

Fatality Assessment & Control Evaluation

Prevention through comprehensive research and investigation

INVESTIGATION/RESEARCH

From 2001-2012 there were 219 work-related homicides in Michigan. In 2011, a male beauty supply owner in his 60s died from a gunshot wound to the head while working alone in his retail store. It was an early Tuesday morning when two individuals came into his store and shot and killed the store owner for merchandise that had little monetary value. The body was later found by nearby store owners.

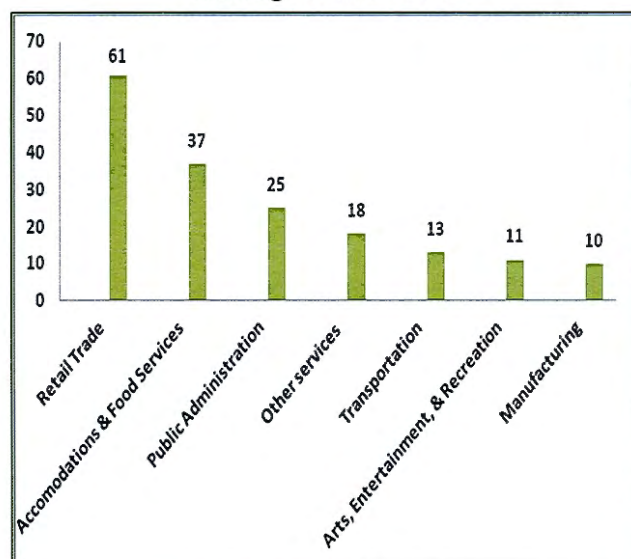
From 2001-2009 there was a downward trend in the number of work-related homicides, and then recently an increase in 2010 and 2012. Work-related homicides occurred in 25 of Michigan's 83 counties. Wayne, Jackson, Kalamazoo, and Genesee county had the highest incidence per 100,000 employed. A gun was the weapon used in 79% of the deaths.

IN ORDER TO PREVENT SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN THE FUTURE

- **Perform Risk Assessment** to identify risk factors that could contribute to a work-related homicide.
- **No Working Alone!** Individuals should not work alone in high crime areas. Schedule more than one employee for each working shift.
- **Install security cameras.** Post camera signage.
- **Keep minimum amount of cash** in the register. Place Little Cash Available signage that is visible to customers and visitors.
- **Comply with demands** if robbery is occurring.
- **Develop and provide employee training** that addresses identified risk factors and prevention methods. **Example:** Do employees know how to handle difficult customers and visitors?
- **Adequate Lighting!** Have good exterior lighting. Remove signs and merchandise obstructing views.

STOP Work-Related Homicides

Top Seven Industries for WR Homicide, Michigan 2001-2012



DID YOU KNOW?

- African American men are six times more likely than Caucasian men to experience a work-related homicide.
- Retail Trade had the highest number of work-related homicides in Michigan.
- Work-related homicides are more likely to occur on a Tuesday.
- The incidence of death for men is 660% greater than for women.
- 42% of the victims that died from a work-related homicide in 2001-2012 were working alone.
- Work-related homicides are more likely to occur at night.

MSU Occupational and Environmental Medicine: www.oem.msu.edu/

Workplace Violence Strategies and Research Needs. <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2006-144/pdfs/2006-144.pdf>

NIOSH Topic Page: Occupational Violence
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/violence/traumavio/research.html>

Hazard Alert #18 8/2/13

TO REPORT A NEW WORKPLACE FATALITY TO MIOSHA

1.800.858.0397

**MICHIGAN FATALITY ASSESSMENT &
CONTROL EVALUATION**

INFORMATION: 1.517.353.1846
E-MAIL: debra.chester@ht.msu.edu