

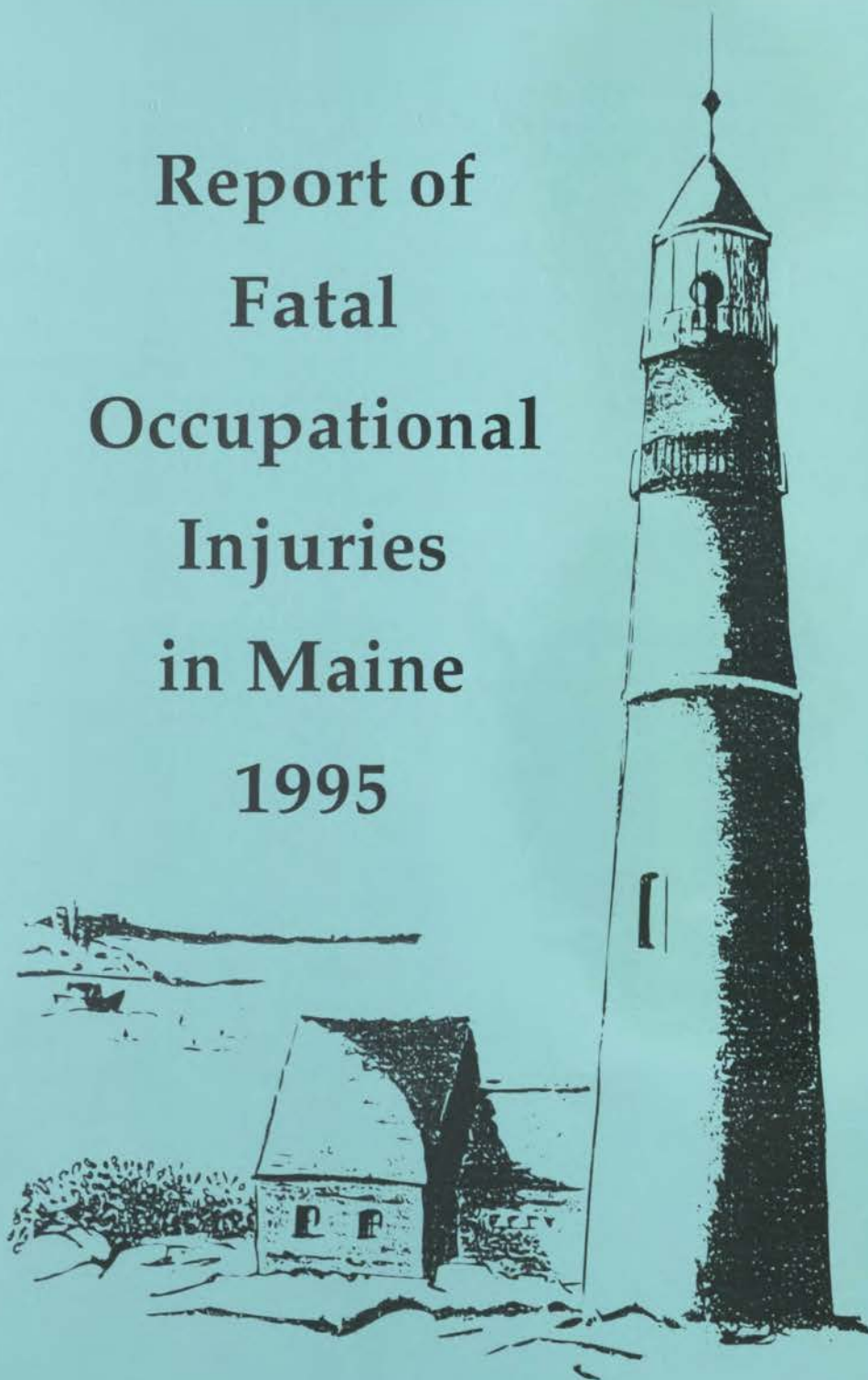
MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Report of
Fatal
Occupational
Injuries
in Maine
1995



Bureau of Labor Standards



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Report of Fatal Occupational Injuries in Maine 1995

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Introduction to Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries Program Maine, 1995

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) program compiles the most complete, verifiable account of fatal work-related injuries in the United States. By using multiple data sources to verify deaths, we are getting a more accurate count. CFOI is a Federal-State cooperative program, with all 50 states and the District of Columbia participating.

