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BALTIMORE AREA FATALITIES FROM INJURIES ON THE JOB, 2000

Fatal work injuries for the Baltimore, Md. Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA) totaled 46 in 2000, an increase of nine deaths from the 37 recorded in 1999, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics announced today. Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins noted that the leading causes of work injury deaths by detailed event were highway crashes (12), falls to a lower level (12) and homicides (6). The 46 work-related deaths in the PMSA in 2000 were the highest recorded since the metropolitan series began in 1993. Highway crashes were also at a series high, while homicides were considerably below the high of 15 recorded in 1996. (See table A.)

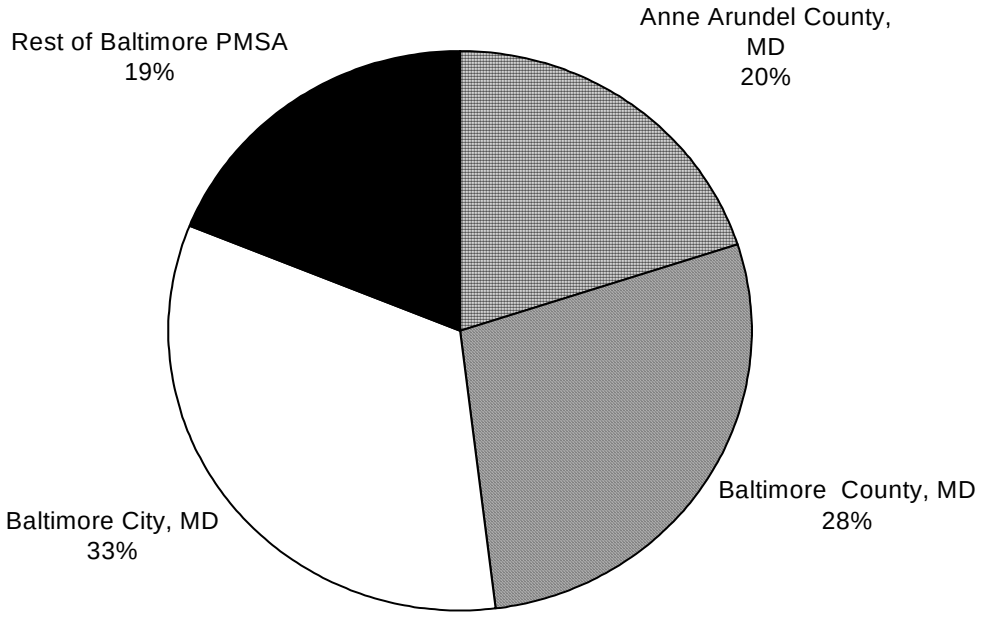
Table A. Fatal occupational injuries in the Baltimore PMSA and Baltimore City, by selected event, 1993-2000

Year	Total fatalities	Highway crashes		Homicides		Falls to lower level	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Baltimore PMSA							
1993	36	--	--	6	17	--	--
1994	35	--	--	6	17	--	--
1995	38	7	18	14	37	--	--
1996	37	5	14	15	41	--	--
1997	44	7	16	14	32	--	--
1998	36	8	22	7	19	--	--
1999	37	10	27	8	22	--	--
2000	46	12	26	6	13	12	26
Baltimore City							
1993	13	--	--	--	--	--	--
1994	9	--	--	--	--	--	--
1995	16	--	--	11	69	--	--
1996	19	--	--	11	58	--	--
1997	15	--	--	9	60	--	--
1998	14	--	--	7	50	--	--
1999	10	--	--	5	50	--	--
2000	15	5	33	--	--	--	--

NOTE: Categories that do not meet publication criteria are not shown.

Four out of five fatal occupational injuries in the PMSA took place in three counties. Fifteen work-related fatalities occurred in Baltimore City, Maryland, thirteen in Baltimore County, Maryland, and nine in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. (See chart 1.)

Chart 1. Percent distribution of workplace fatalities in the Baltimore PMSA by county of occurrence, 2000



Nationwide, the number of fatal work injuries was 5,915 in 2000, a decline of about 2 percent from the previous year despite an increase in employment. The number of job-related deaths from highway crashes declined for the first time since the fatality census was conducted in 1992. Fatal injuries resulting from electrocutions and being struck by an object were also down. Fatal job-related falls to lower level and homicides, on the other hand, both increased. On average, about 16 workers were fatally injured each day in the United States during 2000. (See table B.)

Highway crashes continued as the leading cause of on-the-job fatalities in the nation during 2000, accounting for 23 percent of the deaths. Homicides and falls to lower level each made up 11 percent of national fatalities, and workers being struck by an object accounted for 10 percent of the total. Additional Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries data is available on the BLS Internet site at http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfoi1.htm. Data can be accessed in two ways, through Selective Access, which allows quick access to particular items, or via the special request FTP service, which allows access to an extensive collection of flat text files. The Mid-Atlantic Information Office can provide assistance accessing these files by calling (215) 597-3282.

