



Internet address: www.bls.gov/ro3/

INFORMATION: Gerald Perrins
(215) 597-3282

MEDIA CONTACT: Sheila Watkins
(215) 861-5600

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Workplace Fatalities in the Washington, D.C. Area for 2007

Fatal work injuries in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) totaled 76 in 2007, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Sheila Watkins, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that this year's count was 12 percent higher than the fatalities recorded in 2006. Please note that the 2007 figures are preliminary; final results will be released in April 2009. Most workplace fatalities¹ in the Washington, D.C. area in 2007 resulted from falls to a lower level (16), highway crashes (16), and homicides (13), which together accounted for nearly three-fifths of the work-related deaths in the metropolitan area.

The Washington, D.C. area had the 9th-highest fatality count among the 12 largest metropolitan areas in the United States, close to its 8th-place ranking in population size. Not unexpectedly, the most populated area in the country, New York, also had the highest number of workplace fatalities (211) in 2007. The three smallest metropolitan areas in this group—San Francisco, Boston, and Detroit—had the three lowest fatality counts (ranging from 43 to 52). (See table A.)

Table A. Fatal occupational injuries by selected event groups in the 12 largest metropolitan areas¹ in 2007

Metropolitan Areas ²	Total fatalities ³	Falls to a lower level	Highway crashes	Homicides
United States ⁴	5,488	733	1,311	610
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, N.Y.-N.J.-Pa.	211	45	35	35
Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land, Texas	125	20	16	30
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach, Fla.	120	20	12	23
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, Ill.-Ind.-Wis.	109	15	19	11
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, Calif.	106	19	17	18
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.-N.J.-Del.- Md.	93	14	12	27
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Texas	91	16	14	14
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, Ga.	86	15	15	16
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va.	76	16	16	13
San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, Calif.	52	7	6	10
Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, Mass.- N.H.	45	10	3	4
Detroit-Warren-Livonia, Mich.	43	3	10	11

¹ Largest metropolitan areas by 2006 population: www.census.gov/compendia/statab/tables/08s0020.pdf

² Metropolitan areas used in this table are categorized into Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and are based on definitions from the Office of Management and Budget Bulletin Number 08-01, November, 2007.

