



Summary of Reportable Injuries in Oklahoma

Occupational Fatalities in Oklahoma, 1998-2001

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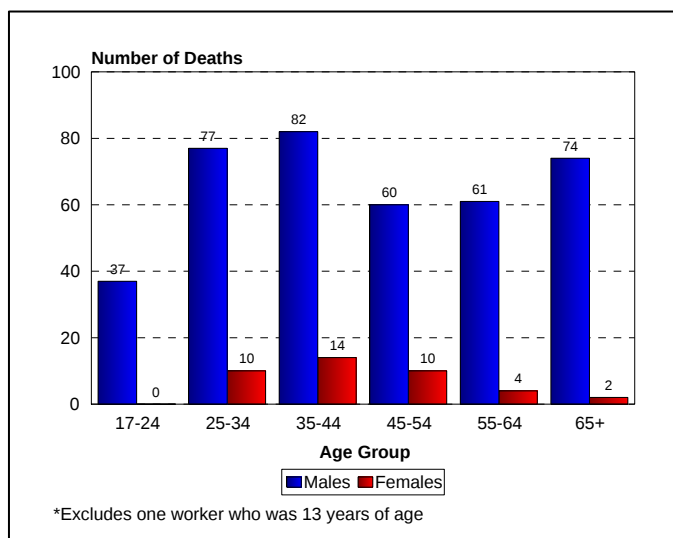
www.health.state.ok.us/program/injury/index.html

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Background

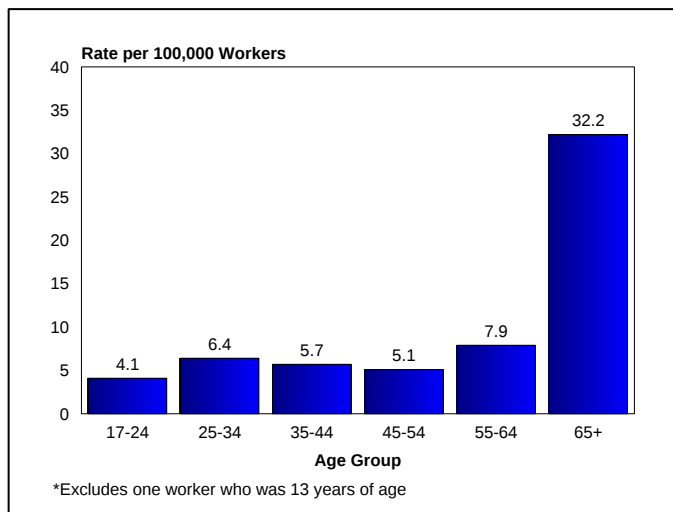
In July 1997, the Commissioner of Health declared work-related fatalities a reportable condition for special study. The Injury Prevention Service of the Oklahoma State Department of Health began collecting data on work-related injury deaths in Oklahoma through the Oklahoma Fatality Assessment Control and Evaluation (OKFACE) project. Both intentional and unintentional work-related injury deaths were included. Persons working in the public and private sector were included as were family businesses (e.g., farms) and volunteer workers (e.g., firefighters). Data were collected from death certificates, Medical Examiner, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Program, Workers' Compensation Court, and newspapers. Hospital medical records and law enforcement reports were also used to provide supplemental information.

