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WORK FATALITIES IN NEW YORK-NORTHERN NEW JERSEY-LONG ISLAND AREA, 2005

A total of 201 fatal work injuries were reported in the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island Metropolitan Statistical Area¹ in 2005, down from 236 in 2004, according to the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Regional Commissioner Michael L. Dolfman noted that the decline in fatalities in 2005 was due to a reduction in the number of deaths from homicides, falls to a lower level, and self-inflicted injuries. (See table A.) The 15-percent decline in work-related fatalities in the New York area contrasted with a 1-percent decrease for the nation as a whole. The decline in 2005 brought the number of fatal work injuries close to the level that prevailed in 2003 (198).

Table A. Fatal occupational injuries in the United States and New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA, by event or exposure, 2004 and 2005

Event or exposure	United States		New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
Total.....	5,764	5,702	236	201
Highway.....	1,398	1,428	27	36
Worker struck by vehicle.....	378	390	31	24
Homicides.....	559	564	45	30
Self-inflicted injuries.....	206	177	22	13
Struck by object.....	602	604	17	19
Fall to lower level.....	738	662	46	34
Contact with electric current.....	254	250	7	8

¹ The New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) consists of New York City, Nassau, Putnam, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties in New York; Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, and Union Counties in New Jersey; and Pike County, Pennsylvania. For convenience, the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island MSA is referred to as the New York area throughout this release.



Round-the-clock recorded messages for the **Consumer Price Index** and a variety of other **Bureau of Labor Statistics** data are available by dialing the **New York Information Office's** main telephone number: **(212) 337-2400**. For recorded messages, press '2'. Fax-on-Demand service will be discontinued on April 27, 2007.

Profile of fatal work injuries by event

In 2005, fatal highway incidents became the most frequent fatal event in the New York metropolitan area, accounting for 36 deaths, or slightly more than one in six occupational fatalities. (See table 1.) The next most frequent fatal events were falls to a lower level, accounting for 34 deaths, followed by homicides, with 30 deaths. Workers fatally struck by vehicles or mobile equipment accounted for 24 deaths in the New York area. Combined, these four events accounted for more than 60 percent of the area's workplace fatalities.

Of the four most frequent fatal events in the New York area in 2005, three recorded a drop in the number of cases over the year. Homicides decreased by 15 and falls to a lower level and workers struck by vehicles diminished by 12 and 7 fatalities, respectively, in 2005. In contrast, fatal highway incidents increased by nine from the previous year.

The 19 employees fatally struck by objects (other than vehicles or mobile equipment) and the 13 workers with self-inflicted injuries were the only other events accounting for more than 10 occupational deaths in 2005.

Highway incidents continued to be the most common cause of occupational fatalities in the United States, accounting for 25 percent of all fatal work injuries in 2005. (By contrast, 18 percent of the New York area's fatalities were due to this event.) Nationally, fall to a lower level was the second most frequent type of fatality, accounting for 12 percent of the total, followed by workers struck by objects (11 percent), homicides (10 percent), and workers killed as pedestrians by vehicles or mobile equipment (7 percent).

At the national level, fatal work injuries decreased 1 percent from the revised total of 5,764 fatalities recorded in 2004. The number of fatalities resulting from falls to a lower level dropped 10 percent. In contrast, fatal highway incidents increased 2 percent to 1,428 in 2005, the highest number recorded since 1999 and the number of homicides was little changed at 564 after reaching a series low of 559 in the previous year.

Profile of fatal work injuries by selected characteristics

Industry. Most on-the-job fatalities in the New York metropolitan area continued to occur in the construction sector; this industry had 52 worker deaths in 2005, unchanged from 2004. (See table 2.) Specialty trade contractors accounted for 42 deaths, or slightly more than 4 out of every 5 construction fatalities. In the New York area, 40 percent of the specialty trade contractor deaths resulted from falls to a lower level, while in the United States as a whole, that event accounted for 34 percent of specialty trade contractor fatalities.

The next highest fatality count among private-industry sectors was in transportation and warehousing (30). Two-thirds of that sector's fatalities involved highway incidents or struck pedestrians. The other services sector had 20 work-related fatalities in 2005, with homicides accounting for 35 percent of the deaths.

Retail trade had the fourth highest fatality count in the New York area with 18 deaths; no other private-industry sector had more than 15 fatalities. Unlike the prior two years, fewer than half (7) of the fatalities in retail trade were homicides.