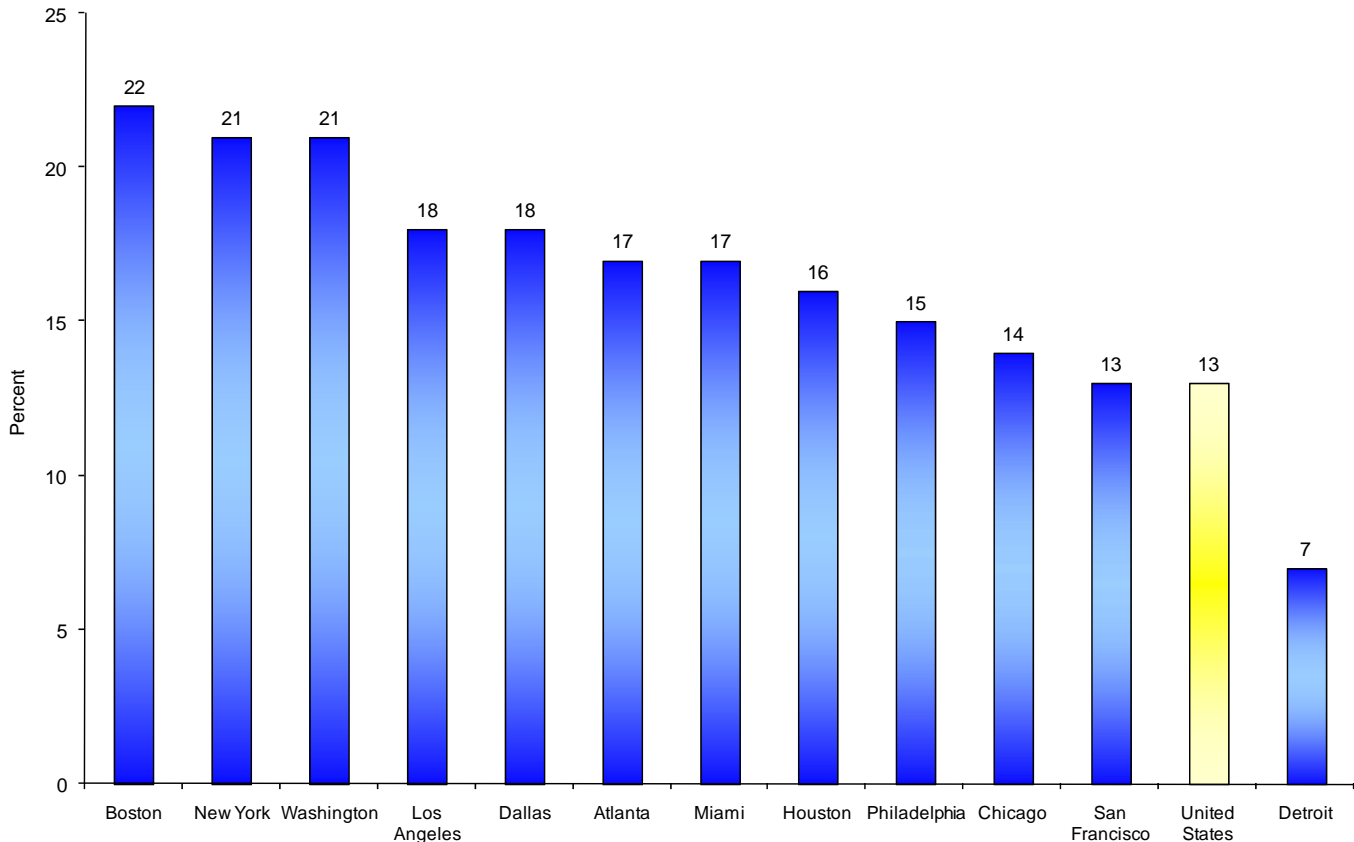
³ Data are based on a preliminary total of 5,488 fatal work injuries.

⁴ Also includes fatalities occurring in nonmetropolitan areas.

¹ Fatal events are categorized into several major groupings including transportation incidents, assaults and violent acts, and falls. These major groups are further broken down into more detailed groups. See the Occupational Injury & Illness Classification System (OIICS) Manual on our Web site at www.bls.gov/iif/oshoiics.htm for detailed information on the categories of fatalities used in this survey.

In the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, falls to a lower level and highway crashes tied as the most frequent type of fatal occupational injury, each accounting for 21 percent of workplace deaths. Almost all of the 12 largest metropolitan areas had a higher-than-average percentage of occupational fatalities resulting from falls to a lower level. Only Detroit, with a 7-percent share, was below the 13 percent registered nationally in 2007, while San Francisco matched the national share. The Boston metropolitan area had the largest share attributable to falls to a lower level, 22 percent. (See chart A.) Falls to a lower level comprised the most frequent fatal workplace event in Boston, Dallas, Los Angeles, and New York in 2007.

Chart A. Falls to a lower level as a percent of fatal occupational injuries for the 12 largest metropolitan areas in 2007



All of the 12 largest areas had a lower percentage of occupational fatalities resulting from highway crashes (officially titled highway incidents) than the national share of 24 percent; only Detroit had a share (23 percent) close to that for the nation. In Washington, workplace deaths attributable to highway crashes accounted for 21 percent of on-the-job fatalities, the second-highest percentage among the 12 largest metropolitan areas. Boston had the lowest percentage attributable to highway crashes with 7 percent. (See chart B.) Nationwide, highway crashes were the most frequent fatal workplace event.

The 17-percent share of homicides in Washington was higher than the 11-percent national share. In three of the areas—Houston, Detroit, and Philadelphia—homicides comprised about one-quarter of all work-related fatalities, more than double the U.S. proportion. At the other end of the spectrum, Boston and Chicago recorded shares of 9 and 10 percent, respectively, close to that for the nation. (See chart C.) Homicides comprised the most frequent fatal occupational injury in Atlanta, Detroit, Houston, Miami, Philadelphia, and San Francisco.

