

# Steve Laffey

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# Railroad Safety in the United States: 2012 – 2021

## *A Focus on Fatalities*

Prior to Covid about 2.8 million people died  
each year in the United States

Cause of Death (CDC)	2019 Deaths	%
1. Heart Disease	659,041	23.1%
2. Cancer	599,601	21.0%
3. Accidents	173,040	6.1%
4. Respiratory Disease	156,979	5.5%
5. Cerebrovascular Disease	150,005	5.3%
6. Alzheimers	121,499	4.3%
7. Diabetes	87,647	3.1%
8. Influenza/Pneumonia	49,783	1.7%
9. Nephritis	51,565	1.8%
10. Suicide	47,511	1.7%
11. Liver Disease	44,358	1.6%
12. Septicemia	38,431	1.3%
13. Hypertension	36,524	1.3%
14. Parkinsons	35,311	1.2%
15. Pneumonitis	19,184	0.7%
xx. All Other	584,359	20.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,854,838</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr70/nvsr70-08-508.pdf>

**Accidents** of all kinds accounted for about 6% of deaths  
**Transportation Accidents** = 1.4% of all deaths  
**Railroad Accidents** = 0.04% of all deaths  
***Very Rare as a cause of death***

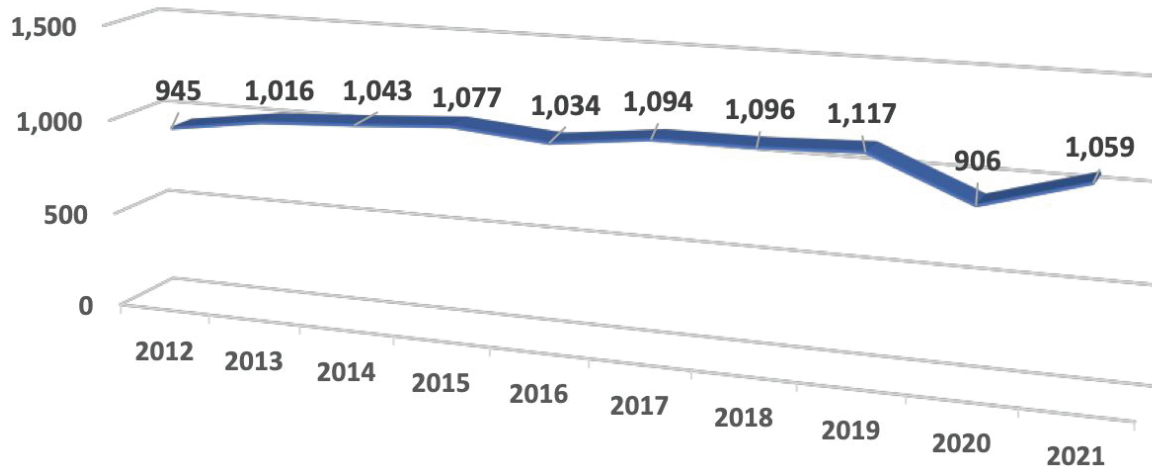
**Suicide** accounted for about 1.7% of all deaths  
**Railroad suicide is Also Very Rare as a cause of death**



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## Railroad Fatalities in the United States: 2012 - 2021



Year	Fatalities	Rate
2012	945	1.292
2013	1,016	1.357
2014	1,043	1.362
2015	1,077	1.459
2016	1,034	1.499
2017	1,094	1.550
2018	1,096	1.540
2019	1,117	1.649
2020	906	1.589
2021	1,059	1.849
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,387</b>	<b>1.503</b>
<b>Change 2012 to 2021</b>	<b>12.1%</b>	<b>43.2%</b>

**10-Year Average of 1,039 fatalities of all types**  
**12.1% increase in quantity 2012 to 2021**  
**43.2% increase in rate per million train miles**

*Quantity is stable but train miles have decreased by 21.7% since 2012 so rate has increased significantly*

