

**Learning Objectives:** The participants will be able to:

1. Learn about NIOSH's history in the area of workplace violence prevention
2. Learn about NIOSH's workplace violence prevention initiative
3. Discuss the results of NIOSH's national conference

## Societal Cost of Workplace Homicides in the United States

*Daniel Hartley, EdD (Pres), E Biddle, PhD, L Jenkins, MS*

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Morgantown, WV

**Background:** The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) reported 8,672 workplace homicide victims between 1992 and 2001. Although rarely calculated for homicides, cost estimates are important for prevention and research efforts.

**Methods:** Societal costs were estimated using the cost-of-illness approach applied to CFOI data. The cost calculation model incorporated medical expenses, wages, and household production losses.

**Results:** Workplace homicides, during the 10-year period, had a total cost of nearly \$6.5 billion dollars (1999 dollars) and a mean cost of \$800,000. The retail trade industry division had the highest number of homicides (3,637) and total cost \$2.1 billion for males and \$556,000 for females. Within the occupation division classifications, the highest estimated total cost of work-related homicides was in the technical, sales, and administrative support classification with a total cost of just over \$2 billion.

**Conclusions:** The burden on society of workplace homicides measured using the cost-of-illness approach is substantial. These estimates of the cost of work-related homicides can be used to improve occupational injury prevention and control program planning, prioritizing research needs, policy analysis, evaluation of safety and health interventions, and advocacy for a safer work environment.

**Learning Objectives:** The participants will be able to:

1. Define the societal burden of occupational homicide
2. Describe the burden as it relates to selected occupations and industries
3. Identify potential areas for implementing workplace violence prevention interventions

## Trends in Rates of Occupational Homicides, 1993-2002

*Scott Hendricks, MS, (Pres), K Anderson, L Jenkins*

Center for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Morgantown, WV

**Background:** Homicide has varied between the second and third leading cause of occupational fatality in the United States during the years 1993-2002. Overall homicide rates in the United States during this same period have demonstrated a significant decline.

**Methods:** Using data from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) and the Current Population Survey (CPS), trends in the rates of occupational homicide were evaluated for the years 1993-2002 by occupation, industry, sex, age, race, and state. Using CFOI, trends in the number of occupational homicides were evaluated for the circumstance, location, and time of the incident.

**Results:** Overall, there was a significant decline in the rates of occupational homicide of approximately 8% per year during this time period; however, this trend was not consistent for all subgroups considered. Taxi cab drivers and chauffeurs demonstrated the greatest decline of all occupational subgroups and this decline was significantly greater than the decline in overall occupational homicide rates. While there was a decline in the rates of occupational homicide for the health services and public administration industries, this decline was not as great as the overall decline in occupational homicide rates. When looking at the circumstance of the homicide, only homicides which were robbery related demonstrated a significant decline. Neither the circumstances of violence by disgruntled customers/clients, disgruntled workers/former workers, nor domestic violence demonstrated a significant decline in the number of occupational homicides during this period.

**Conclusions:** While workplace homicides are declining in the US, the declines are not occurring uniformly across demographic and occupational categories. Future research and prevention efforts should focus on replicating successes and addressing those areas where little or no change has occurred.

**Learning Objectives:** The participants will be able to:

1. Identify the recent trends which occurred in occupational homicides
2. Identify which industries and occupations demonstrated the greatest decline in occupational homicides
3. Identify which circumstances, demographics, and events demonstrated the greatest decline in occupational homicides



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