described specific activities. The activities mentioned most often were **trainings** (268), **meetings/huddles** (256), **toolbox talks** (211), and **refreshments** (152). 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 combining training, real falls stories, a question-and-answer session, gift cards for correct answers, and donuts in their event.

Many respondents used key fall-related topics in their descriptions of their Stand-Down activities. The topics mentioned most often were **fall protection** (785) and **ladders** (659), followed by **inspections** (220), **harnesses** (197), and **slips** (154).

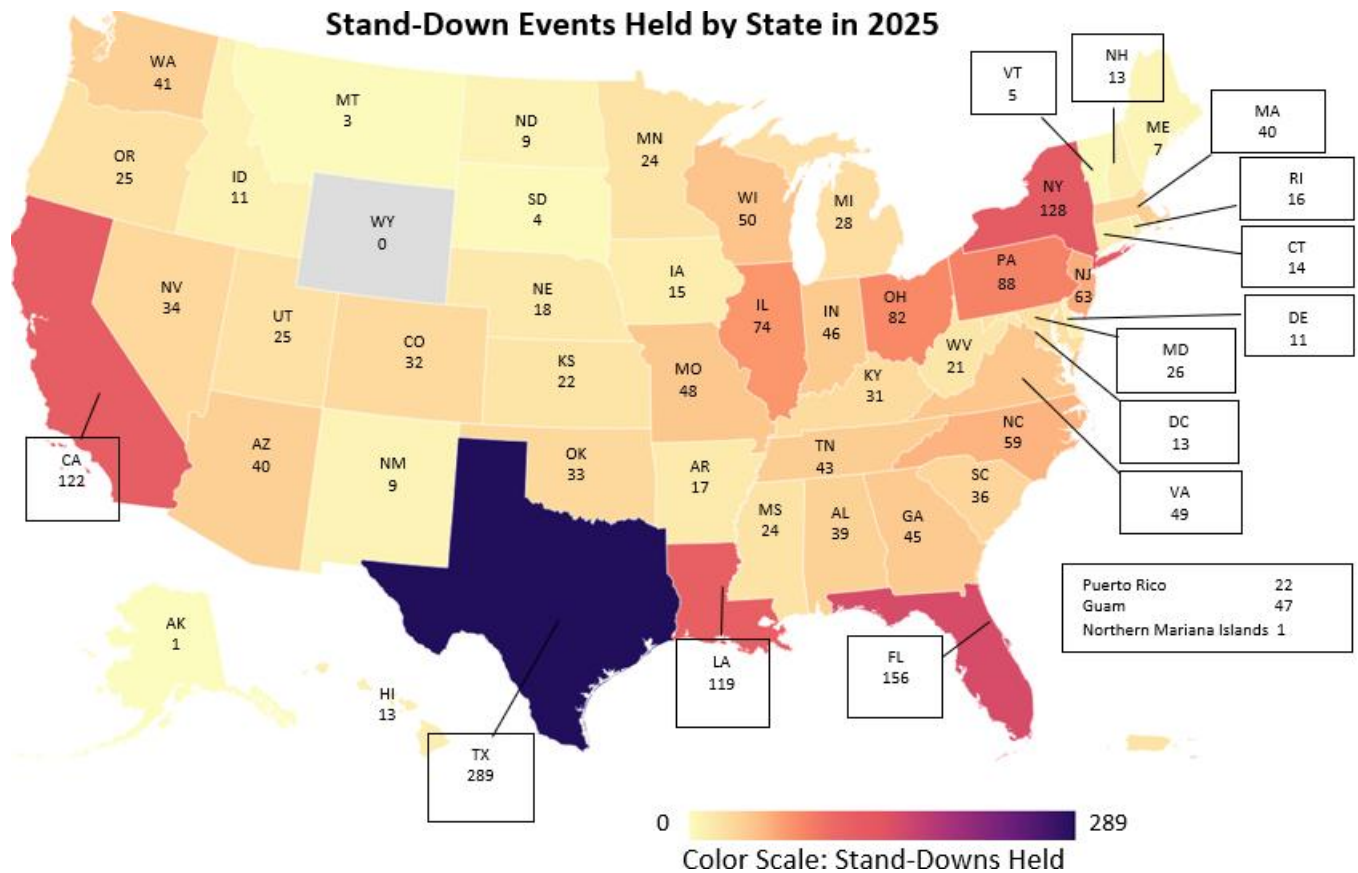


Stand-Down Locations

A. Stand-Downs by State

A total of 2,286 stand-downs were reported in U.S. states and territories in 2025. The states and territories with the highest number of stand-downs were **Texas** (289), **Florida**, (156), **New York** (128), **California** (122), and **Louisiana** (119).

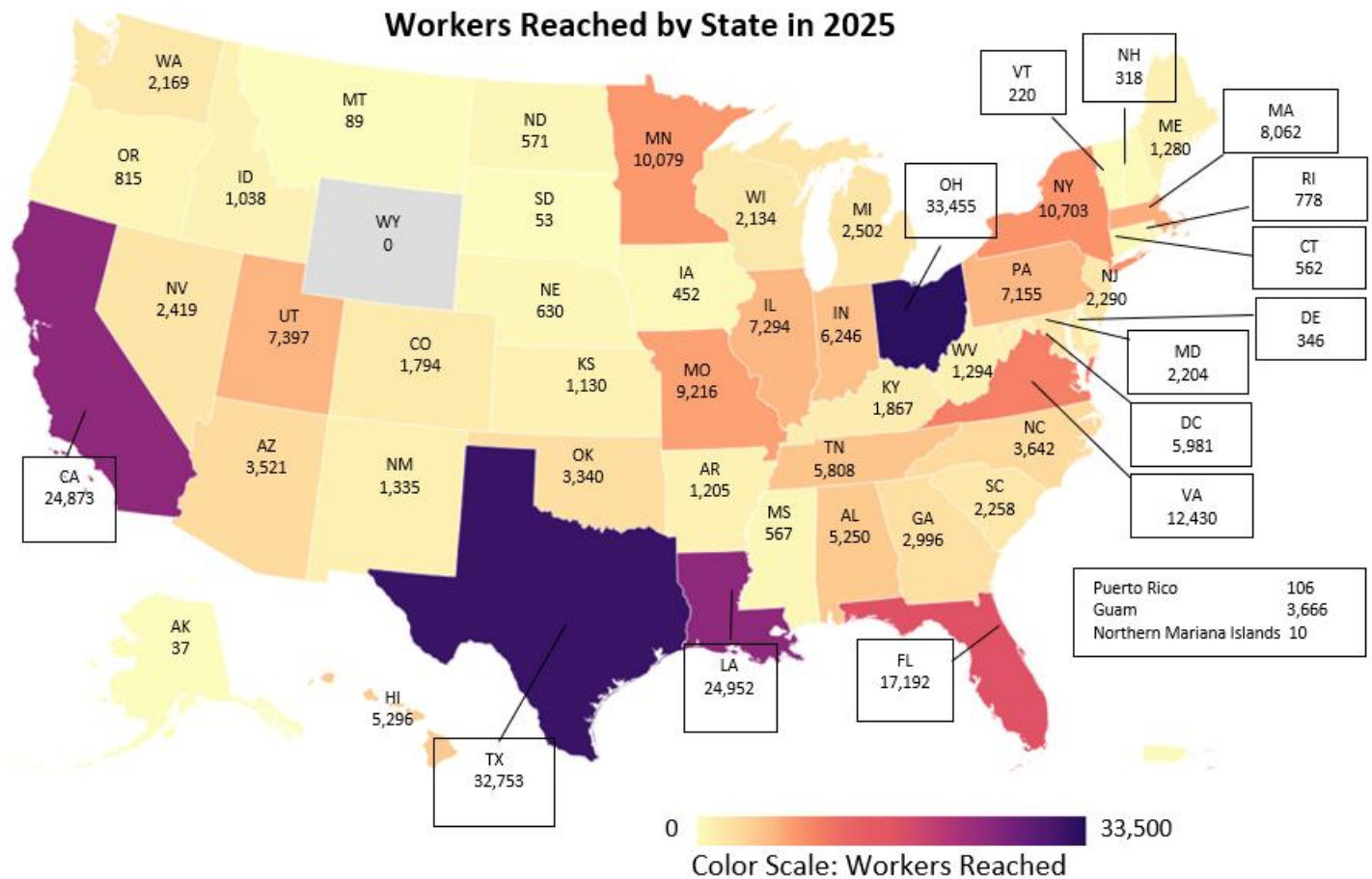
For additional information on fall fatalities by state, consult [CPWR's Construction Fatality Map Dashboard](#).



