
**FATAL WORK INJURIES
AND WORK HAZARDS**

**Fact Sheet
CFOI 96-2**

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Office of Safety, Health
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(202) 606-6175

JOB-RELATED HOMICIDES PROFILED

Homicide accounted for one out of every six of the 6,210 fatal work injuries that occurred in 1995, following only highway fatalities as a leading cause of job-related death, according to the annual BLS Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI). This fact sheet summarizes the characteristics of the 1,024 victims of job-related homicide, the occupations and industries in which they worked, and circumstances surrounding the incident. (See accompanying table.)

While three times as many male workers were murdered as female workers, homicide was the leading cause of job-related fatality for women, accounting for nearly half their fatal work injuries. And homicides of female workers went up by about one third from 1994, while homicides of male workers went down by about one-eighth. Because of their occupations, homicide was also the leading cause of job-related death for the self-employed and various minority groups, such as blacks, Asian and Pacific Islanders, and Hispanics.

Most of the workplace homicides appear to result from robberies or robbery-attempts. Typically these robberies involved store personnel, gas station attendants, or taxicab drivers being shot for cash receipts. But several workers were killed during carjackings, muggings, and robberies of goods or services, such as a tankful of gas or a taxi fare. One-seventh of the job-related homicide victims were police officers and security guards killed in the line of duty; one-eighth were victims of the Oklahoma City bombing of a federal building (including some police officers). One tenth of the workplace homicide victims were killed by a current or former work associate, almost double the number from the previous year. And several workers, primarily women, were killed as a result of domestic disputes that filtered into the workplace. Firearm-related homicides dropped almost 20 percent in 1995 from the previous year, but still accounted for three-quarters of the job-related homicides. Explosives were involved in one-eighth of the workplace homicides.

Half the victims of workplace homicide worked in either a sales occupation (such as sales clerk, retail store owner, or cashier) or a service-related occupation (such as police officer, security guard, or food preparer). Taxicab drivers and various management-related occupations also reported high numbers of job-related homicides. Although job-related homicides in retail trade dropped by 21 percent from the previous year, they still accounted for 41 percent of all workplace homicides in 1995. Homicides in convenience and other grocery stores, eating and drinking places, and gasoline service stations predominated among retail establishments. Government workers accounted for one-fifth of the homicide victims, twice as many as the previous year because of the Oklahoma City bombing of a federal building.

(over)

Table B. Job-related homicides by selected characteristics, 1995

	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Total	1,024	100	Total	1,024	100
Employee status			Occupation		
Wage and salary workers	817	80	Managerial and professional specialty occupations	199	19
Self-employed	207	20	Executive, administrative, managerial occupations	161	16
			Administrators and officials, public administration	19	2
			Managers, food serving and lodging places	46	4
			Professional specialty	38	4
			Technical, sales, and administrative support jobs	374	37
Gender			Sales occupations	298	29
Men	780	76	Supervisors and proprietors, sales occupations	133	13
Women	244	24	Sales workers, retail and personal services	156	15
			Sales workers, other commodities	23	2
			Cashiers	107	10
			Administrative support occupations, including clerical	63	6
			Service occupations	212	21
			Protective service occupations	142	14
Age			Police and detectives, including supervisors	81	8
18 to 19 years	25	2	Guards, including supervisors	59	6
20 to 24 years	69	7	Service occupations, except protective and household	67	7
25 to 34 years	262	26	Food preparation and service occupations	42	4
35 to 44 years	255	25	Farming, forestry, and fishing occupations	20	2
45 to 54 years	213	21	Precision production, craft, and repair occupations	40	4
55 to 64 years	125	12	Mechanics and repairers	16	2
65 years and over	64	6	Operators, fabricators, and laborers	160	16
Other or unspecified	11	1	Transportation and material moving occupations	115	11
			Motor vehicle operators	112	11
			Truck drivers	24	2
			Taxicab drivers and chauffeurs	69	7
			Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	31	3
			Military	9	1
			Other or unspecified	10	1
Race			Industry		
White	666	65	Private industry	813	79
Black	208	20	Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	19	2
Asian or Pacific Islander	90	9	Construction	15	1
Other or unspecified	60	6	Manufacturing	44	4
			Transportation and public utilities	97	9
			Local and interurban passenger transit	72	7
Hispanic origin			Taxicabs	68	7
Hispanic	128	13	Wholesale trade	25	2
			Retail trade	416	41
			Food stores	159	16
			Grocery stores	150	15
Circumstance or alleged perpetrator			Automotive dealers and service stations	51	5
Robberies and other crimes	727	71	Gasoline service stations	36	4
Work associates	113	11	Apparel and accessory stores	16	2
Coworker, former coworker	88	9	Eating and drinking places	119	12
Customer, client	25	2	Eating places	61	6
Police killed in the line of duty	81	8	Drinking places	33	3
Security guard killed in the line of duty	59	6	Miscellaneous retail	48	5
Personal acquaintance	44	4	Liquor stores	17	2
Husband, ex-husband	14	1	Finance, insurance, and real estate	53	5
Boyfriend, ex-boyfriend	11	1	Depository institutions	24	2
Wife, ex-wife, girlfriend, ex-girlfriend	4	--	Federal credit unions	18	2
Other relative	10	1	Real estate	24	2
Other acquaintance	5	--	Real estate operators and lessors	16	2
			Services	137	13
			Personal services	17	2
			Business services	39	4
			Miscellaneous business services	32	3
			Detective and armored car services	26	3
			Auto repair, services, and parking	20	2
Event			Other or unspecified	7	1
Shooting	754	74	Government	211	21
Stabbing	67	7	Federal	109	11
Hitting, kicking, beating	44	4	State	17	2
Other, including bombing	159	16	Local	83	8

NOTE: Dashes indicate less than 0.5 percent. Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 1995