

Chapter 4

Introduction to the results

Cases included in the study were classified into one of eight categories. The largest groups were made up of working persons fatally injured in the course of their work and persons fatally injured commuting to or from work. Working and Commuting persons are grouped together as “Total deaths” in some analyses. These groups, along with bystanders to work, either in the workplace or on the road, and home duties deaths, are the focus of the information presented in the results chapters, Chapters 5 to 12. There were three other groups — volunteers, students, and other rural workplace deaths — for whom information was collected during the study but who were not the main focus of the study. They comprise a small number of the cases and no detailed information about these groups is presented in this thesis (Table 4.1).

**Table 4.1 Classification of work-related traumatic deaths
Number and percent. Australia, 1989 to 1992**

Classification	Number	%
Working	1,787	49.2
Commuting	626	17.2
Volunteer	20	0.6
Student	39	1.1
Home duties	298	8.2
Workplace bystander ¹	334	9.2
Road bystander	477	13.1
Rural	49	1.3
Total	3,630	100.0

1: Nine workplace bystanders were bystanders to home duties.

Chapter 5 contains the results for the work-related deaths of workers (Working deaths and Commuting deaths). It covers the number, type and circumstances of fatal incidents and the deceased persons involved. An overall description is provided first and then

individual aspects of the fatal incidents and the persons involved are examined. Both working and commuting incidents are included, but most results relate only, or primarily, to incidents where working persons were killed.

In Chapter 6, the results from the current study are compared with those from WRFS 1, in an attempt to provide an insight into changes in work-related fatality experience from 1982 to 1992. The strengths and limitations of the comparisons are also considered.

Chapter 7 provides similar results to Chapter 5 but for bystanders, with workplace and road bystanders examined separately. Key aspects of the bystander incidents are described, as well as the overall number and rate of death.

Chapter 8 presents summary information on home duties deaths, again describing key aspects of the incidents, as well as the overall number and rate of death.

Chapter 9 presents a detailed consideration of employment arrangement and its relationship to the rate of work-related death of workers.

In Chapter 10, the coverage of work-related death by the OHS and compensation agencies from most of the jurisdictions is considered. The results primarily address coverage at the national level, but some specific information is provided for most jurisdictions.

Chapter 11 provides broad level information on the coverage of work related traumatic deaths by the coronial system. Aspects such as coronial actions, coronial recommendations and input from OHS and other authorities are considered.

Chapters 12 and 13 consider ICD-9 codes in detail. Chapter 12 summaries the E-codes of the main deaths of interest in the study. Chapter 13 uses this information to predict the pattern of work-related fatalities over the two decades from the late 1970s to the late 1990s.

Chapters 14 to 17 present a detailed consideration of aspects of reliability and validity in the coding of work-relatedness in general and in this study in particular. Chapter 14 considers brief scenarios describing work-related and other events; Chapter 15 considers full coronial files; and Chapter 16 examines the re-coding of WRFS 1 files by WRFS 2 research officers. Chapter 17 presents the results of an analysis of a comparison of work-relatedness coding between this study and similar coding by research teams in New Zealand and the United States. This was conducted as an adjunct to the main study described in this thesis.

A discussion of the major findings and issues arising from the results is provided at the end of each Chapter.

Chapter 18 provides a discussion of specific aspects of the study not covered elsewhere, a brief overview of likely advances in the study of work-related fatalities in the next decade, and brief conclusions for the whole study.