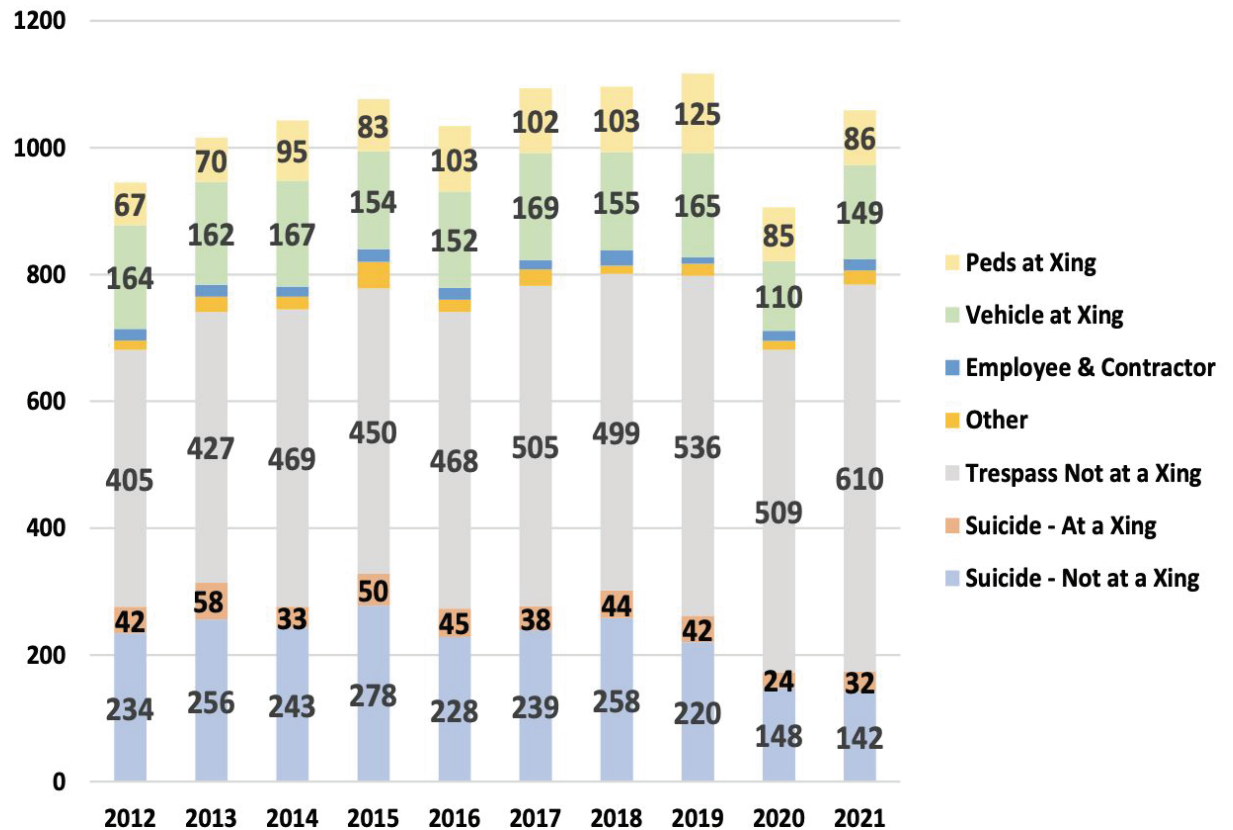


Year	Suicide		Trespass Not at a Xing	Other	Employee & Contractor	Crossing		Total
	Suicide - Not at a Xing	Suicide - At a Xing				Vehicle at Xing	Peds at Xing	
2012	234	42	405	15	18	164	67	945
2013	256	58	427	24	19	162	70	1,016
2014	243	33	469	20	16	167	95	1,043
2015	278	50	450	42	20	154	83	1,077
2016	228	45	468	19	19	152	103	1,034
2017	239	38	505	26	15	169	102	1,094
2018	258	44	499	13	24	155	103	1,096
2019	220	42	536	19	10	165	125	1,117
2020	148	24	509	14	16	110	85	906
2021	142	32	610	22	18	149	86	1,059
Total	2,246	408	4,878	214	175	1,547	919	10,387
%	21.6%	3.9%	47.0%	2.1%	1.7%	14.9%	8.8%	100.0%
	25.6%					23.7%		

