Violence at Work statistics, 2025/26

Data up to March 2026
Annual statistics
Published 19th November 2026



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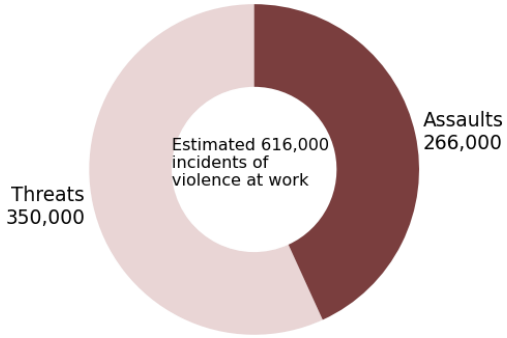
Summary

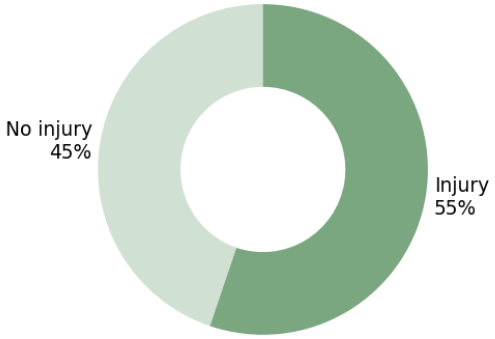
616,000 Incidents of violence at work in 2025/26
Source: Crime Survey England and Wales (CSEW)

326,000 Adults experienced violence at work in 2025/26
Source: Crime Survey England and Wales (CSEW)

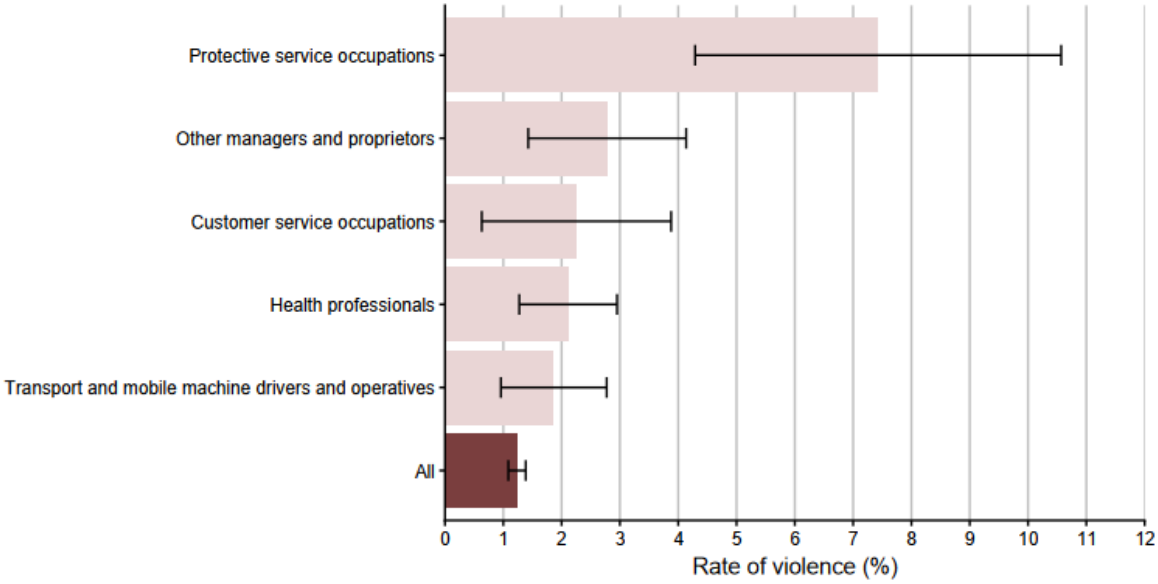
Number of incidents of violence at work for adults of working age in employment



Percentage of assaults on adults of working age in employment resulting in injury



The percentage of adults of working age in employment who were victims once or more of violence at work, for the top five highest risk sub-major occupational groups and the average for all occupations for the combined data years 2024/25 and 2025/26.



Source: Crime Survey England and Wales (CSEW)

Notes:

1. Error bars show 95% confidence intervals for the data.
2. All represents the average risk of violence over all occupations.
3. This data is based on combined data for the two years ending March 2025 and March 2026.

Violence at Work

The estimated number of violent incidents at work fluctuates on an annual basis with no clear trend. The findings from the 2025/26 CSEW show:

- The risk of being a victim of actual or threatened violence at work is an estimated 1.2% of working adults being the victim of one or more violent incidents at work, compared to 1.2% in 2024/25.
- An estimated 326,000 adults of working age in employment experienced violence at work, including threats and physical assault.
- There were an estimated 616,000 incidents of violence at work, comprising of 266,000 assaults and 350,000 threats. This compares to an estimated 689,000 incidents in 2024/25.
- The 2025/26 CSEW found that 1.2% of workers who were men and 1.2% of workers who were women were victims of violence at work once or more during the year prior to their interview.
- An estimated 53% of work-place violence offenders were strangers to the victim. Among the 47% of incidents where the offender was known, they were most likely to be a client or member of the public known through work.
- The survey found 55% of assaults at work resulted in physical injury.

