



Summary of Reportable Injuries in Oklahoma



Occupational Fatalities in Oklahoma, 1998-2002

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December 2003

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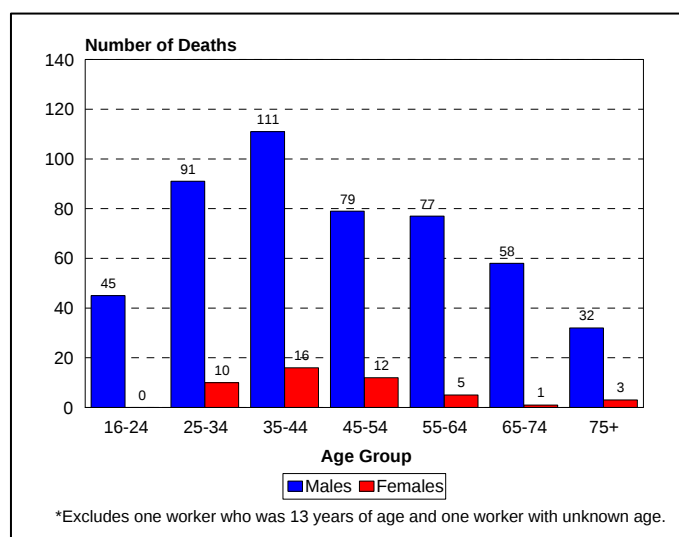
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Background

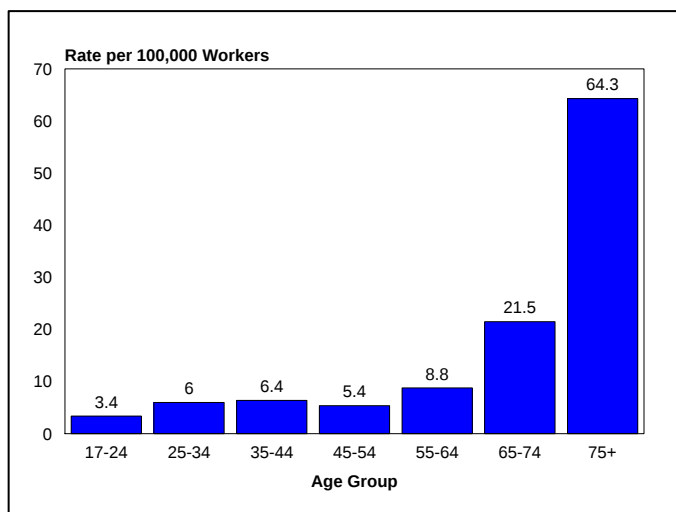
In July 1997, the Commissioner of Health declared work-related fatalities a reportable condition for special study. The Injury Prevention Service of the Oklahoma State Department of Health began collecting data on work-related injury deaths in Oklahoma through the Oklahoma Fatality Assessment Control 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. Rates were calculated using 2000 Current Population Survey data.

Figure 1. Work-Related Deaths by Age Group and Gender,* Oklahoma, 1998-2002



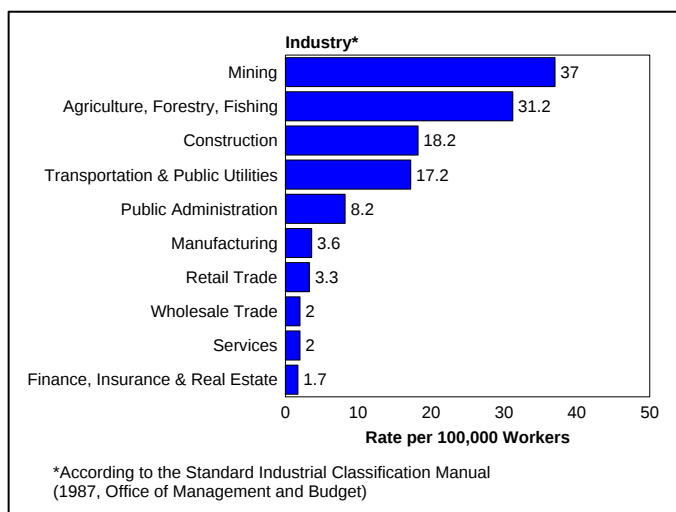
- A total of 542 work-related deaths were identified in Oklahoma during the 5-year period for an average of 108 deaths per year (rate of 6.8 deaths per 100,000 workers).
- Ages of persons who died ranged from 13 to 90 years of age, with a mean age of 46 years. Over 40% of deaths occurred among workers 25-44 years of age.
- Males outnumbered females 11 to 1, with males accounting for 91% of deaths.
 - Work-related death rates among males were three times that of females (11.7 and 1.3 per 100,000 workers, respectively).

Figure 2. Rates of Work-Related Deaths by Age Group,* Oklahoma, 1998-2002



- The highest annual rate of death occurred among workers 75 years of age and older (64.3); it was ten times greater than those under 65 years of age (6.4).
- The death rate among farmers 65 years and older (62.6) was three times higher than for those under 65 years of age (22.3).
- Asians had the highest work-related death rates, followed by whites, African Americans, and Native Americans (9.2, 6.5, 6.3, and 3.6 deaths per 100,000 workers, respectively).