B. Workers Reached by State

A total of **301,038 workers** in the U.S. and its territories were reported reached in the 2025 Stand-Down. The states and territories where events reached the highest number of workers were **Ohio** (33,455), **Texas** (32,753), **Louisiana** (24,952), **California** (24,873), and **Florida** (17,192).

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

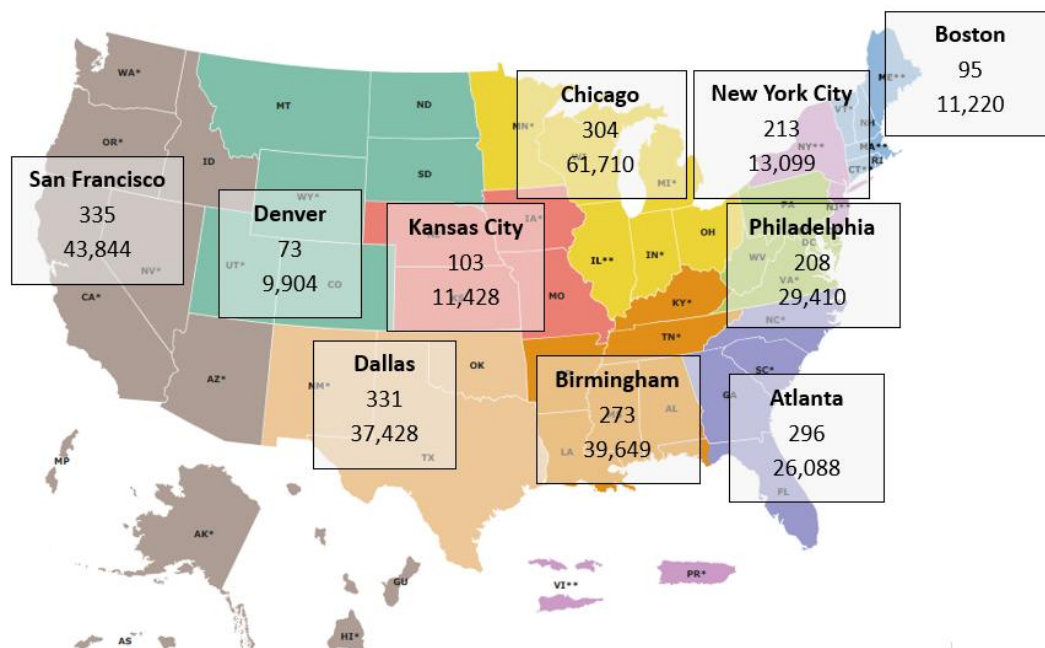


C. Stand-Downs and Workers Reached by OSHA Region

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.⁵ The largest number of stand-downs were held by **San Francisco** (335), **Dallas** (331), and **Chicago** (304). In terms of workers reached, **Chicago** (61,710), **San Francisco** (43,844), and **Birmingham** (39,649) reported reaching the largest number of employees in their events.

