

Violence in class: new figures on staff injuries

CLASSROOM-BASED support staff are exposed to more violence at work than most other jobs in the UK, according to a new GMB study.

Only care assistants, nurses, police officers and prison-service officers suffer more recorded injuries caused by violence. Data obtained by GMB from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) also shows that:

- There are three incidents a month of educational assistants suffering **major injuries** involving violence, e.g. fractures and dislocations.

- Every other day, an educational assistant suffers a violent injury which leads to at least three days' **absence from work**.
- Educational assistants are **more vulnerable** to violence than most other parts of the school workforce.

The figures come as GMB responded to a Government consultation about discipline in schools. GMB has called on the Government to recognise the risks encountered by school support staff. The Union has also recommended that more training be made available in areas like behaviour management.

THE NATIONAL PICTURE

	Number of total injuries	Rate per 100,000 employees
Care assistants & home carers	1842	260.5
Nurses	678	129.0
Police officers (sergeant & below)	529	317.9
Prison service officers (below principal officer)	450	994.6
Nursing auxiliaries & assistants	337	157.4
Educational assistants	281	58.0
Security guards & related occupations	249	141.9
Bus & coach drivers	161	129.8

Source: HSE, reported number and estimated rate per 100,000 employees of injuries caused by violence at work, 2009/10 (provisional), by minor occupation codes with the largest number of reports.

IN SCHOOLS

	Number of major injuries	Number of over-3-day injuries
Educational assistants	34	247
Primary and nursery education teaching professionals	4	26
Secondary education teaching professionals	12	44

Source: HSE, injuries to workers by specific education occupation codes involving violence as reported to all enforcing authorities under RIDDOR 95 regulations in 2009/10 (provisional).



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