

## August 2022: SOFA-defined Severe Injuries (SIs)

August 2022 is the latest month available for SIs as defined (see definition at bottom of page) by SOFA in its report, *Severe Injuries to Train and Engine Service Employees: Data Description and Injury Characteristics* (July 2001). Feel free to cite, circulate, transmit, reformat, and reference this information.

**SIs in August 2022:** There were 4 SIs in August 2022. All were fractures: 3 to the leg or foot; and 1 to the torso.

August: Present and Past Years	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
<b>SIs</b>	4	5	2	6	2	3
<b>Amputations</b> (counts included in SIs above)	0	0	0	0	1	2

**SIs Year-to-Date:** There have been 29 SIs in 2022, January through August. One was an amputation. The other 28 SIs were fractures. Note: SI counts reported herein are provisional, subject to revision. Because of revisions, year-to-date counts may not sum to counts previously published. There have been no revisions in 2022 through August.

Year-to-Date: January through August	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
<b>SIs</b>	29	39	32	45	44	49
<b>Amputations</b> (counts included in SIs above)	1	4	4	3	4	7

### Brief Description of the August 2022 SIs

#	Month	Day	State	Age	Injury	RR Location	Description
1	August	03	AZ	50	fracture: torso	main/branch	“EMPLOYEE REPORTED HIS FOOT STRUCK A PIECE OF CONCRETE CAUSING HIM TO FALL FORWARD INTO THE BALLAST STRIKING HIS CHEST ON THE GROUND AND HE WAS INJURED.” [accompanying narrative]
2	August	14	NY	31	fracture: leg or foot	main/branch	“WHILE HOLDING ONTO THE HANDRAILS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE STAIRWELL, ONE OF WHICH WAS LATER IDENTIFIED AS A DRAINAGE PIPE, EMPLOYEE TWISTED THEIR ANKLE ON THE BOTTOM STEPS BEFORE THE LANDING AND OBSERVED THAT THE RAILING (DRAINAGE PIPE) ON THE WEST SIDE...” [accompanying narrative]
3	August	27	AL	39	fracture: leg or foot	main/branch	Missed handhold, grabiron, step, etc., while descending stairs.
4	August	27	NY	25	fracture: leg or foot	yard	“EMPLOYEE STUMBLED ON LOOSE BALLAST INJURY [sic] HERSELF. SHE WAS AT [name of station redacted] TRACK 8 WALKING TO THE [name of yard redacted] YARD.” [accompanying narrative]

**Comments:** SI counts in 2022 through August are historically low. SIs, as defined by SOFA, can be determined back to 1997. The lowest count for any year through August is 28 SIs in 2016. There have been 29 SIs in 2022 through August, the second lowest, eight-month count. The second row of the table below shows the SIs counts through August of each year, ordered lowest to highest for the 26 years, 1997 through 2022. The third row shows the full-year count for SIs.

year	2016	2022	2020	2012	2009	2013	2021	2015	2010	2018	2019	2011	2017	2014	2008	2006	2002	2005	2007	2003	1999	2000	1997	2004	2001	1998
through August	28	29	32	33	35	39	39	43	44	44	45	47	49	52	55	73	77	77	77	82	85	86	87	87	90	96
full year	47	--	53	47	53	68	56	57	63	68	72	69	68	76	87	100	123	122	110	114	135	139	139	123	140	137

SI prevalence among states varies. Likely this variation is partly reflective of the level of railroad activity and environmental conditions. There have been 2,295 SIs from January 1997 through August 2022. The table below gives the state counts and percentages of the total SIs in this 25-year, 8-month period. Note: one SI was not coded for a state so the state counts sum to 2,294.

AK	AL	AR	AZ	CA	CO	CT	DC	DE	FL	GA	HI	IA	ID	IL	IN	KS
3	51	40	25	138	41	18	7	9	44	62	0	60	17	182	83	51
0.1%	2.2%	1.7%	1.1%	6.0%	1.8%	0.8%	0.3%	0.4%	1.9%	2.7%	0.0%	2.6%	0.7%	7.9%	3.6%	2.2%
KY	LA	MA	MD	ME	MI	MN	MO	MS	MT	NC	ND	NE	NH	NJ	NM	NV
49	63	39	17	6	48	49	51	25	19	23	23	59	1	46	14	12
2.1%	2.7%	1.7%	0.7%	0.3%	2.1%	2.1%	2.2%	1.1%	0.8%	1.0%	1.0%	2.6%	0.0%	2.0%	0.6%	0.5%
NY	OH	OK	OR	PA	RI	SC	SD	TN	TX	UT	VA	VT	WA	WI	WV	WY
124	104	28	31	107	2	24	7	47	205	24	49	2	55	54	25	31
5.4%	4.5%	1.2%	1.4%	4.7%	0.1%	1.0%	0.3%	2.0%	8.9%	1.0%	2.1%	0.1%	2.4%	2.4%	1.1%	1.4%

“Severe Injuries” were defined by the SOFA Working Group as FRA-reportable injuries to train and engine service employees that have a clear and verifiable diagnosis and met one or more of the following four criteria: (1) potentially life threatening; (2) high likelihood of permanent loss of function, permanent occupational limitation, or other permanent disability; (3) likely to result in significant work restrictions; or (4) result from a high energy impact to the human body. (SOFA recognizes that other types of injuries and illnesses cause significant harm to employees.)