OSHA Regional Office	Events Held	Workers Reached
Atlanta	296	26,088
Birmingham	273	39,649
Boston	95	11,220
Chicago	304	61,710
Dallas	331	37,428
Denver	73	9,904
Kansas City	103	11,428
New York City	213	13,099
Philadelphia	208	29,410
San Francisco	335	43,844

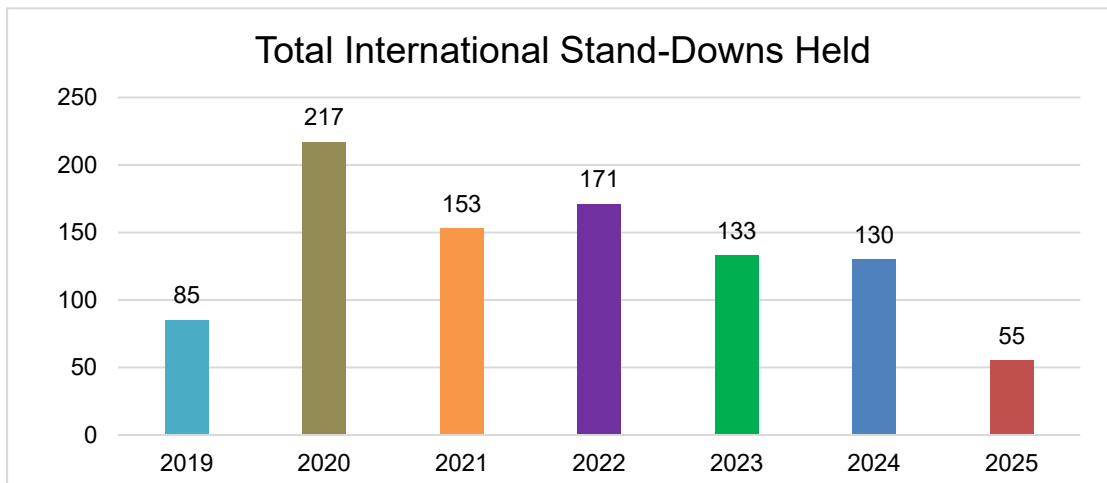
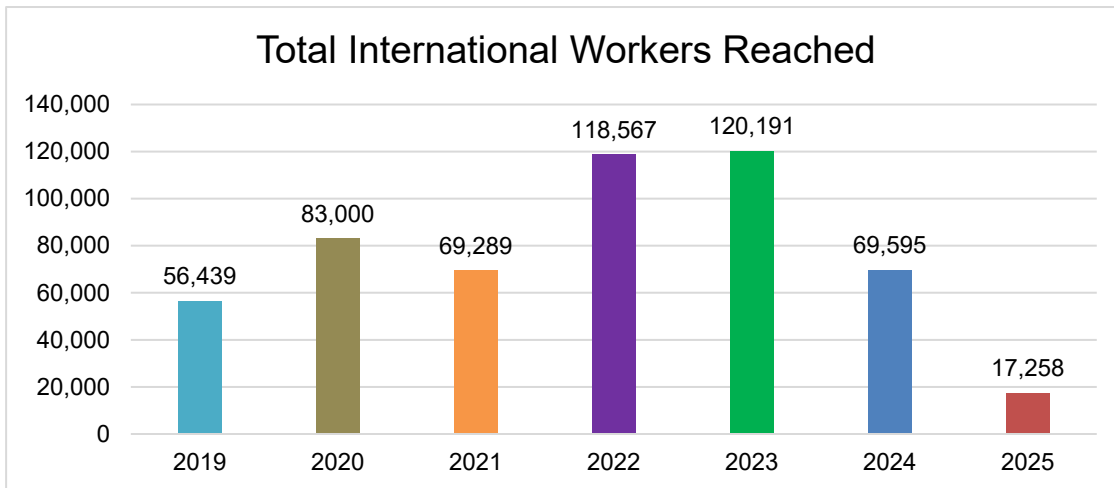


⁵ Participants were not asked to identify their OSHA region, so regions were determined in data analysis based on state location. Florida participants were assigned to the Atlanta rather than Birmingham regional office since most of the state falls in this region. However, this analytical choice meant that total participation in the Birmingham region was slightly undercounted and total participation in the Atlanta region was slightly overcounted.