Table B. Fatal occupational injuries in the United States by selected major event groups, 1992-2000

Year	Total fatalities	Highway crashes		Homicides		Falls to lower level	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1992	6,217	1,158	19	1,044	17	507	8
1993	6,331	1,243	20	1,074	17	533	8
1994	6,632	1,343	20	1,080	16	580	9
1995	6,275	1,346	21	1,036	17	578	9
1996	6,202	1,346	22	927	15	610	10
1997	6,238	1,393	22	860	14	653	10
1998	6,055	1,442	24	714	12	625	10
1999 [1]	6,054	1,496	25	651	11	634	10
2000	5,915	1,363	23	677	11	659	11

[1] The BLS national news release issued August 17, 2000, reported a total of 6,023 fatal work injuries for calendar year 1999. Since then, an additional 31 job-related fatalities were identified, bringing the total job-related fatality count for 1999 to 6,054.

Key characteristics of workplace fatalities in the Baltimore area:

Baltimore PMSA:

-- Sixty-seven percent of those fatally injured were white and 17 percent were black or African American. (See table 2.)

-- Workers aged 25-54--the prime working age group--experienced almost two-thirds of the fatalities in 2000 in the PMSA.

-- Eighty-seven percent of the workers killed on the job worked for wages and salaries; the remainder were self-employed.

-- Two industry divisions made up nearly half of the workplace fatalities in the PMSA--construction and transportation and public utilities. (See table 3.)

-- Three specific occupations accounted for 57 percent of the work-related deaths--transportation and material moving operations (13), construction tradesmen (7) and protective service occupations (6). (See table 4.)

Baltimore City:

-- Highway crashes (5) accounted for one-third of the 15 workers who died from fatal on-the-job injuries in Baltimore City.

-- The occupational grouping of operators, fabricators, and laborers accounted for nearly half (7) of the total fatalities.

TECHNICAL NOTE

Data presented in this release is from the 2000 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), a program conducted jointly with the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation. All 50 States and the District of Columbia participate in the CFOI program. The program provides workplace fatality data by occupational, industrial, and demographic characteristics as well as type of event and is designed to provide the safety and health community with verified counts of fatal work injuries as well as basic information on these deaths that can be used to help prevent future fatalities in the workplace.

Information on fatal occupational injuries was compiled from a variety of administrative sources including death certificates, motor vehicle traffic accident reports, medical examiners reports, State and Federal workers' compensation reports, and other government investigative reports. Each fatality was substantiated by either two independent source documents or one source document and a follow-up questionnaire to the employer or other contact (excluding next-of-kin) who had knowledge about the circumstances of the incident.

While the purpose of the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries is to compile a complete count of traumatic workplace fatalities, information was also collected on fatal occupational illnesses that were recognized as work-related or that occurred at work. (There is not necessarily a causal relationship implied for illness deaths occurring at work.) A comprehensive count of fatalities resulting from occupational illnesses cannot be produced from current data largely because of the latency period associated with many occupational illnesses, as well as the difficulty in associating illnesses with exposures in the workplace. Therefore, fatal occupational illnesses are excluded from the tables.

The Baltimore, Md., PMSA is composed of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard, and Queen Anne's Counties and Baltimore City in Maryland.

Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries in the Baltimore PMSA and in Baltimore City, by event or exposure, 2000

Event or exposure[1]	Baltimore PMSA		Baltimore City	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total fatalities:.....	46	100	15	100
Contact with objects and equipment.....	9	20	--	--
Falls ……	12	26	--	--
Fall to lower level.....	12	26	--	--
Transportation incidents	16	35	6	40
Highway.....	12	26	5	33
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment	8	17	--	--
Assaults and violent acts.....	7	15	--	--
Homicides.....	6	13	--	--

[1]Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Structures.

(See note at end of tables.)

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries in the Baltimore PMSA and in Baltimore City, by selected demographic characteristics, 2000

Characteristic	Baltimore PMSA		Baltimore City	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total fatalities:	46	100	15	100
Employee status				
Wage and salary workers	40	87	--	--
Self-employed[1]	6	13	--	--
Age				
Under 25 years	6	13	--	--
25 to 34 years	11	24	5	33
35 to 44 years	10	22	5	33
45 to 54 years	8	17	--	--
55 to 64 years	5	11	--	--
65 years and over	6	13	--	--
Race and Hispanic origin				
White	31	67	7	47
Black or African American	8	17	--	--

[1]Includes paid and unpaid family workers, and may include owners of incorporated businesses, or members of partnerships.
(See note at end of tables.)

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries in the Baltimore PMSA and in Baltimore City, by industry, 2000

Industry	SIC code[1]	Baltimore PMSA		Baltimore City	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total fatalities:		46	100	15	100
Private sector:		40	87	11	73
Construction		14	30	--	--
Special trade contractors	17	10	22	--	--
Transportation and public utilities		8	17	5	33
Wholesale trade		5	11	--	--
Retail trade		6	13	--	--
Government[2]		6	13	--	--
Local		6	13	--	--

[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 Baltimore PMSA and in Baltimore City, by occupation, 2000

Occupation[1]	Baltimore PMSA		Baltimore City	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total fatalities:	46	100	15	100
Managerial and professional specialty	5	11	--	--
Executive, administrative, and managerial occupations	5	11	--	--
Service occupations	6	13	--	--
Protective service occupations	6	13	--	--
Police and detectives	5	11	--	--
Precision production, craft, and repair	9	20	--	--
Construction trades	7	15	--	--
Construction trades, except supervisors	6	13	--	--
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	21	46	7	47
Transportation and material moving operations	13	28	--	--
Motor vehicle operators	7	15	--	--

[1]Based on the 1990 Occupational Classification System developed by the Bureau of the Census.
NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals due to rounding. Categories that do not meet publication criteria are not shown.