The CFOI program provides detailed data on all fatal workplace injuries, including those of workers under 16 years old, the self-employed, employees in the lobstering, fishing and farming industries, and government employees. These workers have not always been counted in the past as they are hard to identify with only one data source.

For 1995, a total of 46 possible work-related deaths were reported to this office. By using multiple documents to verify a death, 36 cases were confirmed as work-related, eight cases were reported as not work-related, and two cases were left pending due to lack of information. Of the 36 work-related deaths, 18 were due to accidents, and the other 18 were because of illnesses. Heart attacks were the cause of deaths in 16 of these illness cases; asbestosis for the other two. This publication will use only the work-related fatal cases due to an accident. We hope employers and employees will use this data to make a safer workplace.

This publication is in two sections. The first half includes tables showing data for the year 1995 detailing only the 18 fatal injuries. The second half combines these 18 fatalities with the work-related fatal injuries of 1991 through 1994. By combining multiple years of data, trends may appear. Because this program is only five years old, it may take a few more years to see if there are common factors in work-related deaths. Previous year's reports may be obtained by contacting the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards at 624-6400.

If you are interested in receiving national fatality information, contact:

Jim Hart or Bob Cleary
U. S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
1 Congress Street, 10th Floor
Boston, MA 02114
TEL.: 617-565-2300

Summary of Fatal Injuries 1995

Table 1 shows that in 1995, of the 18 work-related fatal injuries in Maine, eight (44.4%) were because of highway accidents. Another three (16.7%) were struck by objects and two (11.1%) because of suicide while the employees were in work status.

Table 1. Distribution by Event or Exposure
Maine 1995

Event or Exposure	1995	
	Number	Percent
Total	18	100.0
Highway accident	8	44.4
Struck by object	3	16.7
Self-inflicted injury/suicide	2	11.1
Caught in or compressed by equipment or object	1	5.6
Contact with electric current	1	5.6
Water vehicle accident	1	5.6
Aircraft accident	1	5.6
Explosion	1	5.6

As reflected in Table 2, five (27.8%) of the employees who died from work-related fatal injuries in 1995 worked in Transportation or Material Moving Occupations. Another four (22.2%) were in the Farming, Fishing or Forestry Occupations.

Table 2. Distribution by Occupational Groups
Maine 1995

Occupational Groups	1995	
	Number	Percent
Total	18	100.0
Transportation or Material Moving Occupation	5	27.8
Farming, Fishing, or Forestry Occupation	4	22.2
Executive Administrative or Managerial	2	11.1
Precision Production, Craft or Repair	2	11.1
Technician or Support Occupation	1	5.6
Professional Specialty	1	5.6
Handler, Equipment Cleaner, or Laborer	1	5.6
Service Worker	1	5.6
Machine Operator, Assembler or Inspector	1	5.6

Eight (44.4%) of all 1995 work-related fatal injuries were caused by a highway vehicle.

Table 3. Distribution by Source of Fatality
Maine 1995

Source of Fatality	1995	
	Number	Percent
Total	18	100.0
Highway vehicle, motorized	8	44.4
Structures and Surfaces	2	11.1
Construction, logging, and mining machinery	1	5.6
Material handling machinery	1	5.6
Machine, tool, and electric parts	1	5.6
Plants, trees, vegetation--not processed	1	5.6
Air vehicle	1	5.6
Water vehicle	1	5.6
Ammunition	1	5.6
Atmospheric and environmental conditions	1	5.6

Table 4 shows that of the 18 work-related fatal injuries of 1995, six (33.3%) were injuries to the head. The body system is coded as the part of the body for asphyxiations, strangulations, drownings, electrocutions, and suffocations; four (22.2%) fatalities were coded in this category. Five deaths (27.8%) occurred to multiple body parts (usually to the head and trunk).

