Workplace Violence Series
At a Glance

Workplace violence spans a wide range of behaviors, from threats and verbal abuse to physical assault and homicide.

By the Numbers

62%
Rise in the workplace assault rate from 2011–2021/2022

10x
Health care and social assistance vs. the next-highest sector

2.7x
Women's assault rate vs. men's

83.2%
Share of workplace homicide victims who are men

Flat
Workplace homicides from 2011–2024, despite year-to-year volatility

By Method

Nearly **93%** of all workplace assaults are caused by hitting, kicking, and beating by another person

Shootings and stabbings account for **more than 90%** of workplace homicides

By Industry/Occupation

Health Care and Social Assistance

A major driver of workplace assaults is violence connected to interactions with individuals receiving care, supervision, or direct oversight.

The Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses data reported that 60.8% of all workplace assaults from 2021–2022 were attributed to patients. When you broaden out the source category to include students, patients, or charges, that expanded category accounts for 74.0% of all workplace assaults in 2023–2024.

Women comprised about 78% of the health care and social assistance workforce in 2024, meaning that there's a high concentration of women in the sector with the largest number of reported assault cases.

Highest Homicide Shares by Occupation

- Protective services
- Transportation and material moving
- Sales and related

Workers in these occupations may face greater violence exposure because their jobs combine frequent public interactions, cash handling, and, in some cases, enforcement duties.

Workplace homicide patterns largely reflect the gender makeup of the occupations where these incidents are most likely to occur. Protective services and transportation are the occupations with the two highest shares of homicides, and both have a workforce share of over 70% men. For transportation, it's closer to 80%. Sales has the next-highest share of homicides, and the gender gap is smaller but still skews slightly male. Those three occupations alone account for close to 55% of all workplace homicides.

To explore the full series' findings and data analysis, visit:

Workplace Violence: Part One
Assault Trends, Drivers, and Demographics →

Workplace Violence: Part Two
Homicide Trends, Drivers, and Demographics →

Workplace Violence: Part Three
Assaults and Violence by Others in Finer Detail →

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