

# COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

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## 2000 KENTUCKY CENSUS OF FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES PUBLICATION

August 2001

#### Prepared by:

The Kentucky Labor Cabinet, Department of Workplace Standards,

In Cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor

Bureau of Labor Statistics

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Dear Fellow Kentuckian:

The potential for injury on the job is ever present for each of us as we work day-to-day to provide for ourselves and our families. My commitment, and that of everyone in the Kentucky Labor Cabinet, is to ensure that the workplaces in our state are safe and that every worker has the opportunity to go home in the same condition and health as when he or she reported for work. As you can imagine, this is an awesome task and one that requires the diligence of the state's employers and employees.

The following report contains the statistics concerning the worst possible event in the workplace - a fatality. These statistics relate to fatalities which occurred on the job in Kentucky. It is the result of our Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) for calendar years 1999-2000. The data contained in this report have been secured from many sources and have been verified by at least two (2) collateral contacts. The report contains information on types of employment which the Labor Cabinet's occupational safety and health program oversees, as well as employment regulated by other state and federal agencies. This report also covers the self-employed.

I sincerely hope that this report will provide some enlightenment which will enable us to eliminate these tragedies together. If you should have any questions concerning this report, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Joe Norsworthy  
Secretary of Labor

# KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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## INTRODUCTION

*The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) program was developed by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) to compile a comprehensive, accurate, and timely measure of fatal work injuries that occur during the year.*

*The CFOI program is a Federal/State cooperative program. The program was expanded to include all 50 states and the District of Columbia during 1992. This is Kentucky's eighth year participating in the program.*

*The CFOI program currently includes private sector, public sector, military, self-employed, and certain volunteers. To be included in this report, the incident leading to the fatality must have occurred in the reference state (Kentucky) during the reference years (1999-2000), and the fatality must be work-related according to the CFOI guidelines.*

*Many of these fatalities involved workers not covered under the jurisdiction of Federal or State agencies engaged in consultation-related, prevention-related, or regulatory activities in safety and health. Among these excluded workers are the self-employed, laborers on small farms, and certain government employees. Thus CFOI data, which covers these workers, differ from data obtained through other administrative courts.*

*Timely information on all fatal occupational injuries were compiled from a variety of administrative sources including death certificates, motor vehicle traffic accident reports, medical examiners reports, newspaper articles, Kentucky and Federal Worker's Compensation reports and other government investigative reports. Each fatality was substantiated by either two independent source documents or one source document and a follow-up questionnaire to the employer or other contact (excluding next-of-kin) who had knowledge about the circumstances of the incident.*

*The CFOI program in Kentucky can provide useful data to identify hazardous industries, occupations and activities and identify machinery and equipment involved in work-related fatalities. CFOI will give government and businesses an idea of where safety standards are ineffective or needed. Overall, the census will encourage a safe work environment.*

## OVERVIEW OF FATAL OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES IN KENTUCKY

- ?? The number of Occupational Fatalities in Kentucky has increased from 120 in 1999 to 132 in 2000. Transportation incidents and contact with objects and equipment together accounted for 67 percent in 1999 and 70 percent in 2000 .
- ?? Workers in the agriculture industry experienced 25 percent of all deaths in 1999 and 11percent in 2000. (Table 4)
- ?? Construction incidents were the leading event of death from 1999 through 2000. (Table 1)
- ?? The report reflects that the age group with the highest number of incidents was between 35-44 in 1999 and 2000. (Table 2)
- ?? Male workers incurred 91 percent of all fatal injuries in 1999 and 97 percent in2000. (Table 2)
- ?? Ninety-eight (98) percent of the deaths in 1999 occurred to white workers ,while in 2000 it was 93 percent.
- ?? The occupation group that experienced the highest percentage of occupational fatalities fluctuated from year to year. In 1999 the occupation group with the highest percentage was the operators, fabricators and laborers category with 34 percent. In 2000 it was the same group but with 36 percent.
- ??
- ?? The leading source of occupational fatalities in 1999 were vehicles with 59 and in 2000 Were also vehicles with 62.
- ?? The number of fatal occupational injuries drastically increased in Jefferson County from 2 in 1999 to 17 in 2000.
- ?? The month with the most fatal occupational injuries were July in 1999 and September for 2000. (See Page 20)

- ? ? The day with the most fatal occupational injuries in 1999 was Thursday with 29 fatalities and in 2000 the day was Monday and Wednesday with 27 fatalities each.
- ? ? Of 132 occupational fatalities in 2000, 128 were among males and 4 were among females. Three of the four fatalities that occurred to women were due to assaults and violent acts.. Again 3 out of 4 were due to workplace violence. (Nationally the number one occupational fatality among females was homicide)
- ? ? Workplace homicides was the same in 1999 and 2000 with eight. These do not include assaults by animals or suicides. (Table 1)
- ? ? The average number of fatal occupational injuries per week was 2.2 in 1999 and 2.5 in 2000.
- ? ? The work status in 2000 was 75 percent working for pay and other compensation and 25 percent was self employed.

This report may be revised during the year to include any cases not included in this report due to late arrival of source documents.