Table 4. Distribution by Part of Body Affected
Maine, 1995

Part of Body	Year of Death	
	1995	
	Number	Percent
Total	18	100.0
Cranial region, including skull	6	33.3
Multiple Body Parts	5	27.8
Body Systems	4	22.2
Multiple trunk locations	2	11.1
Back, including spine, spinal cord	1	5.6

Table 5 shows the industry in which the employee was working at the time of the death. Seven (38.9%) employees died while working in the Transportation and Public Utilities Industry, while there were three (16.7%) deaths each in Services and Manufacturing.

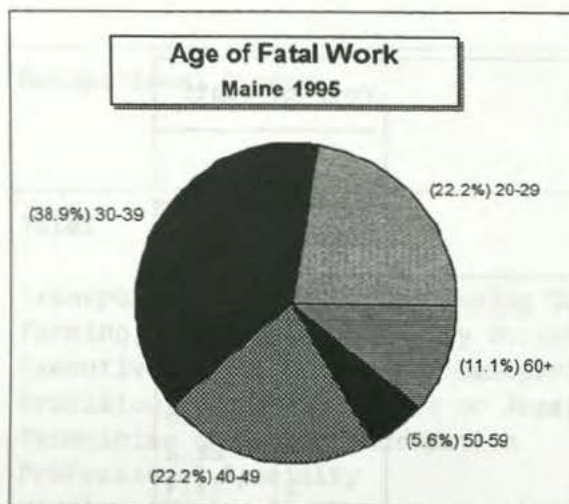
Table 5.

Distribution by SIC of Fatality
Maine 1995

Industry Division	Disabling Cases	
	1995	
	Number	Percent
Total	18	100.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	7	38.9
Services	3	16.7
Manufacturing	3	16.7
Agriculture/Fishing/Forestry	2	11.1
Public Administration	1	5.6
Construction	1	5.6
Retail Trade	1	5.6

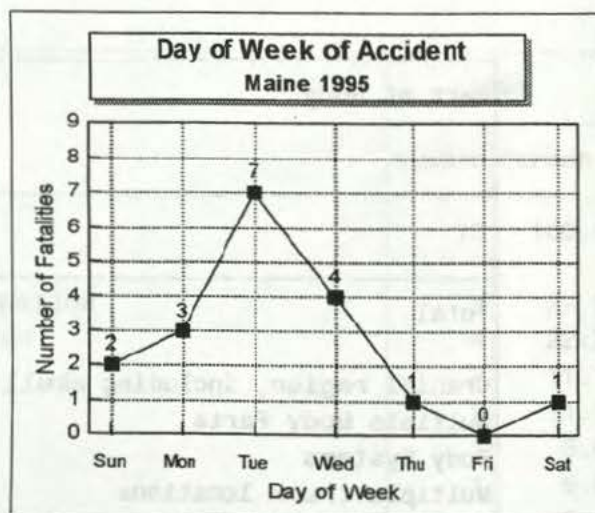
The pie chart below shows that nearly 39% of those who died on the job in 1995 were between the ages of 30-39.

Figure 1.



The line chart below shows that of the 18 who died on the job seven (38.9%) died on a Tuesday almost twice as many as any other day of the week.

Figure 2.



Summary of Fatal Injuries 1991-1995

Figure 3 shows how work-related accidents occurred between 1991 and 1995. Nearly 24% were due to highway motor vehicles; drownings accounted for another 18.8%.

Figure 3.