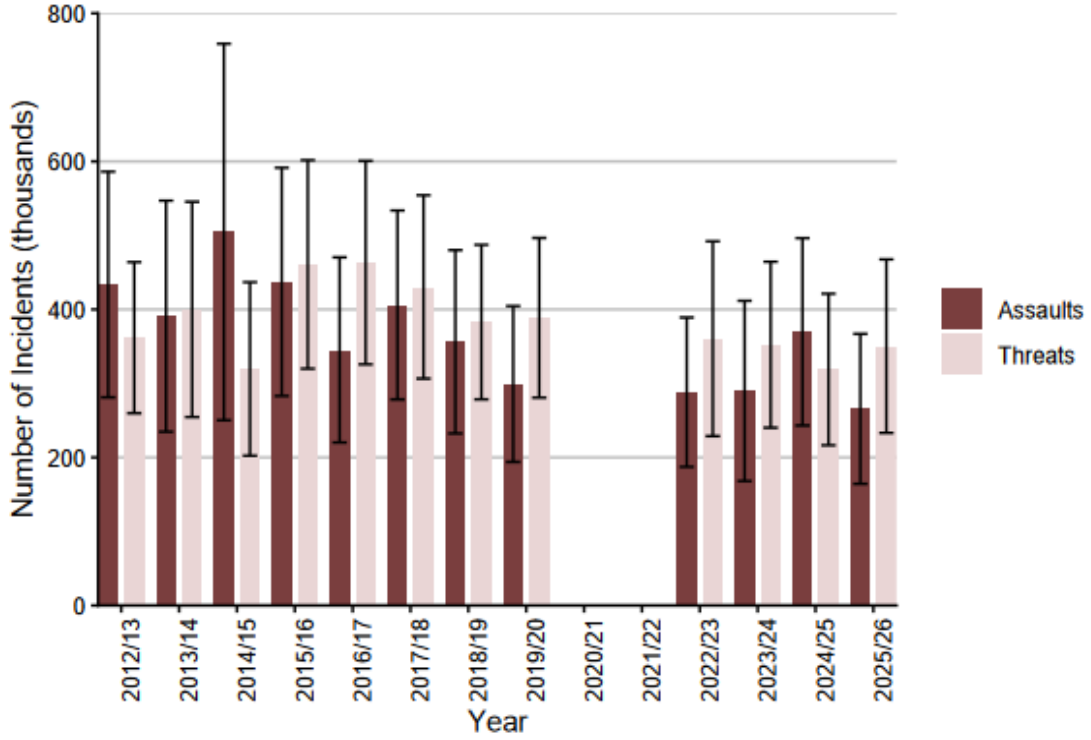
Due to the suspension of data collection for the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) data is not available for the years ending March 2021 and March 2022.

The extent of violence at work

In order to aid the development of policies to reduce violence at work it is necessary to assess how frequently incidents occur and the risk of victimisation. Two main measures of the extent of violence at work are presented – the number of incidents and the number of victims.

- The number of incidents of work-related violence in 2025/26 was estimated at 616,000 with assaults accounting for 266,000 of these and 350,000 threats to victims.

Figure 1: Estimated number of incidents of violence at work for adults of working age in employment, 2025/26



Source: Crime Survey England and Wales (CSEW)

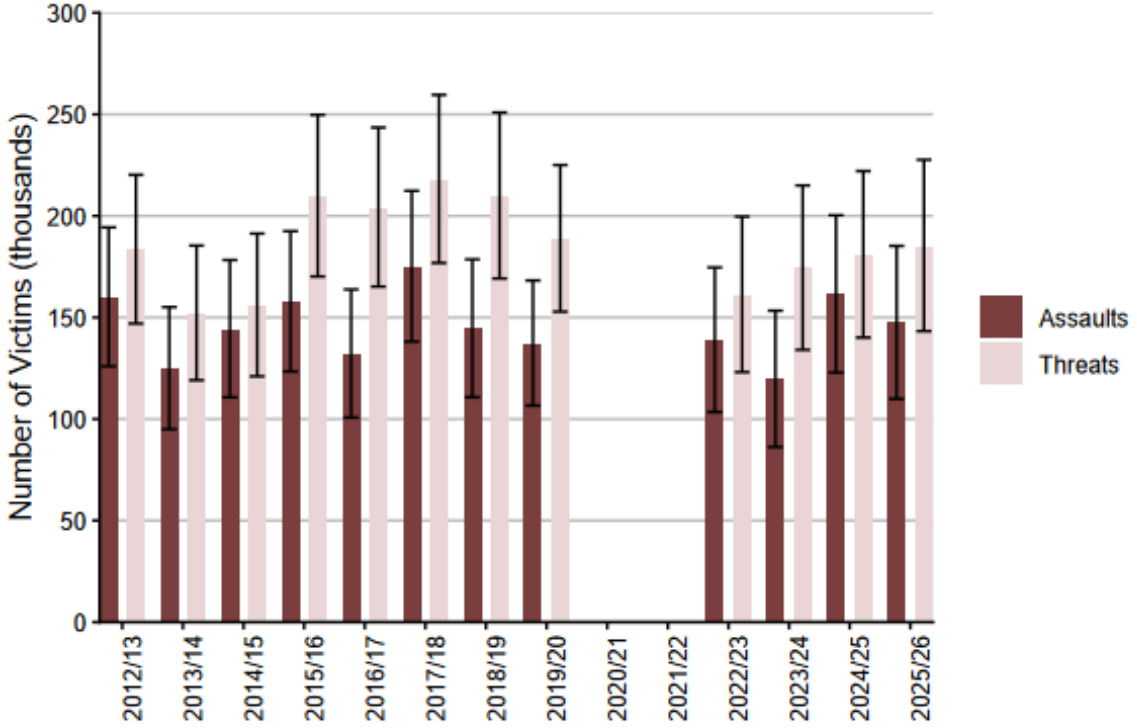
Notes:

1. There was a break in the CSEW time-series because of the suspension of face-to-face interviewing between March 2020 and October 2021, during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

2. Error bars show 95% confidence intervals for the data

- The 2025/26 CSEW estimated that 1.2% of working adults were the victim of one or more violent incidents at work. In the year before their interview 0.5% of working adults had been physically assaulted while they were working and 0.7% had suffered threats. This represents an estimated 326,000 workers who had experienced at least one incident of violence at work. 148,000 had been assaulted while they were working and 185,000 had suffered threats.

Figure 2: Estimated number of victims of violence at work for adults of working age in employment, 2025/26



Source: Crime Survey England and Wales (CSEW)

Notes:

1.There is a break in the CSEW time-series because of the suspension of face-to-face interviewing between March 2020 and October 2021, during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

2. Error bars show 95% confidence intervals for the data.
3. The overall number of victims of violence does not equal the sum of assaults and threats as some victims will have experienced both assaults and threats within the previous year.

Figure 3: Estimated risk of violence at work for adults of working age in employment, 2025/26



Source: Crime Survey England and Wales (CSEW)

Notes:

1. There was a break in the CSEW time-series because of the suspension of face-to-face interviewing between March 2020 and October 2021, during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

2. Error bars show 95% confidence intervals for the data.

The risk of violence at work for people of working age in employment has been broadly similar over recent years. The total number of violent incidents at work fluctuates on an annual basis with no clear trend.

Occupation

The occupational data presented here is based on two years of combined data from the data year ending March 2025 and the data year ending March 2026 of the CSEW. Due to the detailed nature of the occupational codes, it is necessary to use two years data to achieve sufficient sample sizes for meaningful analysis.

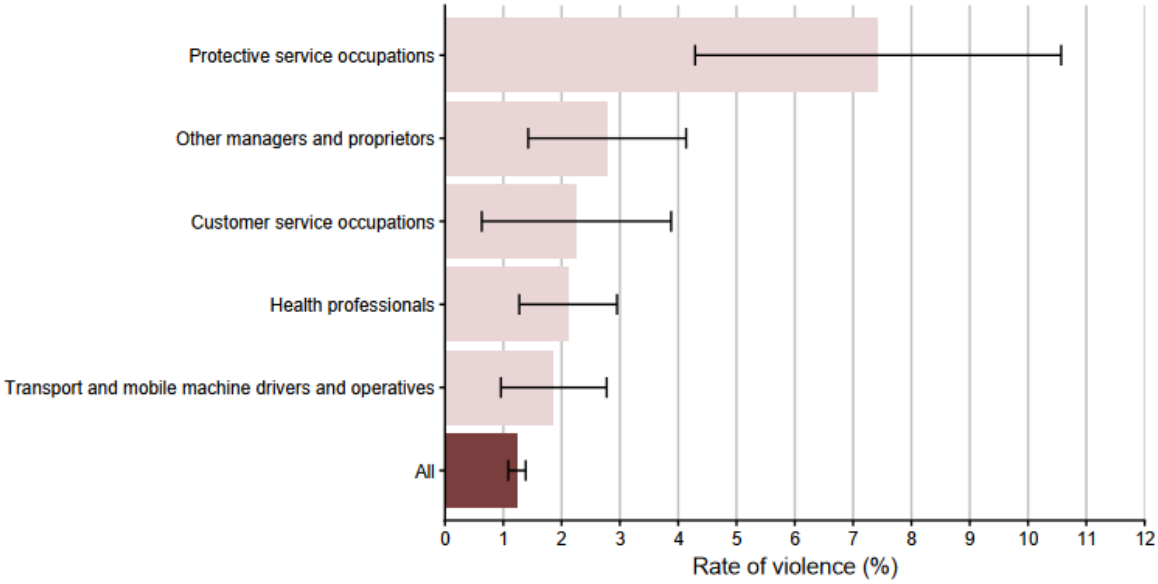
The CSEW assigns a Standard Occupational Classification 2010 (SOC 2010) code to the current occupation of all respondents, or if they were not in work in the week prior to the interview, it will be assigned to their last main job (ONS, 2010). The individual SOC codes can be grouped into categories to allow analysis of occupational differences in risk.