Figure 3. Annual Rates of Work-Related Deaths by Industry, Oklahoma, 1998-2002



- The highest annual rates of work-related deaths occurred among workers in mining, followed by agriculture and construction.
 - An average of 22 agriculture-related deaths occurred each year.
 - 40% of agriculture-related deaths were attributed to machine-related incidents; 18% were associated with motor vehicle crashes.
- 41 deaths occurred among workers in mining; 95% 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.
- 91 deaths occurred among workers in the construction industry; about one-third (30%) were caused by falls from elevations, followed by electrocutions (18%).

Table 1. Causes of Work-Related Deaths, Oklahoma, 1998-2002

Type of Incidents	Deaths	Percent
Motor Vehicle Crashes	174	32%
Machine-Related	96	18%
Falls from Elevation	56	10%
Homicide	51	9%
Electrocution	40	7%
Struck and/or Crushed by Object	26	5%
Explosion	22	4%
Airplane Crashes	10	2%
Suicide at Work	8	2%
Animal-Related	8	2%
Thermal Burn	7	1%
Accidental Drug Overdose	5	1%
Drowning	5	1%
Suffocation	5	1%
Other	29	5%
TOTAL	542	100%

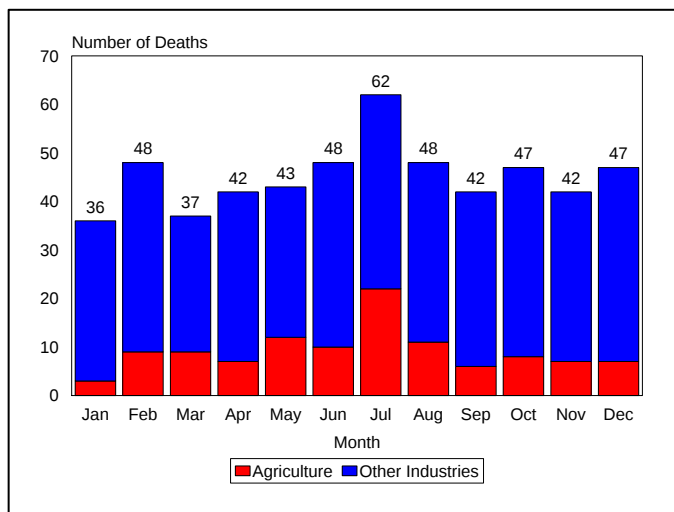
- Motor vehicle crashes were the leading cause of deaths; they accounted for one-third of work-related deaths.
- 55% of fall injury deaths occurred among persons less than 55 years of age; most were in the construction industry.
- 40% of homicides occurred in the retail trade industry.
- 14 victims of work-related homicides were female.
 - 50% of work-related deaths among females were due to homicides.

Table 2. Causes of Agriculture-Related Deaths, Oklahoma, 1998-2002

Type of Incident	Number of Deaths	Percent
Agriculture Machinery	57	51%
Traffic Crashes	20	18%
Electrocution	8	7%
Struck and/or Crushed by Object	6	5%
Animal-Related Incidents	5	5%
Falls from Elevation	4	4%
Explosion/Fire	2	2%
Other	9	8%
Total	111	100%

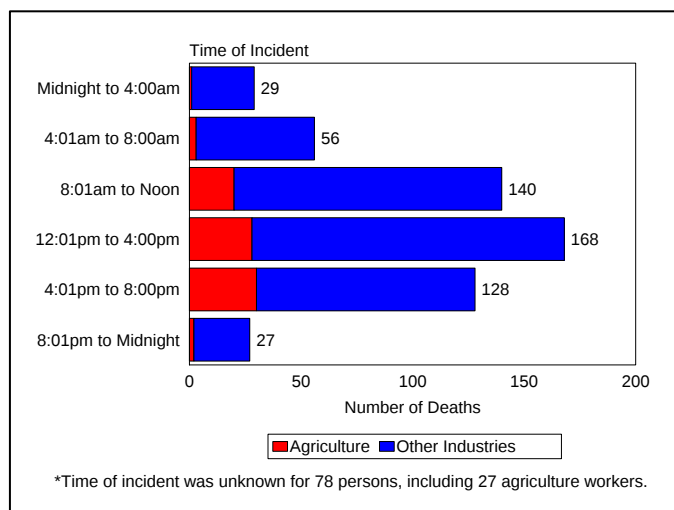
- Over half (59%) of machinery deaths overall occurred among farmers/ranchers.
- Tractors accounted for 85% of the farm machinery-related deaths.
- 34% of tractor-related deaths were due to tractor rollovers.

Figure 4. Work-Related Deaths by Month of Incident, Oklahoma, 1998-2002



- 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 22 deaths in July.
- Over one-third of deaths that occurred in July were agriculture-related.

Figure 5. Work-Related Deaths by Time of Incident, Oklahoma, 1998-2002



- 77% of work-related incidents occurred between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.
- The highest frequency (30%) 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 (46%) and homicides (21%).
 - 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, 1998-2002