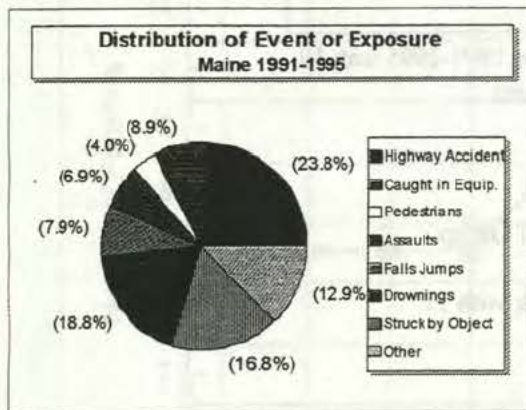
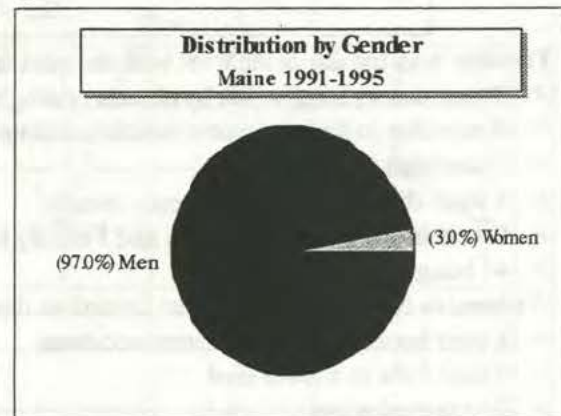


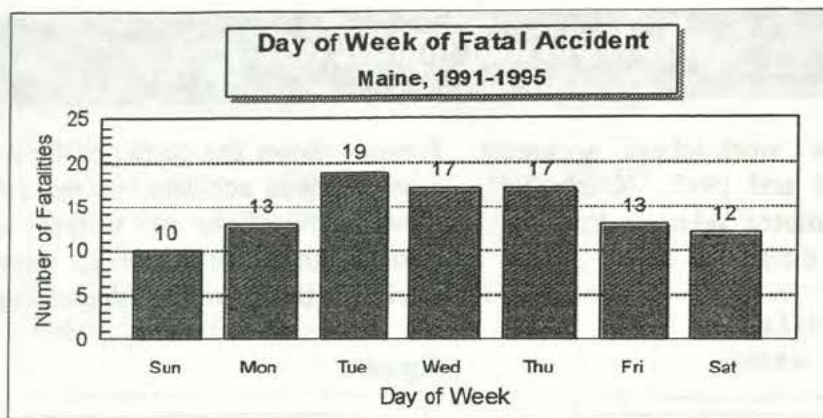
Figure 4 shows the gender of the workers who died in a work-related accident between 1991 and 1995. Only three (3.0%) of the 101 workers were women, while men accounted for 97 (96%). Men have historically worked in the more hazardous occupations.

Figure 4.



- Of the 101 work-related fatal accidents from 1991-1995, 28 employees died because of a highway vehicle:
 - 11 deaths were due to non-collision accidents where the vehicles went off the road, may have overturned, but did not hit objects
 - 7 deaths involved vehicles that struck stationary objects on the side of the road, such as trees, rocks, poles, buildings
 - 6 died as a result of collisions with another moving highway vehicle
 - 4 died from accidents where pedestrians were struck by moving highway motor vehicles, two were hit by trucks backing up, and two were State highway workers hit while working on road repair
 - ages for these 28 employees ranged from 19 to 93, with an average age of 43
- There were 19 fatalities from 1991 to 1995 that involved drownings and accidents (boat and plane) that caused drownings:
 - 10 died as a result of lobstering or deep sea fishing
 - 4 employees were scuba diving for sea urchins
 - 3 employees were periwinkle harvesting or clamming
 - 2 died from an aircraft crash into the ocean
 - ages of the employees ranged from 19 to 66 with an average age of 35
- Another 17 employees lost their lives when struck by objects:
 - 10 were struck by falling trees; 6 involved trees temporarily suspended which later fell onto employees
 - the other 7 were struck by a truck, tire, pole, tractor, crane, logger, or machine part
 - ages ranged from 23 to 72, with an average age of 38
- There were 9 employees who were caught in or compressed by equipment or objects or caught in or crushed by collapsing materials such as structural metal materials, roof trusses, logs, powered conveyors and augers, elevators, tractors, or collapsing buildings.
- There were 9 fatal injuries because of falls or jumps to the same or a lower level.
- Another 7 died because of assaults or suicides on the job:
 - 5 were suicides while in work status
 - 2 were killed by unknown assailants
- Other events include 3 explosions, 3 contact with electric current, 2 non-highway vehicles accidents, 1 aircraft crash and 1 rail accidents.

