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WASHINGTON AREA FATALITIES FROM INJURIES ON THE JOB, 2000

Fatal work injuries for the Washington, D.C.-Md.-Va.-W.V. Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA) totaled 74 in 2000, unchanged from 1999, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics announced today. Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins noted that the leading cause of work injury deaths by detailed event was homicides (16), mainly shootings (12). Deaths resulting from falls to a lower level (15), primarily from roofs (9), made up one-fifth of the work-related fatality count. Highway crashes, the leading cause of on-the-job fatalities nationwide, accounted for 10 deaths in the Washington area, or 14 percent of the total. (See table A.)

Table A. Fatal occupational injuries in the Washington PMSA and Washington, D.C., by selected event, 1993-2000

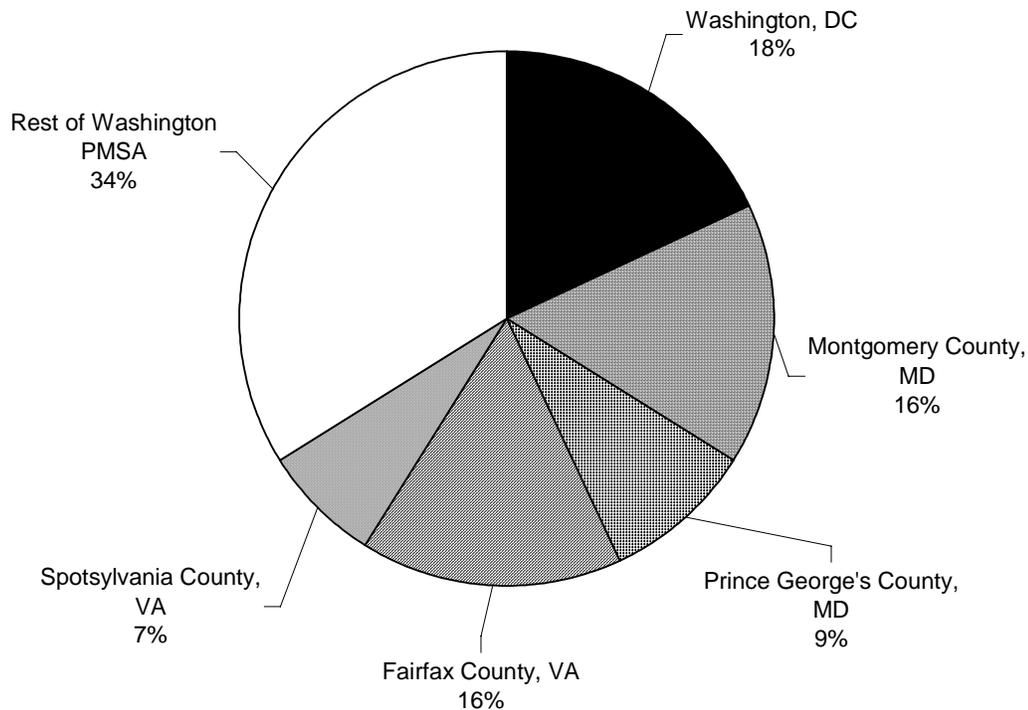
Year	Total fatalities	Highway crashes		Homicides		Falls to lower level	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Washington PMSA							
1993	81	13	16	28	35	5	6
1994	73	12	16	25	34	10	14
1995	75	12	16	25	33	5	7
1996	79	15	19	15	19	10	13
1997	72	9	13	13	18	15	21
1998	63	11	17	15	24	8	13
1999	74	16	22	14	19	12	16
2000	74	10	14	16	22	15	20
Washington, DC							
1993	23	--	--	19	83	--	--
1994	21	--	--	16	76	--	--
1995	16	--	--	10	63	--	--
1996	19	--	--	9	47	--	--
1997	23	--	--	9	39	5	22
1998	13	--	--	6	46	--	--
1999	14	--	--	--	--	5	36
2000	13	--	--	7	54	--	--

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

Washington PMSA homicides (16) in 2000 were not much different from the previous year, but were considerably less than the metropolitan series high of 28 recorded in 1993. For those workplace homicides in the PMSA where the motive could be ascertained, robbery was the motivating factor accounting for over half of these fatalities.

Half of the fatal occupational injuries in the PMSA took place in three counties. Thirteen work-related fatalities occurred in the District of Columbia and twelve each in Montgomery County, Maryland and Fairfax County, Virginia. (See chart 1.)

