Workplace Violence at Schools — "If You See Something, Say Something" Stats and Facts



FACTS

- 1. Educators may face physical attacks from students or intruders, leading to injuries and psychological trauma.
- 2. Threatening language can create a hostile work environment, affecting teachers' mental health and job performance.
- 3. Persistent bullying by students or colleagues can escalate into more severe forms of violence if unaddressed.
- 4. The presence of weapons on school premises poses significant risks to the safety of both staff and students.
- 5. Fear of retaliation or disbelief may lead staff to avoid reporting suspicious behaviors, allowing potential threats to go unchecked.
- 6. Lack of proper training in recognizing and responding to warning signs can leave educators ill-prepared to handle potential violence.

STATS

Canada:

- A survey revealed that 75% of educational assistants reported experiencing physical force during the 2022–2023 school year, highlighting the prevalence of violence in schools.
- 31% of men and 47% of women reported experiencing harassment or sexual assault in the workplace, indicating significant safety concerns.
- An overwhelming 75% of OSSTF/FEESO members reported an increase in incidents of violence since they began working, with 31% having personally experienced physical force.

USA:

• In the 2020—2021 school year, 6% of public-school teachers reported being threatened with injury by a student, while 4% reported being physically attacked.

- Workplace assaults resulted in 57,610 injuries in 2021—2022, emphasizing the need for effective violence prevention strategies.
- A Michigan high school's "see something, say something" policy may have prevented a disaster, demonstrating the effectiveness of such initiatives in preventing school violence.