

Indicator 5. Characteristics of victims of nonfatal workplace violence

5a. Rates of nonfatal workplace violence, by victim occupation, 2015–19

During 2015–19, workers in corrections occupations had the highest average annual rate of nonfatal workplace violence of the occupations examined (149.1 violent crimes per 1,000 workers age 16 or older) (table 5.1). Security guards (95.0 per 1,000) and law enforcement officers (82.9 per 1,000) had the next highest rates.

TABLE 5.1

Average annual victimization rate of nonfatal workplace violence, by occupation, 2015–19

Occupation	Rate per 1,000 workers age 16 or older
Total	8.0
Medical	15.1
Physician	13.2 †
Nurse	26.3 †
Technician	15.9 †
Other	8.4 †
Mental health	45.2
Professional (social worker/psychiatrist)	46.1 †
Custodial care	8.4 !
Other	51.7 †
Teaching	11.9
Preschool/elementary	10.6 †
Junior high/high school	9.5 †
College/technical school	9.2 †
Special education facility	25.7 !
Other	22.0 †
Law enforcement/security	77.5
Law enforcement officer	82.9 †
Corrections*	149.1
Security guard	95.0 †
Other	29.6 †
Retail sales	10.7
Convenience/liquor store clerk	8.4 †
Gas station attendant	59.4 †
Bartender	70.9 †
Other	8.9 †
Transportation	12.7
Bus driver	15.9 †
Taxi cab driver	45.4 †
Other	10.6 †
Other^a	3.8

Note: Occupation categories are those used since the 1992 redesign of the NCVS. See *Methodology*. See appendix table 6 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

! Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

^aIncludes management; business and financial operations; computer and mathematical; architecture and engineering; life, physical, and social science; legal; arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media; food preparation and serving-related; building and grounds cleaning and maintenance; personal care and service; office and administrative support; farming, fishing, and forestry; construction and extraction; installation, maintenance, and repair; production; and other occupations. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2015–19.

5b. Rates of nonfatal workplace violence among government and private-sector workers, by occupation group, 2015–19

During 2015–19, the average annual rate of nonfatal workplace violence against government⁷ workers (18.9 violent crimes per 1,000 workers age 16 or older) was more than three times that against private-sector workers (6.1 per 1,000) (table 5.2). Government law enforcement and security workers (74.7 per 1,000) had a higher rate of nonfatal workplace violence than other government workers, with the exception of those in mental health occupations (77.1 per 1,000). Among private-sector workers, those in law enforcement and security occupations had the highest rate of nonfatal workplace violence (70.9 per 1,000) of all occupation groups measured, including mental health occupations (31.4 per 1,000).

In the medical, mental health, and teaching occupations, government workers had higher rates of nonfatal workplace violence than workers in the private sector. In the law enforcement and security,

retail sales, and transportation occupations, there was no statistically significant difference in the rates of nonfatal workplace violence between government and private-sector workers. The 9% of government workers who were in law enforcement and security occupations experienced 35% of the nonfatal workplace violence against all government workers. Law enforcement and security workers made up 1% of all private-sector workers, and they experienced 7% of the nonfatal workplace violence against private-sector workers.

Among government workers, retail sales workers made up less than 1% of the workforce and experienced less than 1% of the nonfatal workplace violence. In the private sector, retail workers experienced 17% of the nonfatal workplace violence, nearly double the percentage of the private-sector workforce in that occupation group (9%). Government workers in medical occupations experienced 18% of the nonfatal workplace violence against government workers and accounted for 8% of government workers. In the private sector, medical workers experienced 17% of the nonfatal workplace violence and represented 10% of the workers.

⁷Includes federal, state, county, and local government employees.

