



Department of Health and Social Services  
Jay Livey, Commissioner

Division of Public Health  
Karen Pearson, Director

Section of Epidemiology  
John Middaugh, MD, Editor

3601 C Street, Suite 540, P.O. Box 240249, Anchorage, Alaska 99524-0249 (907) 269-8000  
24-Hour Emergency Number 1-800-478-0084

<http://www.epi.hss.state.ak.us>

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## Occupational Fatalities in Alaska – 2001

From 1992 through 2001, 599 workers died as a result of work-related injuries in Alaska. The State and NIOSH are investigating worker deaths in Alaska to identify preventive measures that may be implemented to reduce the death toll in Alaska and in other states and countries where workers face similar risks.

Average crude fatality rates were calculated as the number of deaths among workers (including compensated volunteers and military personnel) for each year divided by the number of employed workers plus the estimated military personnel in Alaska. From 1990 through 1999, Alaska averaged 21.9 worker deaths for every 100,000 workers annually; Alaska's 5-year annual average (from 1997 through 2001) is 16.3 worker deaths per 100,000 workers.

The overall trend of work-related deaths in Alaska is declining. However, the total number of deaths increased 18.5% from 54 in 2000 to 64 in 2001. This is the second consecutive year where fatality numbers and rates have increased. Both years were significantly impacted by events with multiple fatalities. In 2001, two incidents claimed the lives of 23 workers.

From 1992 to 2001, less than 1% of all multi-fatal (catastrophic) events in Alaska involved 10 or more workers. The Alaska Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) program identified only three incidents in the past 10 years where 10 or more workers died in a single event, including a 1995 aircraft crash where 24 workers perished. Eighty percent (337/420) of work-related fatalities were singular fatalities.

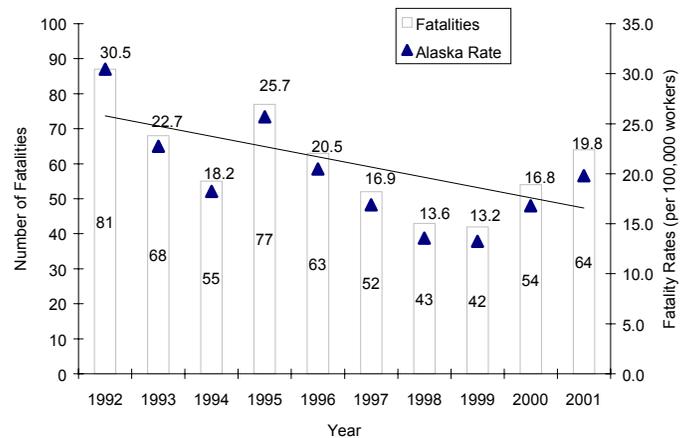
Of the 64 workers who died on the job in Alaska in 2001, 25 were fishers, 6 were pilots/co-pilots, and 6 were executive/managerial personnel. Fifteen of the 25 fishers were aboard a single vessel. Commercial fishing, transportation, and services led all Alaska industries in the number of work-related fatalities.

Forty-seven workers died during 2001 from transportation-related (watercraft, aircraft, and motor vehicle) injuries. These incidents represented 73% of all occupational deaths and 61% (23/38) of fatal incidents. Of the 26 drowning deaths, 25 were due to a fall from or submersion of a watercraft.

The Section of Epidemiology, Occupational Injury Prevention Program (OIPP) administers the Alaska FACE program. The OIPP focuses on preventing workplace fatalities and injuries, especially in construction, skilled trades, logging, and other industrial settings. Reports, flyers, and work-related *Epidemiology Bulletins* are available on the OIPP website at—

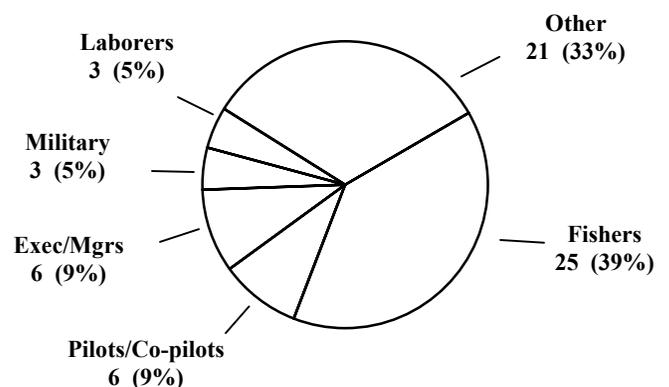
<http://www.epi.hss.state.ak.us/programs/injury>

### Work-related Fatalities in Alaska, 1992-2001

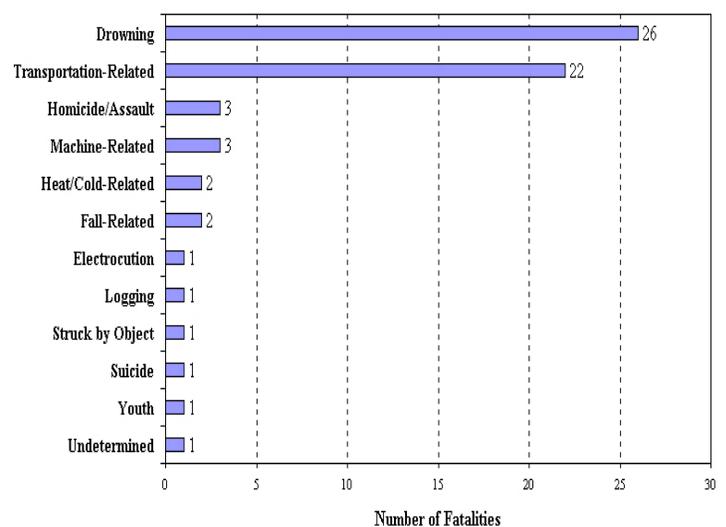


Denominator: Current Population Survey (CPS), AKDOLWD, Research and Analysis Section, plus military population, Alaskan Command History from Years 2000 and 2001 census information. \*

### Occupation-related Fatalities in Alaska, 2001, by Occupation (N=64)



### Occupation-related Fatalities in Alaska, 2001, by Mechanism Type (N=64)



The 23rd Annual Alaska Governor's Safety and Health Conference will be held March 17, 18, & 19, 2003 in Anchorage, Alaska. This conference is devoted to the prevention of work-related injuries and illnesses and the enhancement of workplace knowledge by providing the latest technical and educational information to workers, managers, and business owners.