



# Indicators of Workplace Violence, 2019

SUMMARY | NCJ 250748

JULY 2022

Over a 27-year period from 1992 to 2019, nearly 18,000 persons were killed at work, on duty, or in violence that was work-related. Homicides in the workplace peaked at 1,080 homicides in 1994 and dropped to 454 in 2019, a decline of 58%. During a more recent period from 2014 (409 homicides) to 2019, workplace homicides increased 11%.

## Nonfatal workplace violence

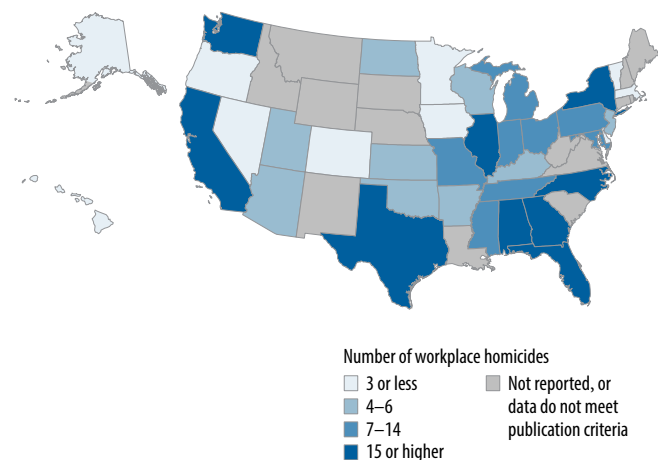
An annual average of 1.3 million nonfatal workplace violent victimizations occurred during the combined 5 years from 2015 to 2019. Violent victimizations include rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. This was a rate of 8.0 nonfatal violent crimes per 1,000 workers age 16 or older. Persons in corrections occupations had the highest average annual rate of nonfatal workplace violence at 149.1 per 1,000 workers among all occupations measured.

During 2015–19, male offenders committed the majority of nonfatal workplace violence (64%). Strangers committed about half (47%) of nonfatal workplace violence, with male victims less likely than female victims to know the offender. The offender was unarmed in 78% of nonfatal workplace violence, and the victim sustained an injury in 12%. Fifteen percent of victims of nonfatal workplace violence reported severe emotional distress due to the crime.

## Emergency department treatment

About 529,000 nonfatal injuries from workplace violence were treated in hospital emergency departments (EDs) for the combined 2015–19 period. This was a rate of 7.1 ED-treated injuries per 10,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers. Physical assaults (hitting, kicking, or beating) accounted for 83% of such injuries, which were most often contusions and

## Number of workplace homicides, by state, 2019



abrasions (33%), followed by sprains and strains (12%) and traumatic brain injuries (12%). Beginning with workers ages 25 to 29, the rate of ED-treated injuries due to workplace violence decreased as workers' ages increased.

## Days away from work

In 2019, female workers (5.1 cases per 10,000 FTEs) had higher rates than males (2.3 per 10,000) of nonfatal injuries due to workplace violence resulting in days away from work. Female workers accounted for 65% of the 37,210 nonfatal injuries due to workplace violence involving hitting, kicking, beating, or shoving that resulted in missed work. Male workers accounted for 82% of the 340 injuries involving an intentional shooting that resulted in days away from work.

The full report (*Indicators of Workplace Violence, 2019*, NCJ 250748), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics are available on the BJS website at [bjs.ojp.gov](https://bjs.ojp.gov).