TABLE 5.2
Average annual rate and percent of nonfatal workplace violence and percent of workers, by occupation group and employee type, 2015–19

Occupation group	Government			Private sector		
	Rate per 1,000 workers age 16 or older	Percent of nonfatal workplace violence against workers	Percent of all workers	Rate per 1,000 workers age 16 or older	Percent of nonfatal workplace violence against workers	Percent of all workers
Total	18.9	100%	100%	6.1	100%	100%
Medical	44.7 †	18 †	8 †	10.8 †	17 †	10 †
Mental health	77.1	9 †	2 †	31.4 †	5 †	1 †
Teaching	15.5 †	25 †	30 †	2.2 †	1 †	2 †
Law enforcement/security*	74.7	35	9	70.9	7	1
Retail sales ^a	7.1 !	<1 !	<1 †	10.7 †	17 †	9 †
Transportation	8.5 †	1 †	3 †	13.3 †	7	3 †
Other ^b	4.8 †	12 †	48 †	3.8 †	46 †	74 †

Note: Occupation groups are those used since the 1992 redesign of the National Crime Victimization Survey. See *Methodology*. See appendix table 7 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

! Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

^aGovernmental retail sales occupations include cashiers who sell government-issued licenses.

^bIncludes management; business and financial operations; computer and mathematical; architecture and engineering; life, physical, and social science; legal; arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media; food preparation and serving-related; building and grounds cleaning and maintenance; personal care and service; office and administrative support; farming, fishing, and forestry; construction and extraction; installation, maintenance, and repair; production; and other occupations. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2015–19.

5c. Characteristics of nonfatal workplace violence victims, 2015–19

During 2015–19, there was no statistically significant difference between the rates of workplace violence for male (7.7 violent crimes per 1,000 workers age 16 or older) and female (8.3 per 1,000) workers (table 5.3). The rate of nonfatal workplace violence against white workers (9.3 per 1,000) was higher than that for Black (5.3 per 1,000); Hispanic (4.6 per 1,000); and Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander (7.0 per 1,000) workers. There was no statistically significant difference between the rates of nonfatal workplace violence against white workers and against American Indian or Alaska Native workers (8.2 per 1,000). Workers ages 20 to 24 (10.6 per 1,000) experienced a higher rate of nonfatal workplace violence than workers in all other age groups, except those ages 25 to 34 (9.9 per 1,000).

TABLE 5.3
Average annual rate of nonfatal workplace violence, by victim characteristics, 2015–19

Victim characteristic	Rate per 1,000 workers age 16 or older
Total	8.0
Sex	
Male*	7.7
Female	8.3
Race/Hispanic origin	
White ^a	9.3
Black ^a	5.3 †
Hispanic/Latino	4.6 †
Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander ^{a,b}	7.0 †
American Indian/Alaska Native ^a	8.2
Two or more races ^a	20.1 †
Age	
16–19	6.4 †
20–24*	10.6
25–34	9.9
35–49	8.3 ‡
50–64	6.1 †
65 or older	3.6 †
Average annual number of victimizations	1,264,240

Note: See appendix table 8 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.

^aExcludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic white persons and “Black” refers to non-Hispanic Black persons).

^bEstimates of nonfatal workplace violence are not shown separately due to small sample sizes.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2015–19.

5d. Victim-offender relationship in nonfatal workplace violence, 2015–19

Strangers committed about half of all nonfatal workplace violence during 2015–19 (47%) (table 5.4). Male victims were less likely to know the offender than female victims, with strangers committing a higher percentage of nonfatal workplace violence again males (55%) than females (39%). Nonfatal workplace violence committed by someone who had a work relationship with the victim accounted for 25% of nonfatal workplace violence. Work relationships included customers, clients, current or former supervisors, employees, and coworkers. Victimizations in which the victim had a work relationship with the offender accounted for a higher percentage of nonfatal workplace violence against females (29%) than males (21%).

TABLE 5.4
Victim-offender relationship in nonfatal workplace violence, by sex of victim, 2015–19

Victim-offender relationship	Total	Male*	Female
Total	100%	100%	100%
Intimate partner ^a	2%	<1%!	3% †
Other relative	1%	1%!	1%!
Well-known/casual acquaintance	13%	6%	20% †
Work	25%	21%	29%!
Customer/client	7	5	8 ‡
Patient	7	3	11 †
Supervisor ^a	3	4	2 †
Employee ^a	1	1	1
Coworker ^a	7	7	7
Stranger	47%	55%	39% †
Unknown	13%	18%	7% †
Average annual number of victimizations	1,264,240	654,690	609,540

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. See appendix table 9 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% confidence level.

‡Difference with comparison group is significant at the 90% confidence level.

! Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

^aIncludes current or former.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2015–19.