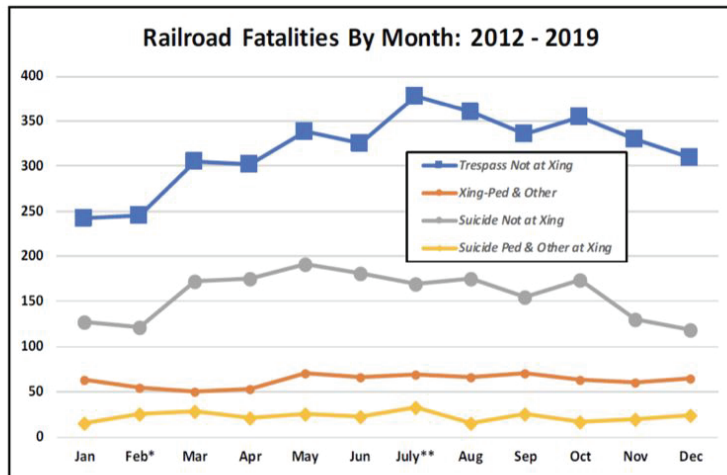
Vehicle Related Fatalities = 14.9%  
Non-Vehicle = 85.1%  
{Approximately\*}



**Railroad Fatalities: 2012 - 2021 By Type of Person**

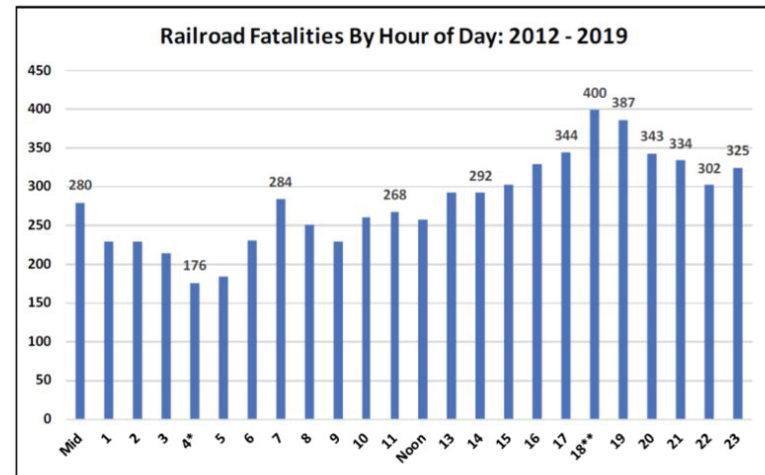
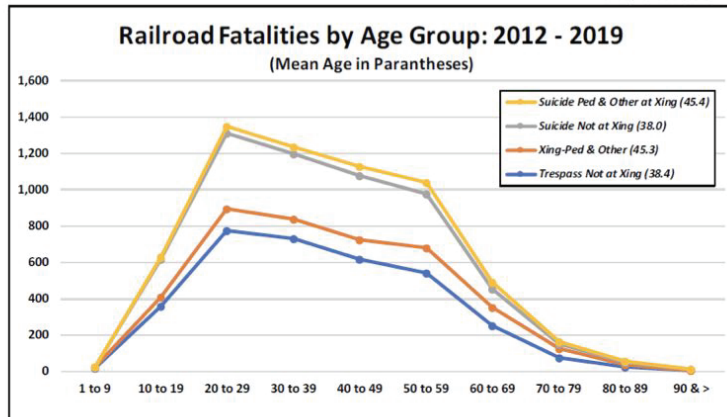


