

# MMWR<sup>TM</sup>

MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY WEEKLY REPORT

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## Workers' Memorial Day — April 28, 1998

April 28, 1998, has been designated Workers' Memorial Day to recognize persons who have died from occupational injuries or diseases and opportunities to prevent these deaths. During 1980–1994, a total of 88,622 workers in the United States died from work-related injuries; in 1992, costs of such injuries were an estimated \$145 billion (1). An estimated additional 60,000 workers died from occupational diseases.

Additional information about causes and prevention of work-related injury and disease is available from CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), telephone (800) 356-4674; or on the World-Wide Web <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/homepage.html>.

### Reference

1. Leigh JP, Markowitz S, Fahs M, et al. Occupational injury and illness in the United States: estimates of cost, morbidity, and mortality. *Arch Intern Med* 1997;157:1557–68.

## Fatal Occupational Injuries — United States, 1980–1994

CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) monitors occupational injury deaths through death certificates compiled for the National Traumatic Occupational Fatalities (NTOF) surveillance system\* (1). Previous reports analyzed data from 1980–1989 (1–3). This report updates these estimates on the magnitude of work-related injury deaths for the United States from 1980 through 1994, the most recent year for which data are available from this system, and identifies high-risk industries and occupations at national and state-specific levels. The findings indicate that the annual total number of deaths and crude death rates decreased from 7405 (7.5 per 100,000 workers) in 1980 to 5406 (4.4 per 100,000 workers) in 1994.

National death rates were calculated using denominators from employment data from the Current Population Survey, a population-based household survey of the Bu-

\*NTOF is based on death certificates compiled from 52 vital statistics reporting units in the United States. Inclusion criteria for death certificate submission to the NTOF database include 1) age  $\geq 16$  years; 2) external cause of death (*International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision*, codes E800–E999); and 3) "injury at work" designation.