Chart B. Highway crashes as a percent of fatal occupational injuries for the 12 largest metropolitan areas in 2007

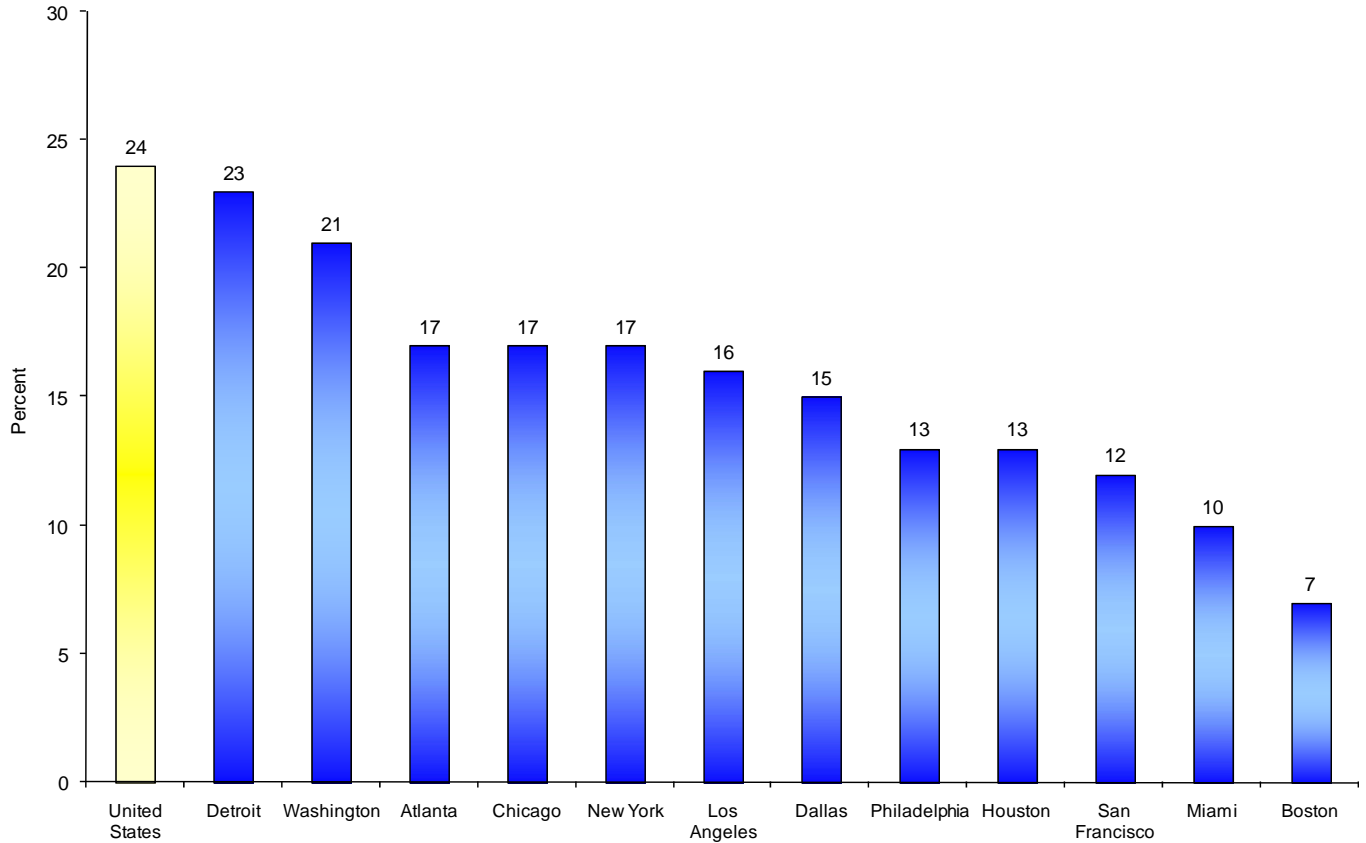
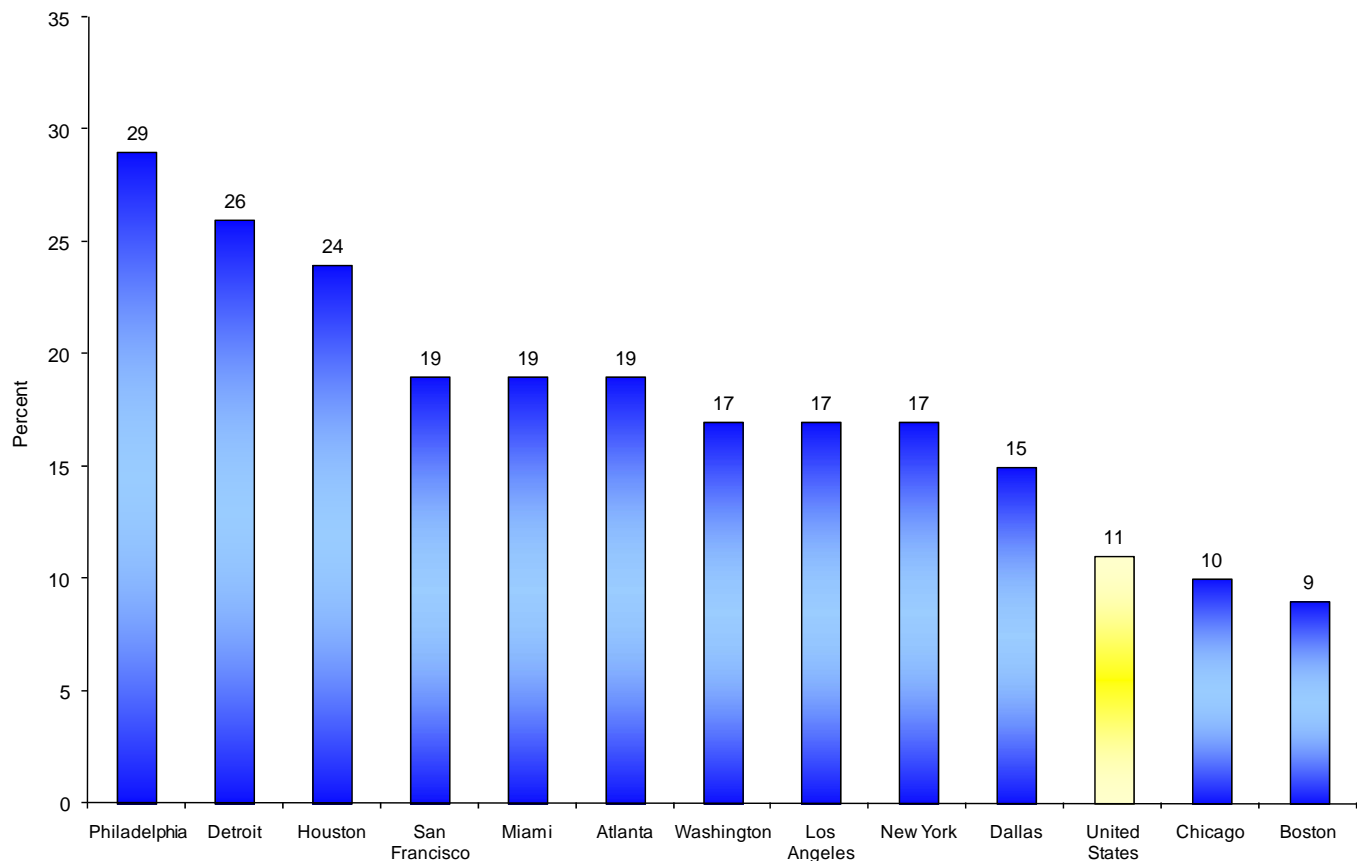


