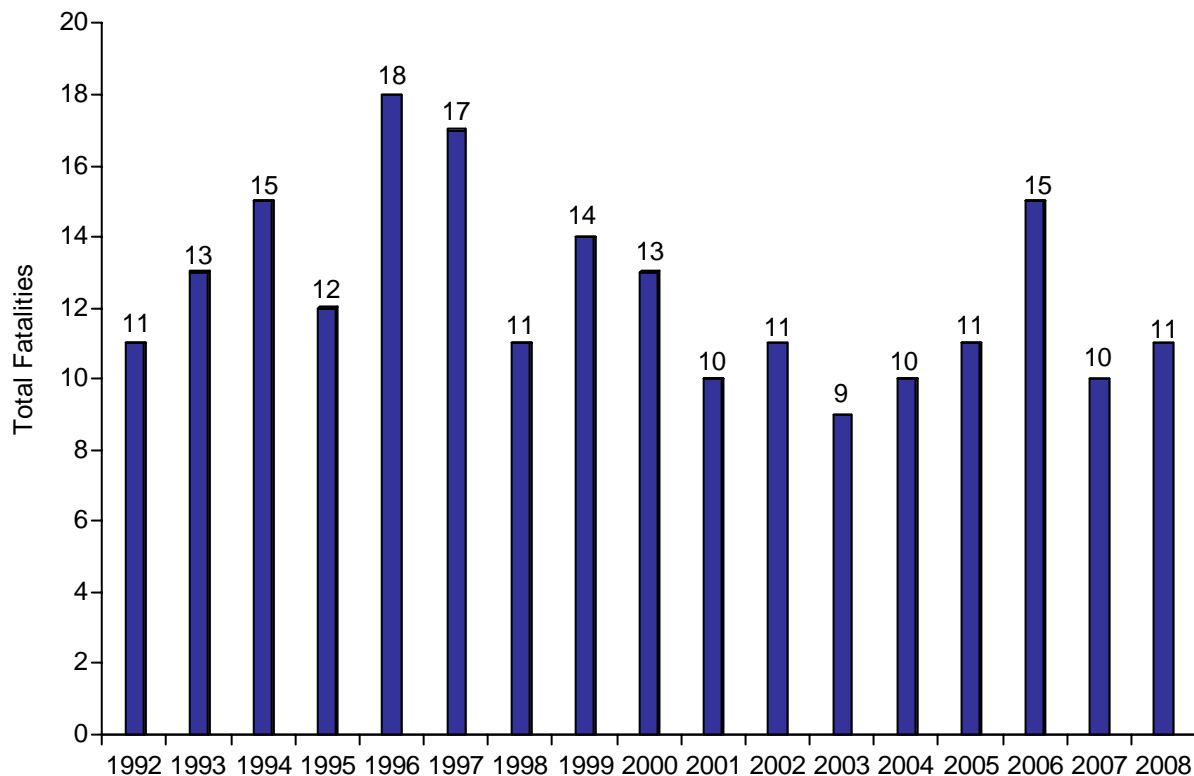


## DELAWARE WORKPLACE FATALITIES 2004 – 2008

From the years 2004 to 2008, the Delaware Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) reported a total of 57 work-related fatalities. The 2008 count of 11 fatal work-related injuries was up slightly from the 10 recorded in 2007. (See chart A.) On the other hand, the United States total for 2008 was down 10 percent from 5,657 fatalities in 2007 to 5,071 in 2008.

Highway incidents<sup>1</sup> were the leading cause of work-related fatalities, accounting for 16 fatalities during this 5-year period. Other causes of work-related fatalities were homicides (8), falls to a lower level (7), and pedestrian incidents (5). (See chart B.)

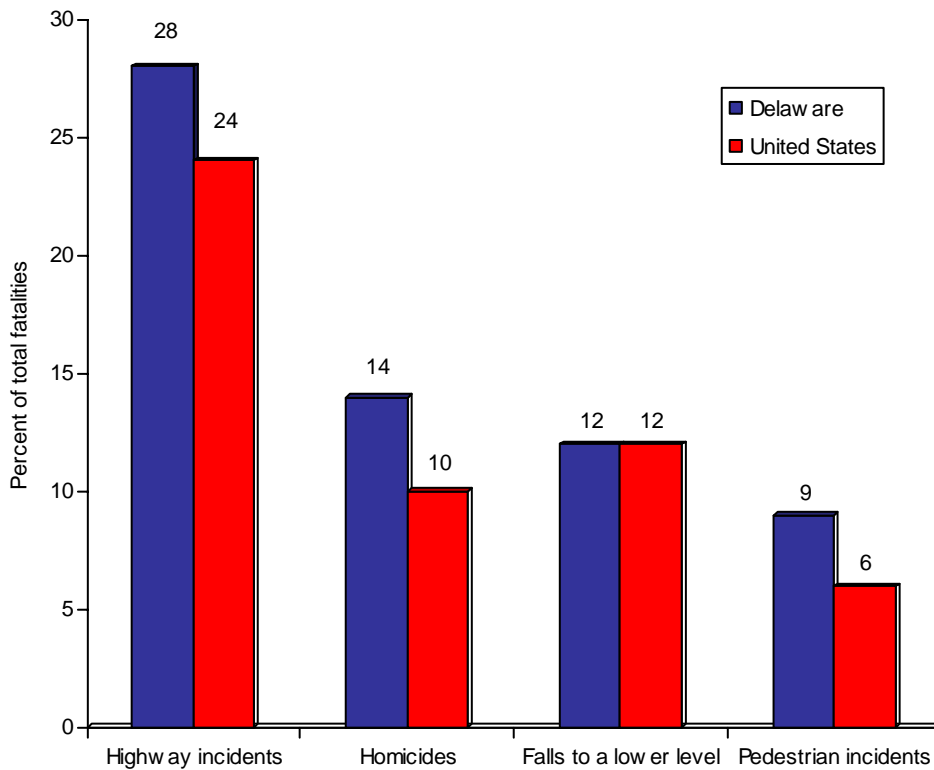
**Chart A. Fatal occupational injuries in Delaware 1992 - 2008**



