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CENSUS OF FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES

Puerto Rico

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STATISTICS



Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries Puerto Rico

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Bureau of Labor Statistics- Boston Regional Office
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Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to provide information on accidents in Puerto Rico, which resulted in death of workers during 2003. The data is used to identify hazardous industries and occupations where safety standards are needed, and to developed strategies aimed at reducing the incidence of fatal occupational injuries.

The Division of Occupational Safety and Health Statistics of the Puerto Rico Department of Labor and Human Resources conduct since 1991 the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) in cooperation with the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The CFOI program covers all workers (private wage and salary workers, the self-employed, and government employees).

The Census provides the most complete count of fatal work related injuries available, since it documents each case with multiple sources. It includes information on all traumatic occupational fatalities identified, gathering demographic data of the injured worker, such as sex, age, and occupation. It also collects details about each case like the nature and source of the injury, as well as the type of event, and the part of the body affected.

The CFOI program began using the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) in January 2003. Prior to 2003, the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) manual was used.

DEFINITION

A fatal occupational injury is defined as death resulting from accidents or other external causes that occurred while the person was in working status. For a fatality to been in scope of CFOI, the deceased must have been employed (working for pay or other compensation) at the time of the incident or engaged in a work activity on or off the employer's premises. The event or exposure must have been related to the person's work or status as an employee. The Census excludes fatalities that occur during a person's commute to or from work

To ensure that fatalities are work-related, cases are substantiated with two or more independent source documents. These include death certificates, worker's compensation form, medical examiner reports, newspaper articles; follow back questionnaires, toxicology reports, and other administrative records.

Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

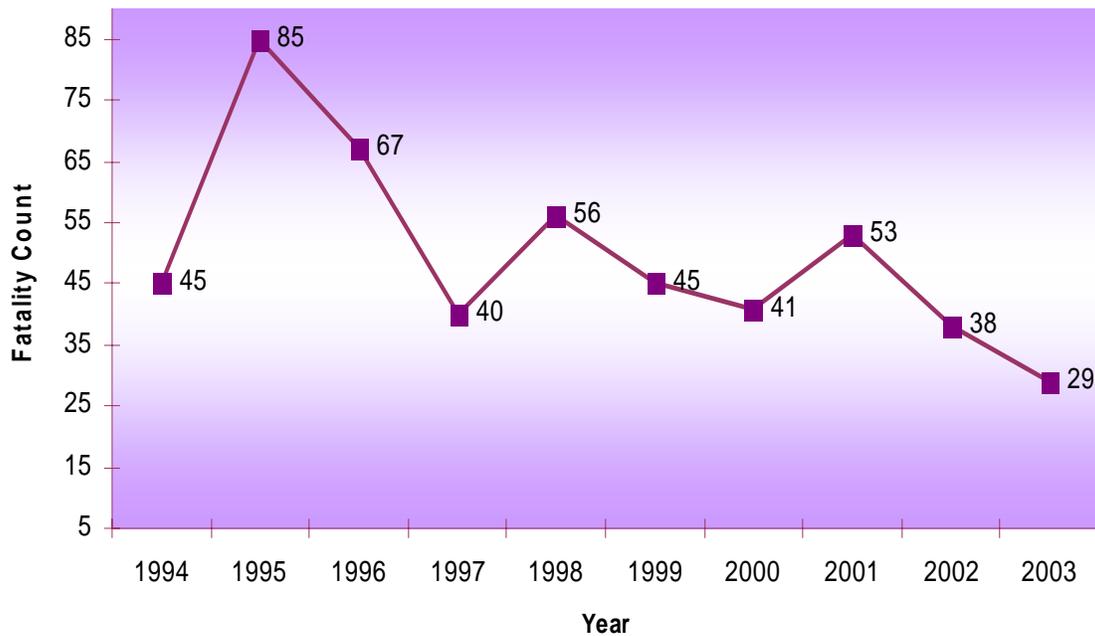
Overview

- During 2003, there were in Puerto Rico 29 work-related fatal occupational injuries. This is 9 fewer than the 38 fatalities recorded in 2002. All deaths were men workers.
- Workers in the 25 to 34 and 35 to 44 years age group represented 55.2 % of all deaths (8 cases each). While the group of 55 to 64 years had 5 occupational deaths.
- Occupations with a high number of worker fatalities during 2003 were police officers with 4 cases; security guards and gaming surveillance officers with 3 cases.
- Multiples body parts injuries accounted for 21 cases, followed by trunk and head injuries with 4 and 3 cases, respectively.
- Streets and highways were the location where most fatalities occurred with 10 cases, followed by industrial place or premises (9 cases), and public buildings (8 cases).
- Transportation incidents and assaults and violent acts registered 31% of the occupational fatalities. Falls were the cause of 28% of the cases.
- Fatal work injuries in the Construction industry registered 6 cases, and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, 4 cases.

Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

Fatal Work Injuries Counts Puerto Rico 2003

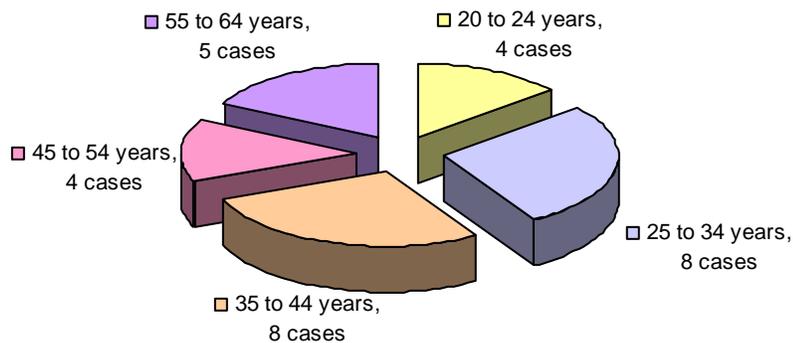
The following chart, presents a historical count of work related fatalities from 1994 through 2003. In 2003 Puerto Rico had 29 occupational deaths, a decrease of 3.1 % when compared to 38 cases in this period 2002. The highest number of fatal occupational injuries during was observed in 1995 with 85 deaths.



Fatal Occupational Injuries by Employment Status and Age Groups 2003

Characteristic	Puerto Rico Fatalities		National Fatalities	
	Count	%	Count	%
Employment Status				
Wage and salary Workers*	29	100.0	4,392	79.0
Self-employed**	-	-	1,167	21.0
Age				
19 years and younger	-	-	137	2.5
20 to 24 years	4	13.8	461	8.3
25 to 34 years	8	27.6	1,016	18.3
35 to 44 years	8	27.6	1,324	23.8
45 to 54 years	4	13.8	1,298	23.3
55 to 64 years	5	17.2	801	14.4
65 years and older	-	-	519	9.3
Unknown or not reported	-	-	3	0.1
Total Fatalities	29	100%	5,559	100%

Worker Characteristics by Age



Note:

* May include volunteers and other workers receiving compensation.

** Includes paid and unpaid family workers, and may include workers of incorporated businesses, or members of partnerships.

- Dashes indicate no data reported or data that do not meet publication criteria.

Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately.

Fatal Occupational Injuries by Nature of Injury, 2003

Nature of Injury	Fatalities
Multiple Traumatic Injuries	12
Intracranial injuries and injuries to internal organs	10
Other Traumatic Injuries	4
Internal injuries	3
Asphyxiations, suffocations	-
Drowning	-
Electrocutions	-
Poisonings, toxic effects	-
Open wounds	8
Gunshot wounds	8

Fatal Occupational Injuries by Body Parts, 2003

Injured Body Part	Fatalities
Head	3
Trunk	4
Chest	-
Back	-
Neck	-
Lower extremities	-
Upper extremities	-
Body systems	-
Multiple body parts	21

Note: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately.

Fatal Occupational Injuries by Source of Injury, 2003

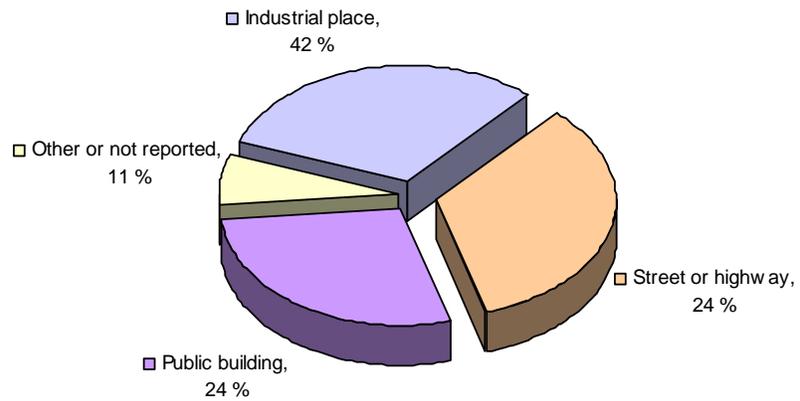
Source of Injury	Fatalities
Vehicles	9
Highway vehicles	9
Automobiles	4
Trucks	-
Structures and surfaces	9
Floors, walkways, ground surfaces	7
Other	9
Bullets and pellets	8
Fire, flame, smoke	-

Fatal Occupational Injuries by Event or Exposure of Injury, 2003

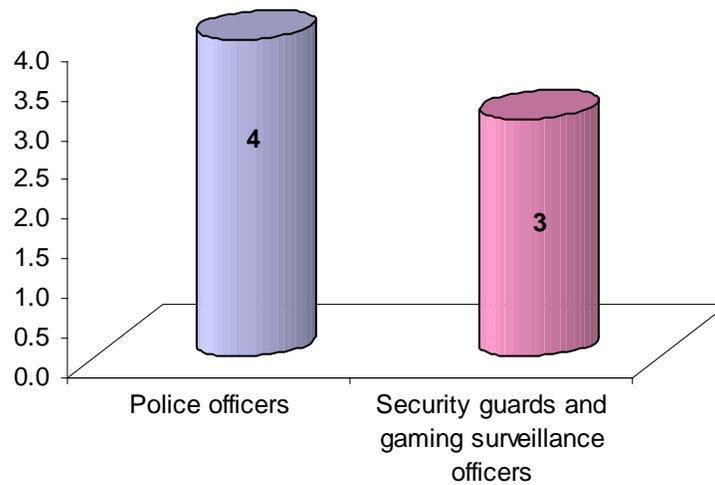
Event or Exposure of Injury	Fatalities
Falls	8
Fall to lower level	8
Fall from ladder	-
Fall from roof	-
Transportation incidents	9
Highway incidents	6
Assaults and violent acts	9
Homicides	9
Self inflicted injuries	-

Note: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately.

Fatal Work Injuries by Location, Puerto Rico, 2003, All Ownerships



Fatal work Injuries in Selected Industries, 2003, Puerto Rico, All Ownerships





For more information you can contact the:

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