The analysis presented shows the top 5 occupations of the 25 sub-major occupational groups; for further details of the SOC classification, see https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/classificationsandstandards/standardoccupationalclassificationsoc/soc2010 .

Only respondents who were working in the week prior to their interview are included in the analyses presented in this chapter. Respondents may not have been in employment for the entire 12 months of which the risks are measured; however, the CSEW does not ask respondents how long they had been in their current job. The inclusion of people who had not worked throughout the year may lead to an underestimation of the level of risk. Furthermore, some respondents may have changed jobs during the year; no longer working within the occupation where the violent incident may have occurred. It is not possible to identify such cases as these details are not collected.

The CSEW shows that there is large variation in the risks at work across occupational groups. Overall, respondents in Protective service occupations faced the highest risk of assaults and threats while working, at 7.4% – 6 times the average risk of 1.2% across all occupations. Additionally, Other managers and proprietors had higher than average risk at 2.8%.

Figure 4: The percentage of adults of working age in employment who were victims once or more of violence at work, for the top five highest sub-major risk occupational groups and the average for all occupations for the combined data years 2024/25 and 2025/26.



Source: Crime Survey England and Wales (CSEW)

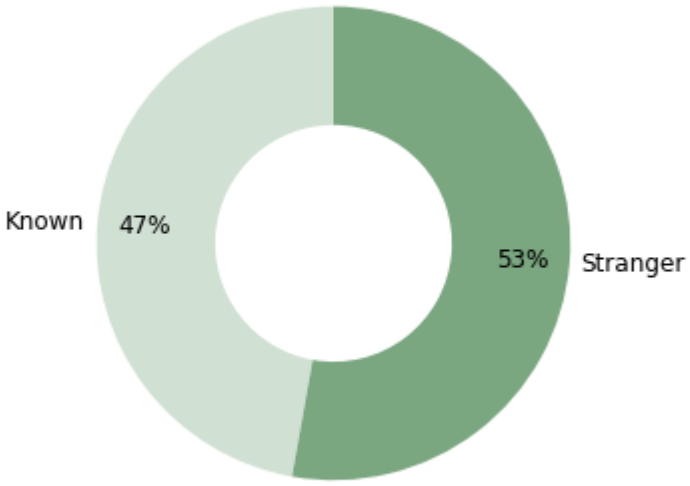
Notes:

1. Error bars show 95% confidence intervals for the data.
2. All represents the average risk of violence over all occupations.
3. This data is based on combined data for the two years ending March 2025 and March 2026.

Offender – Victim Relationship

The 2025/26 CSEW asserts that of all work-related violence the offender was unknown to the victim in 53% of incidents, whilst in 47% of incidents the offender was known to the victim.

Figure 5: Was the offender known to the victim, 2025/26

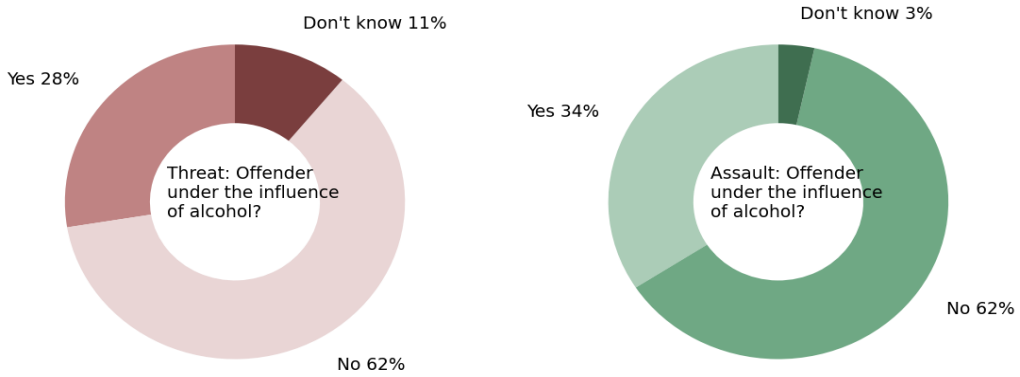


Source: Crime Survey England and Wales (CSEW)

Influence of drugs and alcohol

- Victims reported the offender was under the influence of alcohol in an estimated 28% of threats and 34% of assaults at work.

