

# News

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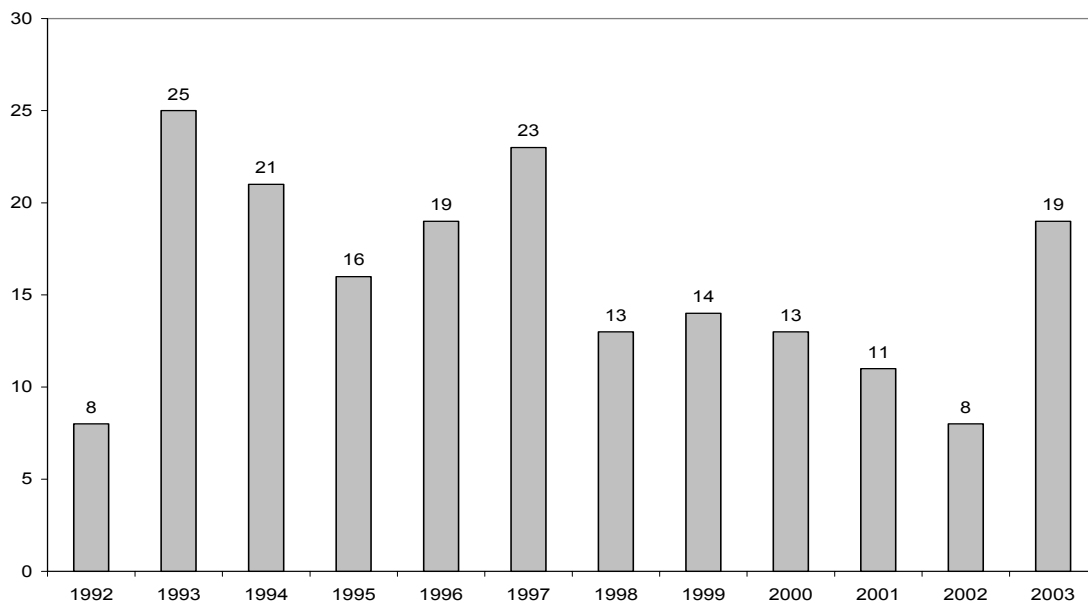
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## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WORKPLACE FATALITIES, 2003

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Fatal work injuries totaled 19 in 2003 for the District of Columbia, 26 percent of which occurred in the construction industry, according to the District of Columbia Department of Health's Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This year's count of workplace fatalities was more than twice the number recorded in 2002, but was 24 percent lower than the series high of 25 workplace fatalities that occurred in 1993. (Chart 1)

Chart 1. Fatal Occupational Injuries in the District of Columbia, 1992-2003



Assaults and violent acts were the leading cause of on-the-job fatalities during 2003 in the District, accounting for 7 deaths, or 37 percent of the total. Fatal injuries resulting from falls (6) represented almost one-third of the fatality count for the District in 2003. The other leading cause of fatal workplace injuries in the District of Columbia was exposure to harmful substances or environments (3) which represented 17 percent. These three industries accounted for 84 percent of the total workplace fatalities in the District of Columbia. (Table 1)

**Key characteristics of fatal work injuries in 2003 in the District of Columbia:**

- Men (16) accounted for 84 percent of the work-related fatalities in the District. Assaults and violent acts (6) were the primary causes accounting for almost one-third of these deaths, followed by falls (4) which accounted for almost one-fifth. (Table 2)
- The dominant working age group was comprised of workers 45-54 years old, representing over two-fifths or 8 of the 19 work-related fatalities in 2003, one-half of which occurred in assaults and violent acts. (Table 2)
- Eighty-nine percent of the workers who died on-the-job in the District worked for wages and salaries, the rest were self-employed. The wage and salary workers died primarily from assaults and violent acts (7), followed by falls (5). (Table 2)
- Forty-seven percent of the workers who died on-the-job were Black, non-Hispanic with assaults and violent acts accounting for the majority of the deaths; thirty-seven percent of the workers were White, non-Hispanic with the primary cause of death being falls, and sixteen percent of the workers who died on-the-job were Hispanic or Latino. (Table 2)
- Two industry divisions made up almost one-half of the 19 workplace fatalities in the District in 2003; construction (5) and government (4). Work-related deaths in construction resulted primarily from falls. (Table 3)
- Construction and extraction occupations accounted for over one-fourth of the deaths 2003. The majority of these workers died due to falls. (Table 4)

**TECHNICAL NOTES**

Definitions

For a fatality to be included in the census, the decedent must have been employed (that is working for pay, compensation, or profit) at the time of the event, engaged in a legal work activity, or present at the site of the incident as a requirement of his or her job. These criteria are generally broader than those used by federal and state agencies

administering specific laws and regulations. (Fatalities that occur during a person's commute to or from work are excluded from the census counts).

Information on work-related fatal illnesses is not reported in the BLS census and is excluded from the attached tables because the latency period of many occupational illnesses and the difficulty of linking illnesses to work make identification of a universe problematic.

