

## Indicator 16: Workers Employed in Occupations and Industries with High Risk for Occupational Mortality

### Significance

Each year, almost 6,000 cases of work-related fatalities are reported to the Census of Fatal Occupational injuries (CFOI) program administered by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). On average, 16 workers die per day as a result of injuries sustained at work throughout the United States.

Certain industries and occupations have an increased risk for occupational mortality. Industries and occupations with fatality rates greater than 9.5 deaths per 100,000 workers are considered 'high-risk industries and occupations'. In 2003, 31 industries had a fatality rate of 9.5 deaths per 100,000 workers or higher. These industries accounted for 61% of the occupational fatalities in the United States; however they only employed 15% of the private sector employment (approximately 18 million workers). In addition, 57 occupations were considered at high risk for occupational mortality.

### Methods

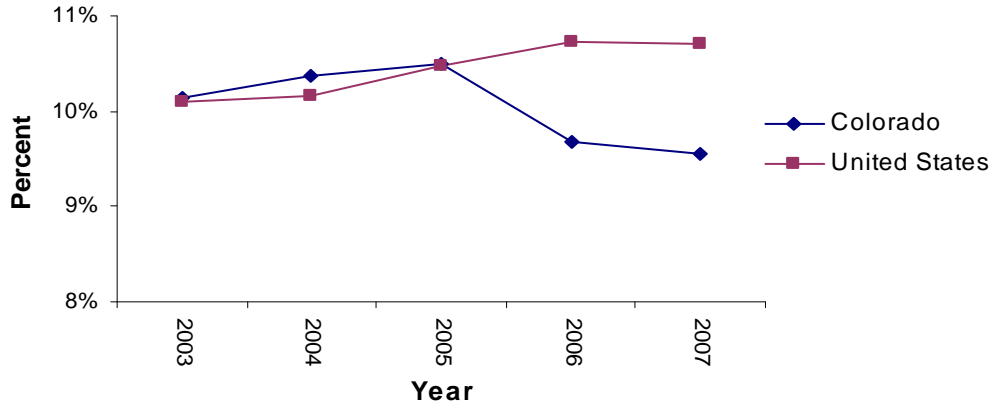
The BLS collects information on the percentage of workers employed in industries and occupations throughout the United States. BLS's Current Population Survey was used to calculate the number and percent of workers employed in the 31 high risk industries and 57 high risk occupations in Colorado and the United States. The percent of workers in Colorado and the United States employed in these high risk industries and occupations is reported for the years 2003 to 2007 in Table 16.1 and Figures 16.1 and 16.2.

### Results

Year	% Of Workers Employed In High-Risk Occupations		% Of Workers Employed In High-Risk Industries	
	Colorado	United States	Colorado	United States
<b>2003</b>	10.1%	10.1%	14.6%	13.5%
<b>2004</b>	10.4%	10.2%	15.0%	13.5%
<b>2005</b>	10.5%	10.5%	14.8%	14.2%
<b>2006</b>	9.7%	10.7%	14.9%	14.5%
<b>2007</b>	9.6%	10.7%	15.1%	14.3%
<b>Average</b>	10.1%	10.4%	14.9%	14.0%

*Source: BLS Current Population Survey (CPS) (numerator and denominator)*

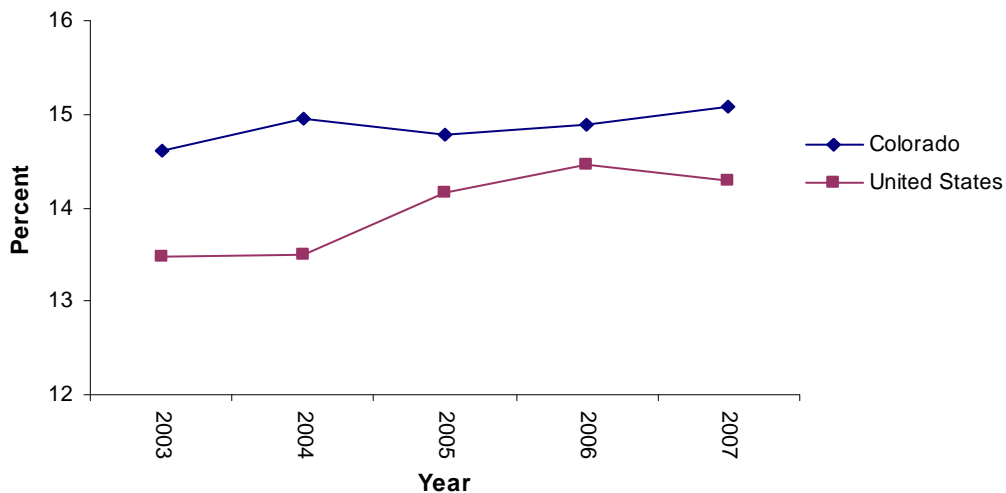
**Figure 16.1 Percent of workers employed in occupations at high risk for occupational mortality in Colorado and the United States, 2003-2007**



Source: BLS Current Population Survey (CPS) (numerator and denominator)

- Approximately 10% of workers in Colorado and the United States were employed in occupations at high risk for mortality from 2003 to 2007. (Table 16.1 and Figure 16.1)
- There is a slightly larger percentage of workers employed in occupations considered 'high-risk for occupational mortality' in the United States as compared to Colorado. (Table 16.1 and Figure 16.1)

**Figure 16.2 Percent of workers employed in industries at high risk for occupational mortality in Colorado and the United States, 2003-2007**



Source: BLS Current Population Survey (CPS) (numerator and denominator)

- Approximately 15% of workers in Colorado and 14% in the United States were employed in industries at high risk for occupational mortality from 2003 to 2007. (Table 16.1 and Figure 16.2)
- There is a slightly larger percentage of workers employed in industries considered ‘high-risk for occupational mortality’ in Colorado as compared to the United States. (Table 16.1 and Figure 16.2)
- There has been a slight increase in the number of workers employed in industries at high risk for occupational mortality between 2003 and 2007 in both Colorado and the United States. (Table 16.1 and Figure 16.2)

**Data Source**

- BLS Current Population Survey (CPS) (numerator and denominator)

**Limitations**

- The ranking of high-risk occupations and industries may differ by state and/or industry.
- Suicides that take place at the workplace are considered work-related fatalities even though these deaths may not be necessarily caused by work-related factors.
- Deaths reported are for the private sector only and exclude military deaths.

**Recommendations**

- Identify the risk factors that contribute to high-risk industries and occupations to develop prevention intervention strategies.