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WORK FATALITIES IN THE NEW YORK-NORTHERN NEW JERSEY AREA AND NEW YORK CITY IN 2002

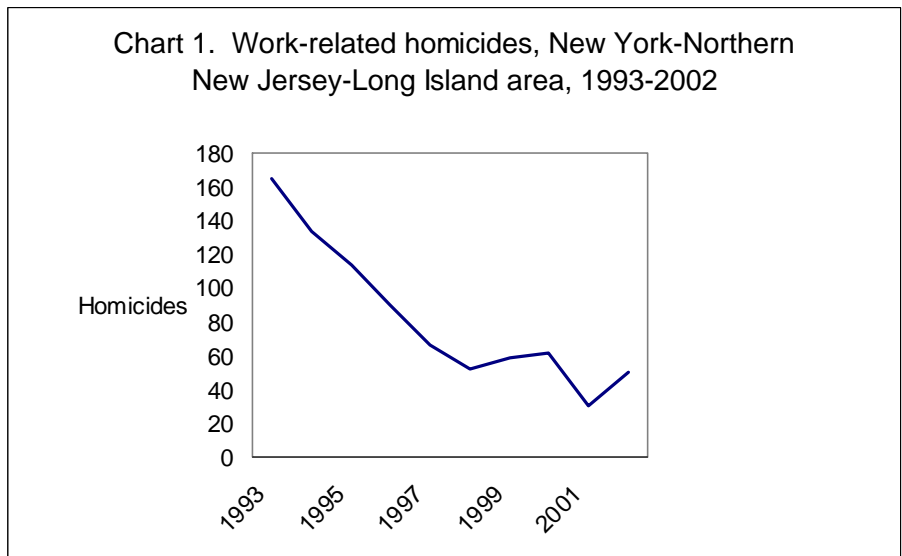
A total of 242 fatal work injuries were reported in the New York-Northern New Jersey metropolitan area in 2002, up from 212 in 2001, according to the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. The number of workplace fatalities resulting from assaults and violent acts, homicides in particular, accounted for most of the rise. For New York City, workers fatally injured on the job numbered 100, matching the total for 2001. Regional Commissioner Michael L. Dolfman reported that the 14 percent increase in workplace fatalities for the New York area contrasted with a decrease of 7 percent for the nation as a whole.

For the metropolitan area, the increase in fatal workplace injuries was largely due to a rise in assaults and violent acts, which increased from 43 in 2001 to 68 in 2002. Homicides accounted for most of this rise; the 50 deaths in 2002 were 20 more than in the previous year. Despite the increase, work-related homicides in the area have fallen by more than 70 percent from the series high of 165 in 1993, and total less than one-third of the peak year level. (See chart 1.) For the nation, work-related homicides fell from 643 in 2001 to 609 in 2002. Overall, homicides accounted for 21 percent of all fatal work injuries in the New York area, and 11 percent of fatalities nationally. NOTE: In 2001, 2,886 fatal work injuries (homicides) resulted from the terrorist attacks on September 11th, 2,699 of these occurring in New York City when the World Trade Center was attacked. However, these data were tabulated separately and have not been included in either the text or tables of this release.

Two other fatality events contributed to the rise in workplace deaths in New York area—falls, which increased from 32 to 47, and exposures to harmful substances or environments, which rose from 15 to 25. Falls accounted for 19 percent of area fatalities, and exposures to harmful substances or environments, 10 percent. (See table 1.) In the United States, fatalities resulting from falls declined for the first time since 1998, from 810 in 2001 to 714 in 2002, while exposures to harmful substances or environments was the only major category of fatal events that increased nationally, from 499 to 538. Falls made up 13 percent of the U.S. workplace fatalities in 2002, and exposures to harmful substances or environments, 10 percent.



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In contrast to the increases recorded for assaults and violent acts, falls, and exposures to harmful substances and environments, workplace fatalities resulting from transportation incidents in the New York area decreased from 82 in 2001 to 67 in 2002. The proportion of area workplace deaths attributable to this major event also fell, from 38.7 to 27.7 percent. (Transportation incidents include highway, aircraft, and worker struck by vehicle or mobile equipment incidents, among other things). The decline in this event was due to a sharp drop in fatally injured workers by aircraft, which had risen to 24 in 2001. The number of deaths caused by highway incidents was little changed over the year at 34, and accounted for 14 percent of all job-related fatalities.

