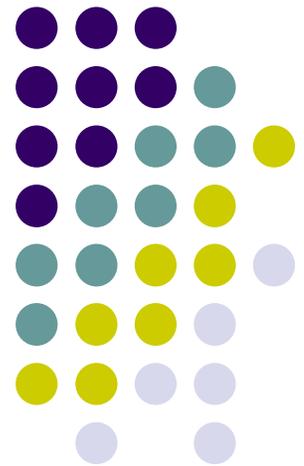


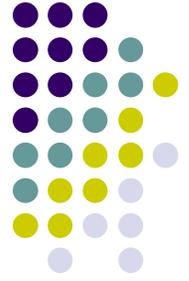
Home Visitor Safety

Your Personal Safety Matters

Presented by the
Bethlehem Area School District
Workplace Safety Committee

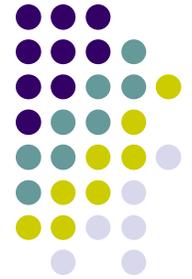


Training Objectives

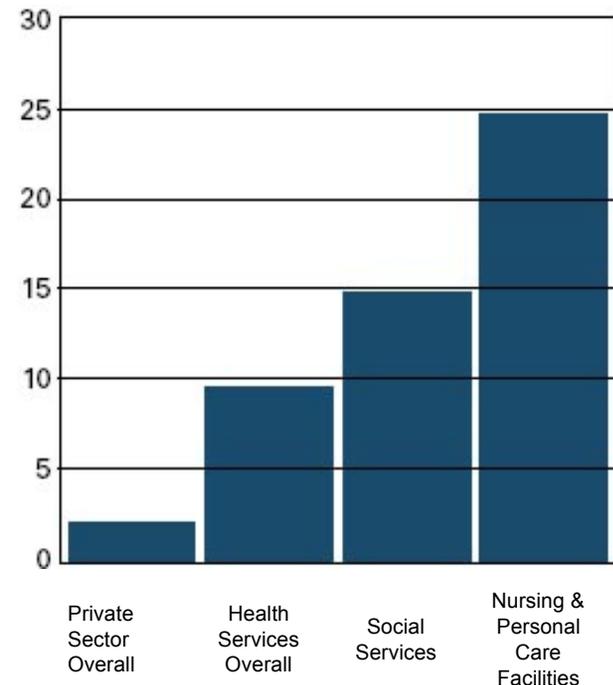


- Understand the importance of Home Visitor Safety and how it applies to your profession.
- Identify risk factors in order to mitigate instances of injury during a home visit.
- Become accustomed with preparedness techniques prior to conducting appointments.
- Learn to respond to different emergency situations safely and appropriately.
- Become familiar procedures that must be followed after an incident.

Statistics of Workplace Violence and Injury

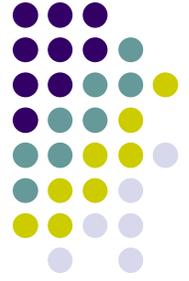


- In a 2004 report released by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) on Workplace violence, 48% of all non-fatal violence against all workers in the United States occurred in the fields of health care and social services industry.
- 50-80% of public human service workers have experienced threats, damaged properties and physical attacks during their career.



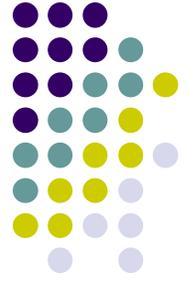
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2001). *Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, 2000*.

Statistics of Workplace Violence and Injury Cont'd...

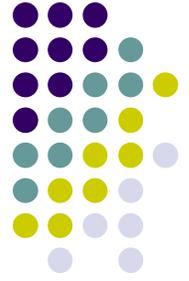


- 70% of front-line child welfare workers have been victims of violence or threats while working.
- A review of 585 exit interviews found that 90% of former child welfare workers experienced verbal threats, 30% experienced physical attacks, and 13% had been threatened with weapons.
- Social Service workers in the public sector are approximately 17 times more likely to be victims of assault while at work than workers in the private sector.

The Impact

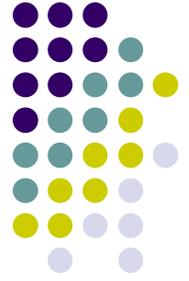


- In 2004, Kansas Social Worker, Teri Zenner, was brutally killed during a routine home visit.
- In 2005, a women in Texas fired a shotgun at two social workers visiting her home.
- In 2006, Social Worker, Sally Blackwell was found dead in a field just outside Austin, TX.
- In 2006, Social Service Aid, Boni Frederick was beaten to death while overseeing a home visit between a mother and her infant.



Risk Factors

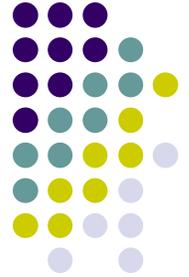
- The prevalence of handguns and other weapons among their clients, their families or friends.
- The increasing number of acute & chronic mentally ill patients being released from hospitals without follow-up care.
- The increasing presence of gang members, drug or alcohol abusers, trauma patients or distraught family members.
- Lack of staff training in recognizing & managing escalating hostile and assaultive behavior.



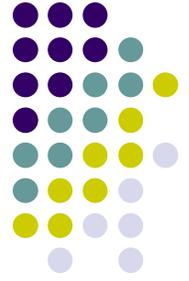
Before the Visit

- Always let someone know where you are going.
- Mentally rehearse the visit and what you need to accomplish.
- Don't wear excessive jewelry and dress appropriately.
- Take your ID with you, but do not wear your ID cord around your neck.
- Wear comfortable shoes with low or no heels.
- Carry a cell phone with you, if possible.