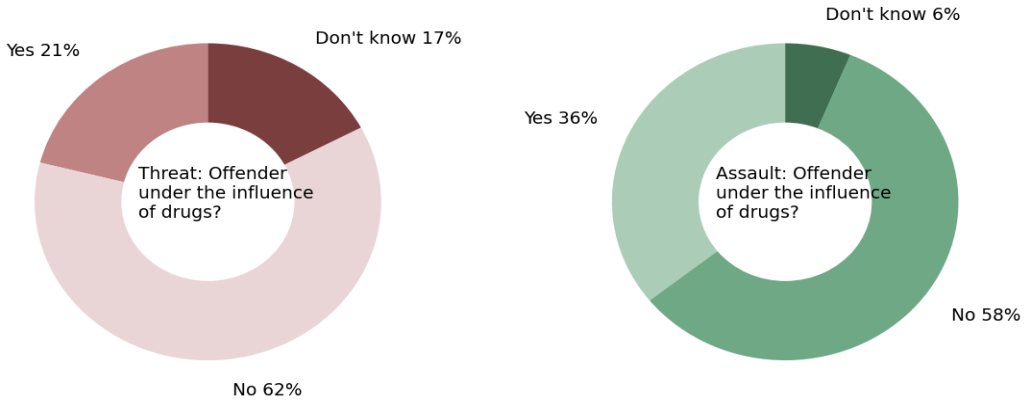
Figure 6: Was the offender perceived to be under the influence of alcohol, 2025/26



Source: Crime Survey England and Wales (CSEW)

- The respondents considered offenders to be under the influence of drugs in 21% of threats and 36% of assaults.

Figure 7: Was the offender perceived to be under the influence of drugs, 2025/26



Source: Crime Survey England and Wales (CSEW)

Notes:
1.Questions asked only if the victim was able to say something about the offender(s), and if there was more than one offender, victims were asked if any of the offenders were perceived to be under the influence. Questions were not asked if any offender(s) were perceived to be under school age.

Alternative measures of the extent of violence at work

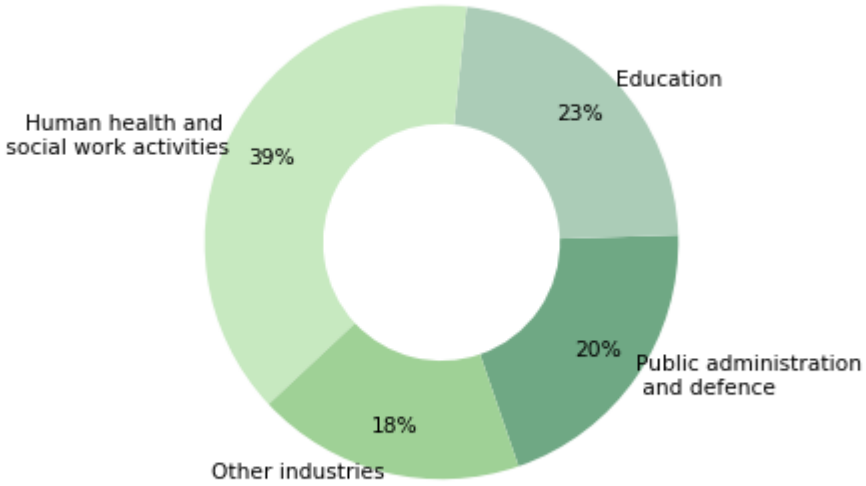
An alternative measure of violence at work comes from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) which provides an estimate of the number of workers injured at work as a result of physical acts of violence. Latest estimates show that annually there were around 68,000 workers in Great Britain who sustained non-fatal injuries as a result of acts of physical violence at work (as an average of the three data years 2023/24-2025/26), accounting for about 10% of all workplace non-fatal injuries.
Source: Labour Force Survey annual average 2023/24-2025/26.

Another source of statistics on injuries sustained as a result of violence in the workplace comes from employer reports under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR). RIDDOR requires employers to report certain workplace non-fatal injuries – these are generally the more serious (those that result in more than 7 days absence from work or specified on a pre-defined list of injuries). However, it should be noted that RIDDOR is under-reported, so does not fully capture the full scale of such cases. In 2025/26 there were 6,300 cases reported under RIDDOR of non-fatal injuries to employees in Great Britain, accounting for 11% of all RIDDOR reported non-fatal injuries.

Like the Crime Survey for England and Wales, data from both the LFS and RIDDOR show that certain groups of workers are more at risk from workplace violence.