At the national level, workplace fatalities resulting from transportation incidents decreased from 2,524 in 2001 to 2,381 in 2002, the fourth decline in a row for this major event. Overall, transportation events accounted for more than two-fifths of all fatal work injuries, nationally. Highway incidents were down by 37 in 2002, but continued to be the most frequent type of fatal workplace event at the detailed level, accounting for about 25 percent of the job-related fatalities. This was well above the proportion represented by either falls to a lower level (11 percent) or homicides (11 percent) in the United States. Fatal work injuries by selected events are highlighted below for the most recent two-year period:

	<u>United States</u>		<u>New York Northern New Jersey- Long Island</u>	
	2001	2002	2001	2002
Total	5,915	5,524	212	242
Transportation and incidents	2,524	2,381	82	67
Highway	1,409	1,372	30	34
Assaults and violent acts	908	840	43	68
Homicides	643	609	30	50
Falls	810	714	32	47
Fall to lower level	700	634	31	43

Comparison with other large metropolitan areas

The number of workplace fatalities in the New York area due to assaults and violent acts (homicides and self-inflicted injuries) went from 43 to 68 in 2002; the share of fatalities attributable to this event also rose over the year, from 20.3 to 28.1 percent. This was the third-highest percentage among the 10 largest metropolitan areas in the United States, surpassed only by Detroit (37.2 percent) and San Francisco (28.8 percent). (See chart 2 and table 2.) All 10 areas exceeded the national average of 15.2 percent. New York had ranked first in the nation in the percentage of occupational fatalities due to workplace violence in two of the past four years, and in five of the past 10. Since the series began in 1993, New York has not ranked lower than fifth, with the exception of 2001 (after exclusion of September 11th fatalities), when an over-the-year decline in assaults and violent acts dropped its ranking to ninth.

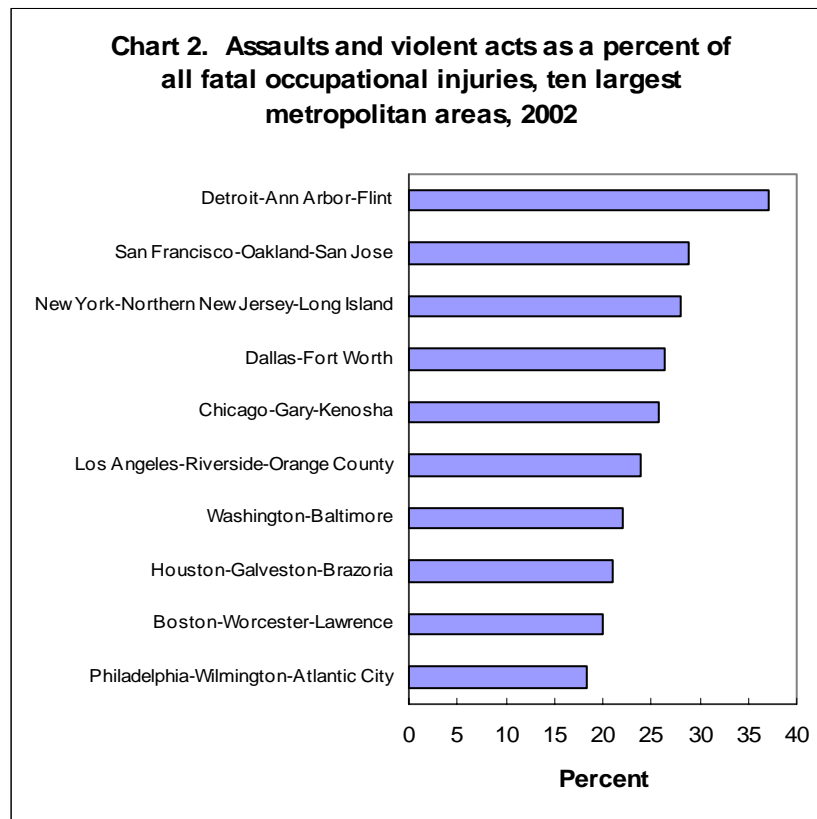
Of the 10 largest metropolitan areas, all recorded shares of transportation-related fatalities below the national average of 43.1 percent. New York has the sixth-highest percentage of fatal work injuries due to transportation incidents (27.7 percent), behind Chicago (28.9 percent), San Francisco (30.0 percent), Los Angeles (33.2 percent), Boston (38.0), and Philadelphia (42.7 percent). In 2001, New York had ranked second highest of the ten largest metropolitan areas in percentage of workplace fatalities due to transportation incidents, trailing only Washington, D.C.