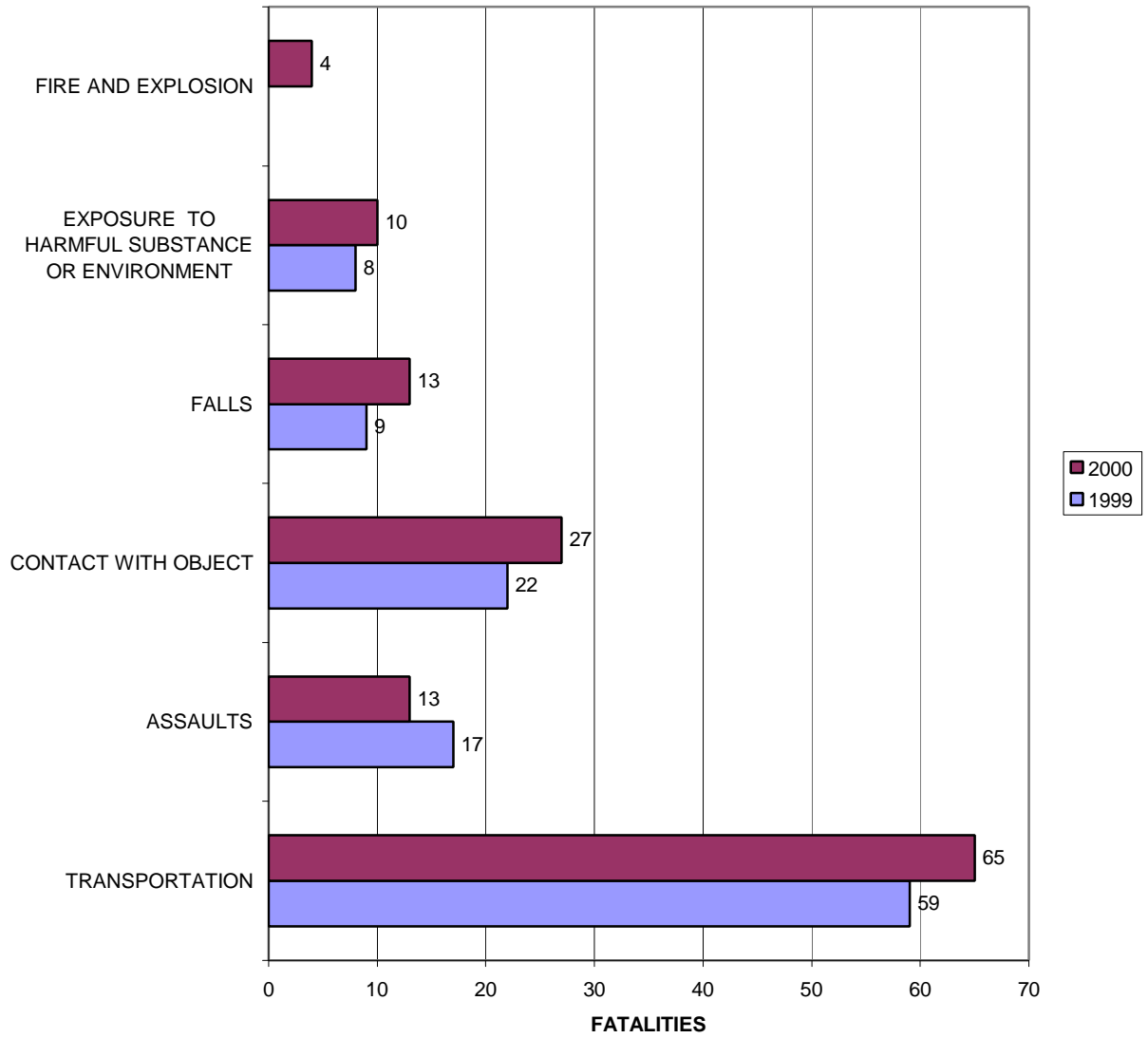
**TABLE 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure  
Kentucky, 1999-2000**

EVENT OR EXPOSURE	1999	2000
TOTAL	120	132
TRANSPORTATION INCIDENTS	59	65
Highway	27	26
Nonhighway (farm, industrial premises)	15	21
Worker struck by vehicle	3	4
Aircraft	14	11
Railway	-	-
ASSAULTS AND VIOLENT ACTS	17	13
Homicides	8	8
Self-inflicted injury	5	4
CONTACT WITH OBJECT AND EQUIPMENT	22	27
Struck by object	15	16
Caught in or compressed by Equipment or objects	*	7
Caught in or crushed in collapsing Materials	5	4
FALLS	9	13
Fall to lower level	9	12
EXPOSURE TO HARMFUL SUBSTANCES OR ENVIRONMENTS	8	10
Contact with electric current	5	4
Exposure to caustic, noxious, or allergenic substances	*	-
FIRES AND EXPLOSIONS	*	4
Explosion	*	*

Note: (-) Dashes indicate no data reported.

(\*) Asterisks indicate less than three cases reported.

# EVENTS OR EXPOSURE





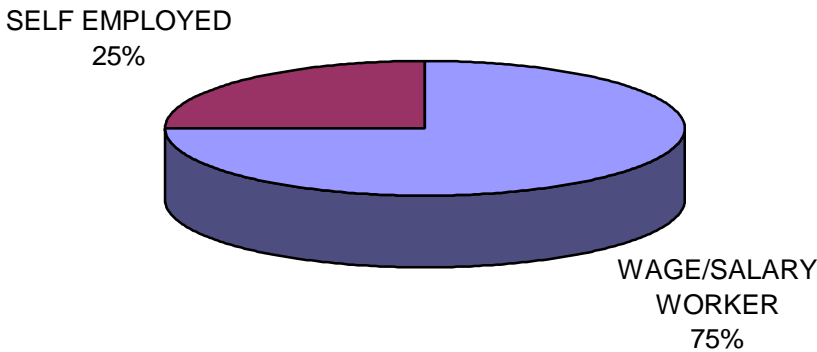
**TABLE 2. Fatal work injuries by selected characteristics  
Kentucky, 1999-2000**

CHARACTERISTIC	Fatalities 1999	Fatalities 2000
TOTAL	120	132
EMPLOYEE STATUS		
Wage and salary workers	88	99
Self-Employed	32	33
SEX		
Men	114	128
Women	6	4
AGE		
Under 20 years	*	4
20-24	12	3
25-34	22	22
35-44	28	37
45-54	27	33
55-64	14	20
65 years and older	16	13
RACE		
White	118	122
Black	*	9

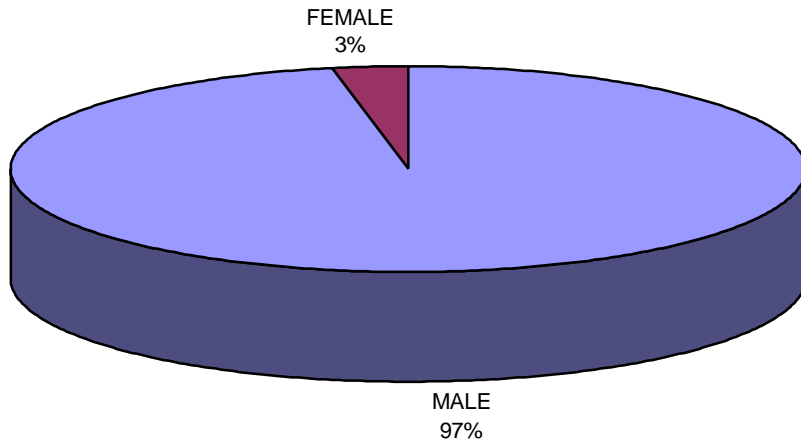
Note: (-) Dashes indicate no data reported.

