Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI)

New Jersey - 2003

Division of Epidemiology, Environmental and Occupational Health
Occupational Health Surveillance Program

CHARACTERISTICS

2003

- Total number in New Jersey: 104
- Total number in US: 5,559
- 97 were men; 7 were women
- Age ranged from 19 to 76 years
- Average age was 44 years
- Race or Ethnicity
  - White, non-Hispanic: 60 (58%)
  - Black, non-Hispanic: 14 (13%)
  - Hispanic/Latino: 24 (23%)
  - Asian: 6 (6%)
- 41 (39%) were foreign-born
- 90 (87%) worked for private companies
- 94 (90%) worked for New Jersey businesses

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.

NUMBER OF FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES BY YEAR

New Jersey 1998 – 2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>104</td>
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<td>2000</td>
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<td>129</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>129</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>104</td>
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INCIDENCE RATES

Rates* of Fatal Work-Related Injuries
United States and New Jersey, 1998-2003

New Jersey rates have consistently been lower than national rates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>US</th>
<th>NJ</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*per 100,000 workers
U.S. and New Jersey rates developed by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Thirty-two (31%) of the victims of fatal work-related injuries worked in Construction and 20 (19%) in Transportation and Warehousing.

* North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), 2002
** Includes employees of governmental organizations regardless of industry.

Fifty-nine workers (57% of total), in the occupations of construction and extraction, and transportation and material moving, died of their injuries; 22 of these worked in construction trades and 22 were motor vehicle operators.


EVENT OR EXPOSURE
Fatal Work-Related Injuries
New Jersey - 2003
N=104

- 24 (23%) of fatal work-related injuries occurred in roadway transportation incidents.
- 13 (13%) of fatal work-related injuries involved pedestrians, injured either on or off a roadway.
- 12 (12%) of fatal work-related injuries were due to homicides.

* Transportation incidents include roadway, non-roadway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail.
** Assaults and violent acts include homicides, suicides, animal attacks, and violent actions of unknown intent.
Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.
• Average age was 44 years. Forty-nine percent were younger than 45 years of age.
  Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

• During transportation incidents, 24 (23%) of fatal injuries involved trucks, and 8 (8%) involved autos.
  Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

• Forty-four (42%) fatally injured workers died due to multiple traumatic injuries.

• More than one third of the fatal incidents occurred on roads. Seventeen (16%) of these occurred on local roads, 8 (8%) occurred on highways with multiple access, and 7 (7%) occurred on roads with limited access.
  *Includes general construction, road construction, and home construction sites.
  **Excludes construction sites.
TRANSPORTATION-RELATED FATAL INJURIES  
New Jersey - 2003  
N=41

- Total: 41 (39%) of 104 fatal injuries
- 24 (23%) of the 104 were motor vehicle incidents that occurred on roadways
  - 20 (83%) victims were driving a vehicle, including 13 trucks and 3 vans or light delivery trucks
  - 16 (67%) incidents involved collisions between vehicles
  - 8 (33%) incidents occurred on local roads and 8 (33%) on multiple access roads without tolls
  - 5 (21%) incidents involved striking a stationary object on the road or side of the road
  - 4 (17%) victims were passengers in a moving vehicle
- 13 (32%) of the 41 victims were pedestrians
  - 9 fatal injuries occurred on roads or sides of roads
  - 5 victims were struck by autos
  - 5 victims were struck by trucks
  - 4 fatal injuries occurred in non-road areas

WORK-RELATED FALLS  
New Jersey - 2003  
N=19

- Total: 19 (18%) of 104 fatal injuries
- 16 (15%) of 104 fell to lower levels
  - 13 (81%) were performing construction activities when they fell
  - 6 (38%) fell from ladders
  - 6 (38%) fell to the ground
  - 5 (31%) fell from scaffolds
  - 4 (25%) fell to floors
  - All worked for non-public employers
  - 10 (63%) were employed in the construction industry
  - 9 (56%) worked in construction and extraction occupations including 4 construction laborers
  - All of the victims were male
  - Half were Hispanic or Latino
  - 7 (44%) were white, non-Hispanic
  - 10 (63%) of the victims were foreign-born
  - Their ages ranged from 33 to 73 years, with an average of 51 years
  - All of the falls to lower levels occurred between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., with half occurring between 10 a.m. and noon

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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