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FEDERAL AGENCIES RELEASE JOINT STUDY ON WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

WASHINGTON — Today, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) released *Indicators of Workplace Violence, 2019*, which provides findings on fatal and nonfatal crimes that occurred in the workplace or away from work but over work-related issues. Findings are presented for 13 indicators of workplace violence, using data from five federal data collections.

The study found that, 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, using data from BLS's Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries. 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%.

According to the study, an annual average of 1.3 million nonfatal workplace violent victimizations occurred during the combined 5 years from 2015 to 2019, based on data from BJS's National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). 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.

In other findings based on the NCVS, strangers committed about half (47%) of nonfatal workplace violence during 2015–19, 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.

The joint study also stated that about 529,000 nonfatal injuries from workplace violence were treated in hospital emergency departments (EDs) for the combined 2015-19 period, based on data from NIOSH's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System-Occupational Supplement. 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 abrasions (33%), followed by sprains and strains (12%) and traumatic brain injuries (12%). ED-treated injuries were more common among younger victims than older victims.

In 2019, female employees (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, according to data from the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses-Case and Demographics (BLS). 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.

Indicators of Workplace Violence, 2019 (NCJ 250748; NIOSH 2022-124) was written by Erika Harrell of BJS; Lynn Langton, formerly of BJS; Jeremy Petosa of BLS; Stephen M. Pegula and Mark Zak, formerly of BLS; and Susan Derk, Dan Hartley and Audrey Reichard of NIOSH. The report and related documents are available at bjs.ojp.gov.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor measures labor market activity, working conditions, price changes and productivity in the U.S. economy to support public and private decision making. William W. Beach is the commissioner. Additional information about BLS is available at <https://www.bls.gov>.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, part of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is a research institute focused on the study of worker safety and health, and empowering employers and workers to create safe and healthy workplaces. John Howard, MD, is the director. Information about NIOSH is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/index.htm>.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics of the U.S. Department of Justice is the principal federal agency responsible for collecting, analyzing and disseminating reliable statistics on crime and criminal justice in the United States. Doris J. James is the acting director. Additional information about BJS's statistical publications and programs are available at bjs.ojp.gov/.

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