Chart C. Homicides as a percent of fatal occupational injuries for the 12 largest metropolitan areas in 2007



Key characteristics of workplace fatalities in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. metropolitan area in 2007:

- Men accounted for 93 percent of the work-related fatalities with 71 deaths in the metropolitan area. Transportation incidents, which include highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail fatalities, accounted for 37 percent of these deaths. Among women, three deaths resulted from transportation incidents. (See table 2.)
- Thirty-seven percent of those who died from a workplace injury were white, non-Hispanic (28); 33 percent were black, non-Hispanic (25); 21 percent were Hispanic or Latino (16); and 8 percent were Asian (6). The most frequent fatal event for non-Hispanic white and black workers was transportation incidents. Among Hispanic or Latino workers, falls comprised the most prevalent event, while for Asians, assaults and violent acts led all other events in frequency. (See table 2.)
- Workers 25-54 years old—the prime working age group—made up 68 percent of work-related fatalities in the Washington, D.C. area in 2007. The proportion of worker deaths for this age group at the national level was 63 percent. (See table 2.)
- Eighty-seven percent (66) of the workers killed on the job worked for wages and salaries; the rest were self-employed. The leading fatal event among wage and salary workers was transportation incidents; among the self-employed, assaults and violent acts and falls were the most prevalent events, each accounting for 4 of the 10 deaths. (See table 2.)
- The construction industry sector accounted for almost one-quarter (18) of Washington, D.C.’s fatal workplace injuries; 8 of these were from falls. The transportation and warehousing and government sectors followed with 12 fatalities each, with 7 attributable to transportation incidents in each sector. (See table 3.)
- Transportation and material moving occupations had the highest number of on-the-job fatalities (22), followed by construction and extraction occupations (18); combined, these two occupational groups accounted for 53 percent of all workplace fatalities in the Washington, D.C. area. Transportation incidents (13) made up the majority of fatal injuries among transportation and material moving occupations, while falls (8) was the most frequent event among construction and extraction workers. (See table 4.)

Additional Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries data are available on the BLS Internet site at www.bls.gov/iif/. Data can be accessed in two ways, through Create Customized Tables, which allows quick access to particular items, or via the special request FTP service, which allows access to an extensive collection of flat text files. For personal assistance or further information on the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries program, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Mid-Atlantic Information Office at 215-597-3282 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET. Information on the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries and other programs and surveys are available on our Web site at www.bls.gov/ro3/.

Technical Note

Background of the program

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, part of the BLS occupational safety and health statistics program, compiles a count of all fatal work injuries occurring in the U.S. in each calendar year. The program uses diverse State, federal, and independent data sources to identify, verify, and describe fatal work injuries. This assures counts are as complete and accurate as possible.

For technical information about the CFOI program, please go to the BLS Handbook of Methods on the BLS Web site. To get to that document, click on Workplace Injuries on the BLS home page, scroll down to IIF Documentation, and then click on “BLS Handbook of Methods.” The technical information and definitions for the CFOI Program are in Chapter 9, Part 2 of the BLS Handbook of Methods.

Federal/State agency coverage

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries includes data for all fatal work injuries, whether the decedent was working in a job covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or other federal or State agencies or was 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 by each agency.

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.

Acknowledgments

BLS thanks the District of Columbia Department of Health, Virginia Department of Labor and Industry, Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, and West Virginia Department of Labor 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 entities 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 Federal Railroad Administration; 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.

The **Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** consists of the Bethesda-Frederick-Gaithersburg, Md. Metropolitan Division (MD) and the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. Metropolitan Division (MD).

The **Bethesda- Frederick-Gaithersburg, Md. MD** consists of Frederick and Montgomery Counties in Maryland.

The **Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. MD** consists of the District of Columbia; Calvert, Charles, and Prince George's Counties in Maryland; Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Warren Counties in Virginia; Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas and Manassas Park Cities in Virginia; and Jefferson County in West Virginia.