Occupation. Workers in transportation and material moving occupations had the highest fatality count, 57, of the major occupational groups in the New York area. (See table 3.) Heavy or tractor-trailer truck drivers accounted for 19, or one-third of the deaths in this group. The most frequent event leading to fatalities in transportation and material moving jobs was highway incidents (25), followed by workers struck by vehicles (7), and workers struck by objects other than vehicles and mobile equipment (6).

Construction and extraction jobs accounted for 51 worker fatalities, 48 of these in the construction trades. More than half of the 48 construction trades workers who died at work were construction laborers. Fall to a lower level was the most frequent fatal event among construction trades workers, accounting for 22 of the 48 incidents. No other occupational group suffered more than 15 deaths.

Demographics. In 2005, workers aged 25 to 54 years, the prime-age worker group, accounted for about 70 percent of the New York area deaths. Older workers, those aged 55 and over, made up 19 percent of the area's on-the-job fatalities, while younger workers, those aged 18 to 24, accounted for 11 percent. Nationally, older workers accounted for 26 percent of the workplace fatalities, and younger workers, 9 percent. Over the year, the numbers of fatal occupational injuries were down for prime-age and older workers, and little changed for younger workers.

Forty-six percent of those fatally injured on-the-job in the New York metropolitan area in 2005 were white non-Hispanics. (See table 4.) Hispanics or Latinos accounted for 24 percent of the area's fatalities, black non-Hispanics, 19 percent, and Asians, 9 percent. Over the year, work-related deaths decreased by 30 for white non-Hispanics and by 18 for Hispanics. Worker fatalities were up 10 for black non-Hispanics and little changed for Asians.

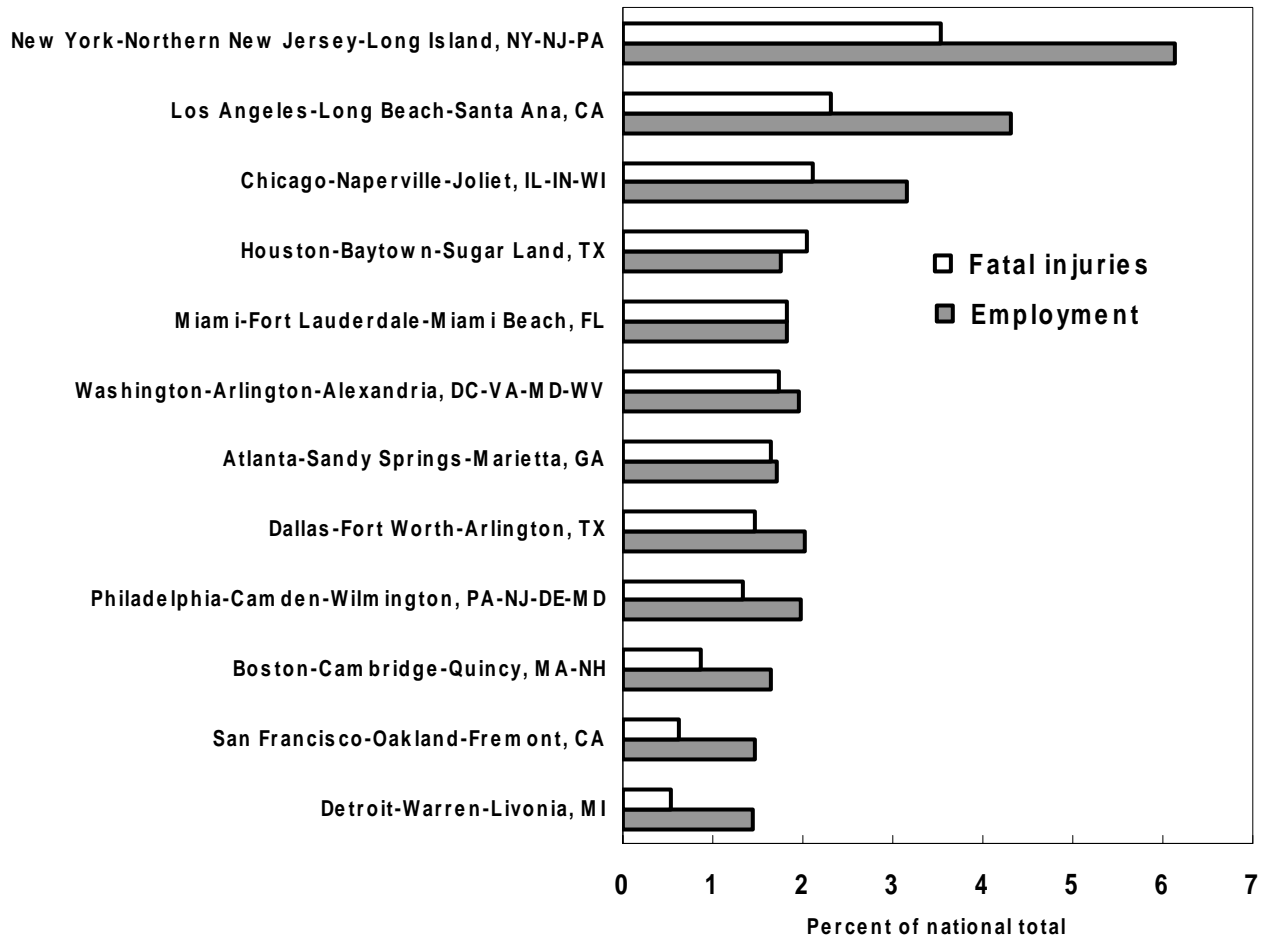
Comparisons with other metropolitan areas