In the New York area, fatalities due to falls totaled 47 in 2002, an increase of 15 from the previous year. At the national level, by contrast, fatal falls decreased by 96 to 714. Among the 10 largest metropolitan areas, New York, with 19.4 percent of fatalities related to falls, ranked second to Washington, D.C., at 20.5 percent. San Francisco had the lowest percentage of fatal work injuries from falls, 13.6 percent; even so, this was still above the national average of 12.9 percent.

Profile of Fatal Work Injuries in New York City

The number of workplace fatalities due to assaults and violent acts rose from 27 in 2001 to 36 in 2002. Homicides were the primary event in this category accounting for 27 deaths in 2002, up from 19 in the previous year. In fact, homicides were the most frequent type of fatal occupational injury in the City at this level of detail, accounting for 27 percent of all fatalities. (As mentioned earlier, highway incidents led at the national level.) Still, homicides represented a much smaller portion of all on-the-job fatalities in 2002 when compared to 1993 when they accounted for nearly three-fourths of total work-related deaths. Since 1993, occupational homicides have fallen by more than 80 percent from a series high of 139. The decline in the number of work-related deaths due to homicides was largely responsible for the drop in the overall number of job-related fatalities in the City, which fell from 191 in 1993 to 100 in 2002. Despite this sharp decline, the City continued to account for a disproportionate share of the metropolitan area's homicides. Although only about two-fifths of the area's total work-related fatalities in 2002 occurred in New York City, over half of the homicides did.

Fatalities resulting from falls were also up over the year, from 13 in 2001 to 25 a year later. In 2002, deaths from falls accounted for one-fourth of all work-related fatalities in the City. Among other major categories, work injuries due to contact with objects and equipment edged up from 12 to 15 over the year, and fatalities resulting from exposures to harmful substances or environments also increased slightly, from 4 to 7.



Virtually offsetting all of these increases, the number of workplace fatalities in New York City due to transportation events fell to 16 in 2002, a decrease of 23 over the year. A drop in aircraft incidents, which were responsible for the largest portion of transportation-related deaths in 2001, accounted for much of the decline. Highway incidents, on the other hand, accounted for only 5 fatalities in the city in 2002, not very different from the 7 reported in the previous year.

Construction recorded 35 workplace fatalities in 2002—the highest number of fatal injuries of any major industry division. (See table 3.) The construction industry’s share of total fatalities in the City (35 percent) was at an all-time high for the 10 years of available data. Construction had recorded only 20 fatalities in New York City in 2001. Of fatalities in the construction industry, falls were the most common event (40 percent), followed by contact with objects and equipment (26 percent).

The services industry, which includes business services, automotive repair services, and educational services, ranked second in number of total fatal work injuries in the City, with fatalities up from 15 in 2001 to 20 in 2002. Assaults and violent acts were the leading cause of fatalities in the services industry, comprising about 50 percent of the total. Falls were another common cause of injury-related fatalities in services, representing 25 percent of these deaths. Retail trade ranked third, with fatalities rising from 11 to 14 over the year. Assaults and violent acts were the most prevalent fatal event in the retail trade industry, accounting for over 92 percent of fatalities recorded.

Operators, fabricators and laborers accounted for 38 fatal work injuries in 2002, the most of any occupational group with nearly two-fifths of the City’s work-related fatalities. (See table 4.) This group accounted for 28 percent of fatalities in 2001. In 2002, nearly half of the fatalities within this group were suffered by construction laborers.