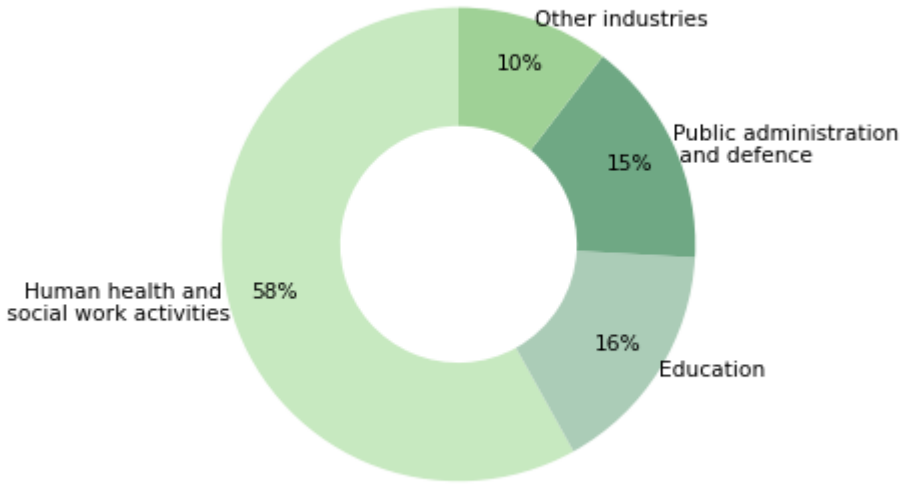
The LFS shows that around 82% workers who sustained an injury resulting from violence at work (regardless of whether the injury resulted in time off work) are employed in public services (including human health and social work activities, education and public administration and defence).

Figure 8: Estimated non-fatal injuries to workers as a result of acts of physical violence at work by industry, Great Britain.



Source: Labour Force Survey, averaged 2021/22-2025/26

Figure 9: Non-fatal injuries to employees sustained as a result of acts of violence at work by industry, Great Britain

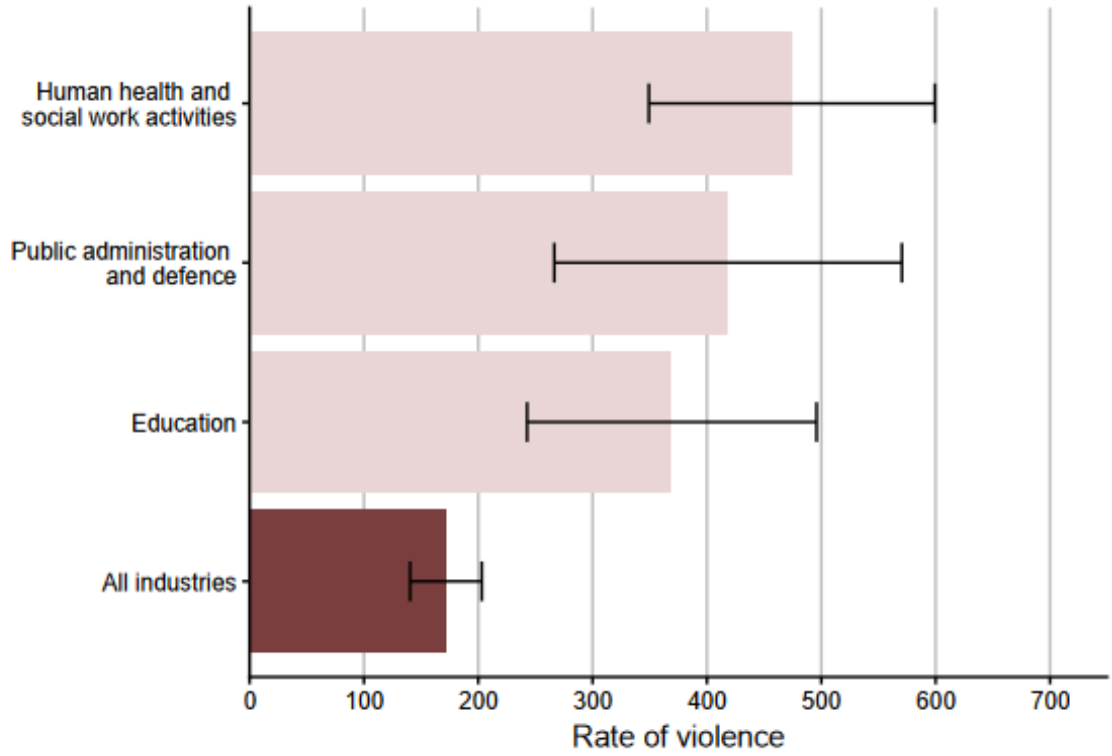


Source: RIDDOR 2025/26

While the number of non-fatal injuries due to violence at work shows us how the cases are spread across different industry groups, another way of looking at non-fatal workplace injuries due to physical acts of violence is to look at the non-fatal injury rate in terms of the number of injuries due to violence at work per 100,000 workers employed. The rate provides a better measure of variation in risk as it accounts for variation in employment levels between different occupational groups.

