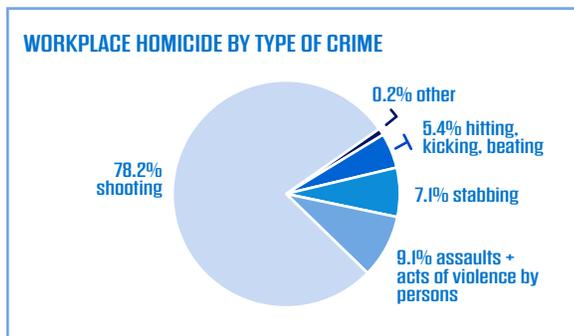


Millions of workers experience violence or the threat of violence in their workplaces every year. These crimes range from physical assaults to robbery and homicide. Although the number of such crimes has generally declined in recent years, workplace homicide is the fourth-leading cause of fatal occupational injury, and the number of workplace homicides of government employees is actually increasing. Workers in certain occupations—such as nurses, utility workers, taxi drivers, letter carriers, and especially those who work alone or at night—are particularly vulnerable. Unlike other crimes, strangers commit the greatest proportion of these crimes. The majority of workplace homicides are shootings committed by robbers. Decreasing the occurrence of workplace crimes is a growing concern for employers and employees nationwide. The statistics in this section primarily come from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

- In 2012, 463 workplace homicides occurred, a slight decrease from 468 in 2011. Since 1993, the number of workplace homicides declined 57 percent from 1,068 to 463.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2012, 81 percent of workplace homicides were shootings and 48 percent of workplace suicides were shootings.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2010, 78 percent of workplace homicides were shootings. Other homicides were the result of stabbing; hitting, kicking, and beating; assaults and violent acts by persons; and other means.<sup>3</sup>



- Homicide was the fourth-leading cause of fatal workplace injury (11 percent) in 2012, following roadway incidents involving motorized vehicles (24 percent); falls, slips, and trips (15 percent); and contact with objects and equipment (16 percent).<sup>4</sup>

- Between 2005 and 2009, about 70 percent of workplace homicides were committed by robbers and other assailants, while about 21 percent were committed by work associates.<sup>5</sup>
- According to a recent national study by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, between 2003 and 2010, the number of homicides experienced by government employees increased 29 percent (from 71 to 86) while homicides for private-sector employees declined 28 percent (from 560 to 432). These trends continued into 2011 with 90 government employee workplace homicides and 367 private-sector employee homicides.<sup>6</sup>
- In 2012, 29 percent of the 338 female fatal workplace injuries were homicides compared to 9 percent of the 4,045 male fatal workplace injuries that were homicides.<sup>7</sup>
- In 40 percent of female workplace homicides from 1997 to 2010, the perpetrators were relatives—almost all being a spouse or a domestic partner. In male workplace homicides, 2 percent of the perpetrators were relatives.<sup>8</sup>
- Among sales and related occupations in 2012, 51 percent of workplace fatalities were homicides. Among protective service occupations (including firefighters and law enforcement officers), 40 percent of workplace fatalities were homicides.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2008, 15 percent of all non-fatal violent crimes and 15 percent of all property crimes were committed against victims who were at work or on duty at the time. Of non-fatal violent crimes, these percentages were highest for simple assaults (18 percent) and aggravated assaults (13 percent). Of all property crimes, these percentages were highest for household burglaries (24 percent) and thefts (13 percent).<sup>10</sup>
- Of the non-fatal violent crimes committed against victims who were working or on duty in 2008, 82 percent were simple assaults, 15 percent were aggravated assaults, 2 percent were rapes or sexual assaults, and 2 percent were robberies.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, "National Consensus of Fatal Occupational Injuries in 2012 (Preliminary Results)," news release, August 22, 2013, 8, accessed September 19, 2013, <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/foi.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., 2.

<sup>3</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Workplace Homicides from Shootings," fact sheet, January 4, 2013, accessed September 19, 2013, <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/foi/osar0016.htm>.

<sup>4</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, "National Consensus of Fatal Occupational Injuries in 2012," table 1.

<sup>5</sup> Fatal workplace injuries include both accidental and non-accidental events (e.g., accidental fall, motorized vehicle accident, homicide, and suicide). Erika Harrell, *Workplace Violence: 1993-2009*. (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 2011), 1, accessed September 19, 2013, <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/wv09.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> Erika Harrell, *Workplace Violence Against Government Employees, 1994-2011*. (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 2013), 5, accessed September 19, 2013, <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/wvage9411.pdf>.