(\*) Asterisks indicate less than three cases reported.

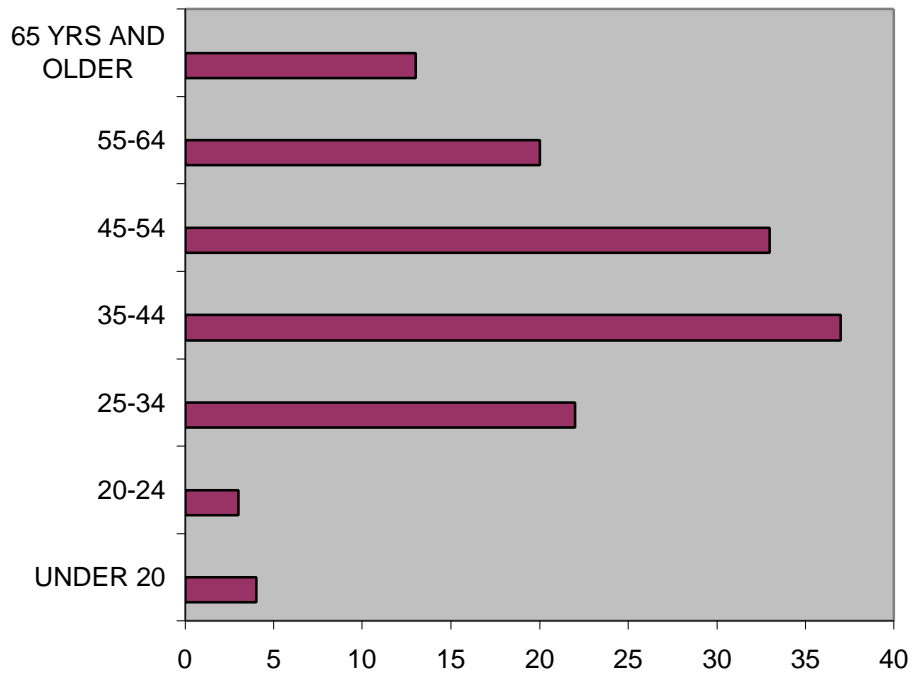
# WORK STATUS IN 2000



# GENDER IN 2000



# AGE OF INJURY IN 2000

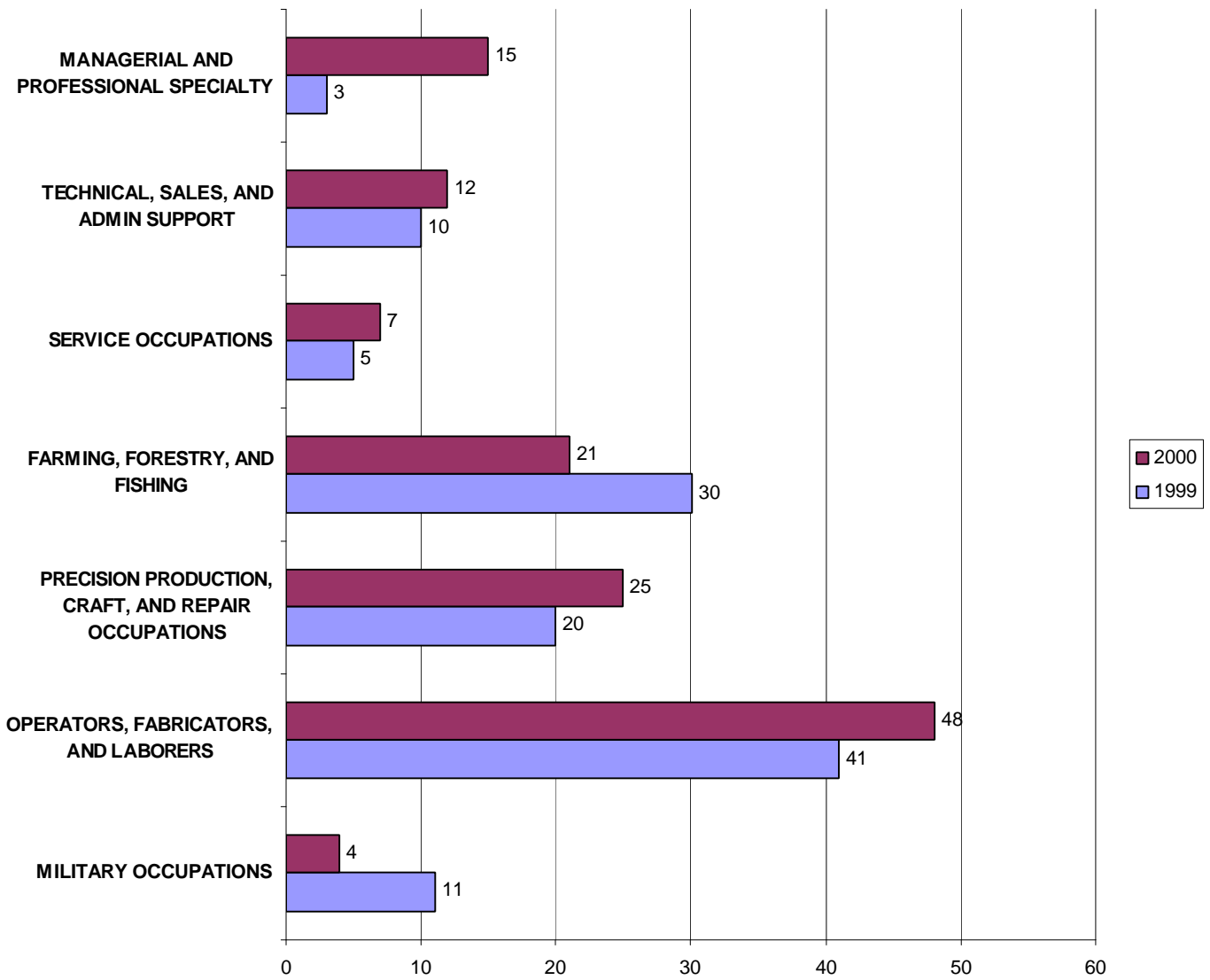


**TABLE 3. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation,  
Kentucky, 1999-2000**

OCCUPATION	Fatal 1999	Fatal 2000
TOTAL	120	132
MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL SPECIALTY	3	15
Executive, administrative, and managerial	-	9
Professional specialty	-	6
TECHNICAL, SALES, AND ADMIN SUPPORT	10	12
Technical and related support	5	4
Sales occupations	3	6
SERVICE OCCUPATIONS	5	7
Protective service	3	3
Service occupations, except protective and household	*	4
FARMING, FORESTRY, AND FISHING	30	21
Farming occupations	23	11
Forestry and logging occupations	4	7
