

Workplace Violence

WORKPLACE VIOLENCE is violence or the threat of violence toward someone working or on duty. While workplace violence ranges from physical assault to robbery to homicide, the most common form is simple assault.^F Overall, workplace violence has declined in recent years, yet workplace homicides of government employees have increased. Workers in certain occupations—nurses, utility workers, taxi drivers, letter carriers, and others who work alone or at night—are particularly vulnerable to workplace violence. Unlike other forms of violence, **strangers** commit the greatest proportion of these crimes.^D

NOTE: Data for 2014 unless otherwise indicated. Hover for data hyperlinks to source material.

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
Victims of Crime

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Office for Victims of Crime
OVC
JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS
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Workplace Homicide

Workplace homicide levels have **declined to 403**, from 468 homicides in 2011^B and 1,068 in 1993^E



Age of workplace homicide victims peaks at **45-54 years old^B**



Cause of fatal injury:^A

- Transportation incidents (40%)
- Falls, slips, trips (17%)
- Contact with objects/equipment (15%)
- Homicide (9%)**
- Toxic exposure (8%)
- Other violence/injury by animal (7%)
- Fire/explosions (3%)

Mode of homicide:^B



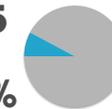
> **19.1%** of workplace homicide victims are protective service workers, including **44 police officers** and **26 security guards^B**

> **26.3%** of workplace homicide victims work in **sales or retail^B**

Men

4,320

335
or
7.8%



Women

359

68
or
18.9%



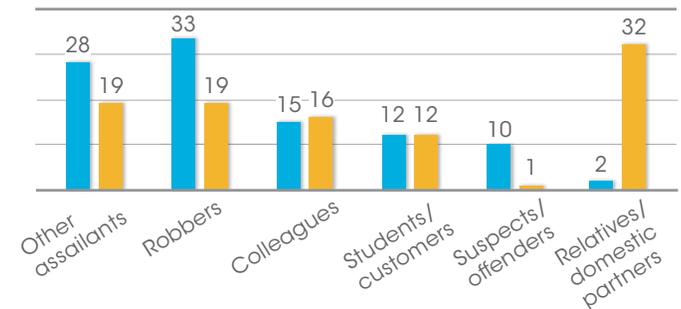
Fatal workplace injuries,
3.3/100,000 full-time workers^A

were
homicides^B

83.1%



16.9%



Percentage of workplace homicides by **victim sex** and **relationship to offender^A**

Non-Fatal Workplace Violence

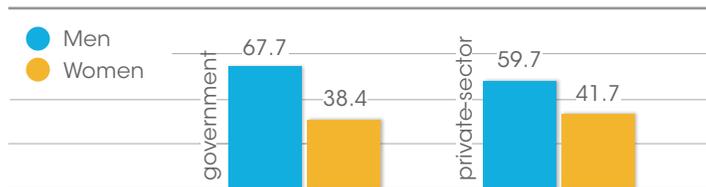
Excluding law enforcement and security employees, the 2011 rate of **total workplace violence** is:^D

8.7 /1,000 **government workers**
 vs
4.7 /1,000 **private-sector workers**

56% of government employee workplace violence is against **law enforcement** and **security employees**^D

11.5% of all **government employees** face an offender with a **weapon** during an incident of workplace violence^D

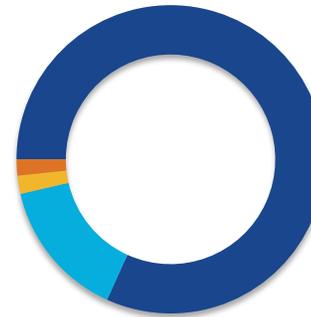
vs
20.3% of all **private-sector employees**



Percentage of non-fatal workplace violence committed by strangers, by **victim sex** and **employment**^D

For 2005-2009, the **average annual rate** of:^E

- > **Workplace** violence: **5** violent crimes/1,000 workers
- > **Non-workplace** violence: **16** violent crimes/1,000 workers
- > Violence against those **unemployed**: **17** violent crimes/1,000 unemployed persons



Non-fatal violent crimes against workers in 2008:^C

- Simple assault (81.6%)
- Aggravated assault (14.6%)
- Rape/sexual assault (1.9%)*
- Robbery (1.7%)*

Workplace violence accounts for^C

- > **17.8%** of all **simple assaults**
- > **12.9%** of all **aggravated assaults**

NOTES

*Estimates based on 10 or fewer cases.

SOURCES

- A** Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2014 (preliminary data), <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/cfoi/cfch0013.pdf>
- B** --- *Workplace Homicides with Assailant and Circumstance, 2011-2014*, http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/cfoi/work_homicide.pdf
- C** Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2008: Statistical Tables*, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice,

2010), <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/cvus08.pdf>

- D** Erika Harrell, *Workplace Violence Against Government Employees, 1994-2011*, (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2013), <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/wvage9411.pdf>
- E** --- *Workplace Violence: 1993-2009*, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 2011), <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/wv09.pdf>
- F** U.S. Department of Labor, "DOL Workplace Violence Program - Appendices," <http://www.dol.gov/oasam/hrc/policies/dol-workplace-violence-program-appendices.htm>