Chart 1. Percent distribution of workplace fatalities in the Washington 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. Fatalities from job-related falls to a 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 a 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 Washington area:

Washington PMSA:

- Fifty-eight percent of those fatally injured were white and 24 percent were black or African American. (See table 2.)
- Workers aged 25-54--the prime working age group--experienced over two-thirds of the fatalities in 2000 in the PMSA.
- Seventy-eight percent of the workers killed on the job worked for wages and salaries; the remainder were self-employed.
- Four industry divisions made up nearly nine-tenths of the workplace fatalities in the PMSA-- construction, services, transportation and public utilities and retail trade. (See table 3.)
- Four specific occupations accounted for almost half of all work-related fatalities in the PMSA-- motor vehicle operators (13), non-supervisory construction tradesmen (9), construction laborers (8) and non-supervisory mechanics and repairers (6). (See table 4.)

Washington, D.C.:

- Homicides (7) accounted for over half of the 13 workers who died on the job in the District in 2000. Robbery was the primary motive of job-related homicides in the District, when a reason could be ascertained, accounting for 71 percent of the alleged perpetrators. Forty-four percent of the homicides in the Washington PMSA occurred in the District of Columbia.
- Fifty-four percent of those fatally injured at work were black or African American.
- Operators, fabricators, and laborers accounted for nearly half of the District's fatalities in 2000.

TECHNICAL NOTE

Data presented in this release is from the 2000 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), a program conducted jointly with the District of Columbia Department of Health; Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Virginia Department of Labor and Industry; and West Virginia Department of Labor. 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 Washington, D.C.-Md.-Va.-W.V., PMSA consists of the District of Columbia; Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties in Maryland; Arlington, Clarke, Culpepper, Fairfax, Fauquier, King George, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Warren Counties, and Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, and Manassas Park Cities in Virginia; and Berkeley and Jefferson Counties in West Virginia.

Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries in the Washington, PMSA and in Washington, D.C., by event or exposure, 2000

Event or exposure ¹	Washington PMSA		Washington, D.C.	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total fatalities:.....	74	100	13	100
Contact with objects and equipment	9	12	--	--
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects.....	5	7	--	--
Falls	16	22	--	--
Fall to lower level.....	15	20	--	--
Fall from roof.....	9	12	--	--
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	9	12	--	--
Contact with electric current	9	12	--	--
Contact with overhead				
power lines.....	7	9	--	--
Transportation incidents	16	22	--	--
Highway.....	10	14	--	--
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment	8	11	--	--
Fires and explosions	5	7	--	--
Assaults and violent acts	19	26	8	62
Homicides.....	16	22	7	54
Shootings	12	16	5	38

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

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries in the Washington, PMSA and in Washington, D.C., by selected demographic characteristics, 2000

Characteristic	Washington PMSA		Washington, D.C.	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total fatalities:.....	74	100	13	100
Employee status				
Wage and salary workers.....	58	78	--	--
Self-employed ¹	16	22	--	--
Age				
Under 25 years.....	--	--	--	--
25 to 34 years.....	16	22	--	--
35 to 44 years.....	23	31	--	--
45 to 54 years.....	12	16	--	--
55 to 64 years.....	12	16	--	--
65 years and over.....	6	8	--	--
Race and Hispanic origin				
White	43	58	--	--
Black or African American.....	18	24	7	54
Hispanic or Latino	5	7	--	--
Asian	5	7	--	--

¹Includes 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 Washington, PMSA and in Washington, D.C., by industry, 2000

Industry	SIC code ¹	Washington PMSA		Washington, D.C.	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total fatalities:.....		74	100	13	100
Private sector:		69	93	11	85
Construction		27	36	--	--
General building contractors..	15	5	7	--	--
Heavy construction, except building	16	6	8	--	--
Special trade contractors.....	17	16	22	--	--
Roofing, siding, and sheet metal work	176	6	8	--	--
Transportation and public utilities		11	15	--	--
Local and interurban passenger transit.....	41	5	7	--	--
Retail trade		10	14	--	--
Food stores.....	54	5	7	--	--
Grocery stores	541	5	7	--	--
Services		16	22	--	--
Auto repair, services, and parking	75	5	7	--	--
Government ²		5	7	--	--

¹Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987 Edition.

²Includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry. (See note at end of tables.)

Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries in the Washington, PMSA and in Washington, D.C., by occupation, 2000

Occupation ¹	Washington PMSA		Washington, D.C.	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total fatalities:.....	74	100	13	100
Managerial and professional specialty	13	18	--	--
Executive, administrative, and managerial occupations.....	9	12	--	--
Technical, sales, and administrative support	9	12	--	--
Sales occupations.....	7	9	--	--
Service occupations	5	7	--	--
Precision production, craft, and repair	19	26	--	--
Mechanics and repairers	7	9	--	--
Mechanics and repairers, except supervisors.....	6	8	--	--
Construction trades.....	10	14	--	--
Construction trades, except supervisors	9	12	--	--
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	25	34	6	46
Transportation and material moving operations	14	19	--	--
Motor vehicle operators.....	13	18	--	--
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers.....	9	12	--	--
Construction laborers.....	8	11	--	--

¹Based 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.