

Job-related Fatalities Involving Youths, 1992-95

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More than 700 workers aged 19 or younger were victims of work-related fatalities between 1992-95, an average of 180 deaths each year.¹ Work-related deaths occurred primarily in farming and retail establishments. The hazards encountered during the operation of tractors and other farm machinery on the family farm are killers of many youths. Also, retail jobs where workers interact with the public and handle money and merchandise put young workers in vulnerable positions for violence.

Job-related fatalities by year

The youth fatality total of 720 in 1992-95 accounted for about 3 percent of the Nation's job-related fatalities. For 1992-94, youths accounted for slightly less than 3 percent of these fatalities. However, in 1995, for the first time, youths accounted for more than 3 percent of all job-related fatalities. That year witnessed the highest number of youth fatalities, or 11 percent more than averaged in 1992-94. (See table 1.) Fatalities in the 18- to 19-year-old group accounted for the largest increase over the 1993-95 period.

Occupations

Young farm workers, except managers, lead all other youths in job-related fatalities (table 2). The primary event that caused these fatalities was nonhighway vehicular incidents, in which a youth operated or helped to operate a vehicle on a farm or parking lot.

Workers in occupations that interact with the public also had high numbers of job-related fatalities, most often due to assaults and violent acts. Homicide was the leading manner of death among sales workers, retail and personal services, and food preparation occupations. Homicide ac-

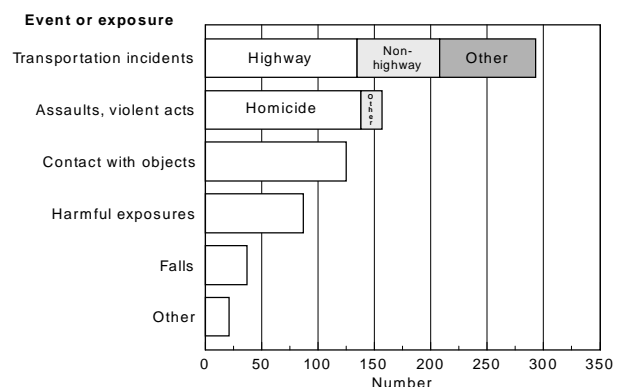
counted for between 70 percent and 81 percent of the job-related deaths in those occupations.

Construction occupations also took their toll on youths. Over the 4-year period, construction laborers and construction trades, except supervisor, comprised 13 percent of the total, or 93 job-related fatalities.

Event

Transportation incidents and assault and violent acts were more than 60 percent of all job-related youth fatalities. Transportation incidents alone comprised 40 percent of them. Of the transportation incidents, 145 involved a single vehicle; 79 of these jackknifed or overturned. Another 45 workers were pedestrians struck by a vehicle. Assault and violent acts were involved in 157 job-related fatalities. (See chart 1.) Of the 138 homicides, firearms were used in 109.

Chart 1. Number of youth worker fatalities by event or exposure¹, 1992-95



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¹ Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Structure.

Table 1. Job-related fatalities by age, 1992-95

Year	Number of fatalities						
	All fatalities	Total youth	Percent	Under 14 year olds	14- to 15-year olds	16- to 17-year olds	18- to 19-year olds
Total	25,390	720	2.8	51	56	162	451
1992	6,217	175	2.8	14	13	41	107
1993	6,331	170	2.7	13	16	39	102
1994	6,632	181	2.7	11	14	42	114
1995	6,210	194	3.1	13	13	40	128

Table 2. Occupations with the most job-related fatalities among youth, and primary event, 1992-95

Occupation ¹	Number of fatalities	
	Total	Primary event (n)
Total	720	Homicide (138), Highway (135) Nonhighway (37)
Farm, except managerial	115	
Sales workers, retail and personal services	71	Homicide (50)
Laborers, except construction	57	Caught in or compressed by equipment (7) Highway (7)
Construction Laborers	55	Pedestrian (14)
Motor vehicle operators	50	Highway (33)
Military	41	Highway (6)
Construction trades, except supervisor	38	Contact with electric (11)
Food preparation and service	33	Homicide (27)
Mechanics and repairers	19	Highway (4)
Freight stock, and material handlers	18	Homicide (5)
Machine operators, and tenders, except precision	16	Caught in or compressed by equipment (4)

Table 3. Job-related fatalities and primary event, by selected characteristics, 1992-95

Characteristic	Fatalities		Primary event (n)
	Number	Percent	
Total	720	100	Homicide (138), Highway (135)
Employee status			
Wage and salary workers	611	85	Homicide (128)
Self-employed	21	3	Highway (7)
Family business ¹	88	12	Highway (14)
Sex			
Men	652	91	Highway (122)
Women	68	9	Homicide (39)
Race			
White	594	83	Highway (122)
Black	62	9	Homicide (29)
Asian or Pacific Islander	22	3	Homicide (16)
American Indian, Aleut, Eskimo	7	1	
Other or unknown	35	5	Homicide (8)
Hispanic origin			
Hispanic ²	119	17	Homicide (32)

¹ Based on the Census Bureau's 1990 occupation classification system.

¹ Includes paid and unpaid family workers.

² Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Table 4. Job-related fatalities by industry and age group, 1992-95

Industry ¹	Number of fatalities				
	Total youth	Under 14 years	14- to 15-year olds	16- to 17-year olds	18- to 19-year olds
Total	720	51	56	162	451
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Retail	159	4	10	45 (5) ²	100 (4)
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	155	40 (31)	26 (16)	42 (11)	47 (6)
Construction	102	—	—	25	72
Services	90	—	—	19	63
Manufacturing	74	3	4	9	58
Public Administration	59	—	—	4	53
Other/nonclassifiable	81	—	—	18	58

¹ Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987 edition.

² Numbers in parentheses includes the number

of youths working in a family business.

NOTE: Dashes indicate data that are not available or do not meet publication criteria.

Worker characteristics

Among young women, over 50 percent of job-related deaths were due to homicides. Among Asian or Pacific Islanders, 72 percent were victims of homicide; and among black youths, 46 percent were victims of homicide.

Industry

Job-related deaths for young workers was slightly higher in the retail industry than in agriculture, forestry, and fishing industries. Retail jobs require minimal levels of skill and often employ teens. Overall, retail sales workers are

subject to high rates of assaults and violent acts, and young workers in such establishments are no exception. Those aged 18 to 19 have the largest number of job-related fatalities in the retail industry. The highest number of fatalities among 14- and 15-year olds and those under 14 were in agriculture, forestry, and fishing occupations. Forty-seven of the fatalities in these two age groups were for youths working on a family farm. Eighty percent of fatalities among youths under 14 were in agriculture, while in the 14- to 15-year age group agricultural fatalities comprised 46 percent of all fatalities.

—Endnotes—

¹ The Bureau of Labor's Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries program has collected a census of occupational fatality data nation wide for 1992-1995. The BLS CFOI program uses diverse data sources to identify, verify and profile fatal work injuries. Information about each workplace fatality (occupation and other worker characteristics, equipment being used, and circumstances of the event) is obtained by cross-referencing source documents,

such as death certificates, workers' compensation records, and reports to federal and state agencies. This method assures counts are as complete and accurate as possible. The data in this article are from CFOI, 1992-1995. For more information concerning the CFOI program, access the World Wide Web at (stats.bls.gov/oshfat1.htm) or e-mail (cfoistaff@bls.gov).