



Social Workers and Safety

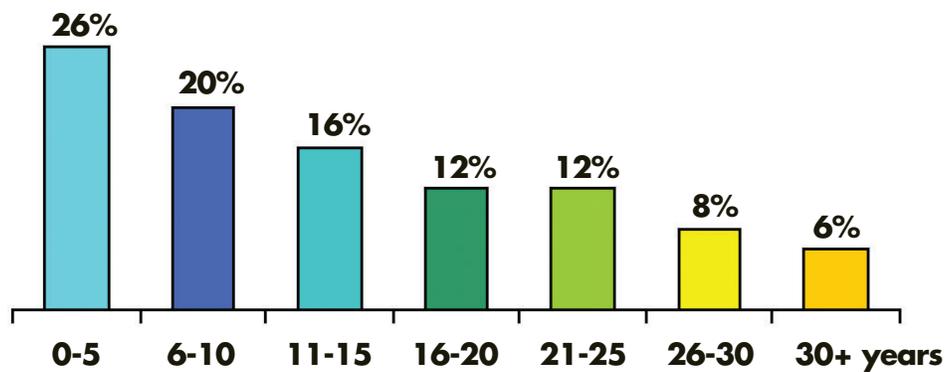
In 2004, the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) partnered with the Center for Health Workforce Studies, University at Albany, to conduct a benchmark national study of 10,000 licensed social workers.ⁱ The study achieved a response rate of nearly 50 percent. The information presented in this fact sheet is based on that study and its findings.

The study examined a number of variables related to licensed social workers and their practices, including demographic information, practice issues, services to clients, and workplace issues. In response to the question, “Are you faced with personal safety issues in your primary employment practice?” a surprising 44 percent of the respondents answered affirmatively. Thirty percent of these social workers did not think that their employers adequately addressed the safety issues.

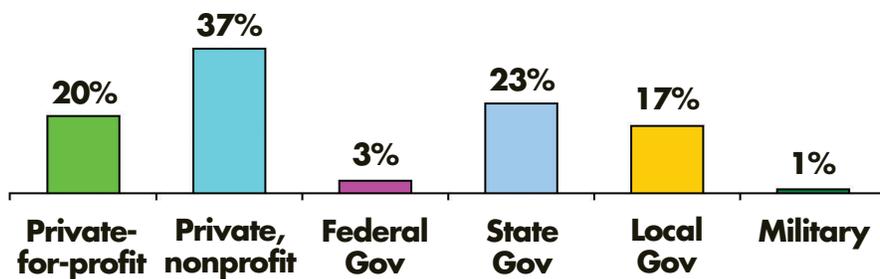
This fact sheet explores some of the factors associated with social workers who face personal safety issues in their employment.

SOCIAL WORKERS FACING SAFETY ISSUES WERE MORE LIKELY TO:

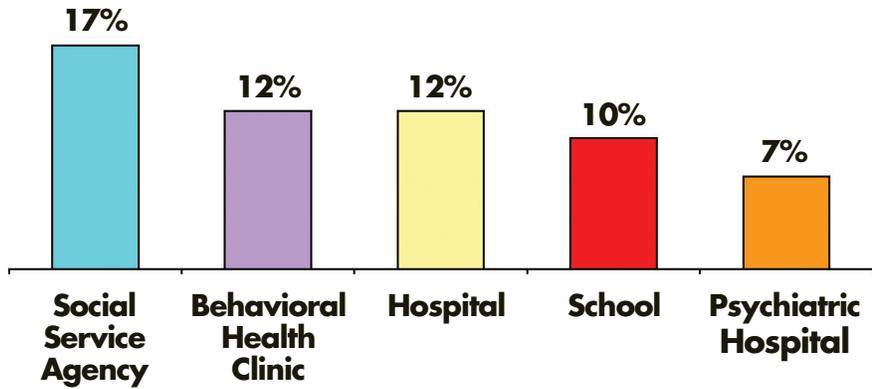
Be in the first five years of their social work practice (26%)



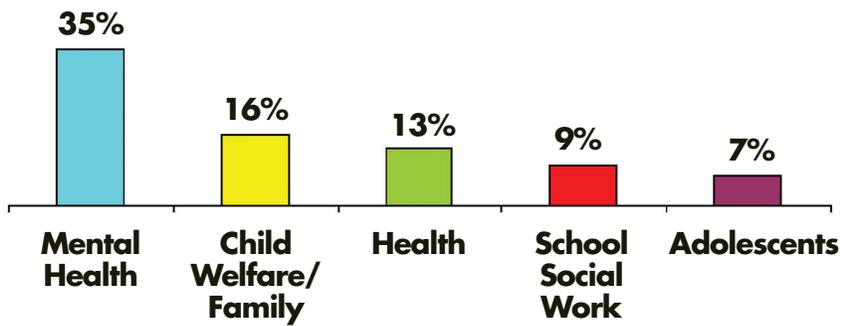
Work in private, non-profit (37%) and state government settings (23%)



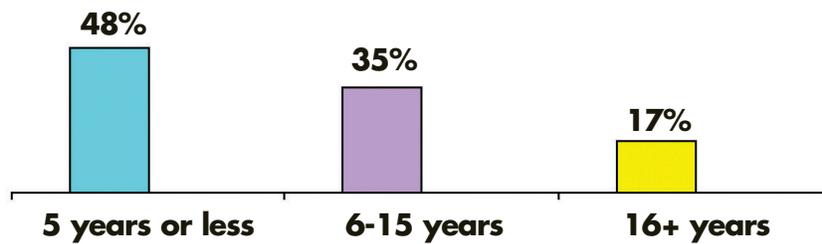
Work in social service agencies (17%)



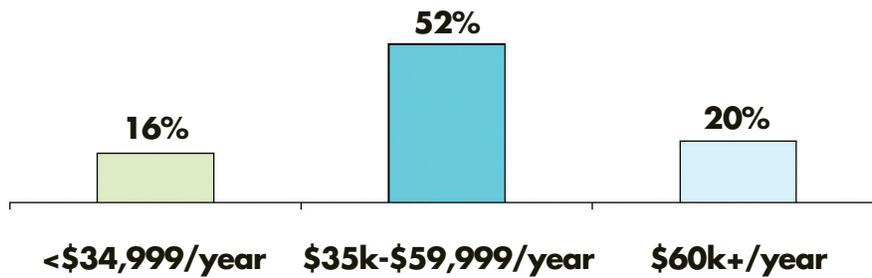
Describe their primary area of practice as mental health (35%) or child welfare/family (16%)



Have worked for their employer for five years or less (48%)



Have earned between \$35,000 and \$59,999 per year (52%)



ⁱ Whitaker, T., Weismiller, T., & Clark, E. (2006). Assuring the sufficiency of a frontline workforce: Executive summary. Washington, DC: National Association of Social Workers.