Among the 12 largest metropolitan areas in the United States, the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island area had the largest number of work fatalities, but it also was the largest area in terms of employment. However, New York's percentage, or share, of the nation's fatal work injuries was less than its share of employment. This was also true for nine of the other large metropolitan areas. (See chart 1.) The only exceptions were Houston and Miami.

In 2005, the New York area had more workplace fatalities, 201, than any of the other metropolitan areas in the country, though as noted, it also had the largest workforce. Los Angeles, the second largest area in employment, had the next highest number of fatalities with 132 and Chicago, the third largest area, had the third largest count with 121. (See table 5.) Of the 12 largest areas, Boston (49), San Francisco-Oakland (35), and Detroit (30) had the lowest fatality counts; these three areas also had correspondingly smaller employment counts.

Among the 12 large metropolitan areas, most experienced a smaller percentage of work-related deaths involving highway incidents than did the nation. (See table 6.) New York followed this pattern with highway incidents accounting for 18 percent of all occupational fatalities in the area compared to 25 percent nationwide. Only Atlanta exceeded the national percentage, with highway incidents making up 30 percent of those fatally injured on the job in the area.

Chart 1. Shares of national employment and fatal injuries, twelve largest metropolitan areas, 2005



Note: Employment shares are based on data from the Current Population Survey for the nation and from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics program for the metropolitan areas.

New York trailed most of the other large metropolitan areas in the proportion of occupational deaths resulting from homicides (15 percent), though only one area had a lower proportion than the national average of 10 percent. Homicides accounted for 31 percent of the fatalities in San Francisco, 24 percent of those in Atlanta, and 23 percent of those in Detroit and Los Angeles. Homicides accounted for much smaller percentages in Boston (6 percent), Houston (13 percent), and Dallas (14 percent) in 2005.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Definitions

For a fatality to be included in the census, the decedent must have been employed (that is working for pay, compensation, or profit) at the time of the event, engaged in a legal work activity, or present at the site of the incident as a requirement of his or her job. These criteria are generally broader than those used by federal and state agencies administering specific laws and regulations. (Fatalities that occur during a person's commute to or from work are excluded from the census counts.)

Data presented in this release include deaths occurring in 2005 that resulted from traumatic occupational injuries. An injury is defined as any intentional or unintentional wound or damage to the body resulting from acute exposure to energy, such as heat, electricity, or kinetic energy from a crash, or from the absence of such essentials as heat or oxygen caused by a specific event, incident, or series of events within a single workday or shift. Included are open wounds, intracranial and internal injuries, heatstroke, hypothermia, asphyxiation, acute poisonings resulting from short-term exposures limited to the worker's shift, suicides and homicides, and work injuries listed as underlying or contributory causes of death.

Information on work-related fatal illnesses is not reported in the BLS census and is excluded from the attached tables because the latency period of many occupational illnesses and the difficulty of linking illnesses to work make identification of a universe problematic.

The metropolitan statistical area data published in this release reflect the definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget and Budget Bulletin Number 05-02, dated February, 2005.