Figure 5.



Tuesday was the day of the week with the most fatalities from 1991-1995 with 19:

- 9 were due to being struck by objects or caught in equipment
- 4 were due to highway motor vehicle accidents
- 3 were due to drownings
- 3 were due to other miscellaneous events
- 9 were in the Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupational Group
- 44 being the average age

Wednesday tied as the second most hazardous day of the week with 17:

- 8 were because of transportation accidents
- 2 were falls to a lower level
- 2 were explosions
- 5 were due to other miscellaneous events
- 36 being the average age

Thursday also had 17 fatal injuries during this time period:

- 10 were because of transportation accidents
- 5 resulted from coming in contact with objects or equipment (2 were struck by trees)
- 2 were due to other miscellaneous events
- 5 were in the Manufacturing Industry
- 43 being the average age

Friday tied for fourth with 13 work-related fatal injuries:

- 6 were due to transportation accidents
- 3 were due to falls to a lower level
- 2 were due to suicide on the work premises
- 2 were due to other miscellaneous events
- 49 being the average age

Monday also had 13 work-related fatal injuries:

- 8 were due to being struck by objects or caught in equipment (5 were struck by trees)
- 2 were due to drownings
- 3 were due to other miscellaneous events
- 6 were in the Manufacturing Industry
- 43 being the average age, 10 were 35 or older

Saturday had 12 work-related fatal injuries:

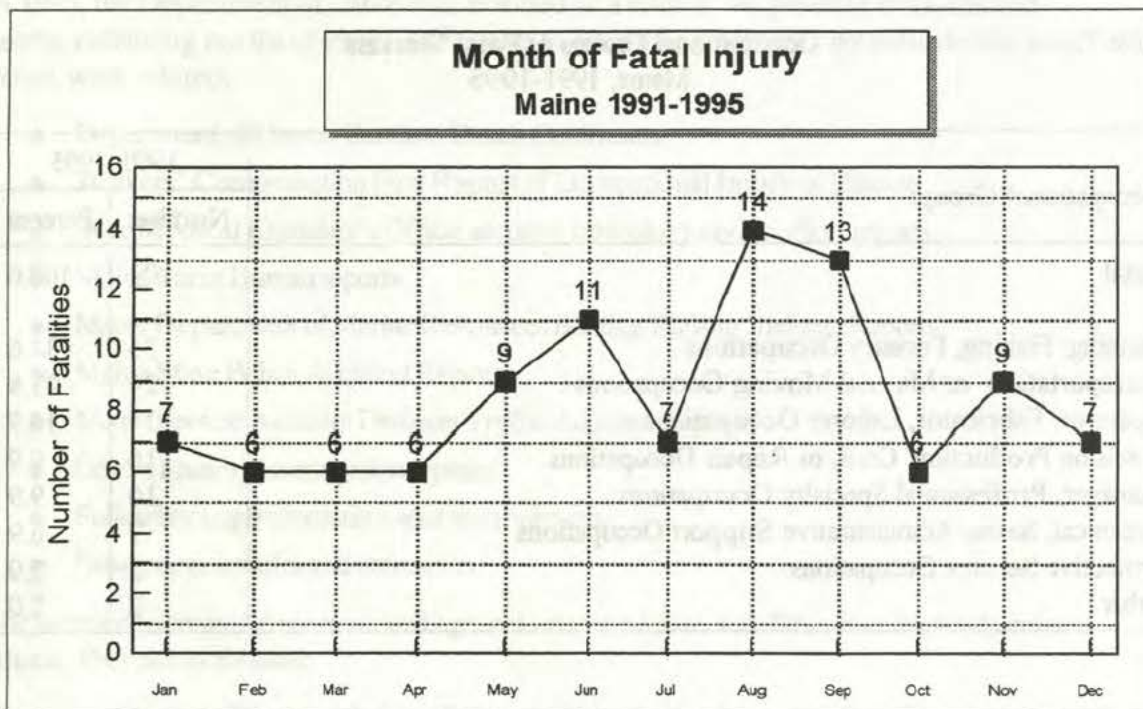
- 7 were because of transportation accidents
- 2 were due to drownings
- 3 were due to other miscellaneous events
- 28 being the average age

