

News

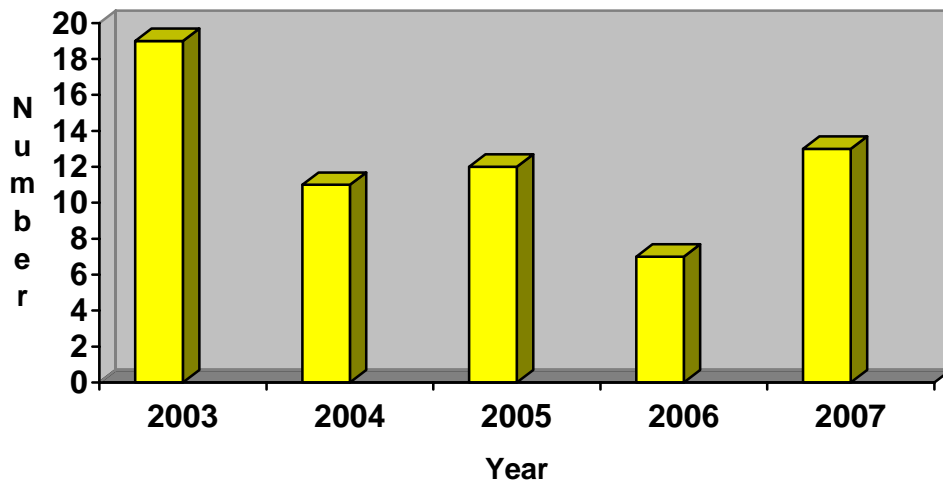
District of Columbia
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State Center for Health Statistics
Research and Analysis Division
825 N. Capitol Street, NE
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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WORKPLACE FATALITIES, 2007

Fatal work injuries totaled 13 in 2007 for the District of Columbia, 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 almost twice the number recorded in 2006. Assaults and violent acts and falls were the leading causes of on-the-job fatalities during 2007 in the District, with 5 deaths each or 38 percent respectively. The service providing industry accounted for 62 percent of the total workplace fatalities in the District of Columbia.

Chart 1. Fatal Occupational Injuries in the District of Columbia, 2003-2007



Key Characteristics of Fatal Work Injuries in 2007 in the District of Columbia:

- Men (12) accounted for 92 percent of the work-related fatalities in the District. Assaults and violent acts (5) and falls (5) were the primary causes accounting for more than two thirds of these deaths.
- The dominant working age group was comprised of workers 45-54 years old, representing 31 percent or 4 of the 13 work-related fatalities in 2007, three-fourths of which occurred in falls.
- Sixty-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 falls (3) and assaults and violent acts (3).
- Fifty-four percent of the workers who died on-the-job were Black or African American, non-Hispanic with assaults and violent acts accounting for almost half of the deaths.
- The service providing industry made up 8 of the 13 workplace fatalities in the District in 2007. Work related deaths in service providing resulted primarily from assaults and violent acts. Fatalities in the government sector accounted for three of the fatalities.
- Transportation and material moving occupations accounted for a little under one-fourth of the work-related deaths in 2007. The majority of these workers died due to assaults and violent acts.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Background of the Program

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, part of the BLS occupational safety and health statistics program, compiles a count of all fatal work injuries occurring in the U.S. in each calendar year. The program uses diverse State, federal, and independent data sources to identify, verify, and describe fatal work injuries. This assures counts are as complete and accurate as possible.

For technical information about the CFOI program, please go to the BLS Handbook of Methods on the BLS web site: <http://www.bls.gov/>. To get to that document, click on Workplace Injuries on the BLS home page, scroll down to IIF Documentation, and then click on “BLS Handbook of Methods.” The technical information and definitions for the CFOI Program are in Chapter 9, Part 2 of the BLS Handbook of Methods.