Figure 1. Work-Related Deaths by Age Group and Gender,* Oklahoma, 1998-2001



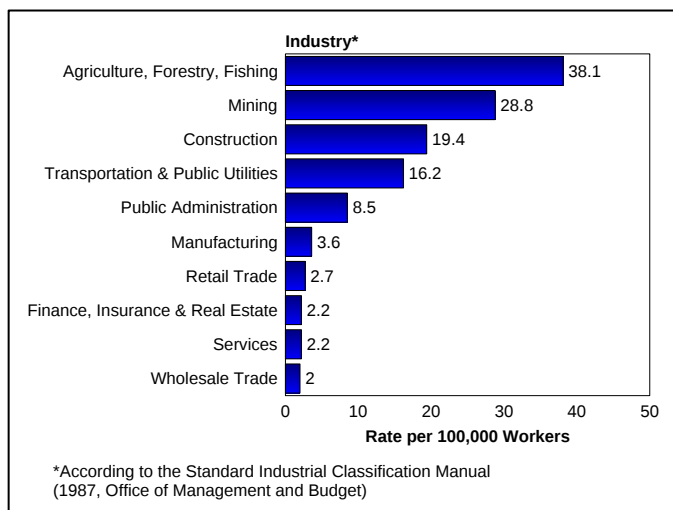
- A total of 432 work-related deaths were identified in Oklahoma during the 4-year period for an average of 108 deaths per year (rate of 6.7 deaths per 100,000 workers).
- Ages of persons who died ranged from 13 to 90 years of age, with a mean age of 46 years. Over 40% of deaths occurred among workers 25-44 years of age.
- Males outnumbered females 9 to 1, with males accounting for 91% of deaths.
 - Work-related death rates among males were three times that of females (4.4 and 1.3 per 100,000 workers, respectively).

Figure 2. Rates of Work-Related Deaths by Age Group,* Oklahoma, 1998-2001



- The highest annual rate of death occurred among workers 65 years of age and older (32.2); it was over five times greater than those under 65 years of age (5.8).
- The death rate among farmers 65 years and older (109.7) was over five times higher than for those under 65 years of age (20.6).
- Whites had the highest work-related death rates, followed by African Americans, Asian/Pacific Islanders, and Native Americans (6.6, 5.1, 4.1 and 2.9 deaths per 100,000 workers, respectively).

Figure 3. Annual Rates of Work-Related Deaths by Industry, Oklahoma, 1998-2001



- The highest annual rates of work-related deaths occurred among workers in the agriculture/forestry/fishing industry, followed by mining, and construction.
 - An average of 22 agriculture-related deaths occurred each year.
 - Over half (52%) of agriculture-related deaths were attributed to crop production; 39% were associated with livestock farming/ranching.
- 36 deaths occurred among workers in mining; 94% of these occurred in the oil and gas extraction industry. One-third of the deaths in the oil and gas extraction industry were due to traffic crashes.
- 74 deaths occurred among workers in the construction industry; over one-third (36%) were caused by falls from elevations, followed by electrocutions (20%).

Table 1. Causes of Work-Related Deaths, Oklahoma, 1998-2001

Type of Incidents	Deaths	Percent
Motor Vehicle Crashes Traffic Crashes: 139 Non-Traffic Crashes: 5	144	33%
Machine-Related	74	17%
Falls from Elevation	49	11%
Homicide	42	10%
Electrocution	33	8%
Struck and/or Crushed by Object	26	6%
Suicide at Work	10	2%
Airplane Crashes	10	2%
Explosion	9	2%
Animal-Related	8	2%
Thermal Burn	7	2%
Accidental Drug Overdose	5	1%
Drowning	5	1%
Suffocation	5	1%
Other (Hyperthermia [3], Railway [1], Late Effects of Injury [1])	5	1%
TOTAL	432	100%

- Motor vehicle crashes were the leading cause of deaths; they accounted for one-third of work-related deaths.
- 61% of fall injury deaths occurred among persons less than 55 years of age; most were in the construction industry.
- 40% of homicides occurred in the retail trade industry.
- 14 victims of work-related homicides were female.
 - 35% of work-related deaths among females were due to homicides.

Table 2. Causes of Agriculture-Related Deaths, Oklahoma, 1998-2001

Type of Incident	Number of Deaths	Percent
Agriculture Machinery	48	55%
Traffic Crashes	13	15%
Electrocution	6	7%
Animal-Related Incidents	5	6%
Struck and/or Crushed by Object	5	6%
Falls from Elevation	3	3%
Explosion/Fire	2	2%
Other	5	6%
Total	87	100%