Sunday had the lowest fatal injuries (as expected) with 10:

- 3 were due to falls to a lower level
- 4 were due to drownings
- 3 were due to other miscellaneous events
- 37 being the average age

Figure 6 shows the number of deaths by month of accident for 1991 through 1995. The month with the highest number of fatal accidents was August with 14 and another 13 in September.

Figure 6.



By looking at the events leading to the deaths in each industry, we can see where most of the fatalities occurred. The Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry Division had 23 fatal accidents from 1991 through 1995, 11 due to transportation accidents and another 10 from employees being exposed to harmful substances or environments (electricity, drownings, suffocations, etc.).

Table 6. Industry Division by Event of Fatal Injury
Maine 1991-1995

Industry Division	Total	Event by Division Groups					
		Transp Acci- dents	Contct Objects Equipt	Exposed Harmful Substnce	Falls	Assaults Suicides	Fire Explo- sions
Total	101	44	26	13	9	5	4
Agriculture/Fishing/Forestry	23	11	1	10	1	0	0
Manufacturing	20	3	13	0	3	1	0
Transportation/Public Utilities	21	14	2	2	2	0	1
Services	12	3	4	0	1	3	1
Construction	10	3	3	1	1	1	1
Public Administration	6	4	1	0	1	0	0
Wholesale	4	3	1	0	0	0	0
Retail Trade	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
Other	2	0	1	0	0	0	1

