The Maryland Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) Program

The Maryland Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) program collects and publishes statistics on all fatal occupationallly related injuries that occur in the State of Maryland. Maryland CFOI is conducted within the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Division of Labor and Industry in cooperation with the U.S Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. CFOI’s published results are the U.S. government’s official tally of workplace fatalities for the nation. Maryland has participated in the CFOI program every year since the program’s inception in 1992.

2015 Results From the Maryland CFOI Program

Sixty-nine workers died in Maryland while on the job in 2015, according to the latest fatality census results. Maryland’s count represented a 7-percent decline from 2014’s final tally of 74. Approximately two-thirds of these fatal events -- including cases of workplace homicide; suicide; and transportation related events including aircraft, rail and roadway incidents; as well as fatalities to the self-employed, are not covered under the Maryland Occupational Safety and Health agency’s investigative oversight. Since 1992, fatal occupational injuries in Maryland have ranged from a high of 106 cases reported in 2006 to a low of 60 cases reported in 2008. For the United States, 4,836 fatal workplace injuries were recorded in 2015, a slight increase over 4,821 fatalities reported in 2014.

Chart 1. Total fatal occupational injuries, Maryland, 2005 - 2015

Key findings of the 2015 Maryland Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries:

- Transportation incidents with 26 reported fatalities was the primary cause of death to workers in the State of Maryland during 2015. These events represented 38 percent of all workplace fatalities. Seventeen workers were killed in roadway accidents involving motorized land vehicles while 8 others died in pedestrian vehicular accidents. Transportation events also include workers operating in construction work zones and other work activities by the road side. Deaths due to work-related transportation incidents were up 18 percent in the State from 2014.

Chart 2. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure, Maryland, 2015 (69 total fatalities)

- Violence and other injuries by persons or animals (representing almost one-quarter of all cases) was the second most frequently occurring event in
Maryland with 16 deaths. Incidents involving violence, however, declined by one-third when compared to 2014’s count of 24 deaths. Cases of homicide accounted for 10 fatalities, while suicide claimed another 5. Nationally, violence and other injuries by persons or animals resulted in 703 fatal injuries. Events involving violence accounted for 15 percent of the total count for the country in 2015.

- Exposure to harmful substances or environments accounted for 14 percent of Maryland’s cases and was the third leading fatal workplace event with 10 fatalities. Six of these cases resulted in death from an unintentional drug overdose.

- Falls (to a lower level) declined from 11 cases in 2014 to 9 reported for 2015. Eight of these fatalities occurred in the construction industry.

- With 21 cases, the trade, transportation, and utilities supersector reported the highest count of fatal injuries with over half (12 cases) occurring in truck transportation (NAICS 484).

![Chart 3. Fatal workplace injuries by selected injuries, all ownerships, Maryland, 2015 (69 total fatalities)](image)

Source: Maryland Division of Labor and Industry in cooperation with the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics, CFOI Program, 2016
The construction sector (NAICS 23) recorded the second highest number of fatalities with 20 cases, representing an increase from 16 reported in 2014. All 20 decedents were male. Of the total, 18 occurred in private industry. State and local government each reported one case.

Two-thirds, or 12 of the fatalities in private sector construction occurred within the specialty trade contractor groups (NAICS 23).

Goods-producing industries accounted for 24 of the fatalities in the private sector while service-providing industries reported 36 cases.

**Fatal workplace injuries based on location and occupation**

Fatal work-related injuries occurred with the most frequency on a street or highway with 26 reported cases. These fatalities included truck drivers, couriers, emergency medical technicians, highway maintenance workers, and construction workers. Workers killed in an industrial setting increased by one-third over the previous year from 10 to 15 cases.

Individuals killed while performing work in a private residence declined from 18 fatalities to 8. Four of these decedents worked for Specialty trade contractors (NAICS 238).
Fatal occupational injuries among two major occupational groups: transportation and material moving occupations (with 22 cases) and construction and extraction occupations (with 17 cases) accounted for 57 percent of all cases in 2015.

Within the transportation and material moving group, the detailed occupation, driver/sales workers and truck drivers rose from 11 cases in 2014 to 14 for 2015.
The Maryland CFOI program compiles a complete accounting of all fatal work injuries occurring in Maryland during the calendar year. The program uses diverse data sources from a variety of federal, state and local government administrative records and other independent data sources in order to substantiate and profile fatal work injuries. CFOI includes data for all workplace fatalities regardless of whether the fatality was under the regulatory authority of the Maryland Occupational Safety and Health agency or other federal and state agencies. Any comparisons, therefore, between the CFOI program’s census counts and those released by other agencies or sources should take into account the different scopes of coverage and definitions being used.

For a fatality to be included in this census, the decedent must have been employed (defined as working for pay, compensation, or profit) at the time of the event, engaged in a legal work activity, or present at the site of the incident as a requirement of his or her job. Fatalities to volunteers and unpaid family workers who perform the same duties and functions as paid workers are also included in the count. These criteria are generally broader than those used by State and federal agencies administering specific laws and regulations. (Fatalities that occur during a person’s normal commute to and from work are excluded from the census counts.)
Data presented in this release include deaths occurring in 2015 that resulted from traumatic occupational injuries. An injury is defined as any wound or damage to the body resulting from acute exposure to energy, such as heat, electricity, or impact from a crash or fall, or from the absence of such essentials as heat or oxygen, caused by a specific event or incident within a single workday or shift. Included are open wounds, intracranial and internal injuries, heatstroke, hypothermia, asphyxiation, acute poisonings resulting from short-term exposures limited to the worker’s shift, suicides and homicides, and work injuries listed as underlying or contributory causes of death.