FACT SHEET: violence in the workplace

CALIFORNIA


- Suicide was the fifth leading group cause of work related deaths in California during 2000-2004, accounting for 4% (n=108) of all work-related deaths. Nearly half of these self-inflicted deaths (n=51; 47%) involved the use of firearms, and one-third (n=37; 34%) involved hanging, strangulation, or suffocation. “Work-Related Mortality in California,” California Department of Health Services, 2000-2004.


- In California, most work-related homicides occurred between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. and from 11:00 p.m. to midnight. Work related homicides were least common between 5:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. California Department of Industrial Relations, 1995.

UNITED STATES

General statistics

- Sensational multiple homicides represent a small number of violent incidents in the workplace. The majority of incidents are lesser cases of assaults, domestic violence, stalking, threats, harassment, and physical and/or emotional abuse. “Workplace Violence: Issues in Response,” Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2004.


- Five percent of all establishments, including state and local governments, had a violent incident, and half of the largest establishments (employing 1,000 or more workers) reported an incident. Survey of Workplace Violence Prevention, US Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2005.


(OVER)

Sectors

- The industries with the highest incidence rates of workplace violence are: social services (14 assaults per 100 full time equivalent workers) and health service workers (9 assaults per 100 full time workers). The national average is 1.8 assaults per 100 full time equivalent workers. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), 1999.


- Risk factors for violence related fatal injuries in the workplace include contact with the public, exchange of money, delivering passengers, goods or services, working alone or in small numbers, working late night or early morning hours, and working in high crime areas. US Department of Labor, 2002.

- In 2000, 128 fatalities occurred in the grocery store industry. The majority (91%) of these resulted from assaults or violent acts, mostly homicide. In 78% of the homicide cases, robbery was the motive. Workplace Injuries and Illnesses in Grocery Stores, US Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2003.

- Of selected occupations examined from 1993 to 1999, police officers were the most likely to be victims of workplace violence, as well as correctional officers, taxicab drivers, private security workers, and bartenders. “Violence in the Workplace,” US Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2001.


- Of the establishments reporting an incident of workplace violence, 21% reported that the incident affected the fear level of their employees and 21% indicated that the incident affected their employees’ morale. Survey of Workplace Violence Prevention, US Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2005.

Relationship

- Victim-offender relationship- percent of victimizations in the workplace:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stranger</td>
<td>59.6%</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends/Acquaintances</td>
<td>33.8%</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intimate</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


- Five percent of workplace homicides (or one-third of all homicides not associated with robbery or stranger crimes) are the result of intimate partner violence. Workplace Violence: A Report to the Nation, University of Iowa Injury Prevention Research Center, 2001.

For a full citation list or more information, please contact:

Billie Weiss, MPH
Violence Prevention Coalition
10960 Wilshire Blvd., Suite #1550
Los Angeles, CA 90024
Phone 310-794-2725
Email: bpweiss@ucla.edu

This fact sheet may be reproduced and distributed without permission provided The Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater Los Angeles is cited. 6/2007