

JOB-RELATED HOMICIDES

Homicide was the second leading cause (after highway crashes) of work injury fatalities in 1996, accounting for 15 percent of the 6,112 job-related deaths.

Work-related homicides fell 12 percent below the 1995 total and 16 percent below 1994, when job-related homicides recorded a five-year high. While most industry divisions had declines in the number of job-related homicides, retail trade and services had slight increases over 1995. Managers of food serving and lodging establishments and sales supervisors and proprietors were particularly affected by the increases. Taxicab drivers had one of the largest declines in homicides.

Robbery was the primary motive of job-related homicides. Almost half of the homicide victims worked in retail establishments, such as grocery stores and eating and drinking establishments, where cash is readily available.

Disputes among coworkers and with customers and clients accounted for about one-seventh of the homicide total. Many of these homicides were committed after the worker was fired or the customer or tenant was asked to leave the premises. Arguments with customers and clients ranged from disagreements over monetary issues, such as rental or legal fees owed and quality of goods or services received, to disputes over refusal to serve alcohol. Domestic disputes accounted for one-sixth of the workplace homicides for female workers.

HOMICIDES

Job-related homicides by selected characteristics, 1996

	Number	Percent		Number	Percent
Total	912	100	Total	912	100
Employee status			Occupation		
Wage and salary workers.....	665	73	Managerial and professional specialty occupations	183	20
Self-employed	247	27	Executive, administrative, and managerial jobs	142	16
			Managers, food serving and lodging jobs	61	7
			Professional specialty.....	41	4
Gender			Social, recreation, and religious workers.....	14	2
Men	742	81	Technical, sales, and administrative support jobs.....	326	36
Women.....	170	19	Sales occupations	295	32
			Supervisors and proprietors, sales occupations.....	147	16
			Sales reps., finance and business services.....	15	2
Age			Sales workers, retail and personal services	132	14
16 to 19 years	29	3	Sales workers, other commodities.....	18	2
20 to 24 years	74	8	Cashiers	85	9
25 to 34 years	215	24	Administrative support occupations, including clerical ...	29	3
35 to 44 years	222	24	Service occupations	185	20
45 to 54 years	185	20	Protective service occupations.....	109	12
55 to 64 years	120	13	Police and detectives	54	6
65 years and over.....	65	7	Guards	50	5
			Service occupations, except protective and household...	72	8
			Food preparation and service occupations.....	39	4
Race			Bartenders.....	11	1
White.....	598	66	Cleaning and building service jobs, ex. household.....	12	1
Black	173	19	Personal service occupations.....	15	2
American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut	6	1	Farming, forestry, and fishing occupations.....	18	2
Asian and Pacific Islander.....	93	10	Precision production, craft, and repair occupations.....	37	4
Other	28	3	Mechanics and repairers	16	2
Unspecified	14	2	Operators, fabricators, and laborers.....	149	16
			Transportation and material moving occupations	91	10
Hispanic origin			Motor vehicle operators.....	86	9
Hispanic	128	14	Truck drivers.....	27	3
			Taxicab drivers and chauffeurs	46	5
			Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	47	5
			Freight, stock, and material handlers	13	1
			Laborers, except construction	20	2
			Military.....	3	--
			Other or unspecified.....	11	1
Circumstances or alleged perpetrator			Industry		
Robberies and other crimes	726	80	Private industry.....	812	89
Work associates.....	129	14	Agriculture, forestry, and fishing.....	18	2
Coworker, former coworker.....	75	8	Construction	12	1
Customer, client	54	6	Manufacturing	39	4
Relatives	31	3	Transportation and public utilities.....	75	8
Husband, ex-husband	20	2	Taxicabs	49	5
Other relative	11	1	Trucking and warehousing	19	2
Personal acquaintances.....	26	3	Wholesale trade	24	3
Boyfriend, ex-boyfriend	11	1	Retail trade.....	429	47
Other acquaintances	15	2	General merchandise stores	11	1
			Food stores	144	16
Event			Automotive dealers and service stations.....	40	4
Hitting, kicking, beating	47	5	Gasoline service stations	23	3
Shooting.....	751	82	Apparel and accessory stores	10	1
Stabbing.....	79	9	Furniture and homefurnishings stores.....	12	1
Other event.....	35	4	Eating and drinking places	135	15
			Eating places.....	71	8
			Drinking places.....	51	6
			Miscellaneous retail.....	70	8
Time of incident			Liquor stores	17	2
12am-4am.....	118	13	Used merchandise stores.....	11	1
4am-8am	104	11	Finance, insurance, and real estate	40	4
8am-12pm	125	14	Real estate	20	2
12pm-4pm.....	155	17	Services	166	18
4pm-8pm.....	143	16	Hotels and other lodging places	14	2
8pm-12am.....	192	21	Personal services	18	2
Unspecified	75	8	Business services	42	5
			Detective and armored car services	29	3
			Auto repair, services, and parking.....	26	3
			Health services.....	12	1
			Other or unspecified.....	9	1
			Government.....	100	11
			Federal.....	11	1
			State.....	20	2
			Local	69	8

NOTE: 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, 1996