D. International Participation

There was **low international participation in the 2025 Stand-Down**. In 2025, 55 international events reported reaching 17,258 workers. Compared with 2024 (69,595 workers reached and 130 events held), this was a 75% decrease in workers reached and a 58% decrease in events held. It was, by far, the lowest international participation seen in recent years.

International participants are not asked to report which country they were in on the certificate form, but some participants identify their location in their entries through their event descriptions or the names of their organizations. Participants described holding events in countries such as Japan, Kuwait, India, Mexico, Nigeria, and Vietnam. Since the raw 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 international workers reached is not available.



Recommendations for Future Stand-Downs

Respondents were asked if they had recommendations for how to improve the Stand-Down in future years. Many participants provided positive feedback about the event, submitting comments such as, *“This is a great initiative. I wouldn’t change anything.”*

Although many participants expressed enthusiastic satisfaction with the event and resources provided by the organizing partners, some participants also offered ideas about how to improve future events. Participants provided similar feedback in 2025 as they had in past years, such as requests to:

- Hold more events throughout the year
- Advertise the event earlier and more widely
- Share updated statistics
- Improve and expand materials in both English and Spanish
- Expand the event to include sectors beyond construction

The Falls Campaign welcomes this input and has sought to respond to this feedback and integrate it into its future activities. In response to requests to advertise the event earlier, hardhat stickers for the 2026 Stand-Down were made available in December 2025, which was significantly earlier than when the ordering form was opened in prior years. The Campaign has also added events throughout the year, used additional advertising channels, created new materials, updated the campaign website with the most recently available Bureau of Labor Statistics data on falls, and expanded its Spanish-language translation options. Moreover, the Campaign created the Premier Partner Program in 2024, a national initiative that recognizes leading organizations and asks them to take additional steps to expand the reach of the Campaign and the Stand-Down. Each year, partners commit to make new falls resources, share information about official webinars and the Stand-Down Certificate of Participation, and post about their activities on social media. Finally, the Campaign has not expanded the event to focus on sectors beyond construction but is aware of this input from participants.

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 fall injuries and fatalities.

In 2025, the Falls Campaign held the twelfth annual Stand-Down. There was widespread national and international participation in the event: participants reported holding 2,286 stand-downs that reached 301,038 workers.

Analysis of OSHA's 2025 Certificate of Participation Database found the fewest numbers of events held and workers reached in the event's history. Moreover, indicators of priority group engagement remained low, suggesting continued, limited reach among priority groups and an area of possible growth for the Stand-Down.

Despite the decrease in participation in 2025, participants continued to report widespread satisfaction and positive experiences at their events. Individuals commonly engaged in activities such as training, equipment demonstrations, and toolbox talks, and described successful events about key priority topics in fall prevention and protection.

The next Stand-Down will be held May 4-8, 2026. As one participant said, *"We look forward in participating in 2026 and the years to come."*



**Safety Pays
Falls Cost**

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 :

ⁱ 405 fatalities in 2023. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2011-2021 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

ⁱⁱ OSHA. (2025). The Top 10 Most Frequently Cited Standards FY 2024.

<https://www.osha.gov/top10citedstandards>. (Accessed December 2025).

ⁱⁱⁱ From FY 2012-2024, Fall Protection 1926.501 was the most cited OSHA standard. In 2011, Scaffolding 1926.451 was the most frequently cited OSHA standard. Findings for 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).

^{iv} 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>

^v 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>