Chart 1. Total workplace fatalities in the 12 largest metropolitan areas in the United States, 2007

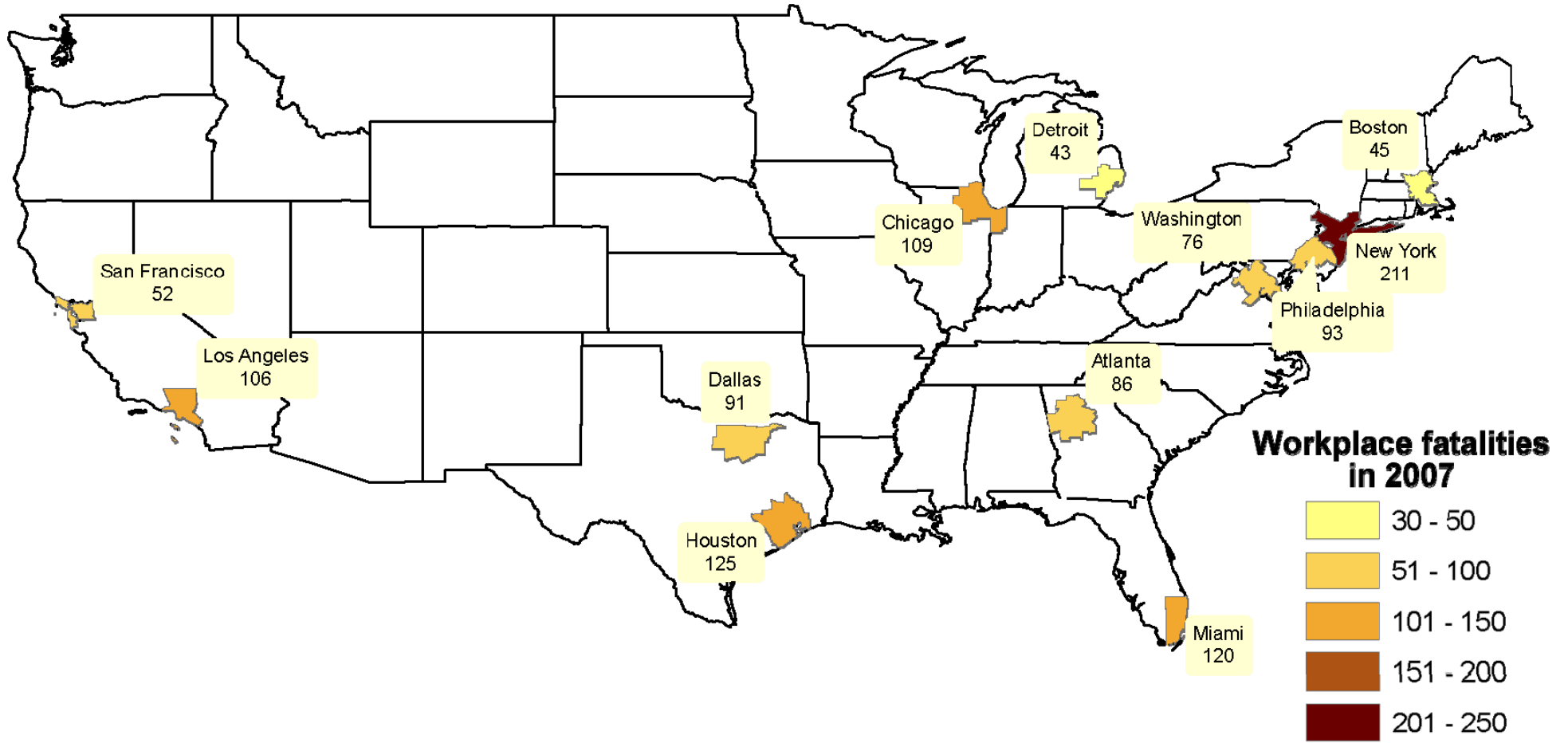


Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure for all fatalities and major private industry¹ sector, Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va., 2007