## People – Some Characteristics of the People Involved (2012 – 2019)



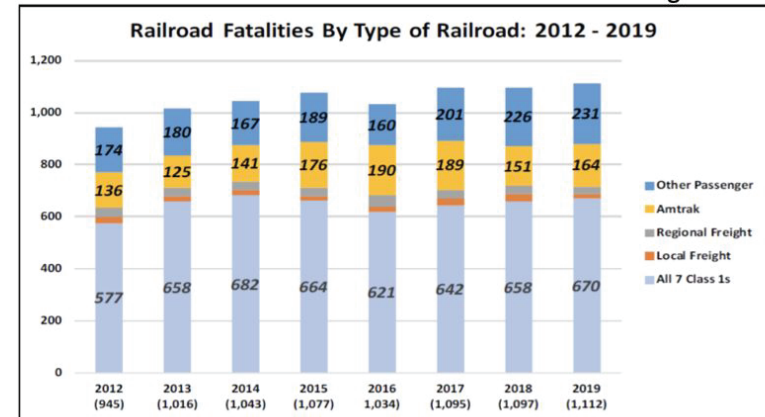
Most in July

74% Male

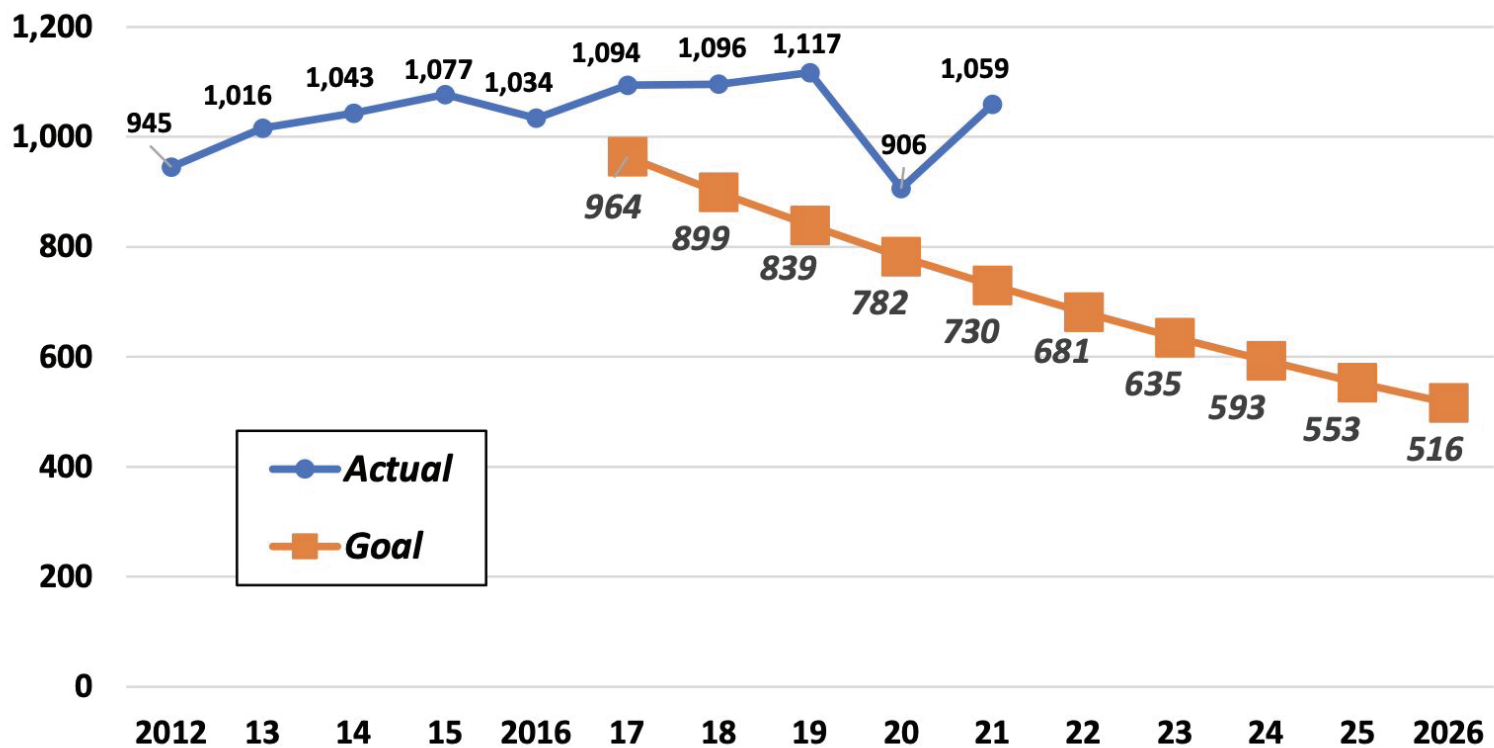


Most 6:00-7:00 pm

Freight 67%



## DRSC Goal of a 50% Reduction from 2016's 1,034 Fatalities



LONG  
WAY  
TO  
GO

LONG  
WAY  
TO  
GO

