

News

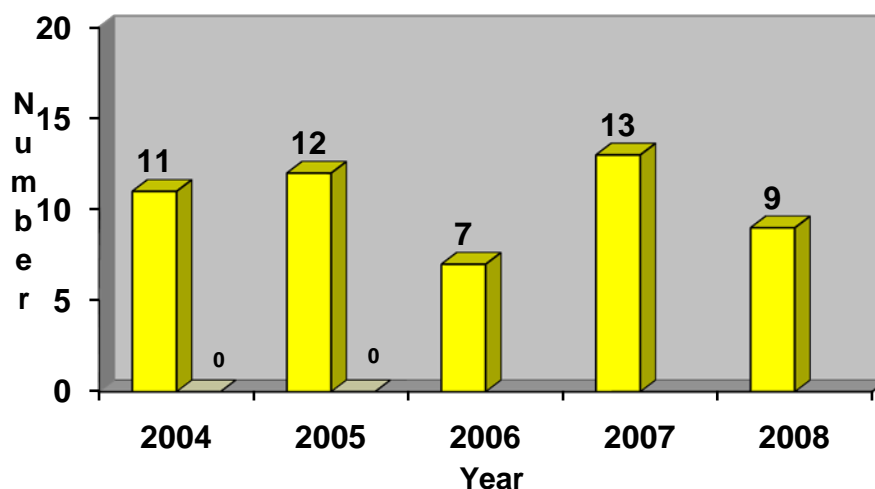
District of Columbia
Department of Health
State Center for Health Statistics
Research and Analysis Division
825 N. Capitol Street, NE
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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WORKPLACE FATALITIES, 2008

Fatal work injuries totaled 9 in 2008 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 approximately one fourth less than the number recorded in 2007. Falls were the leading cause of on-the-job fatalities during 2008 in the District, with 5 deaths or approximately 56 percent. The goods producing industry accounted for 56 percent of the total workplace fatalities in the District of Columbia.

Chart 1. Fatal Occupational Injuries in the District of Columbia, 2004-2008



Key Characteristics of Fatal Work Injuries in 2008 in the District of Columbia:

- Men (9) accounted for all of the work-related fatalities in the District. The majority of fatalities resulted from falls (5). Of these falls all of them were to a lower level and three occurred in specialty trade.
- The dominant working age group was comprised of workers 45-54 years old, representing 44 percent or 4 of the 9 work-related fatalities in 2008, over half of which occurred in falls.
- All of the workers who died on-the-job in the District worked for wages and salaries. The wage and salary workers died primarily from falls (5).
- Fifty-six percent of the workers who died on-the-job were Hispanic or Latino with falls accounting for almost half of the deaths.
- The goods producing industry made up 5 of the 9 workplace fatalities in the District in 2008. Work related deaths in goods producing resulted primarily from falls. Fatalities in the government sector accounted for one of the fatalities.
- Construction and extraction occupations accounted for a little over half of the work-related deaths in 2008. The majority of these workers died due to falls.

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. during the 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.