

December 2020: SOFA-defined Severe Injuries (SIs)

(compiled by the SOFA Working Group)

December 2020 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, extracted from the FRA's publicly-available, electronic casualty file (6180.55a) on February 27, 2021.

SIs in December 2020: There were 3 SIs in December 2020. All were fractures: 2 to the leg or foot; and 1 to the torso.

December: Present and Past Years	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
SIs	3	9	7	8	5	6
Amputations (counts included in SIs above)	0	4	0	0	0	0

SIs in 2020: There were 53 SIs in 2020, January through December. Nine were amputations: 5 to the leg or foot; 2 to the arm or hand; and 2 to various body parts of equal severity. Note: SI counts reported herein are provisional, subject to revision. Because of revisions, year-to-date counts may not sum to counts previously published.

Full Year: January through December	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
SIs	53	72	68	68	47	57
Amputations (counts included in SIs above)	9	8	8	9	7	5

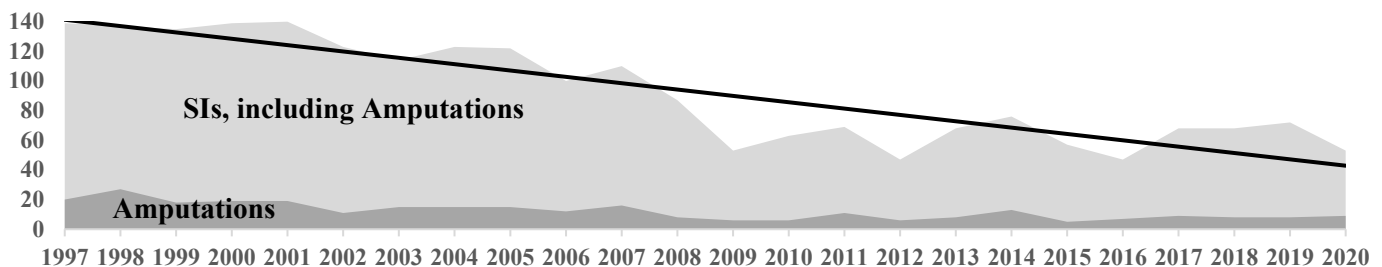
Brief Description of the December 2020 SIs:

#	Month	Day	State	Age	Injury	Description
1	December	08	VA	45	fracture: torso	Slipped, fell, stumbled, etc. due to object while between tracks at a yard location.
2	December	13	MT	36	fracture: leg or foot	"EMPLOYEE REPORTED HE WAS INJURED WHILE DESCENDING FROM RAIL CAR AND SLIPPED ON THE GRAB IRON AND FELL TO THE GROUND." [accompanying narrative] Occurred at a yard location. <u>Note:</u> Employee fell from a standing freight car.
3	December	26	NJ	66	fracture: leg or foot	"EMPLOYEE CLAIMS HE SLIPPED AND FELL ON A SLIPPERY SECTION ON THE WEST END OF TRACK 5 PLATFORM AT [station name redacted] STATION AFTER EXITING CAR #5352." [accompanying narrative] Occurred at a passenger terminal location.

Comments: There were 53 SIs in 2020, a decline of 19 SIs from 2019. SIs counts as defined by SOFA can only be determined back to 1997 based on revisions to FRA 6180.55A. There were 2,210 SIs in these 24 years of which 291 (13.2 percent) were amputations. The highest yearly count was 140 in 2001; the lowest, 47 in 2012 and 2016. The average yearly count for SIs was 92.1. The average yearly count for amputations was 12.1. There is a general downward trend in SI counts since 1997. But the downward trend is not constant or consistent year-to-year, as it fluctuates around the trend line, as indicated by the table and graphic below.

SOFA-defined Severe Injuries and Amputations, by year, 1997 through 2020
(counts of amputations included in SIs)

year	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008		totals
SIs	139	137	135	139	140	123	114	123	122	100	110	87		
Amputations	20	27	18	19	19	11	15	15	15	12	16	8		
year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020		
SIs	53	63	69	47	68	76	57	47	68	68	72	53		2,210
Amputations	6	6	11	6	8	13	5	7	9	8	8	9		291



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.)