

Stats at Work

Workplace Violence in Nursing

BWC's Division of Safety & Hygiene Research and Statistics Program is available to assist you in understanding your industries occupational injury and illness statistics.

BWC provides statistics for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) SOII from Ohio.

BLS hotline number
866-569-7806

BLS fax number
614728-6460

BLS email requests
BWC BLInfo@ohiobwc.com

www.bwc.ohio.gov

Stats at Work provides you with examples of industry information that is available for your use as a direct result of the annual BLS survey of occupational injuries and illnesses.

Our end goal is providing an educational tool demonstrating the value of the information collected.

On a daily basis, we see and read news stories filled with violence and crime. We also receive active shooter training in our workplaces. Fortunately, the BLS shows workplace violence has decreased. However, we still must be aware of the potential for violence to strike in our workplaces.

The BLS reported 4,383 workplace fatal injuries in the U.S. for 2012. This represents a decrease of 310 fatalities or 7 percent compared to 2011 statistic (USD13-1699)(2013). One hundred and fifty-four or 3.5 percent of the total workplace fatalities in the U.S. occurred in Ohio.

BLS statistics indicate of those 4,383 fatal injuries at work; 17 percent or 745 were a result of workplace violence.

Should you be concerned about violence in your workplace?

In short, yes. The risk of workplace violence can come from many sources. It can include the disgruntled employee, the result of mental stress and breakdown, the irate customer, or acts of domestic or international terrorism. We should all demonstrate enough concern for our safety and the safety of others to be knowledgeable of our potential risk. We should also receive training on how to react properly and safely. Workplace violence doesn't always lead to a fatality. But employers must keep assault of any type, physical, mental, and or verbal to a zero tolerance level.

Workplace violence in nursing

Ohio Governor John Kasich recently signed House Bill 62 into law increasing the penalties to a possible fifth degree felony for assault against nurses and health-care professionals in the workplace. In a survey conducted by the American Nursing Association, less than 20 percent of nurses indicated they felt safe on their jobs. Their fears are justified by recent data showing nurses to be at the highest level of risk for assault in the workplace. A recent report indicated more than 86 percent of emergency department nurses had been assaulted.

2012
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Ohio 154

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“The National Crime Victimization Survey (1993-1999) found the average annual rate for non-fatal violent crime was 21.9 per 1,000 workers for nurses compared with only 12.6 per 1,000 workers for all other occupations.” (Carmody, 2013)

“Furthermore, according to the BLS, of all non-fatal assaults and violent acts against health-care practitioners that involved days off work in 2006, 45 percent were committed against registered nurses (RNs). The BLS also reported that in 2009 more than 2,050 assaults against RN’s were reported, requiring an average of four days away from work.” (Carmody, 2013)

Be informed

While the focus of this article has demonstrated a validity of concern for nurses and health-care workers, they are only one category of workers. It is important to know your industry and occupational risks, your workplace policies and procedures, and how to protect yourself and others.

The BLS provides annual statistical informational on occupational injuries and illnesses at www.bls.gov. The National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries in 2012 (Preliminary Results), USDL-13-1699, is located at <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/cfoi.pdf>.

This is a starting place to receive information on your industries potential risk.

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References Carmody, Christy, (2013) Ohio Measure Addresses Workplace Violence, *The American Nurse*

Retrieved from <http://www.theamericannurse.org/index.php/2013/03/01/ohio-measure-addresses-workplace-violence/> on Oct. 25, 2013.

National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries In 2012 (Preliminary Results)(2013), USDL-13-1699, The United State Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/cfoi.pdf>