Event or exposure ²	Total fatalities (number)	Goods producing				Service providing							
		Total goods producing	Natural resources and mining ³	Construction	Manufacturing	Total service providing	Trade, transportation, and utilities	Information	Financial activities	Professional and business services	Education and health services	Leisure and hospitality	Other services
Total.....	76	18	--	18	--	46	26	--	3	11	--	--	3
Contact with objects and equipment.....	6	--	--	--	--	5	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Struck by object or equipment.....	6	--	--	--	--	5	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Struck by falling object or equipment.....	5	--	--	--	--	4	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Falls.....	18	8	--	8	--	7	--	--	--	4	--	--	--
Fall to lower level.....	16	8	--	8	--	6	--	--	--	4	--	--	--
Fall to lower level, n.e.c.....	6	--	--	--	--	4	--	--	--	3	--	--	--
Exposure to harmful substances or environments.....	6	4	--	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Exposure to caustic, noxious, or allergenic substances.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation accidents.....	29	5	--	5	--	17	11	--	--	4	--	--	--
Highway accident.....	16	--	--	--	--	12	9	--	--	--	--	--	--
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment.....	11	--	--	--	--	9	7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Moving in same direction.....	4	--	--	--	--	3	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Moving in opposite directions, oncoming.....	6	--	--	--	--	5	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Vehicle struck object on side of road.....	4	--	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pedestrian, nonpassenger struck by vehicle, mobile equipment.....	12	4	--	4	--	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pedestrian struck by vehicle, mobile equipment in roadway.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pedestrian struck by vehicle, mobile equipment on side of road.....	7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Assaults and violent acts.....	14	--	--	--	--	14	8	--	--	--	--	--	--
Assaults and violent acts by person(s).....	13	--	--	--	--	13	8	--	--	--	--	--	--
Shooting.....	12	--	--	--	--	12	7	--	--	--	--	--	--

¹ Classified according to the North American Industry Classification System, 2002.

² Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

³ Includes fatalities at all establishments categorized as Mining (Sector 21) in the North American Industry Classification System, 2002, including establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in Oil and Gas Extraction.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Data for 2007 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by worker characteristics and event or exposure, Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va., 2007

Worker characteristics	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure ¹					
		Transportation incidents ²	Assaults and violent acts ³	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total.....	76	29	14	6	18	6	--
Employee Status							
Wage and Salary Workers ⁴	66	28	10	5	14	6	--
Self-employed ⁵	10	--	4	--	4	--	--
Gender							
Men.....	71	26	14	6	16	6	--
Women.....	5	3	--	--	--	--	--
Age							
Under 16 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
16 to 17 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
18 to 19 years.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
20 to 24 years.....	9	3	3	--	--	--	--
25 to 34 years.....	17	6	3	--	4	3	--
35 to 44 years.....	17	6	4	--	3	--	--
45 to 54 years.....	18	9	--	--	5	--	--
55 to 64 years.....	8	4	--	--	--	--	--
65 years and over.....	7	--	--	--	3	--	--
Race or Ethnic Origin⁶							
White, non-Hispanic.....	28	14	--	--	9	--	--
Black, non-Hispanic.....	25	10	9	--	--	--	--
Hispanic or Latino.....	16	4	--	--	6	3	--
American Indian or Alaska Native.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Asian.....	6	--	4	--	--	--	--
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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

² Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

³ Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.

⁴ May include volunteers and workers receiving other types of compensation.

⁵ Includes self-employed workers, owners of unincorporated businesses and farms, paid and unpaid family workers, and may include some owners of incorporated businesses or members of partnerships.

⁶ Persons identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. The race categories shown exclude data for Hispanics and Latinos.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. Data for 2007 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by industry and event or exposure, Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va., 2007