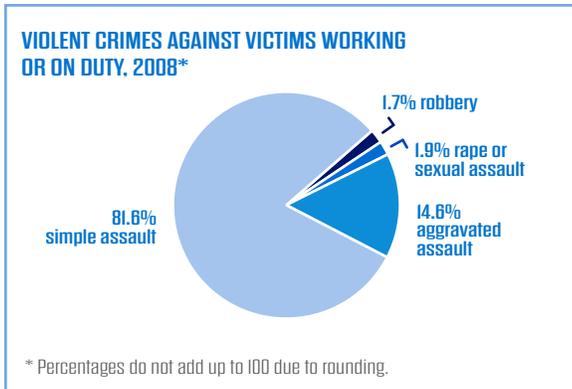
<sup>7</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, "National Consensus of Fatal Occupational Injuries in 2012," table 4.

<sup>8</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Occupational Homicides by Selected Characteristics, 1997-2010." (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Labor, 2011), 1, accessed September 19, 2013, [http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/foi/work\\_hom.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/foi/work_hom.pdf).

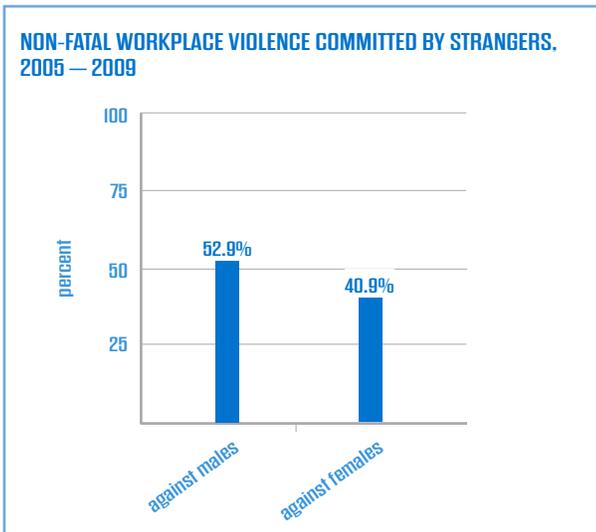
<sup>9</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, "National Consensus of Fatal Occupational Injuries in 2012," table 9.

<sup>10</sup> Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2008: Statistical Tables*. (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 2010), calculated from data in table B4, accessed September 19, 2013, <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/cvus08.pdf>.

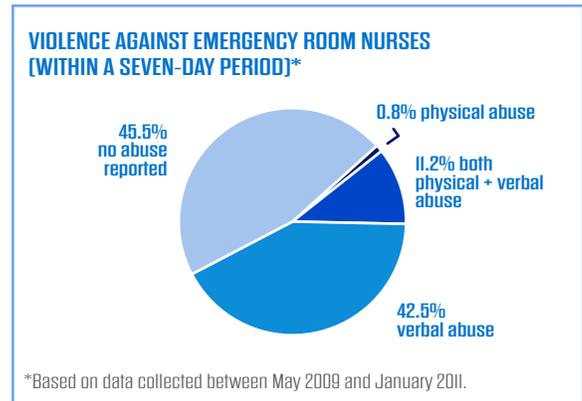
<sup>11</sup> Ibid.



- The average annual rate of workplace violence between 2005 and 2009 (5 violent crimes per 1,000 employed persons age 16 or older) was about one-third the rate of non-workplace violence (16 violent crimes per 1,000 employed persons age 16 or older) and violence against persons not employed (17 violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 16 or older).<sup>12</sup>
- Strangers committed the greatest proportion of non-fatal workplace violence against males (53 percent) and females (41 percent) between 2005 and 2009.<sup>13</sup>



- According to a study by the Emergency Nurses Association, 43 percent of emergency nurses reported having experienced only verbal abuse from a patient or visitor during a seven-day calendar period in which the nurses worked an average of 36.9 hours, 11 percent reported both physical abuse and verbal abuse, and 1 percent reported physical abuse alone.<sup>14</sup>



- According to the same study, 62 percent of emergency room nurses who reported being victims of physical violence in the workplace experienced more than one incident of physical violence from a patient or visitor during a seven-day period.<sup>15</sup>



<sup>12</sup> Harrell. *Workplace Violence: 1993-2009, I*.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Emergency Nurses Association. *Emergency Department Violence Surveillance Study*. (Des Plaines, IL: 2011), 16. accessed September 19, 2013. <http://www.ena.org/practice-research/research/Documents/ENAEVRSReportNovember2011.pdf>.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.