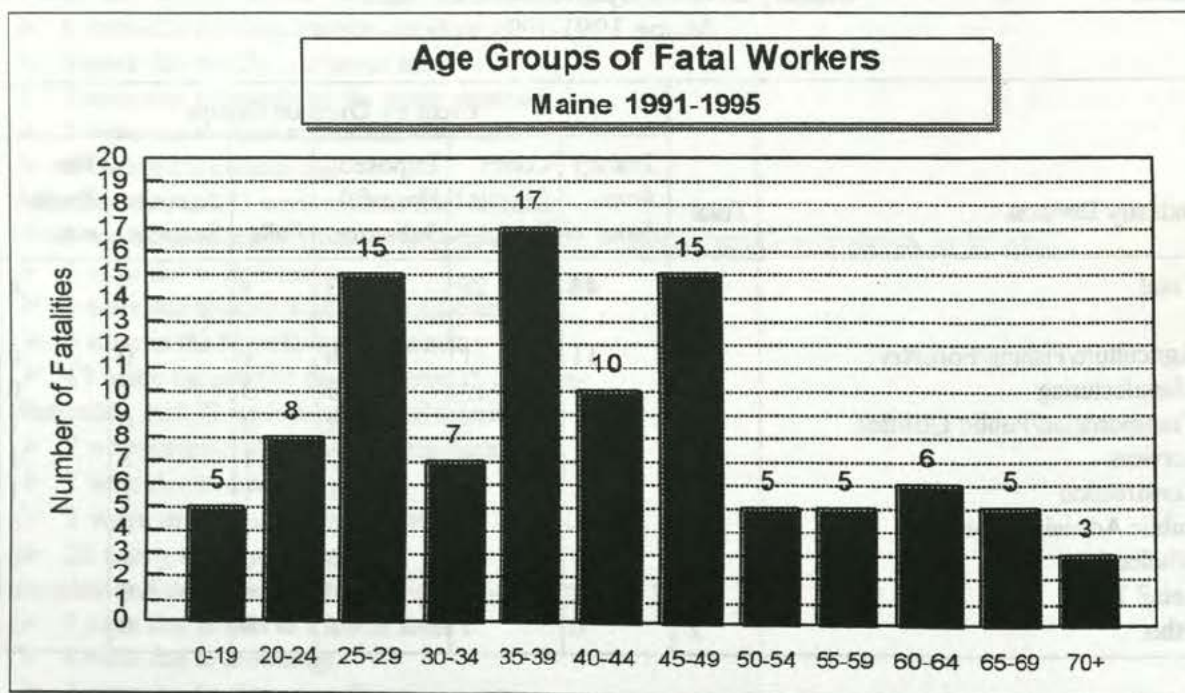
Of the 101 work-related fatalities during 1991-1995, 35 (34.6 %) involved farmers, fishers (including lobsterers, sea urchin and periwinkle harvesters) and foresters. Another 24 (23.8%) were truck drivers, and material moving workers.

Table 7. Occupational Groups of Fatal Workers
Maine, 1991-1995

Occupational Groups	1991-1995	
	Number	Percent
Total	101	100.0
Farming, Fishing, Forestry Occupations	35	34.6
Transportation or Material Moving Occupations	24	23.8
Operator, Fabricator, Laborer Occupations	11	10.9
Precision Production, Craft, or Repair Occupations	10	9.9
Manager, Professional Specialty Occupations	10	9.9
Technical, Sales, Administrative Support Occupations	7	6.9
Protective Service Occupations	2	2.0
Other	2	2.0

As shown in the chart below, 17 employees between the ages of 35 and 39 lost their lives from 1991 to 1995. The next highest age groups were 25-29 and 45-49, with 15 employees in each group.

Figure 7.



Project Summary

In 1995, the Department of Labor was notified of a total of 46 possible work-related deaths. Following is a list of source documents to determine whether or not these deaths were in fact, work-related:

- Department of Human Services Death Certificates
- Workers' Compensation First Report of Occupational Injury or Disease
- State Medical Examiner's Office autopsy, toxicology and medical reports
- Maine Farm Bureau reports
- Maine Department of Marine Resources Boating/Rafting Incident Reports
- Maine State Police Accident Reports
- Motor Vehicle Accident Division Traffic Accident Reports
- OSHA Fatality investigation reports
- Followback questionnaires sent to employers
- Newspaper articles and obituaries

The source documents were reviewed against set standards to see if they met the work-related criteria. They are as follows:

- the injury or illness can happen in any year but the death was in 1995
- the injury or illness can happen in any state but the death was in Maine
- the accident or onset of illness was during normal working hours on the employer's grounds or off-site while doing normal work-related activity
- the death was a homicide or suicide and happened at work
- the death was a heart attack or stroke and happened at work

Of the 46 fatalities reported in 1995, the final status shows that:

- **18 were work-related fatal accidents**
- 18 were work-related fatal illnesses (16 were heart attacks)
- 8 were not work-related
- 2 were left pending due to lack of information

The 18 work-related fatal accidents in 1995 show:

- 8 died because of a highway accident—see **Table 1**
- 5 employees were in the Transportation or Material Moving Occupations—see **Table 2**
- 8 were because of a highway vehicle—see **Table 3**
- 6 were head injuries—see **Table 4**
- 7 were in the Transportation and Public Utilities Industry—see **Table 5**

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