



## Board 1 - Differences in Young Adult Workers' Experiences and Perceptions of Workplace Violence

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 Tuesday, November 7, 2017

 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

 Georgia World Congress Center - Hall B2/B3

**Session:** OHS Poster - Injuries Related to Work

**Program:** Occupational Health and Safety

### Abstract

Background: National data show that young workers under the age of 25 are at an increased risk of experiencing workplace violence when compared to all workers as a whole. Objective: To understand how young workers ages 15-24 experience and perceive workplace violence. Methods: One hour focus groups were completed with adolescents ages 15-17 at high schools in Iowa and West Virginia and with young adult workers ages 18-24 at the University of Iowa and West Virginia University. A focus group guide was used to ensure reliability and content validity of the focus group sessions. The focus group sessions were audio and manually recorded. Only one of the sessions has been transcribed. Data will be analyzed using independent theme analysis and peer review debriefing to come to a consensus on final themes to ensure trustworthiness. Results: Preliminary results indicate the following major themes: social media as an outlet for bullying and sexual harassment, varying perpetrators of workplace violence, differential treatment by supervisors, hesitancy

to report workplace violence, negative mental and daily life impacts, and lack of proper training. It is anticipated that final results will reveal differences in the experiences of work place violence between adolescent workers ages 15-17 and young adult workers ages 18-24. Conclusion: Young workers often get categorized into the same group if they are ages 15-24. It is important to understand the similarities and differences that exist in this young worker age group to create effective preventative programs for workplace violence.

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## Learning Areas

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Occupational health and safety

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## Learning Objectives

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Describe the similarities and differences in the experiences of workplace violence between adolescent workers ages 15-17 and young adult workers ages 18-24. Discuss the need for an understanding of the differences in the experiences of workplace violence of adolescents ages 15-17 and young adults ages 18-24 when developing effective prevention programs.

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## Keyword(s)

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Workplace

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