

Weekly Safety Tip

Violence in The Workplace





According to the <u>"Indicators of Workplace Violence, 2019" report</u> released in July 2022 by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, BLS and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), this report reviewed data collected between 1992 and 2019 to identify key characteristics and trends related to workplace violence, including homicides.

What follows are headings on the eleven key findings with accompanying background data.

1. Workplace homicides have decreased over the past 30 years

Homicides decreased 58% overall between 1994 and 2019. However, the lowest point was in 2014. Since then, workplace homicides have increased by 11%. Between 2015 and 2019, 21% of victims in workplace homicides worked in sales and related occupations; 19% worked in protective-service occupations, notably police officers and security guards; and 9% were persons in management occupations (e.g., owners or managers of restaurants and hotels).

2. Nonfatal violence has decreased since the 1990s

In 2019, the rate of nonfatal workplace violence was 9.2 violent crimes per 1,000 workers age 16 or older, a 70% decrease from 1994 when the rate was 31 violent crimes per 1,000 workers. Aggravated assaults accounted for 15% of nonfatal workplace violence, while rapes or sexual assaults and robberies represented 4% each. Of these, 12% resulted in victim injury and of those, 2% resulted in serious injuries (including gunshot and knife wounds, internal injuries, unconsciousness, broken bones and rape without other serious injuries).

3. Simple assault is increasing

Despite the downward trend over the past 30 years, nonfatal workplace violence actually increased 34% from 2015 to 2019. This is primarily due to an increase in simple assault in the workplace. From 2015 to 2019, simple assault accounted for 77% of nonfatal workplace violence. Simple assault is defined as the threat or attempted injury of another. It does not need to include physical contact.

4. Nearly three-quarters of victims experience emotional distress

In total, 74% of victims of nonviolent workplace violence said they experienced mild (35%), moderate (24%) or severe (15%) emotional distress. Victims were more likely to report problems with work and school than problems with family and friends as a result of the crime.

5. Despite the downward trend over the past 30 years, nonfatal workplace violence actually increased 34% from 2015 to 2019.

6. Most nonfatal workplace violence incidents aren't reported to police

Only 41% of nonfatal workplace violence was reported to police in 2019. Of these incidents, 55% were reported by the victim, while 19% were reported by someone official, including guards, apartment managers and school officials. The primary reasons cited for reporting nonfatal workplace violence to police were to get help with the incident (because it was a crime) or to deal with the offender (contain, stop or punish the offender, or prevent the offender from committing future violence). The biggest reasons for not reporting nonfatal workplace violence to police were to another official or the victim didn't think an incident was important.

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