The precision, production, craft, and repair category experienced the second highest number of fatalities in the City, 20, up from 11 in 2001. Fatal injuries to construction trades workers accounted for the bulk of the rise.

Technical, sales, and administrative support occupations recorded the third largest number of fatalities in the City, 16, which represented 16 percent of the total. Though this number increased slightly, up 4 from 2001, it nevertheless was down sharply from 1993 when this occupational group accounted for more than one-fourth of total fatalities. A drop in fatalities for sales occupations, which fell from 43 to 10 over the nine-year period, accounted for most of the decline.

In New York City, 40 percent of those fatally injured on the job were white, non-Hispanic; 27 percent were Hispanic or Latino; 18 percent were black or African American; and 12 percent were Asian. (See table 5.) The proportion of fatalities suffered by Hispanics or Latinos in the city was down significantly from 2001, when Hispanics and whites made up almost equal proportions of those fatally injured on the job, at 38 and 36 percent, respectively. The proportion of workplace fatalities for black workers was up a bit from the 14 percent recorded in 2001, while the share for Asians showed little change.

In comparison, in the greater New York area, the proportion of work-related fatalities accounted for by Hispanics or Latinos increased over the year, from 11 percent in 2001 to 27 percent in 2002, while the proportion of fatalities accounted for the blacks declined, from 30 to 12 percent. Among white workers, the percentage fatally injured on the job did not change that much--50 percent in 2001 and 54 percent in 2002.

Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries in the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island CMSA and New York City by event or exposure, 2002

Event or exposure <u>1/</u>	New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island CMSA		New York City	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	242	100	100	100
Transportation incidents	67	28	16	16
Highway	34	14	5	5
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment	17	7	3	3
Vehicle struck stationary object or equipment	9	4	-	-
Noncollision	5	2	-	-
Nonhighway (farm, industrial premises)	8	3	3	3
Noncollision accident	7	3	3	3
Worker struck by vehicle, mobile equipment	19	8	7	7
Worker struck by vehicle, mobile equipment in parking lot or non-road area	12	5	6	6
Assaults and violent acts	68	28	36	36
Homicides	50	21	27	27
Hitting, kicking, beating	8	3	5	5
Shooting	31	13	15	15
Stabbing	8	3	5	5
Self-inflicted injury	17	7	9	9
Contact with objects and equipment	29	12	15	15
Struck by object	18	7	9	9
Struck by falling object	12	5	6	6
Caught in or compressed by equipment or object	5	2	-	-
Caught in or crushed in collapsing materials	6	2	4	4
Falls	47	19	25	25
Fall to lower level	43	18	20	20
Fall from ladder	15	6	7	7
Fall from scaffold, staging	8	3	4	4
Fall from roof	6	2	-	-
Fall from roof edge	5	2	-	-
Fall on same level	-	-	5	5
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	25	10	7	7
Contact with electric current	13	5	5	5
Contact with wires, transformers, or other electrical components	5	2	3	3
Exposure to caustic, noxious, or allergenic substances	7	3	-	-
Fires and explosions	6	2	-	-

1/ Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Structures.
(See note at end of tables.)

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries in selected metropolitan areas by event or exposure, 2002

Metropolitan area ^{1/}	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure ^{2/} (percent)					
		Transportation incidents	Assaults and violent acts	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and Explosions
Total U.S. ^{3/}	5,524	43.1	15.2	15.8	12.9	9.7	3.0
Boston-Worcester-Lawrence, MA-NH-ME-CT CMSA.....	50	38.0	20.0	20.0	16.0	–	–
Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI CMSA	128	28.9	25.8	15.6	14.1	14.1	–
Dallas-Fort Worth, TX CMSA	99	26.3	26.3	15.2	17.2	10.1	5.1
Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI CMSA	78	20.5	37.2	15.4	14.1	10.3	–
Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX CMSA	71	22.5	21.1	16.9	18.3	16.9	–
Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA CMSA.....	205	33.2	23.9	11.7	15.1	11.7	3.9
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA CMSA	242	27.7	28.1	12.0	19.4	10.3	2.5
Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, PA-NJ-DE-MD CMSA	82	42.7	18.3	9.8	14.6	8.5	6.1
San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA CMSA	66	30.3	28.8	19.7	13.6	7.6	–
Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV CMSA	122	27.0	22.1	17.2	20.5	11.1	–

^{1/} Metropolitan areas used in this table are Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Areas (CMSAs) and are based on definitions from the Office of Management and Budget Bulletin Number 99-04, June, 1999.

