

Workplace Violence Survey Results Released

The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, recently released the results of a special Workplace Violence Prevention Survey conducted to examine the prevalence of incidents, the existence of workplace security features and programs, and the impact on the employee population. The survey encompassed over 128 million workers employed at over 7 million establishments in private industry as well as state and local government, though private industry comprised 97% of the establishments in the survey population. The data submitted covered a period ranging from September 2004 to June 2006.

Five percent of all establishments, including state and local government, reported at least one incident of workplace violence, with larger establishments (over 1,000 employees) and goods-producing industries reporting a higher percentage of co-worker workplace violence incidents. Service-producing industries reported a higher percentage of criminal, customer and domestic violence incidents. State and local government reported a higher percentage than private industry in all incident categories, theoretically attributed to the government work environment — dealing with the public, unstable or violent persons, and in high crime areas.

Nearly three-quarters of the establishments, representing over 90% of the surveyed employee population, had some form of security — either security staff, physical security (i.e. locked entries) or electronic security (i.e. metal detectors). However, less than half utilized any process for identifying potential or current employees with a history of violence. Furthermore, less than 30% of the establishments had a formal program or policy addressing workplace violence, and only 20% of private industry establishments provided workplace violence prevention training.

These statistics would seem to support CSI's long held belief that pre-employment screening is the first and best defense against potential problems but just one component of a security program that must include human resource training and employee awareness seminars in order to insure success. CSI's diverse professional staff has the expertise to provide our clients with a broad menu of screening and screening support services designed to promote a safe and secure work environment.

The complete results of the Department of Labor survey may be viewed at: http://0-www.bls.gov.mill1.sjlibrary.org/iif/osh_wpvs.htm. The findings are reported in various formats, including tables, charts and definitions, and with breakdowns by industry size and type. For more information about CSI's workplace violence related services or other screening, screening support and security consulting services, please contact our sales team at 800-227-0002.