

NYS Co-worker Violence Prevention Project

Project Overview and Specific Aims: The University of Maryland (UMB) has received a 5-year grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) / NIOSH to conduct research on the important problem of co-worker violence within New York State government. The Principal Investigator is Dr. Jane Lipscomb from UMB. Dr. Lipscomb is an internationally-known researcher who has been the principal investigator on numerous federally-funded workplace violence research grants.

The project will be conducted in two phases. Phase one involves the administration of a screening survey to a large cross-section of state government workers, including managers, to assess the prevalence of co-worker violence (physical and verbal) in their workplaces and the organizational responses to those incidents. The second phase involves recruiting a limited number of agencies to partner in developing, implementing, and evaluating a program to prevent co-worker violence.

Benefits to Participating NYS Agencies: In June 2006 the NYS Labor Law was amended by adding part 27-b. The law requires all public employers, with their employees, to evaluate the risk of all types of workplace violence and to develop a program to prevent and minimize such violence. The law explicitly includes co-worker violence as something which needs to be included in this risk assessment and in the prevention program.

Phase One: Each agency participating in the phase one survey will receive the summary results, including question-by-question response frequencies, for their agency. The survey and its analysis can be a critical part of the risk assessment required by the new Law. Additionally, once the surveys from all agencies have been analyzed, each agency will also receive a summary report that compares their agency's responses to those of all participating agencies combined. *The timing and method of administration of the survey for each agency is subject to the needs and desires of the agency managers.*

Phase Two: The agencies selected to participate in the second phase of the project will receive support to develop, implement and evaluate their workplace violence prevention program, particularly as it relates to co-worker violence.