^{2/} Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

^{3/} Also includes fatalities occurring in nonmetropolitan areas.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. Data exclude fatalities related to the September 11th terrorist attacks.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries in the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island CMSA and New York City by industry, 2002

Industry	SIC code	New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island CMSA		New York City	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total		242	100	100	100
Private industry		224	93	92	92
Agriculture, forestry and fishing		10	4	-	-
Agricultural services		8	3	-	-
Construction		72	30	35	35
General building contractors	15	12	5	5	5
Special trade contractors	17	55	23	30	30
Manufacturing		14	6	3	3
Transportation and public utilities		35	14	9	9
Local and interurban passenger transit	41	11	5	4	4
Trucking and warehousing	42	17	7	-	-
Wholesale trade		12	5	3	3
Retail trade		32	13	14	14
Food stores	54	6	2	5	5
Eating and drinking places	58	6	2	3	3
Finance, insurance, and real estate		7	3	7	7
Real Estate	65	-	-	3	3
Services		41	17	20	20
Business Services	73	8	3	-	-
Automotive repair, services and parking	75	8	3	3	3
Educational Services	82	-	-	3	3
Government		18	7	8	8
Local government		10	4	-	-

1/ Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987 Edition

2/ Includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry.

(See note at end of tables.)

Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries in the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island CMSA and New York City by occupation, 2002

Occupation <u>1/</u>	New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island CMSA		New York City	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	242	100	100	100
Managerial and professional specialty	27	11	13	13
Executive, administrative, and managerial	15	6	7	7
Managers and administrators, n. e. c.	-	-	5	5
Professional specialty	12	5	6	6
Technical, sales, and administrative support	38	16	16	16
Technical and related support occupations	7	3	-	-
Sales occupations	25	10	10	10
Supervisors and proprietors, sales occupation	14	6	-	-
Service Occupations	22	9	12	12
Protective service occupations	8	3	3	3
Guards, including supervisors	6	2	3	3
Service occupations, except protective and household	-	-	8	8
Cleaning and building service occupations, except	-	-	3	3
Farming, forestry, and fishing	13	5	-	-
Other agricultural and related occupations	10	4	-	-
Precision production, craft, and repair	54	22	20	20
Mechanics and repairers	11	5	3	3
Construction trades	41	17	15	15
Construction trades, except supervisors	-	-	13	13
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	85	35	38	38
Transportation and material moving occupations	42	17	9	9
Motor vehicles operators	32	13	5	5
Truck drivers	18	7	-	-
Taxicab drivers and chauffeurs	10	4	3	3
Handler, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborer	39	16	27	27
Construction laborers	24	10	18	18
Laborers, except construction	8	3	4	4

1/ Based on the 1990 BLS Occupational Classification System developed by the Bureau of the Census. (See note at end of tables.)

Table 5. Fatal occupational injuries in the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island CMSA and New York City by selected demographic characteristics, 2002

Characteristic	New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island CMSA		New York City	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	242	100	100	100
<u>Sex</u>				
Men	232	96	91	91
Women	10	4	9	9
<u>Age</u>				
Under 25 years	26	11	8	8
25 to 34 years	41	17	26	26
35 to 44 years	65	27	27	27
45 to 54 years	52	21	18	18
55 to 64 years	41	17	17	17
65 years and over	16	7	4	4
<u>Race and Hispanic origin 1/</u>				
White	130	54	40	40
Hispanic or Latino	65	27	27	27
Black or African American	28	12	18	18
Asian	14	6	12	12

1/ The categories "White" and "Black or African American" do not include "Hispanics or Latino." Persons identified as "Hispanic or Latino" may be of any race.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Dashes indicate less than 0.5 percent or data that are not available or that do not meet publication criteria.