Note: Totals for 2008 are preliminary.

<sup>1</sup> Fatal events are categorized into several major groupings including transportation incidents, assaults and violent acts, and falls, among others. These major groups are further broken down into more detailed groups. See the Occupational Injury & Illness Classification System (OIICS) Manual at [www.bls.gov/iif/osh/oiccs.htm](http://www.bls.gov/iif/osh/oiccs.htm) for detailed information on the categories of fatalities used in this census.

**Chart B. Percent of five-year total of fatal occupational injuries from 2004 to 2008 in Delaware and the United States by event or exposure**



**Key characteristics of work-related fatalities from 2004 to 2008 in Delaware**

- Men (49 fatalities) accounted for 86 percent of the work-related fatalities in Delaware. Transportation incidents, which include highway, non-highway, pedestrian, air, water, and rail fatalities, was the most frequent event among these workers in Delaware.
- White, non-Hispanic workers accounted for 47, or 82 percent, of the work-related fatalities in the State.
- Workers 25-54 years old—the prime working age group—made up 42, or 74 percent, of the work-related fatalities in Delaware from 2004 to 2008.
- Eighty-nine percent of workers killed on the job in the State worked for wages and salaries; the rest were self-employed.
- Workers in the construction and extraction occupations had the highest number of work-related fatalities at 13, followed by those in transportation and material moving occupations with 10. Combined, these two occupational groups accounted for 40 percent of all work-related fatalities in the State over this 5-year period.
- Three industry sectors made up over half of the work-related fatalities in Delaware—construction had 12 fatalities, government had 10, and retail trade had 8.

## Technical Note

### Background of the program

The Delaware Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) was conducted by the Delaware Department of Labor in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Information on fatal occupational injuries was compiled from a variety of administrative sources including death certificates, motor vehicle traffic accident reports, medical examiners' reports, state workers' compensation reports, newspaper articles, state and federal OSHA reports, and other government investigative reports.

The CFOI program is designed to provide the safety and health community with verified counts of fatal work injuries and basic information on fatalities such as how the injury occurred, the type of industry that was involved, as well as occupational and demographic data of the employee. It is hoped that the availability of improved, more detailed data will be used to inform decision-makers about fatalities in the workplace.

While the purpose of the CFOI program is to compile a complete count of traumatic workplace fatalities, information was also collected on fatal occupational illnesses that were recognized as work-related or that occurred at work. A comprehensive count of fatalities resulting from occupational illnesses cannot be produced from current data largely because of the latency period associated with many occupational illnesses, as well as the difficulty in associating illnesses with exposures in the workplace. Therefore, fatal occupational illnesses are not reported in this census and are excluded from the data.

The CFOI program, part of the BLS occupational safety and health statistics program, compiles a count of all fatal work injuries occurring in the U.S. during the calendar year. The program uses diverse State, federal, and independent data sources to identify, verify, and describe fatal work injuries. This assures counts are as complete and accurate as possible.

For technical information about the CFOI program, please go to the BLS Handbook of Methods on the BLS web site. Click on Workplace Injuries on the BLS home page, and scroll down to IIF Documentation, and then click on "BLS Handbook of Methods." The technical information and definitions for the CFOI Program are in Chapter 9, Part III of the BLS Handbook of Methods.

### Federal/State Agency Coverage

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries includes data for all fatal work injuries, whether the decedent was working in a job covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or other federal or State agencies or was outside the scope of regulatory coverage. Thus, any comparison between the BLS fatality census counts and those released by other agencies should take into account the different coverage requirements and definitions being used by each agency.

Several federal and State agencies have jurisdiction over workplace safety and health. OSHA and affiliated agencies in States with approved safety programs cover the largest portion of the nation's workers. However, injuries and illnesses occurring in certain industries or activities, such as coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and highway, water, rail, and air transportation, are excluded from OSHA coverage because they are covered by other federal agencies, such as the Mine Safety and Health Administration and various agencies within the Department of Transportation.