

chart 27

ANALYTICAL ARTICLE:

Occupational Injuries among Young Workers

Despite regulations designed to protect them, young workers are exposed to some of the same hazards as older workers. Transportation incidents caused the most fatal occupational injuries between 1993 and 2002. Vehicle and tractor-related incidents increased between the two 5-year periods studied (1993–1997 and 1998–2002).

The youngest decedents, those younger than 14, were fatally injured in incidents that almost entirely involved vehicles or farm machinery. One-fourth of the decedents under 14 were fatally injured while operating farm vehicles and machinery, and about one-sixth were killed while riding as a passenger on a farm vehicle.

More diverse activities were associated with older youths fatally injured at work. About one-eighth of workers aged 16 to 17 years incurred a fatal injury while driving an automobile or truck, and an additional one-eighth were fatally injured while tending a retail establishment, most as a result of homicide.



Fatal occupational injuries for workers 17 and under, by age group for selected worker activities, 1993–2002

WORK ACTIVITY	Under 18	Under 14 years	14 to 15 years	16 to 17 years
Total count, all activities	639	121	131	387
Percent, all activities	100	100	100	100
Operating farm vehicle or machinery	12	25	18	6
Tending retail establishment	9	2	5	12
Driving automobile or truck	9	6	—	12
Physical activity (includes walking, sitting, running, and climbing ladders or stairs)	6	5	3	8
Riding in automobile or truck	7	7	7	7
Riding on farm vehicle	4	16	4	—

SOURCE: Windau, Janice and Samuel Meyer. "Occupational Injuries among Young Workers." *Monthly Labor Review*, October 2005, 11–23.

NOTE: Dashes indicate data do not meet BLS publishability requirements.