Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI)
New Jersey - 2002
Division of Epidemiology, Environmental and Occupational Health

**CHARACTERISTICS**
2002
- Total number in New Jersey: 129
- Total number in US: 5,524
- 123 were men; 6 were women
- Age ranged from 17 to 84 years
- Average age was 43 years
- Race or Ethnicity
  - White, non-Hispanic: 76 (59%)
  - Black, non-Hispanic: 14 (11%)
  - Hispanic/Latino: 33 (26%)
  - Asian: 6 (5%)
- 41 (32%) were foreign-born
- 50 (39%) worked for employers with ten or fewer employees
- 109 (84%) worked for New Jersey companies

**INCIDENT OF FATAL INJURIES**
New Jersey 1997 – 2002

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>101</td>
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<td>103</td>
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<td>2000</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>129</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>129</td>
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**CASE DEFINITION**
A fatal injury is considered work-related if the event leading to the injury occurred while the employee was working, either on or off the employer’s premises.

The following individuals are included:
- Private and government employees
- Self-employed persons
- Certain volunteers (firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical service workers)
- Persons traveling on the job, but not commuting to or from work.

**INCIDENCE RATES**
Rates of Fatal Work-Related Injuries Per 100,000 Workers
United States and New Jersey, 1997-2002

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>US</th>
<th>NJ</th>
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<tr>
<td>1997</td>
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<td>2.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>4.5</td>
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<td>2001</td>
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<td>3.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
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New Jersey rates have consistently been lower than national rates.

U.S. and New Jersey rates developed by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Twenty-six workers, in the occupations of transportation and material moving, died of their injuries; 20 of them were motor vehicle operators.

The largest numbers of victims of fatal work-related injuries worked in Construction (25, 19%), Transportation and Public Utilities (22, 17%), and Services (20, 16%).

28 (22%) workers were fatally injured in roadway transportation incidents.*

22 (17%) workers were victims of homicides.**

12 (9%) workers were pedestrians, injured either on or off a roadway.

* Transportation incidents also include water vehicle, pedestrian, non-roadway, aircraft, and railway fatalities.

** Assaults and violent acts also include suicides and fatal injuries that were unspecified.
**NATURE OF FATAL INJURIES**

- Multiple Traumatic Injuries: 29%
- Intracranial Injuries: 19%
- Gunshot Wounds: 12%
- Other: 19%
- Electrocutions: 3%
- Asphyxiation/Suffocation: 6%
- Internal Injuries: 12%
- Structures & Surfaces: 20%
- Machinery: 5%
- Chemicals and Chemical Products: 5%
- Tools, Instruments, & Equipment: 5%

**AGE (IN YEARS) OF FATALLY INJURED WORKERS**

- 35 to 44: 27%
- 45 to 54: 23%
- 25 to 34: 16%
- 55 to 64: 13%
- 65 and older: 8%
- 17 to 24: 13%

**SOURCE OF FATAL INJURIES**

- Vehicles: 39%
- Structures & Surfaces: 20%
- Bullets: 12%
- Other: 14%
- Machinery: 5%
- Chemicals and Chemical Products: 5%
- Tools, Instruments, & Equipment: 5%

**LOCATION OF FATAL INCIDENTS**

- Roads: 33%
- Public Buildings: 16%
- Residential Locations: 9%
- Industrial Locations: 18%
- Other: 10%

**Twenty-seven percent of the workers were between 35 and 44 years of age. Eight percent were age 65 years or older.**

**Thirty-eight (29%) fatally injured workers died due to multiple traumatic injuries.**

**Vehicles were involved in the largest proportion of fatal injuries, most often during transportation incidents.**

**One third of the fatal incidents occurred on roads. This included local roads (20, 16%), roads with limited access (10, 8%), and highways with multiple access (10, 8%).**
TRANSPORTATION-RELATED FATAL INJURIES
New Jersey - 2002
N=46

• Total: 46 (36%) of 129 total fatal injuries

• 28 (61%) were motor vehicle incidents that occurred on roads or highways
  ➢ 18 (64%) victims were driving a vehicle, including 11 trucks and 5 cars
  ➢ 17 (61%) incidents occurred on highways
  ➢ 15 (54%) incidents involved collisions with other vehicles
  ➢ 10 (36%) victims were passengers in a vehicle, including 6 trucks
  ➢ 10 (36%) incidents occurred on local roads
  ➢ 8 (29%) incidents involved striking a stationary object on the road or side of the road
  ➢ 5 (18%) incidents involved no collision

• 12 (27%) of the victims were pedestrians
  ➢ 7 victims were struck by autos
  ➢ 7 incidents occurred in non-road areas
  ➢ 5 incidents occurred on roads or sides of roads
  ➢ 4 victims were struck by trucks

• 5 (11%) incidents occurred in non-road areas

WORK-RELATED HOMICIDES
New Jersey - 2002
N=22

• Total: 22 (17%) of 129 total fatal injuries

• 14 (64%) were victims of a shooting

• 10 (45%) were murdered during a robbery

• 10 (45%) occurred in a public building

• 7 (32%) victims were tending a retail establishment

• 6 (27%) occurred on a street (3 in a vehicle)

• Time the assaults occurred:
  ➢ 1 am to 5 am - 5
  ➢ 6 am to 11 am - 8
  ➢ Noon to 5 pm - 3
  ➢ 6 pm to midnight - 4
  ➢ Time unknown - 2

• 21 (95%) victims were male

• Race or Ethnicity of the victims:
  ➢ White, non-Hispanic - 8
  ➢ Hispanic or Latino - 7
  ➢ Black, non-Hispanic - 5
  ➢ Other - 2

• 11 (50%) victims were foreign-born

• 7 (32%) victims were age 55 to 64 years

This report was compiled from data collected by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Occupational Health Service, under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

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