PRECISION PRODUCTION, CRAFT, AND REPAIR OCCUPATIONS	20	25
Mechanics and repairers	5	5
Construction trades	10	14
Extractive occupations	3	5
OPERATORS, FABRICATORS, AND LABORERS	41	48
Transportation and material moving occupations	30	34
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	5	7
MILITARY OCCUPATIONS	11	4

Note: (-) Dashes indicate no data reported.  
 (\*) Asterisks indicate less than three cases reported.

# OCCUPATIONS IN 2000



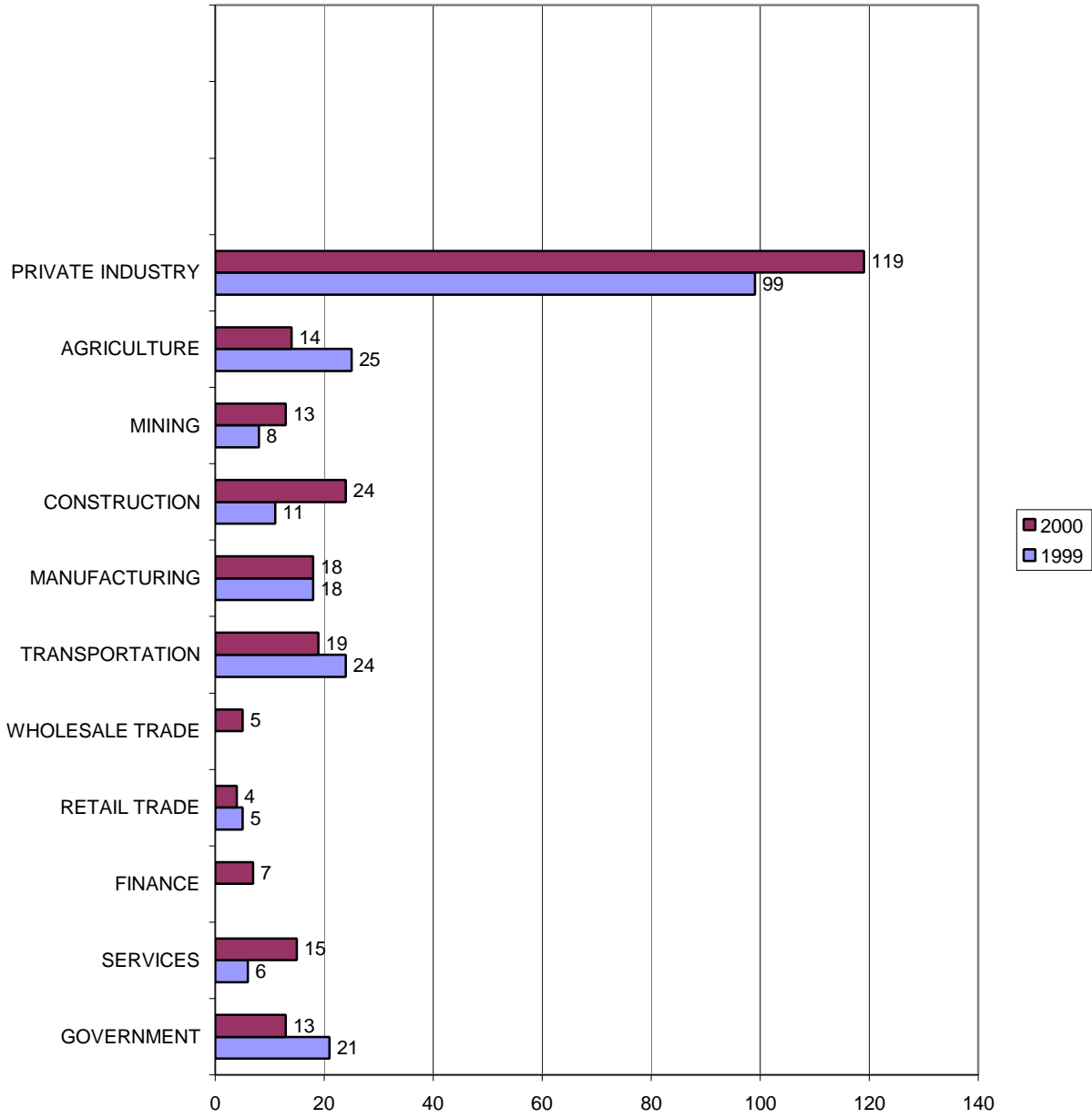
**TABLE 4. Fatal occupational injuries by industry  
Kentucky, 1999-2000**

INDUSTRY	Fatal 1999	Fatal 2000
TOTAL	120	132
Agriculture	25	14
Mining	8	13
Construction	11	24
Manufacturing	18	18
Transportation	24	19
Wholesale	-	5
Retail	5	4
Finance	*	7
Services	6	15
Government	21	13
Federal	13	6
State	*	3
Local	5	4