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries includes data for all fatal work injuries, whether they are covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or other federal or state agencies or are outside the scope of regulatory coverage. Thus, any comparison between the BLS fatality census counts and those released by other agencies should take into account the different coverage requirements and definitions being used.

**TABLE 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure and major private industry<sup>1</sup> division, District of Columbia, 2003**

Event or exposure <sup>2</sup>	Total fatalities (number)	Goods producing				Service producing							
		Total goods producing	Natural resources and mining <sup>3</sup>	Construction	Manufacturing	Total service producing	Trade, transportation, and utilities	Information	Financial activities	Professional and business services	Education and health services	Leisure and hospitality	Other services
Total	19	5	--	5	--	10	--	--	--	3	--	--	--
Falls.....	6	3	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fall to lower level.....	5	3	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Exposure to harmful substances or environments.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Assaults and violent acts.....	7	--	--	--	--	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Assaults and violent acts by person(s).....	6	--	--	--	--	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Shooting.....	5	--	--	--	--	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

<sup>1</sup> Classified according to the North American Industry Classification System, 2002.

<sup>2</sup> Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

<sup>3</sup> Includes fatalities at all establishments categorized as Mining (Sector 21) in the North American Industry Classification System, 2002, including establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in Oil and Gas Extraction.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Data for 2003 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with the D.C. Department of Health and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by worker characteristics and event or exposure, District of Columbia, 2003

Worker characteristics	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure <sup>1</sup>					
		Transportation incidents <sup>2</sup>	Assaults and violent acts <sup>3</sup>	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total	19	--	7	--	6	3	--
<b>Employee Status</b>							
Wage and Salary Workers <sup>4</sup> .....	17	--	7	--	5	--	--
Self-employed <sup>5</sup> .....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Sex</b>							
Men.....	16	--	6	--	4	3	--
Women.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Age</b>							
Under 16 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
16 to 17 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
18 to 19 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
20 to 24 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
25 to 34 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
35 to 44 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
45 to 54 years.....	8	--	4	--	--	--	--
55 to 64 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
65 years and over.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Race or Ethnic Origin<sup>6</sup></b>							
White, non-Hispanic.....	7	--	--	--	3	--	--
Black, non-Hispanic.....	9	--	5	--	--	--	--
Hispanic or Latino.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
American Indian or Alaska Native.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Asian.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

<sup>1</sup> Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

<sup>2</sup> Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, and rail fatalities.

<sup>3</sup> Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and assaults by animals.

<sup>4</sup> May include volunteers and other workers receiving compensation.

<sup>5</sup> Includes paid and unpaid family workers, and may include owners of incorporated businesses, or members of partnerships.

<sup>6</sup> Persons identified as Hispanics may be of any race. The individual race categories shown exclude data for Hispanics.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. Data for 2003 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with the District of Columbia Department of Health and Federal agency Injuries

**TABLE 3. Fatal occupational injuries by industry and event or exposure, District of Columbia, 2003**

Industry <sup>1</sup>	NAICS code <sup>1</sup>	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure <sup>2</sup>					
			Transportation incidents <sup>3</sup>	Assaults and violent acts <sup>4</sup>	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total		19	--	7	--	6	3	--
<b>Private Industry</b>		15	--	6	--	4	--	--
<b>Goods Producing</b> .....		5	--	--	--	3	--	--
<b>Construction</b> .....		5	--	--	--	3	--	--
Construction.....	23	5	--	--	--	3	--	--
Specialty Trade Contractors.....	238	4	--	--	--	3	--	--
<b>Service producing</b> .....		10	--	6	--	--	--	--
<b>Professional and Business Services</b> .....		3	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Government<sup>5</sup></b>		4	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Federal Government</b>		3	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Service producing</b> .....		3	--	--	--	--	--	--

<sup>1</sup> Classified according to the North American Industry Classification System, 2002.

<sup>2</sup> Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

<sup>3</sup> Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, and rail fatalities.

<sup>4</sup> Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and assaults by animals.

<sup>5</sup> Includes fatalities at all establishments categorized as Mining (Sector 21) in the North American Industry Classification System, 2002, including establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in Oil and Gas Extraction.

<sup>6</sup> Includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. Data for 2003 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with the D.C. Department of Health and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

**TABLE 4. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation and event or exposure, District of Columbia, 2003**

Occupation <sup>1</sup>	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure <sup>2</sup>					
		Transportation incidents <sup>3</sup>	Assaults and violent acts <sup>4</sup>	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful sub- stances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total	19	--	7	--	6	3	--
Construction and extraction occupations.....	5	--	--	--	3	--	--
Construction trades workers.....	4	--	--	--	3	--	--

<sup>1</sup> Based on the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification System.

<sup>2</sup> Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

<sup>3</sup> Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, and rail fatalities.

<sup>4</sup> Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and assaults by animals.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. Data for 2003 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with the D.C. Department of Health and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