Overall, across all industries, the non-fatal rate of injury due to physical acts of violence at work is 170 cases per 100,000.
Source: Labour Force Survey, averaged 2021/22-2025/26

Figure 10: Estimated rate (per 100,000 workers) of non-fatal injury due to physical acts of violence at work by selected industries, Great Britain 2021/22-2025/26

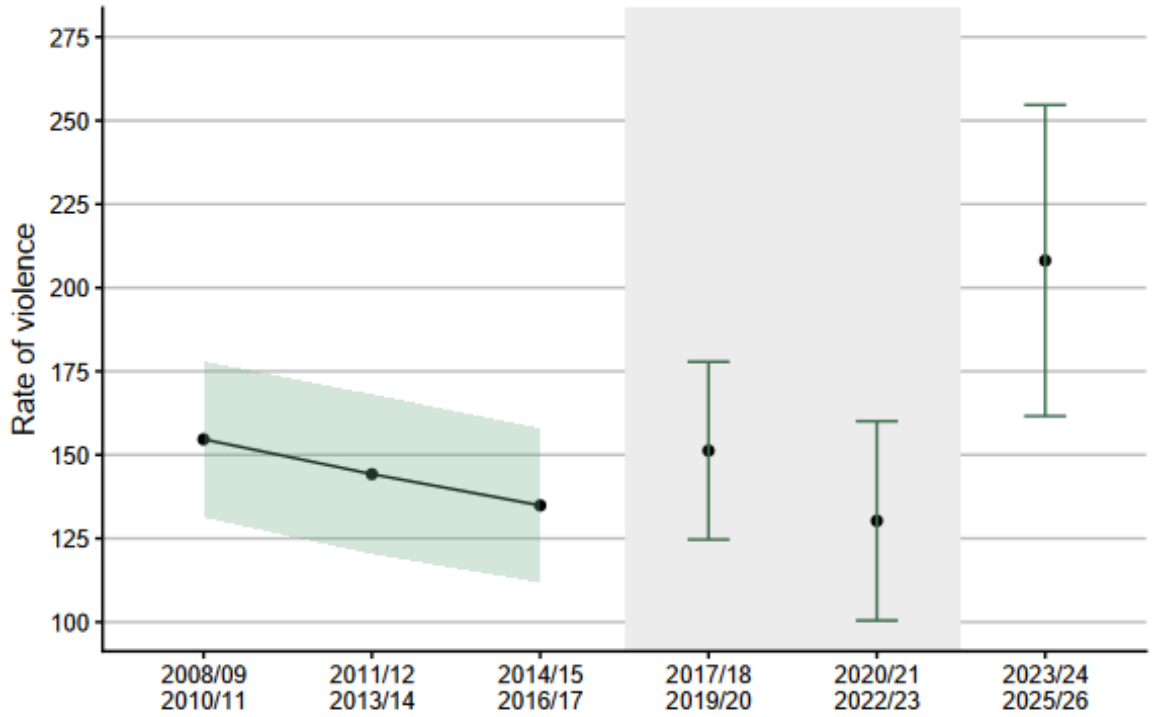


Source: Labour Force Survey, averaged 2021/22-2025/26

Notes:
1. The error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.
2.Due to the detailed nature of the industry codes, it is necessary to use the average of five years data to achieve sufficient sample sizes for meaningful analysis.

3. Incidence estimates for 2020/21 and to a lesser extent 2021/22 are affected by the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. While 2019/20 falls largely outside of the pandemic period, disruption to data collection processes in early 2020 may be a contributory factor to changes in data in 2019/20. This should be considered when comparing across time periods. For more details see our reports on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on health and safety statistics https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/coronavirus-pandemic-impact.htm .
4. The employment data used to calculate rates includes those temporarily absent from work. In 2020/21 and (to a lesser extent) in 2021/22 the number of such workers was higher than previous years due to temporary employment schemes (e.g. furlough) introduced during the coronavirus pandemic. This has contributed to a discontinuity in injury rates.

Figure 11: Estimated rate (per 100,000 workers) of self-reported workplace non-fatal injury due to physical acts of violence for people working in the last 12 months, Great Britain



Source: Labour Force Survey, annual averages grouped by 3 years 2008/09-2010/11 to 2023/24-2025/26.

Notes:

1. The shaded area represents 95% confidence intervals.

2. Incidence estimates for 2020/21 and to a lesser extent 2021/22 are affected by the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. While 2019/20 falls largely outside of the pandemic period, disruption to data collection processes in early 2020 may be a contributory factor to changes in data in 2019/20. This should be considered when comparing across time periods. For more details see our reports on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on health and safety statistics https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/coronavirus-pandemic-impact.htm .

3. The employment data used to calculate rates includes those temporarily absent from work. In 2020/21 and (to a lesser extent) in 2021/22 the number of such workers was higher than previous years due to temporary employment schemes (e.g. furlough) introduced during the coronavirus pandemic. This has contributed to a discontinuity in injury rates.