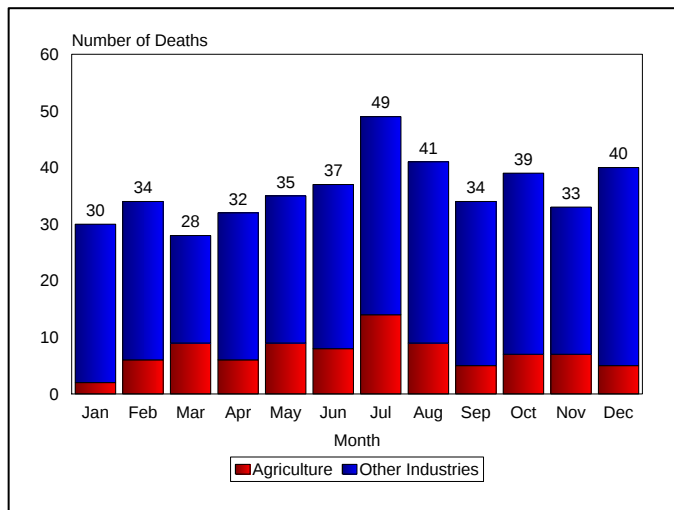
- Nearly two-thirds (65%) of machinery deaths occurred among farmers/ranchers.
- Tractors accounted for 85% of the farm machinery-related deaths.
 - Almost half of tractor-related deaths (44%) were associated with being run over by a tractor or an attached implement.
 - 34% of tractor-related deaths were due to tractor rollovers.
 - Being crushed or pinned between a tractor and an object accounted for 22% of all tractor deaths.

Table 3. Immediate Causes of Work-Related Deaths, Oklahoma, 1998-2001

Causes	Percent*
Head Injuries	37%
Chest Injuries	24%
Multiple Injuries	18%
Internal Injuries	8%
Electrocution	8%
Neck Injuries	7%
Suffocation	6%
Thermal Burns (excluding electrocution)	2%
Drowning	2%
Other**	2%
*Percents do not add up to 100 due to multiple immediate causes of death.	
**Complications of leg/arm injuries; heat stroke	

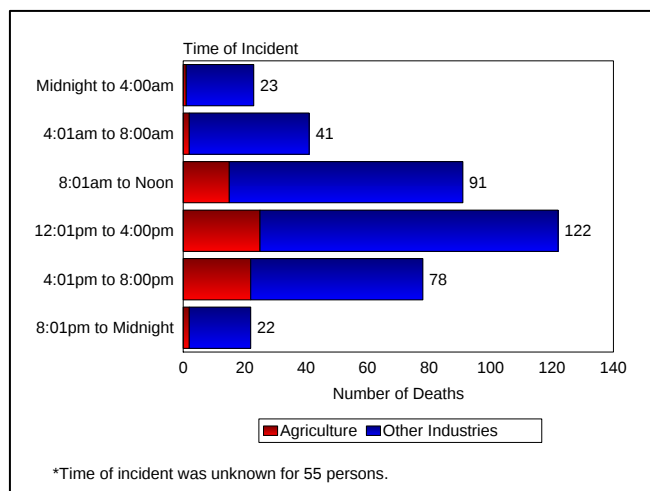
- Traumatic head injuries were the most frequently reported immediate cause of work-related deaths, followed by chest injuries and multiple injuries.
- 8% of work-related deaths resulted from electrocution.
- 52% of suffocation deaths occurred among agriculture workers; of these, 71% were tractor-related incidents.

Figure 4. Work-Related Deaths by Month of Incident, Oklahoma, 1998-2001



- Work-related deaths most commonly occurred in the warmer months of the year (June-August) and peaked in July.
- Agriculture-related fatalities were highest from May through August with a peak of 14 deaths in July.
 - Almost one-third of deaths that occurred in July were agriculture-related.
- 43% of the deaths in December were due to traffic crashes.

Figure 5. Work-Related Deaths by Time of Incident, Oklahoma, 1998-2001



- 78% of work-related incidents occurred between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.
- The highest frequency (33%) of incidents occurred between noon and 4:00 p.m.
- Deaths between midnight and 4:00 a.m. were most commonly due to traffic crashes (48%) and homicides (26%).
 - Workers killed during these early hours were law enforcement officers, trucking/transportation workers, club/bar workers, and cab drivers.

Figure 6. Number of Work-Related Deaths by County of Incident, Oklahoma, 1998-2001