Measurement techniques and limitations

Data for the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries are compiled from various federal, state, and local administrative sources--including death certificates, workers' compensation reports and claims, reports to various regulatory agencies, medical examiner reports, and police reports--as well as news and other non-governmental reports. Diverse sources are used because studies have shown that no single source captures all job-related fatalities. Source documents are matched so that each fatality is counted only once. To ensure that a fatality occurred while the decedent was at work, information is verified from two or more independent source documents or from a source document and a follow-up questionnaire. Approximately 30 data elements are collected, coded, and tabulated, including information about the worker, the fatal incident, and the machinery or equipment involved.

Identification and verification of work-related fatalities.

In 2005, a work relationship could not be independently verified in 73 cases at the national level; however, the information on the initiating source document for these cases was sufficient to determine that the incident was likely to be job related. Data for these fatalities, which primarily affected self-employed workers, are included in the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries counts. An additional 21 fatalities submitted by states were not included because the initiating source document had insufficient information to determine work relationship and could not be verified by either an independent source document or a follow-up questionnaire.

States may identify additional fatal work injuries after data collection closeout for a reference year. In addition, other fatalities excluded from the published count because of insufficient information to determine work relationship may subsequently be verified as work related. States have up to one year to update their initial published state counts. This procedure ensures that fatality data are disseminated as quickly as possible and that no legitimate case is excluded from the counts. Thus, each year's report should be considered preliminary until the next year's data are issued. Over the last 5 years, increases in the published counts based on additional information have averaged less than 22 fatalities per year, or less than 0.5 percent of the revised total. The BLS news release issued August 25, 2005, reported a total of 5,703 fatal work injuries for 2004. Since then, an additional 61 fatal work injuries were identified, bringing the total for 2004 to 5,764. Revised counts for 2005 will be available in April 2007.

Federal/state agency coverage

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries includes data for all fatal work injuries, whether they are covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or other federal or state agencies or are outside the scope of regulatory coverage. Thus, any comparison between the BLS fatality census counts and those released by other agencies should take into account the different coverage requirements and definitions being used.

Several federal and state agencies have jurisdiction over workplace safety and health. OSHA and affiliated agencies in states with approved safety programs cover the largest portion of the nation's workers. However, injuries and illnesses occurring in certain industries or activities, such as coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and highway, water, rail, and air transportation, are excluded from OSHA coverage because they are covered by other federal agencies, such as the Mine Safety and Health Administration and various agencies within the Department of Transportation.

Fatalities occurring among several other groups of workers are generally not covered by any federal or state agencies. These groups include self-employed and unpaid family workers, which accounted for about 20 percent of the fatalities; laborers on small farms, accounting for about 1 percent of the fatalities; and state and local government employees in states without OSHA-approved safety programs, which accounted for about 4 percent. (Approximately one-half of the states have approved OSHA safety programs, which cover state and local government employees.)

Acknowledgements

BLS thanks the participating states, New York City, and the District of Columbia for their efforts in collecting accurate, comprehensive, and useful data on fatal work injuries. BLS also appreciates the efforts of all federal, state, local, and private sector agencies that submitted source documents used to identify fatal work injuries. Among these agencies are the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; the National Transportation Safety Board; the U.S. Coast Guard; the Mine Safety and Health Administration; the Employment Standards Administration (Federal Employees' Compensation and Longshore and Harbor Workers' divisions); the Department of Energy; state vital statistics registrars, coroners, and medical examiners; state departments of health, labor and industries, and workers' compensation agencies; state and local police departments; and state farm bureaus.

Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries in New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA, by event or exposure, 2004 and 2005

