

April Is Workplace Violence Awareness Month

Did You Know?

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 20,050 workers in the private industry experienced trauma from nonfatal workplace violence in 2020.

Of those victims who experienced trauma from workplace violence:

- 73% were female
- 62% were aged 25 to 54
- 76% worked in the healthcare and social assistance industry
- 22% required 31 or more days away from work to recover, and
- 22% involved 3 to 5 days away from work



April is recognized as Workplace Violence Awareness Month by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

Workplace violence is the act or threat of violence, ranging from verbal abuse to physical assaults directed toward persons at work or on duty.

How to Prevent Workplace Violence

To help combat the rise in workplace violence experienced by healthcare and social workers, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has published *Guidelines for Preventing Workplace Violence for Healthcare and Social Service Workers*. The guidelines focus on hazards in hospitals, residential settings, non-residential settings, community care, and field work.

OSHA's Guidelines recommend:

- Identifying and Assessing Workplace violence hazards
- Establishing written organizational violence prevention programs
- Safety and health training for all staff
- Documentation of incidents and use of checklists

See the full [Guidelines for Preventing Workplace Violence for Healthcare and Social Service Workers](#) for step-by-step instructions on establishing your workplace violence prevention plan.