ANNEX 1: Sources and definitions used

This report uses three main sources for violence at work: the annual Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) carried out by the Office of National Statistics (ONS), Labour Force Survey (LFS) and The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR), which includes Scotland. The LFS and RIDDOR reporting system records physical violence only and does not include threats or other verbal abuse.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) measures respondents' experiences of crime-related incidents and classifies these into offence types (including physical assaults and threats), and also collects detailed information about the nature of the victimisation. The CSEW defines violence at work on the basis of type of offence (assaults or threats); what the victim was doing at the time of the incident (at work or working); and the relationship between victim and offender (domestic violence is excluded).

The term violence is used in this report to refer to both assaults and threats. However, threats are not usually included in other CSEW measures of violence. Physical assaults include assault with minor injury, assault without injury and wounding. Threats include verbal threats made to or against the respondent.

Respondents were asked what they were doing at the time the incident happened. Included here are those incidents where the respondent said they were at work or working, including working at home.

Excluded are incidents in which there was a domestic relationship between the offender and victim (current or former partners, relatives or household members) as these cases are likely to be very different in nature from other experiences of violence at work.

Where stated, analysis is based on respondents of working age who said they were in paid work in the last seven days at the time of interview (either as an employee or self-employed). From 2010/11 onwards, "working age" includes men and women aged 16-64 years. Before 2010/11, it included women aged 16-59 years and men aged 16-64 years.

The CSEW is a large, nationally representative, household survey that has been carried out since 1982. The main purpose of the survey is to measure the extent and nature of criminal victimisation against adults, aged 16 or over, living in private households in England and Wales. Respondents are also asked about their attitudes towards different crime-related issues.

CSEW estimates were temporarily suspended of their accredited official statistics status between July 2022 and September 2024 because of the potential impact of lower response rates on data quality after the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Following the results of our CSEW data quality review in June 2024, the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) independently reviewed our request for reaccreditation and CSEW estimates regained accredited official statistics status in October 2024.

Further details are contained in the CSEW Technical Report https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/methodologies/userguidetocrimestatisticsforenglandandwales

The Labour Force Survey (LFS)

The Labour Force Survey (LFS): The LFS is a national survey run by the Office

for National Statistics of currently around 36,000 households each quarter. HSE commissions annual questions in the LFS to gain a view of self-reported work related illness and workplace injury based on individuals' perceptions. The analysis and interpretation of these data are the sole responsibility of HSE. For more details on LFS statistics, see https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/technicalnote.htm

The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR)

Employers have a legal duty to report certain workplace accidents, required under RIDDOR (The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations). RIDDOR applies where an accident to a worker results in death; in a non-fatal specified injury (typically most bone fractures or amputations); or in over-7-days off work.

In relation to RIDDOR, an accident is a separate, identifiable, unintended incident, which causes physical injury. This specifically includes acts of non-consensual violence to people at work. Hence 'verbal' assault is excluded, even if it results in time off work. Physical assaults in the workplace that are not work-related are also excluded (for example, an assault over a domestic matter that takes place at work but is not over a work matter). Suicides and self-harm are excluded.

Non-fatal injuries reported under RIDDOR are known to be substantially under-reported. Currently it is estimated that just under half of all types of non-fatal reports that should be made, are actually reported. There is no separate estimate of whether violence-related RIDDOR incidents are differently reported than all types of injury.

For more details on:
- Types of reportable incidents under RIDDOR, see https://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/reportable-incidents.htm
- Specified reportable incidents to workers, see https://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/specified-injuries.htm

ANNEX 2: List of tables and references

List of tables

Further information can be found within the following tables:

Tables	Web Address (URL)
LFSINJKND	https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/lfsinjknd.xlsx
RIDKIND	https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/assets/docs/ridkind.xlsx

References

Chappell D. and DiMartino V. (2006) Geneva, International Labour Office (3rd Edition)

Accredited Official Statistics

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HSE's official statistics practice is regulated by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR). Accredited Official Statistics are a subset of official statistics that have been independently reviewed by the OSR and confirmed to comply with the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the Code of Practice for Statistics. Accredited official statistics were previously called National Statistics (and still referenced as such in Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007). See https://uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/uk-statistical-system/types-of-official-statistics/ for more details on the types of official statistics.

From 7 June 2024 the Accredited Official Statistics badge has replaced the previous National Statistics badge.

These statistics were last reviewed by OSR in 2013. It is Health and Safety Executive's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the OSR promptly. Accredited Official Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored. Details of OSR reviews undertaken on these statistics, quality improvements, and other information noting revisions, interpretation, user consultation and use of these statistics is available from https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/about.htm.

You are welcome to contact us directly with any comments about how we meet these standards. Alternatively, you can contact OSR by emailing regulation@statistics.gov.uk or via the OSR website.

An account of how the figures are used for statistical purposes can be found at https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/sources.htm.

For information regarding the quality guidelines used for statistics within HSE see https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/about/quality-guidelines.htm

A revisions policy and log can be seen at https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/about/revisions/ Additional data tables can be found at https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/tables/.

Lead Statistician: Omid Zavareh

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Journalists/media enquiries only: https://www.hse.gov.uk/contact/contact.htm