Event or exposure ¹	2004	2005	
	Number	Number	Percent
Total	236	201	100
Transportation incidents	61	65	32
Highway	27	36	18
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment	15	21	10
Vehicle struck stationary object, equipment on side of road	7	9	4
Noncollision	4	5	2
Pedestrian, nonpassenger struck by vehicle, mobile equipment	31	24	12
Pedestrian struck by vehicle, mobile equipment in roadway	15	6	3
Pedestrian struck by vehicle, mobile equipment on side of road	4	—	—
Pedestrian struck by vehicle, mobile equipment in parking lot or non-roadway area	12	16	8
Aircraft	—	3	1
Assaults and violent acts	68	43	21
Homicides	45	30	15
Shooting	26	19	9
Stabbing	10	4	2
Self-inflicted injury	22	13	6
Suicide, attempted suicide	22	13	6
Contact with objects and equipment	29	30	15
Struck by object	17	19	9
Struck by falling object	11	17	8
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	7	6	3
Caught in running equipment or machinery	5	—	—
Caught in or crushed in collapsing materials	3	4	2
Falls	51	37	18
Fall to lower level	46	34	17
Fall from floor, dock, or ground level	6	8	4
Fall from ladder	9	7	3
Fall from roof	6	5	2
Fall from nonmoving vehicle	6	3	1
Fall from scaffold, staging	8	8	4
Fall on same level	4	—	—
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	18	17	8
Contact with electric current	7	8	4
Exposure to caustic, noxious, or allergenic substances	6	5	2
Inhalation of substance	—	4	2
Ingestion of substance	5	—	—
Oxygen deficiency	5	3	1
Fire or explosion	9	9	4
Fire--unintended or uncontrolled	7	6	3

¹ Based on the 1992 *Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual*. Includes other events and exposures, such as bodily reaction, in addition to those shown separately.
(See note at end of tables.)

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries in New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA, by industry, 2004 and 2005

Industry ¹	NAICS code ¹	2004	2005	
		Number	Number	Percent
Total		236	201	100
Private industry		213	179	89
Goods producing		71	67	33
Construction	23	52	52	26
Construction of buildings	236	8	7	3
Residential building construction	2361	5	5	2
Heavy and civil engineering construction	237	4	3	1
Specialty trade contractors	238	40	42	21
Foundation, structure, and building exterior contractors	2381	20	18	9
Building equipment contractors	2382	13	10	5
Building finishing contractors	2383	5	5	2
Other specialty trade contractors	2389	—	9	4
Manufacturing	31-33	17	13	6
Service producing		142	112	56
Trade, transportation, and utilities		74	58	29
Retail trade	44-45	23	18	9
Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers	444	—	4	2
Food and beverage stores	445	10	5	2
Grocery stores	4451	8	3	1
Nonstore retailers	454	—	4	2
Wholesale trade	42	8	9	4
Transportation and warehousing	48-49	38	30	15
Truck transportation	484	16	14	7
General freight trucking	4841	14	8	4
Transit and ground passenger transportation	485	11	9	4
Taxi and limousine service	4853	7	8	4
Support activities for transportation	488	5	3	1
Financial activities		8	8	4
Real estate and rental and leasing	53	7	6	3
Educational and health services		8	7	3
Educational services	61	—	3	1
Health care and social assistance	62	6	4	2
Professional and business services		19	10	5
Administrative and waste services	56	16	9	4
Administrative and support services	561	9	4	2
Waste management and remediation services	562	7	5	2
Leisure and hospitality		16	8	4
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	71	—	4	2
Accommodation and food services	72	14	4	2
Food services and drinking places	722	13	4	2
Other services, except public administration	81	16	20	10
Repair and maintenance	811	6	9	4
Personal and laundry services	812	3	7	3
Government ²		23	22	11
Local government ²		17	19	9

¹ Based on the 2002 *North American Industry Classification System*.

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

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries in New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA, by occupation, 2004 and 2005

Occupation ¹	2004	2005	
	Number	Number	Percent
Total	236	201	100
Management occupations	9	8	4
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations	5	4	2
Protective service occupations	18	13	6
Fire fighting and prevention workers	—	3	1
Law enforcement workers	9	6	3
Police and sheriff's patrol officers	6	5	2
Other protective service workers	7	3	1
Food preparation and serving related occupations	7	—	—
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	14	9	4
Building cleaning and pest control workers	9	—	—
Grounds maintenance workers	4	6	3
Personal care and service occupations	5	7	3
Sales and related occupations	19	13	6
Supervisors, sales workers	12	6	3
Retail sales workers	5	4	2
Other sales and related workers	—	3	1
Office and administrative support occupations	9	3	1
Construction and extraction occupations	50	51	25
Construction trades workers	42	48	24
Carpenters	6	4	2
Construction laborers	21	29	14
Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	—	6	3
Roofers	—	3	1
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	16	15	7
Vehicle and mobile equipment mechanics, installers, repairers	3	5	2
Other installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	10	9	4
Production occupations	10	14	7
Metal workers and plastic workers	3	3	1
Other production occupations	3	7	3
Transportation and material moving occupations	65	57	28
Air transportation workers	—	3	1
Motor vehicle operators	39	34	17
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	20	19	9
Truck drivers, light or delivery services	6	3	1
Taxi drivers and chauffeurs	7	8	4
Material moving workers	20	14	7
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	7	7	3
Refuse and recyclable material collectors	5	4	2

¹ Based on the 2000 *Standard Occupational Classification* system.
(See note at end of tables.)

Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries in New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA, by selected demographic characteristics, 2004 and 2005

Characteristic	2004	2005	
	Number	Number	Percent
Total	236	201	100
Employee status			
Wage and salary ¹	206	173	86
Self-employed ²	30	28	14
Sex			
Male	221	189	94
Female	15	12	6
Age³			
18 - 19 years	5	5	2
20 - 24 years	16	17	8
25 - 34 years	38	39	19
35 - 44 years	68	55	27
45 - 54 years	54	46	23
55 - 64 years	38	28	14
65 years and over	17	10	5
Race or ethnic origin⁴			
White, non-Hispanic	123	93	46
Black, non-Hispanic	28	38	19
Asian	15	18	9
Hispanic or Latino	67	49	24

¹ May include volunteers and workers receiving other types of compensation.

² Includes self-employed workers, owners of unincorporated businesses and farms, paid and unpaid family workers, members of partnerships, and may include owners of incorporated businesses.

³ Because there may have been no incidents reported for some ages or because the data do not meet publication criteria, information is not available for all age groups. In addition, some fatalities may have had insufficient information with which to determine the age of the decedents.

⁴ Persons identified as Hispanic may be of any race. The individual race categories shown exclude data for Hispanics. (See note at end of tables.)

Table 5. Fatal occupational injuries in the United States and 12 largest metropolitan areas, 2005

Metropolitan area ¹	2004	2005
United States	5,764	5,702
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA	236	201
Los Angeles- Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA	121	132
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI	126	121
Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land, TX	104	117
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach, FL	102	104
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV	84	99
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA	100	94
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	79	84
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD	93	76
Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH	40	49
San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA	50	35
Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI	50	30

¹ Metropolitan areas used in this release are categorized into Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and are based on definitions from the Office of Management and Budget, Bulletin Number 05-02, February, 2005.

(See note at end of tables.)

Table 6. Fatal occupational injuries in selected metropolitan areas¹ and the nation by event or exposure, 2005

Event or exposure ²	United States	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA	Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH	Chicago-Naper-ville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI	Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land, TX	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA	Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach, FL	New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-PA	Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD	San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV
Total number	5,702	94	49	121	84	30	117	132	104	201	76	35	99
Percent distribution													
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Transportation incident	43	37	35	34	35	23	29	17	39	32	32	23	35
Highway	25	30	12	19	21	10	13	3	16	18	16	11	19
Nonhighway (farm, industrial premises)	6	-	-	4	4	-	3	3	9	-	9	-	4
Pedestrian, nonpassenger struck by vehicle, mobile equipment	7	4	16	8	8	-	8	8	10	12	5	-	8
Assaults and violent acts	14	26	16	22	15	23	15	26	16	21	25	37	14
Homicides	10	24	6	16	14	23	13	23	15	15	20	31	10
Self-inflicted injury	3	-	8	7	-	-	-	3	-	6	4	-	3
Contact with objects and equipment	18	14	10	16	19	13	17	23	9	15	12	23	13
Struck by object	11	7	-	7	12	-	12	14	8	9	7	20	7
Falls	13	16	24	15	13	17	12	17	23	18	24	9	27
Fall to lower level	12	15	24	13	13	17	10	14	20	17	21	-	25
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	9	6	10	12	15	23	11	11	11	8	-	9	9
Contact with electric current	4	4	-	6	11	13	6	5	6	4	-	-	7
Fire or explosion	3	-	-	-	-	-	16	5	-	4	-	-	-

¹ Metropolitan areas used in this release are categorized into Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and are based on definitions from the Office of Management and Budget, Bulletin Number 05-02, February, 2005.

² Based on the 1992 *Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual*. Includes other events and exposures, such as bodily reaction, in addition to those shown separately.

NOTE: Totals for 2005 are preliminary. Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Dashes indicate less than 0.5 percent or data that are not available or that do not meet publication criteria.