Industry ¹	NAICS code ¹	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure ²					
			Transportation incidents ³	Assaults and violent acts ⁴	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total		76	29	14	6	18	6	--
Private Industry		64	22	14	6	15	5	--
Goods Producing		18	5	--	--	8	4	--
Construction		18	5	--	--	8	4	--
Construction	23	18	5	--	--	8	4	--
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction.....	237	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Specialty Trade Contractors.....	238	12	--	--	--	7	3	--
Foundation, Structure, and Building Exterior Contractors.....	2381	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Building Equipment Contractors.....	2382	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Building Finishing Contractors.....	2383	6	--	--	--	3	--	--
Painting and Wall Covering Contractors.....	23832	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Service providing		46	17	14	5	7	--	--
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities		26	11	8	3	--	--	--
Wholesale Trade	42	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Retail Trade	44-45	9	--	7	--	--	--	--
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers.....	441	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Food and Beverage Stores.....	445	4	--	4	--	--	--	--
Transportation and Warehousing	48-49	12	7	--	--	--	--	--
Truck Transportation.....	484	7	5	--	--	--	--	--
General Freight Trucking.....	4841	6	5	--	--	--	--	--
General Freight Trucking, Long-Distance.....	48412	3	3	--	--	--	--	--
Transit and Ground Passenger Transportation.....	485	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Financial Activities		3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	53	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Professional and Business Services		11	4	--	--	4	--	--
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	56	9	--	--	--	4	--	--
Administrative and Support Services.....	561	7	--	--	--	4	--	--
Services to Buildings and Dwellings.....	5617	7	--	--	--	4	--	--
Landscaping Services.....	56173	7	--	--	--	4	--	--
Other Services		3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other Services, except Public Administration	81	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Government ⁶		12	7	--	--	3	--	--
State Government		4	3	--	--	--	--	--
Local Government		6	4	--	--	--	--	--
Service providing		6	4	--	--	--	--	--
Public Administration		4	3	--	--	--	--	--
Public Administration	92	4	3	--	--	--	--	--
Justice, Public Order, and Safety Activities.....	922	4	3	--	--	--	--	--
Justice, Public Order, and Safety Activities.....	9221	4	3	--	--	--	--	--
Police Protection.....	92212	3	3	--	--	--	--	--

¹ Classified according to the North American Industry Classification System, 2002.

² Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

³ Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

⁴ Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.

⁵ Includes fatalities at all establishments categorized as Mining (Sector 21) in the North American Classification System, 2002, including establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules and reporting, such as those in Oil and Gas Extraction.

⁶ Includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria. Data for 2007 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation and event or exposure, Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va., 2007

Occupation ¹	Total fatalities (number)	Event or exposure ²					
		Transportation incidents ³	Assaults and violent acts ⁴	Contact with objects and equipment	Falls	Exposure to harmful substances or environments	Fires and explosions
Total.....	76	29	14	6	18	6	--
Protective service occupations.....	5	4	--	--	--	--	--
Law enforcement workers.....	4	4	--	--	--	--	--
Police officers.....	4	4	--	--	--	--	--
Police and sheriff's patrol officers.....	4	4	--	--	--	--	--
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations.....	7	--	--	--	4	--	--
Grounds maintenance workers.....	6	--	--	--	3	--	--
Grounds maintenance workers.....	6	--	--	--	3	--	--
Landscaping and groundskeeping workers.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Tree trimmers and pruners.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sales and related occupations.....	8	--	7	--	--	--	--
Supervisors, sales workers.....	5	--	4	--	--	--	--
First-line supervisors/managers, sales workers.....	5	--	4	--	--	--	--
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers.....	5	--	4	--	--	--	--
Office and administrative support occupations.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Construction and extraction occupations.....	18	5	--	--	8	4	--
Supervisors, construction and extraction workers.....	3	3	--	--	--	--	--
First-line supervisors/managers of construction trades and extraction workers.....	3	3	--	--	--	--	--
First-line supervisors/managers of construction trades and extraction workers.....	3	3	--	--	--	--	--
Construction trades workers.....	13	--	--	--	6	4	--
Construction laborers.....	5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Construction laborers.....	5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Vehicle and mobile equipment mechanics, installers, and repairers.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	22	13	4	3	--	--	--
Motor vehicle operators.....	20	11	4	3	--	--	--
Driver/sales workers and truck drivers.....	17	9	3	3	--	--	--
Driver/sales workers.....	4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer.....	10	6	--	3	--	--	--
Truck drivers, light or delivery services.....	3	--	--	--	--	--	--

¹ Based on the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification System.

² Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual.

³ Includes highway, nonhighway, air, water, rail fatalities, and fatalities resulting from being struck by a vehicle.

⁴ Includes violence by persons, self-inflicted injury, and attacks by animals.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately.

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SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with State and Federal agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries