



# Security Guards

## Injuries, Illnesses, and Fatalities

### Fact Sheet

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[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

## **Injuries, Illnesses, and Fatalities among Security Guards**

Security guards face a set of hazards different from that of the average worker. Security guards are more likely to be fatally injured while working, especially by homicide, but are less likely to incur a nonfatal injury or illness than workers in general, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Security guards include store and facility guards, bodyguards, bouncers, armored car guards, and watchguards. The [Standard Occupational Classification](#) system lists their duties as guarding, patrolling, or monitoring premises to prevent theft, violence, or infractions of rules. This occupational category does not include police and other law enforcement officers.

The rate of fatal injuries to security guards was 9.4 fatalities per 100,000 workers in 2007.<sup>1</sup> This was an 8-percent increase from the 2006 rate of 8.7 fatalities per 100,000 workers. The rate in 2007 was more than twice the rate for all workers (3.8) that year.

There were 84 fatal occupational injuries among security guards in 2007, up from an average of 68 fatalities per year from 2003 to 2006. Half of the fatal injuries occurred in the investigation and security service industry and about a fifth occurred in the drinking places industry.

Homicides made up a large percentage of fatal work injuries to security guards, much larger than in the total working population. While only 11 percent of all workplace fatalities in 2007 were the result of homicides, 51 percent (43 fatalities) of security guard fatalities were due to homicides. Of these 43 homicides, 47 percent (20 fatalities) were committed by a customer or client, 33 percent (14 fatalities) by a robber, and the remainder (9 fatalities) by an unknown assailant.

The rate of nonfatal injuries and illnesses requiring days away from work to recuperate was 107.8 per 10,000 full-time workers for security guards in 2007, which is 11.8 percent lower than the rate for all occupations in private industry, 122.2 per 10,000 workers. The 2007 rate for security guards represents an increase of 9.2 percent from 2006. The median days away from work, a key measure of the severity of injuries and illnesses, was 8 days for security guards, compared with 7 days for all occupations.

While the overall injury and illness rate suggests less frequent occurrences of incidents for security guards than for the average of all occupations, rates for certain events are higher for security guards. Falls, predominantly falls to the same level, were the most common event leading to injuries with days away from work to security guards, occurring at a rate of 27.5 per 10,000 full-time workers in 2007. The rate of falls for all private industry was lower, at 17.6 per 10,000 full-time workers. While the rate of assaults and violent acts for private industry was 2.6 per 10,000 workers, the rate of

assaults and violent acts experienced by security guards was 14.4 per 10,000 full-time workers.

In 2007, assaults and violent acts accounted for 13 percent (1,090 cases) of injuries and illnesses to security guards requiring at least 1 day away from work. Of these, health-care patients were the source of the injury or illness in 19.2 percent (210 cases) of cases. Surfaces and structures were the source in 14.6 percent (160 cases); the injuries were due to people falling onto surfaces and structures after they were assaulted. Other persons, excluding health care patients, were the source of more than half (570) of the assault and violent act cases requiring at least 1 day away from work.

A larger percentage of injuries and illnesses to security guards occurred during late night and early morning hours than in private industry as a whole. In 2007, 11.7 percent of injuries and illnesses to security guards occurred between 12:01 a.m. and 4:00 a.m., which is more than three times higher than the average for all private industry. Security guards also had a higher percentage of injuries and illnesses than all private industry in the hours ranging from 4:01 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. (12.4 percent compared with 9.8 percent), 4:01 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (18.7 percent compared with 10.7 percent), and 8:01 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. (14.0 percent compared with 5.5 percent).

A larger portion of injuries and illnesses to security guards occurred during the weekend. Over 10 percent of injuries and illnesses occurred on Sunday, compared with 5.8 percent for all private workers in 2007. Similarly, 12.2 percent of injuries and illnesses to security guards occurred on Saturday, compared with 7.8 percent for all private industry workers. Additionally, older security guards make up a higher proportion of their occupation's injuries and illnesses in comparison with older workers in private industry as a whole. While 12 percent of all injured and ill workers were aged 55 to 64 in 2007, 18.1 percent of injured or ill security guards were in the same age group. The percentage of injured or ill security guards who were over age 65 (6.2 percent) is nearly three times higher than the percentage for all private workers (2.2 percent).

NOTE: Fatal occupational injury numbers and rates are based on all industry ownerships, while nonfatal injury and illness numbers and rates are based on private industry.

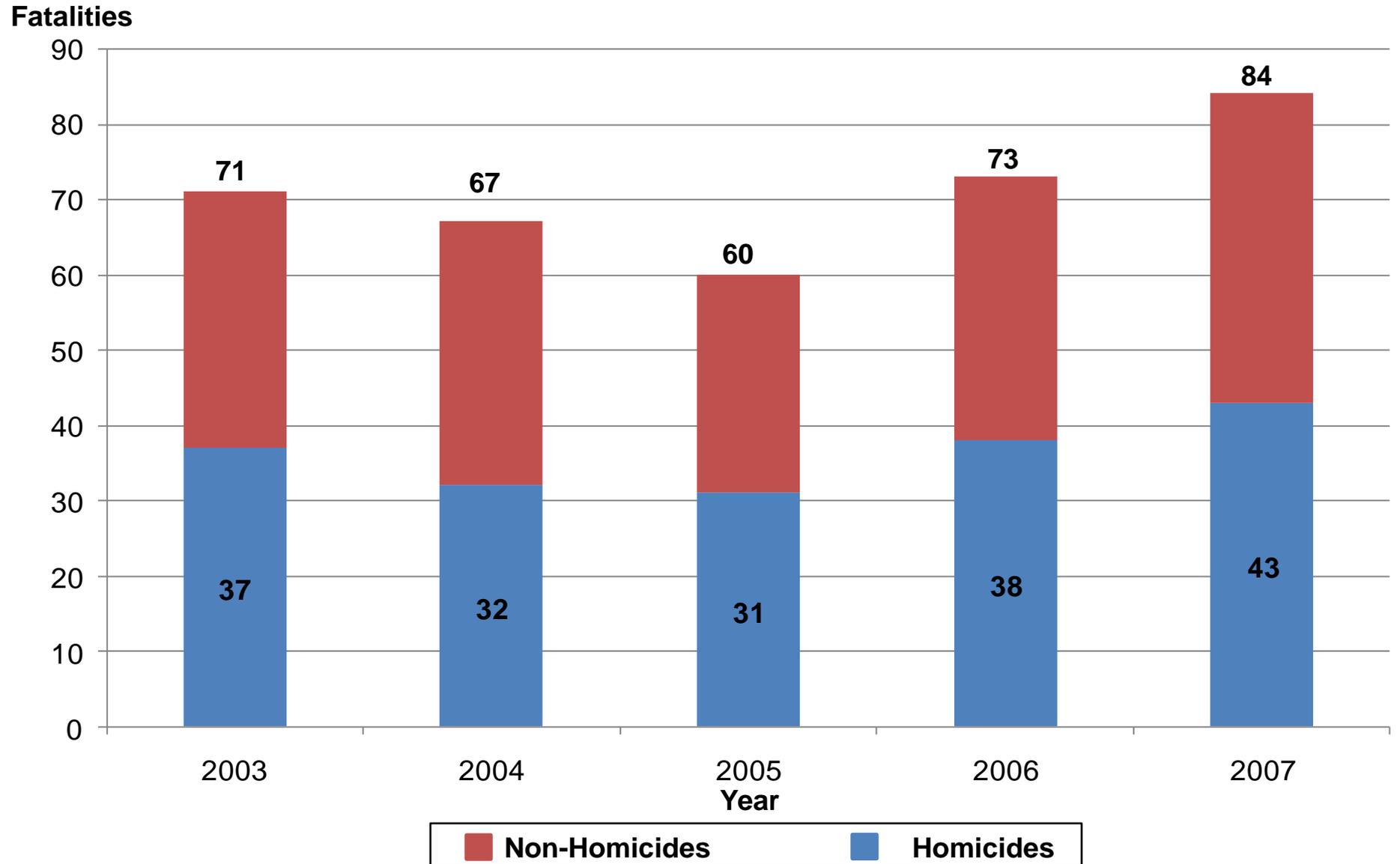
SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), June 16, 2009. Fatality data are from the 2007 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries. Nonfatal injury and illness data are from the 2007 Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses.

More information is available from [www.bls.gov/iif](http://www.bls.gov/iif) or by calling (202) 691-6170.

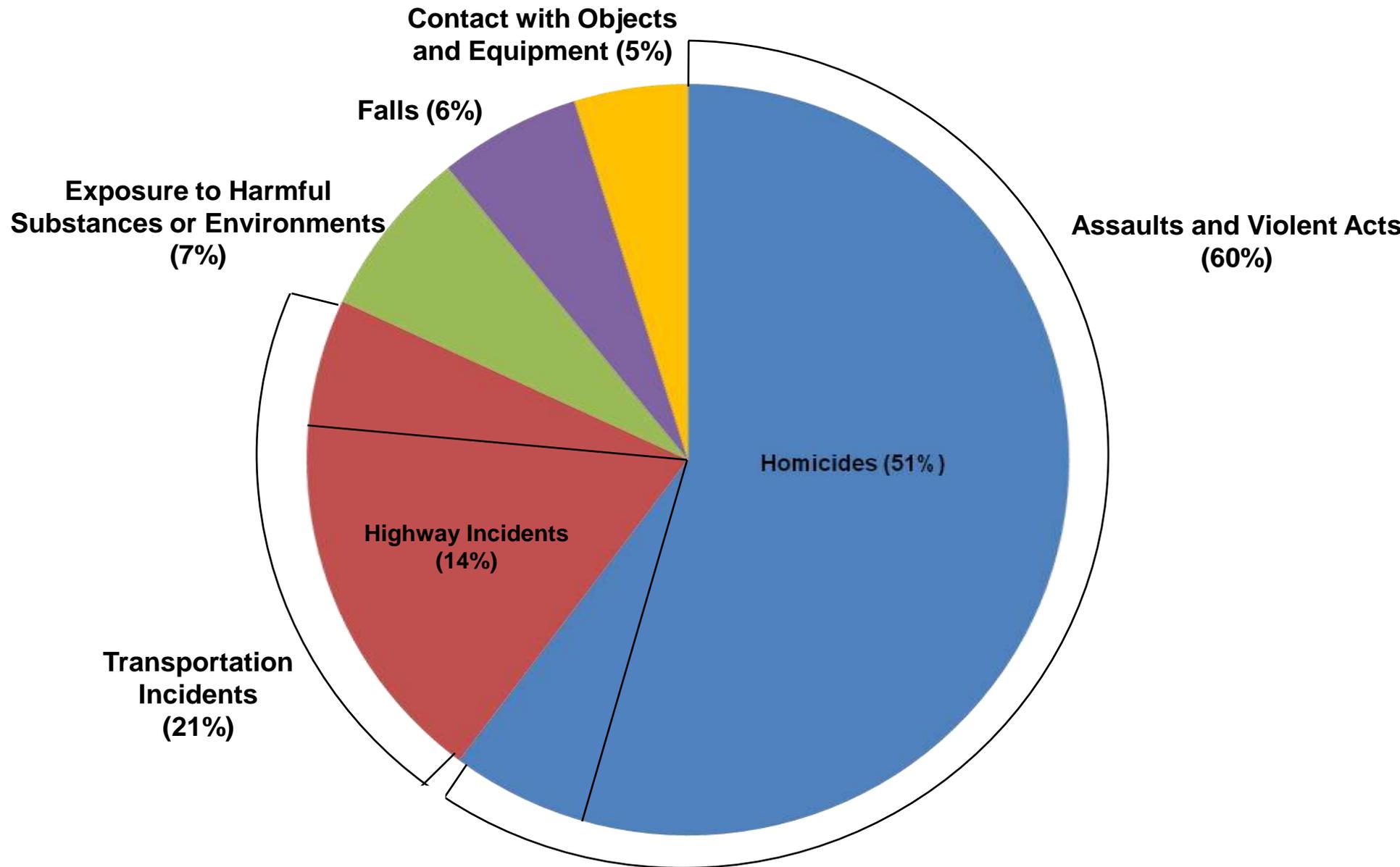
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<sup>1</sup> Fatal injury rates include the fatalities of security guards and of gaming surveillance officers.

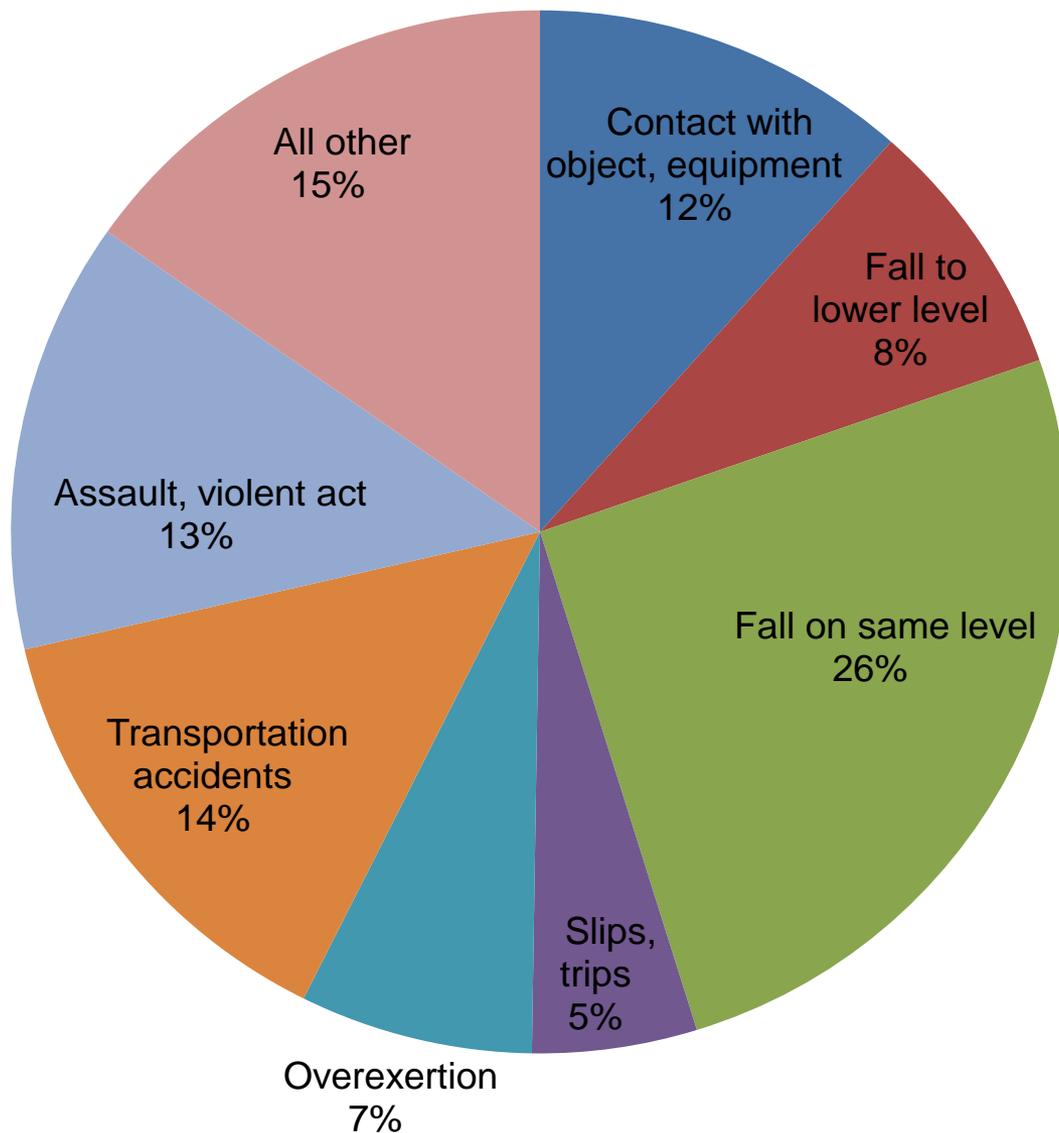
# Security Guard Fatalities, 2003-2007



# Fatalities to Security Guards, by Event, 2007



# Injuries and Illnesses to Security Guards, by Event, 2007



# Time of Day for Injuries and Illnesses Requiring Days Away from Work, 2007