Note: (-) Dashes indicate no data reported

(\*) Asterisks indicate less than three cases reported

# INDUSTRY





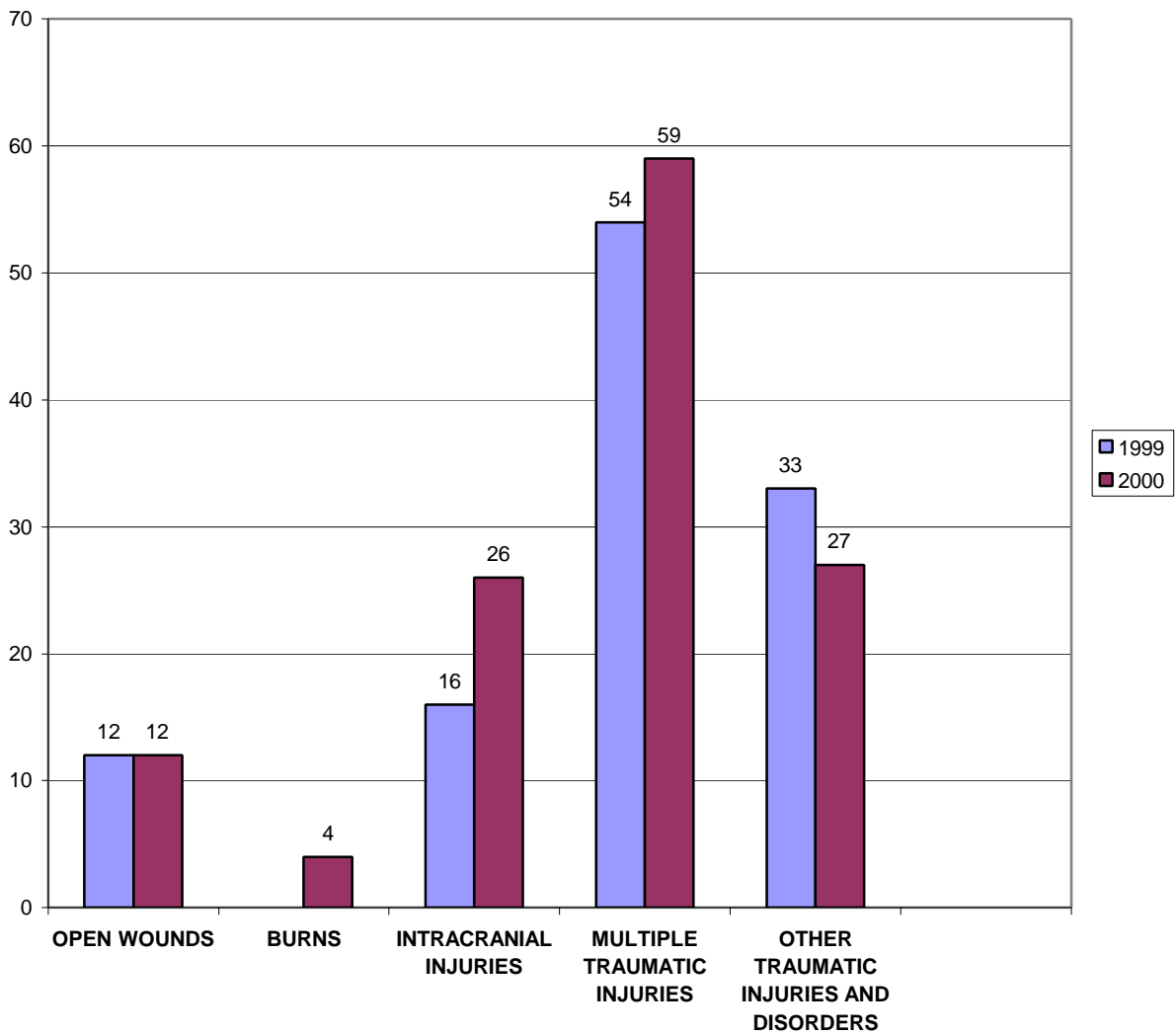
**TABLE 5. Fatal occupational injuries by nature  
Kentucky 1999-2000**

NATURE	Fatalities 1999	Fatalities 2000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>TRAUMATIC INJURIES TO BONES, NERVES, AND SPINAL CORD</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>*</b>
<b>OPEN WOUNDS</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>
Gunshot wounds	10	10
<b>BURNS</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>INTRACRANIAL INJURIES</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>26</b>
Multiple Intracranial Injuries	4	*
<b>MULTIPLE TRAUMATIC INJURIES AND DISORDERS</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>59</b>
Burns and other injuries	-	-
Intracranial injuries and injuries to internal organs	-	3
Other combinations of traumatic injuries and disorders, n.e.c.	-	-
<b>OTHER TRAUMATIC INJURIES AND DISORDERS</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>27</b>
Asphyxiation/strangulations, suffocations	6	*
Electrocutions, electric shock	5	4
Internal injuries to organs and blood vessels of the trunk	17	14

Note: (-) Dashes indicate no data reported

(\*) Asterisks indicate less than three cases reported

# NATURE OF INJURY



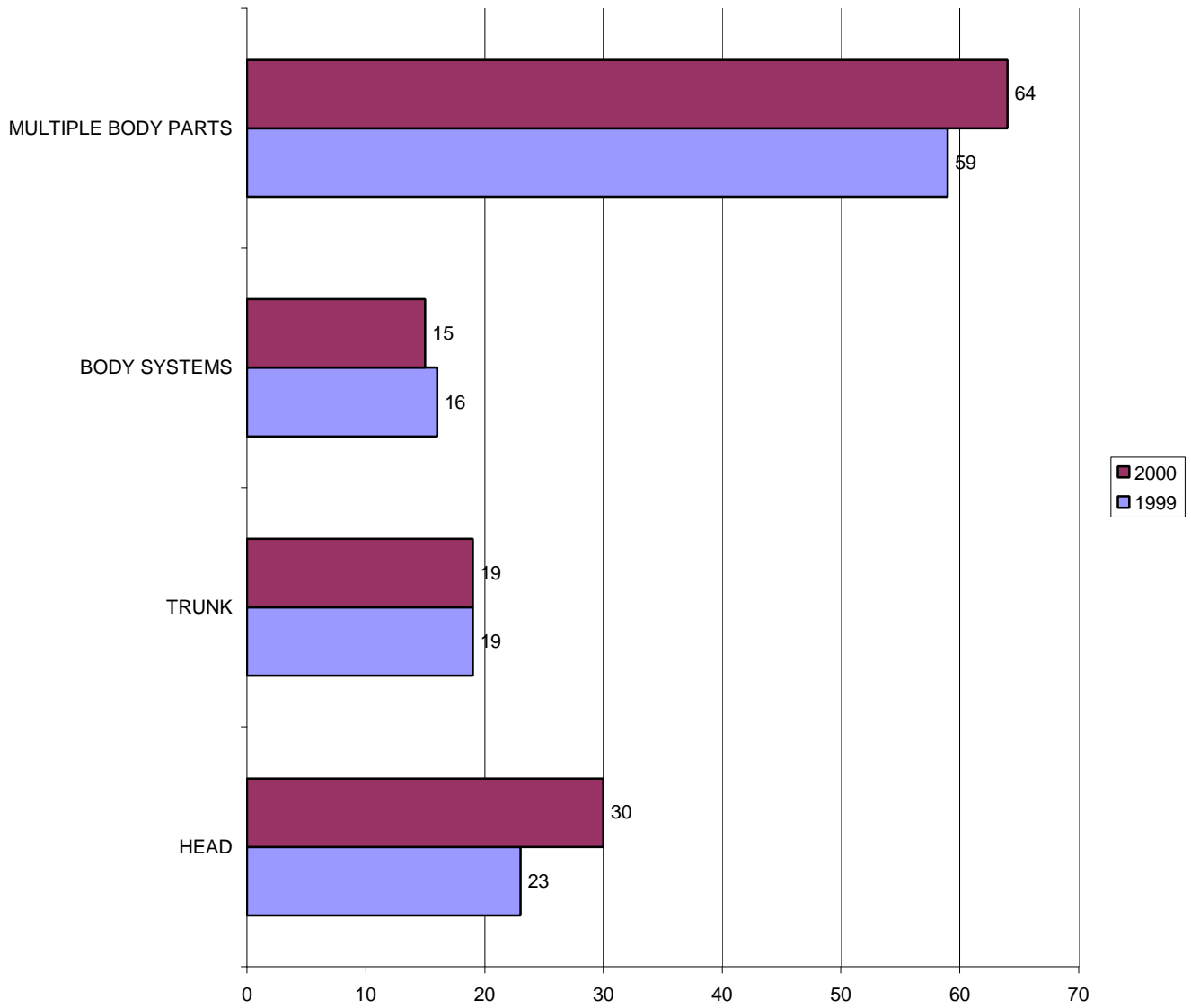
**TABLE 6. Fatal occupational injuries by part of body  
Kentucky 1999-2000**

PART OF BODY	Fatalities 1999	Fatalities 2000
TOTAL	120	132
HEAD	23	30
Cranial region, including skull	21	28
Brain	21	28
TRUNK	19	19
Chest, except internal location of diseases or disorders	13	14
Abdomen	*	4
Multiple trunk locations	*	-
BODY SYSTEMS	16	15
MULTIPLE BODY PARTS	59	64