Approaching the House



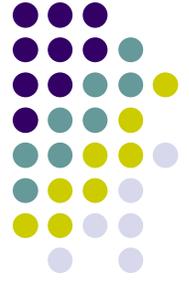
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Park your vehicle in a way that you can make a quick exit, if necessary.
- Do not block anyone's s parking space.
- Lock valuables in the trunk of your vehicle.



During the Visit

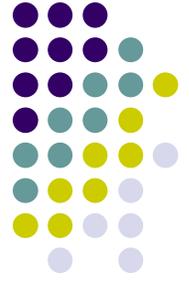
- Be aware of the exits from the home. Keep yourself between the client & the door.
- Sit near an exit or facing the hallway so you can view hall and bedrooms.
- Use non-threatening body language and remain calm & polite.
- Respect the client's home and their emotions.
- Listen to your instincts and feelings.
- Do not touch the family pet.
- Be cautious and use common sense.
- Leave if you feel threatened or if you notice unlawful or peculiar behavior.

Just in Case

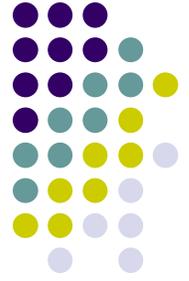


- Make sure your vehicle is in good running condition and has enough gas.
- When possible, back your vehicle into parking spaces.
- Keep a flashlight and a first aid kit in your vehicle.
- Take dog biscuits along to calm excited/aggressive dogs.
- Don't reveal too much personal information about yourself or your family

Driver Safety



- Always wear your seat belt.
- Obey the speed limit. Going too fast will limit your time to react.
- Use your turn signals so other drivers know where you are going.
- Focus on the driving task – the road and conditions around you.
- DON'T use your cell phone while driving – it is against the law to use a cell phone without a hands-free device.
- Don't eat or drink while driving, these are distractions.
- Plan ahead. Know where you are going and get directions.
- Leave early. Give yourself plenty of time to get to your destination.

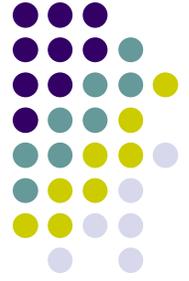


Driving in Inclement Weather

The best advise for driving in bad weather is not to travel at all, if you can avoid it.

- Decrease speed and leave yourself plenty of room to stop (three times more space in front of you)
- Brake gently to avoid skidding. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake.
- Turn on lights to increase visibility to other motorist.
- Keep lights and windshield clean.
- Be very cautious when traveling on bridges, overpasses, and infrequently traveled roads as they tend to be more icy.
- Don't assume your care can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel drive vehicles can encounter trouble.

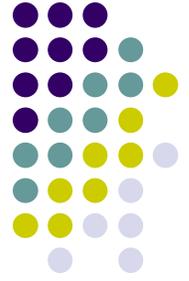
Illness Prevention



The main way that illnesses like colds and flu are spread is from person to person in respiratory droplets of coughs and sneezes. This is called "droplet spread." This can happen when droplets from a cough or sneeze of an infected person move through the air and are deposited on the mouth or nose of people nearby. Sometimes germs also can be spread when a person touches respiratory droplets from another person on a surface like a desk and then touches his or her own eyes, mouth or nose before washing their hands. We know that some viruses and bacteria can live 2 hours or longer on surfaces like cafeteria tables, doorknobs, and desks.

- Clean your hands often
- Cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- Stay home when you are sick and check with a health care provider when needed
- Practice other good health habits
- Carry alcohol-based hand wipes or gel sanitizers.

Reporting an Incident



- Report the incident to your immediate supervisor.
- Complete an Incident Report
- If needed, complete the necessary Workmen's Compensation paperwork i.e. fall and scrap your knee walking into a clients house or you get into a car accident during working hours and there is serious injury.
- If medical attention is required, you must obtain medical care from a specified provider.
- Follow-up with the business office on status of your claim.

Workplace Safety

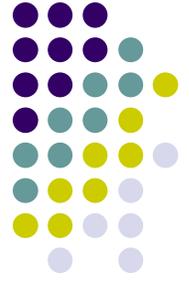


The Workplace Safety Committee encourages employees to identify health and safety hazards in the workplace. Concerns raised by employees will be presented to the committee in writing. The committee will review new concerns at the next regularly scheduled monthly meeting. The vehicles for reporting concerns shall be:

- Bethlehem Area School District's website
- Inter-district mail (send to the Maintenance Department)
- Email to wsc@smtp1.beth.k12.pa.us
- United States Postal Service mail to: Bethlehem Area School District Maintenance Department
Attn: Workplace Safety Committee
250 E. Fairview Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018
- Safe School Hotline: 610-866-3000
- Phone: 610-867-8635
- Fax: 610-807-5574
- Employee's Safety Suggestion and Safety Hazard Report

For more information on the BASD Workplace Safety Committee visit
http://www.beth.k12.pa.us/workplace_safety

References



- Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. (n.d.). *Tips for Teenagers*. Retrieved from <http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/teenDriversCenter/tipsTeens.shtml>
- The Weather Channel Interactive, Inc.. (1995-2010). *Driving Safety Tips*. Retrieved from <http://www.weather.com/activities/driving/drivingsafety/drivingsafetytips/snow.html>
- U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration. (n.d.). *Guidelines for Preventing Workplace Violence for Health Care and Social Service Workers*. Retrieved from <http://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3148.html>