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.)

Data presented in this release include deaths occurring in 2002 that resulted from traumatic occupational injuries. An injury is defined as any intentional or unintentional wound or damage to the body resulting from acute exposure to energy, such as heat, electricity, or kinetic energy from a crash, or from the absence of such essentials as heat or oxygen caused by a specific event, incident, or series of events within a single workday or shift. Included are open wounds, intracranial and internal injuries, heatstroke, hypothermia, asphyxiation, acute poisonings resulting from short-term exposures limited to the worker's shift, suicides and homicides, and work injuries listed as underlying or contributory causes of death.

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.

Measurement techniques and limitations

Data for the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries are compiled from various federal, state, and local administrative sources--including death certificates, workers' compensation reports and claims, reports to various regulatory agencies, medical examiner reports, and police reports--as well as news and other non-governmental reports. Diverse sources are used because studies have shown that no single source captures all job-related fatalities. Source documents are matched so that each fatality is counted only once. To ensure that a fatality occurred while the decedent was at work, information is verified from two or more independent source documents or from a source document and a follow-up questionnaire. Approximately 30 data elements are collected, coded, and tabulated, including information about the worker, the fatal incident, and the machinery or equipment involved.

Identification and verification of work-related fatalities.

In 2002, there were 108 cases included at the national level for which work relationship could not be independently verified; however, the information on the initiating source document for these cases was sufficient to determine that the incident was likely to be job related. Data for these fatalities, which primarily affected self-employed workers, are included in the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries counts. An additional 16 fatalities submitted by states were not included because the initiating source document had insufficient information to determine work relationship and could not be verified by either an independent source document or a follow-up questionnaire.

States may identify additional fatal work injuries after data collection closeout for a reference year. In addition, other fatalities excluded from the published count because of insufficient information to

determine work relationship may subsequently be verified as work related. States have up to one year to update their initial published state counts. This procedure ensures that fatality data are disseminated as quickly as possible and that no legitimate case is excluded from the counts. Thus, each year's report should be considered preliminary until the next year's data are issued. Increases in the published counts based on additional information have averaged less than 100 fatalities per year or less than 1.5 percent of the total. The BLS news release issued September 25, 2002, reported a total of 5,900 fatal work injuries for 2001 (excluding fatalities resulting from the terrorist attacks of September 11). Since then, an additional 15 fatal work injuries were identified, bringing the total for 2001 to 5,915.

Federal/state

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.

Several federal and state agencies have jurisdiction over workplace safety and health. OSHA and affiliated agencies in states with approved safety programs cover the largest portion of the nation's workers. However, injuries and illnesses occurring in certain industries or activities, such as coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and highway, water, rail, and air transportation, are excluded from OSHA coverage because they are covered by other federal agencies, such as the Mine Safety and Health Administration and various agencies within the Department of Transportation. Fatalities occurring in activities regulated by federal agencies other than OSHA accounted for about 15 percent of the fatal work injuries in 2002.

Fatalities occurring among several other groups of workers are generally not covered by any federal or state agencies. These groups include self-employed and unpaid family workers, which accounted for about 19 percent of the fatalities; laborers on small farms, accounting for about 1 percent of the fatalities; and state and local government employees in states without OSHA-approved safety programs, which accounted for about 4 percent. (Approximately one-half of the states have approved OSHA safety programs, which cover state and local government employees.)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: BLS thanks the participating states, New York City, and the District of Columbia for their efforts in collecting accurate, comprehensive, and useful data on fatal work injuries. BLS also appreciates the efforts of all federal, state, local, and private sector agencies that submitted source documents used to identify fatal work injuries. Among these agencies are the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; the National Transportation Safety Board; the U.S. Coast Guard; the Mine Safety and Health Administration; the Employment Standards Administration (Federal Employees' Compensation and Longshore and Harbor Workers' divisions); the Department of Energy; state vital statistics registrars, coroners, and medical examiners; state departments of health, labor and industries, and workers' compensation agencies; state and local police departments; and state farm bureaus.