

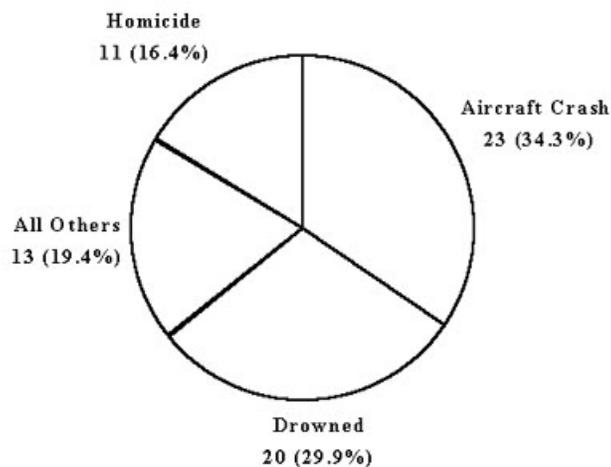


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Occupational Fatalities in Alaska - 1993

Commercial fishing and aviation led all Alaskan industries in the number of workplace deaths in 1993.

Of 67 workers who died on the job in Alaska in 1993, 22 were employed in the commercial fishing industry. Of the fishers who died, 18 either drowned or are presumed to have drowned, and 89% of those who drowned were not wearing a personal flotation device. Two other workers (fish hatchery technicians) also drowned on the job in 1993 for a total of 20 worker drowning deaths for the year.

Traumatic Occupational Fatalities, Alaska 1993  
by Circumstances  
N=67



A total of 23 workers died in aircraft crashes in Alaska, including 9 civilian pilots (3 helicopter logging pilots) 7 hunting/fishing guides, 2 commercial fishers, 2 military pilots, and 3 workers employed in other occupations.

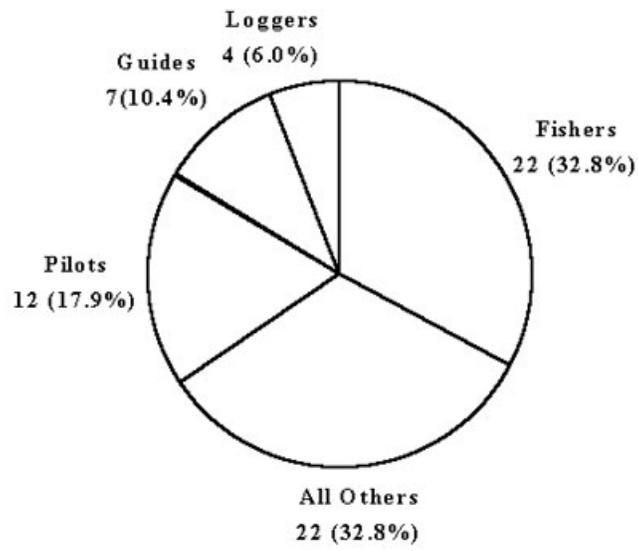
The logging industry had four workers who died on the job in 1993 in separate, unrelated incidents. Eleven (16.4%) workers died as a result of homicide occurring on the job. In addition to these 67 worker deaths, five individuals died in 1993 while conducting subsistence activities.

NIOSH established an office in Anchorage in 1991 after identifying Alaska as the highest risk state in the U.S. for traumatic worker fatalities. Due to the frequency of deaths related to commercial fishing, NIOSH has been focusing research efforts on this dangerous employment sector.

The Division of Public Health, Section of Epidemiology established Occupational Injury Prevention Program in 1992 to focus on preventing workplace fatalities and injuries, especially in construction, skilled trades, petrochemical, and other industrial settings. Another special priority for investigation is occupational homicide. Currently, the Section of Epidemiology is collaborating with the Anchorage Police Department to assess the risk of homicide for taxicab drivers and to develop sound recommendations to prevent such deaths.

For the years 1982 through 1992, 34.8 worker deaths occurred for every 100,000 workers employed in Alaska. This workplace death rate is almost five times the U.S. rate (7.0 deaths per 100,000 workers) for the same period. NIOSH and the State are investigating worker deaths in Alaska to identify preventive measures that may be implemented to reduce the toll in Alaska and in other states where workers face similar risks.

Traumatic Occupational Fatalities, Alaska 1993  
by Occupation  
N=67



(Submitted by: Gary Bledsoe, Occupational Injury Prevention Program, Section of Epidemiology; and Michael Klatt, M.S., NIOSH, DSR, Alaska Activity)

The Alaska Division of Public Health, Section of Epidemiology, Occupational Injury Prevention Program, and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Division of Safety Research, Alaska Activity, worked cooperatively to collect and analyze occupational fatality data for 1993.