Note: (-) Dashes indicate no data reported

(\*) Asterisks indicate less than three cases reported

# PART OF BODY INJURED

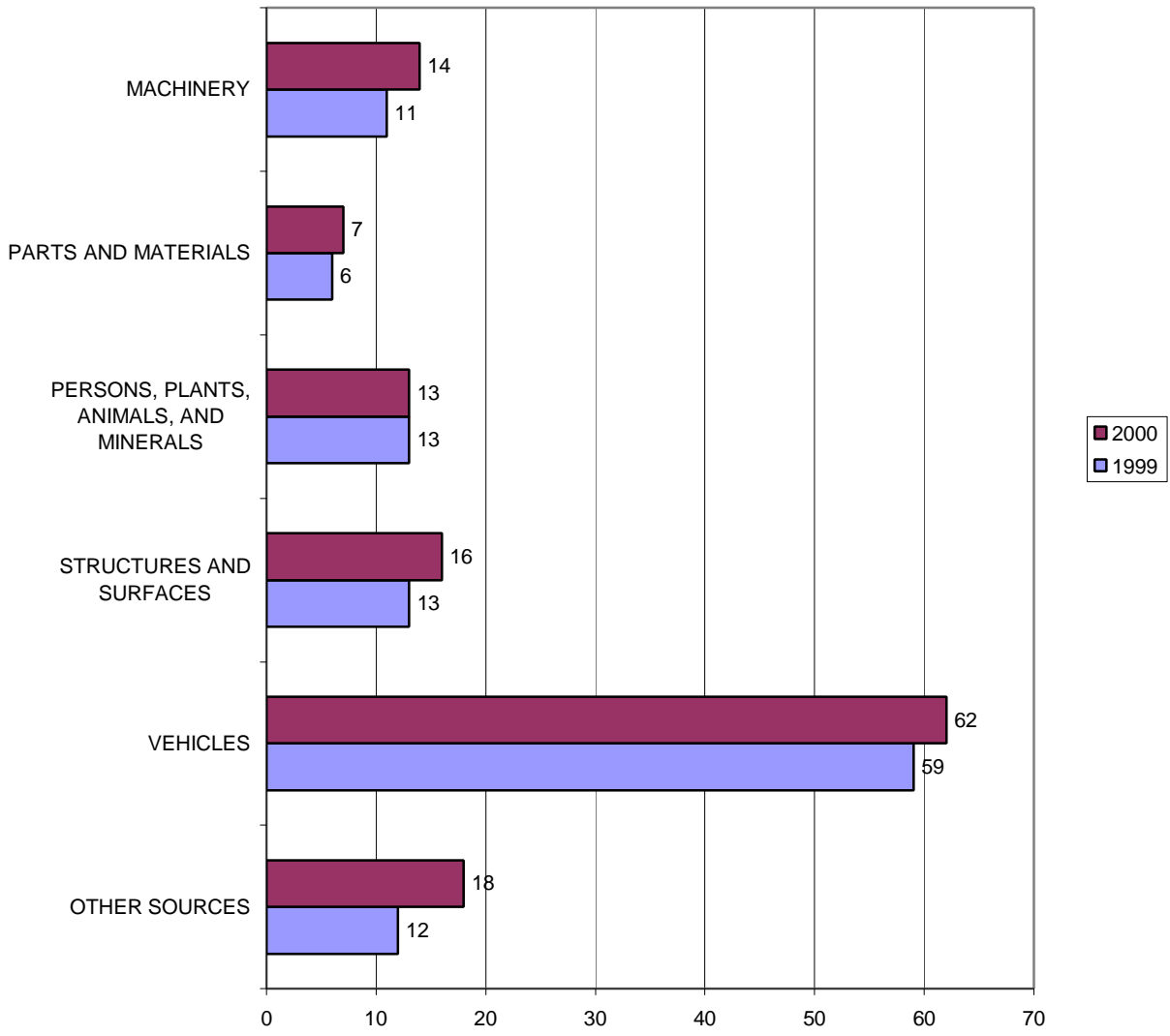


**TABLE 7. Fatal occupational injuries by source  
Kentucky 1999-2000**

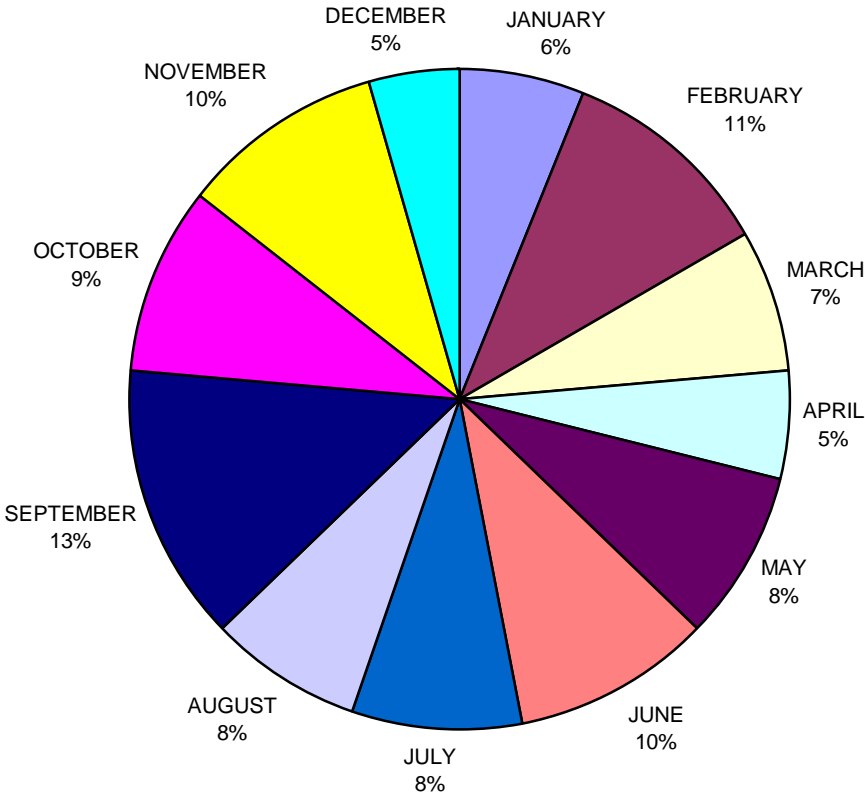
SOURCE	Fatalities 1999	Fatalities 2000
TOTAL	120	132
MACHINERY	11	14
PARTS AND MATERIALS	6	7
Machine, tool, and electric parts	5	3
PERSONS, PLANTS, ANIMALS, AND MINERALS	13	13
Plants, trees, vegetation-not processed	6	8
STRUCTURES AND SURFACES	13	16
Floors, walkways, ground surfaces	9	12
Structures	4	*
VEHICLES	59	62
Highway vehicle, motorized	36	37
Automobile	*	8
Truck	34	26
Plant and industrial powered vehicles, tractors	9	10
Rail vehicle	*	3
Air vehicles	14	11
OTHER SOURCES	12	18
Ammunition	10	10
Atmospheric and environmental conditions	*	5

Note: (\*) Asterisks indicate less than three cases reported

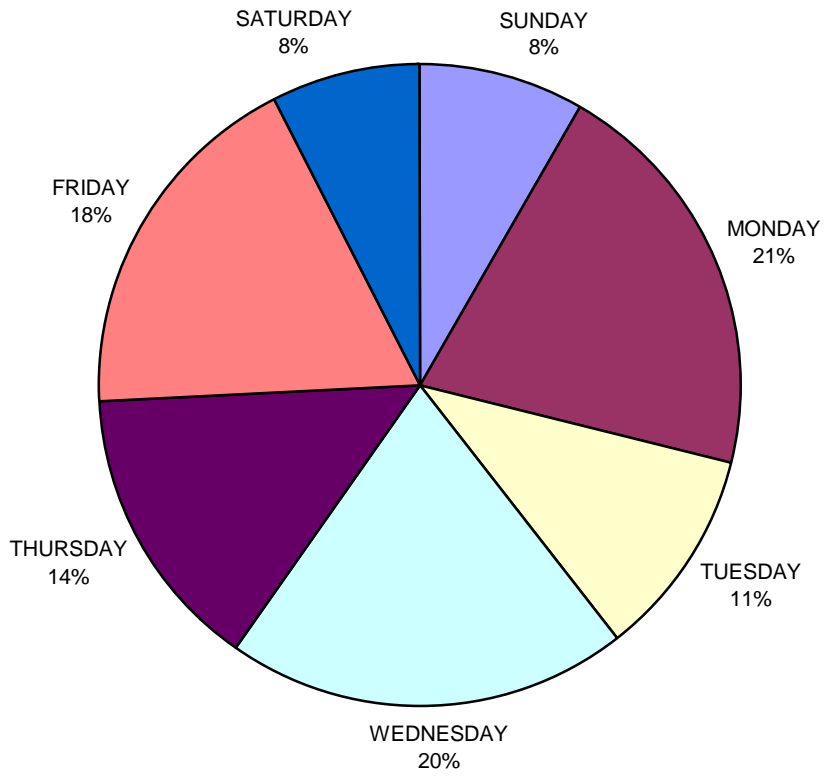
# SOURCE OF INJURY



# MONTHS OF INJURY IN 2000



# DAYS OF INJURY IN 2000





## APPENDIX 1

### SYSTEMS USED TO CLASSIFY THE DATA

The following coding systems were used to categorize fatality data:

1. The Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Structures were used to classify:
  - A. Nature of Injury (page 14 & 15).
  - B. Part of Body (page 16 & 17).
  - C. Event or Exposure (page 4 & 5).
  - D. Source of Injury (page 18 & 19).
2. The 1987 Standard Industrial Classification Manual was used to classify Industry (page 12 & 13).
3. The 1990 Bureau of the Census Alphabetical Index of Industries and Occupations was used to classify Occupations (page 10 & 11).

## APPENDIX 2

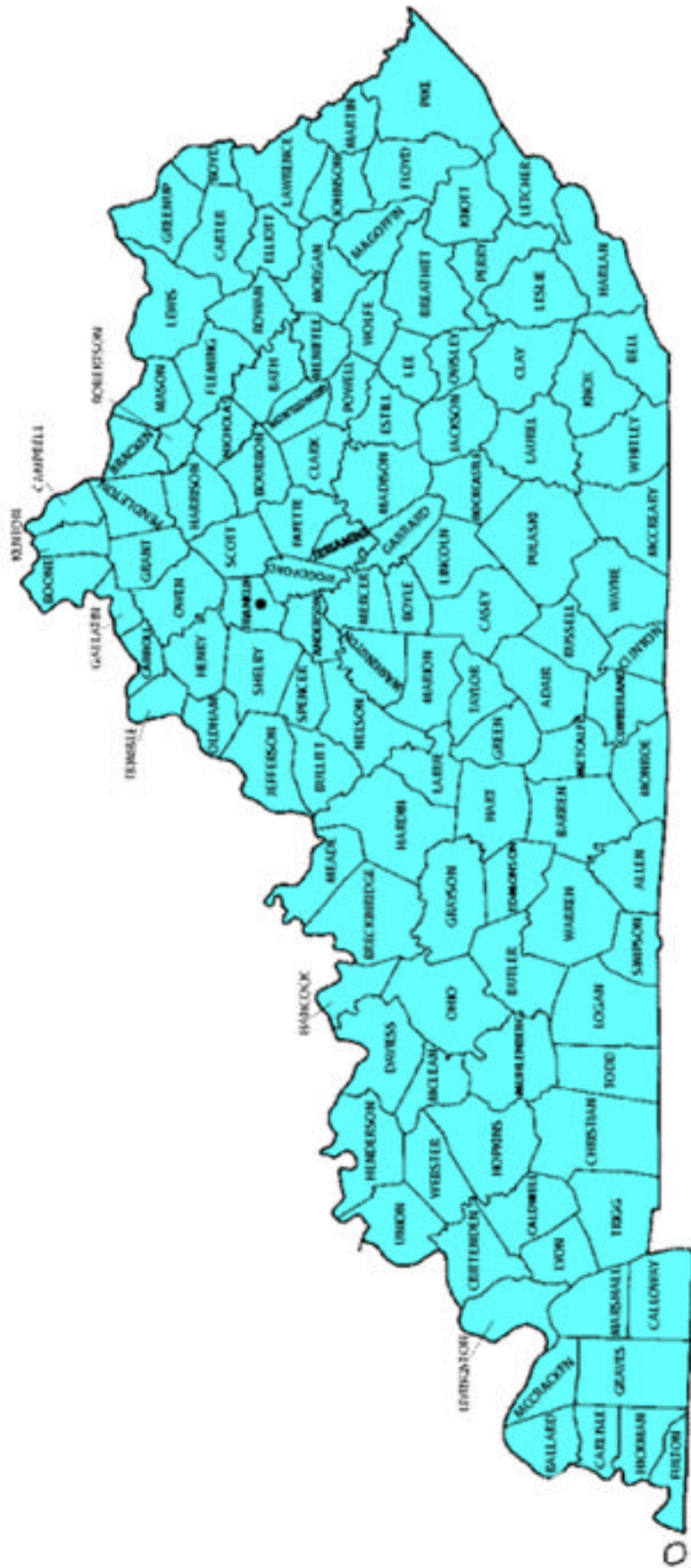
### TECHNICAL NOTES

- ?
- ☞☞ The "unknown/other" category includes all other elements of a particular data field that are not listed in the table and/or unknown elements. On some of the tables, low-incidence categories are aggregated into the "unknown/other" category because of space and confidentiality considerations.
  - ☞☞ Source is the Kentucky Labor Cabinet in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 1998-1999.
  - ☞☞ Information on work-related fatal illnesses are excluded from the BLS census tables because of the latency period of many occupational illnesses and the resulting difficulties associated with linking illnesses to work. Partial information on fatal occupational illnesses, compiled separately, is available to researchers upon request from BLS.
  - ☞☞ The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries includes data for all fatal work injuries, whether they are covered by OSHA or other Federal or State agencies, or are outside the scope of regulatory coverage. Thus, any comparison between the BLS Census counts and those released by other agencies should take into account the different coverage and definitions being used.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*We appreciate the efforts of all State and Federal agencies that submitted source documents used to identify fatal work injuries. Among these agencies are the Kentucky Occupational Safety and Health Program; the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; the Mine Safety and Health Administration; the Centers for Disease Control; the Kentucky Workers' Compensation Division; the National Transportation Safety Board; the Department of Justice; the Cabinet for Human Resources, Vital Statistics; the County Coroners of the State of Kentucky; the University of Kentucky, Department of Health Services; the Kentucky State Police; the State Medical Examiner's Office; and the news media.*

# 2000 WORK-RELATED FATALITIES BY COUNTY



Counties left blank indicate less than three cases reported