According to an annual Michigan State University report, here’s a look at how the numbers play out since 2010 overall, as well as a comparison of the top-three industries with the most work-related deaths.

The Michigan Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation program, or MIFACE, is one of the work-related research projects conducted by MSU. The purpose of the MIFACE program – administered by the Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, part of the College of Human Medicine – is to investigate all work-related deaths in the state and identify ways to prevent them by educating employers and employees. Information, including results from fatality investigations, are distributed to all companies performing similar work and industry hazard alerts are also widely distributed.

While the number of on-the-job deaths has remained relatively consistent over the past five years, preliminary numbers for 2016 indicate that the number is increasing. An estimated 147 Michigan workers died in the workplace last year up from 136 confirmed deaths in 2015.

There really isn’t one thing that can be attributed to the increase in 2016. The real concern though is our numbers aren’t showing a consistent decline. All of these deaths are preventable tragedies, and we have to find new ways to ensure they don’t happen.

– Kenneth Rosenman, director of MSU’s Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

A five-year comparison of work-related deaths in Michigan’s top-three, high-risk industries.