

comprising 27.1% of the total. Injuries from edged/piercing instruments were next with 24.3%. Seventeen percent of the injuries were to children under 18 years. There was an increase in the number of Hispanic workers, from 3% in 1992 to 14% in 1999. There were five fatalities, three of which were from tractor overturns. The mean hospital charge was \$489, with a median of \$213 and a range of \$8 - \$25,778.

This descriptive study can be used in the development of appropriate prevention strategies for tobacco production. Many of the injuries sustained to the upper and lower limbs were due to the tobacco spears used during the harvest. These injuries could be avoided by using leather chaps on lower legs and leather gloves with gauntlets for the hands. Falls from height could be reduced by using single-story barns or curing structures such as post-row frameworks. Prevention measures must also focus on migrant workers that are affected by language and cultural barriers.

**PS.26 California Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE): Summary of Occupational Fatalities in Los Angeles County 1992-1998**—Styles LE, Tibben R, Harrison R, Gillen M, Fowler J, Guerriero J

The California Department of Health Services, in collaboration with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), has established the California Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation program (FACE) for the surveillance and investigation of workplace fatalities. The FACE program seeks to link multisource reporting of fatal occupational injuries with timely investigations to identify work-related risk factors, make recommendations for preventing fatalities, and facilitate workplace prevention programs. Preliminary results from 1992-1998 show that the leading cause of occupational fatalities in Los Angeles County was homicide (42%), followed by transportation-related (15%), crushed/compressed/struck by/caught in (12%), falls (12%), electrocution (5%), fire/explosion (3%), other (10%). This presentation will summarize the demographics and the industry and occupation of those who died at work. Investigated deaths will be highlighted and specific recommendations to prevent similar deaths will be discussed.

**PS.27 Epidemiology of Occupational Injury Among Cooks**—Velilla AM, Islam SS, Syamlal G, Ducatman AM

Several studies have shown cooks to have a greater risk of burn injury compared to other occupations. However, epidemiological characteristics of other work-related injuries among cooks are not well documented. Using a state-wide workers compensation database, the epidemiological characteristics of work-related injuries among cooks were described. During a four-year study period (1995-1998) there were 213,111 compensable injuries, 6130 (2.9%) of which were among cooks. The most common injuries among cooks were laceration (30%), sprain (28%), and heat burn (15%). However,

when compared to other workers, cooks were found to be at higher risk of heat burns, lacerations, and chemical burns (RR 7.7, 1.9, and 1.6 respectively). Of the injuries among cooks, 58% occurred in females and 42% in males. Female cooks were significantly older than male cooks (mean age 41.7 vs. 26.8 years). A greater proportion of cooks (52%) earned lower weekly wages at the time of injury (\$200 or less) compared to other workers (19%). In contrast to other occupations where women are the lower wage earners, among cooks lower wage earners are predominantly male. The risk of injury to cooks also varied by age category. Adolescent cooks (age 14-19 years) had a higher risk of compensable injury (RR 2.6) compared to other adolescent workers. This study shows that work-related injuries among cooks are significantly different from other occupations and as such, require targeted intervention strategies to reduce injuries.

**DAY THREE—THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2000**

**Session: H1.0 Title: Vehicle-Related Transportation Fatalities in the Workplace: Research and Prevention Strategies**

Category: Special Session  
Organized by Stephanie Pratt, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health  
Moderator(s): Roger Rosa

**H1.1 Occupational Pedestrian-Vehicle Collision Fatalities in the United States, 1992-1997**—Strotmeyer SJ, Pratt SG

Motor vehicle-related injuries are the leading cause of occupational fatalities. The majority of research has focused on collisions between vehicles and single-vehicle events, with relatively little attention to pedestrian fatalities, reported to be 14% of traffic-related occupational fatalities.

We describe the trends, magnitude and pattern of fatal vehicle-related injuries to pedestrian workers in the U.S. during 1992-1997.

Data from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) were analyzed to tabulate frequencies, fatality rates, and to investigate event characteristics associated with the occurrence of these fatalities. The Bureau of Labor Statistics maintains CFOI, a multiple source surveillance system.

Between 1992-1997 there were 1,955 pedestrian-related fatalities recorded, of which 1,041 (53%) occurred on the roadway and 914 (47%) happened offroad. Five industry divisions demonstrated high relative risk indices when compared to the overall risk (Construction RR=4.15; Agriculture/Forestry/Fishing RR=3.80; Transportation/Communication/Public Utilities RR=3.14; Mining RR=2.77; Public Administration RR=1.74). Using 2 analyses, significantly higher rates ( $p<.05$ ) were calculated for roadway versus offroad fatalities within public administration (.44/



# NOIRS 2000

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## ABSTRACTS

**National Occupational  
Injury Research Symposium**

**CDC**  
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL  
AND PREVENTION

*National Institute for  
Occupational Safety and Health*  
**NIOSH**