

## Safe Home Care Survey

### Who participated?

7 private home care agencies  
634 home care aides

### Who were the home care aides?

Mostly female – 95%  
Average age – 48 years  
58% White, 22% Black, 5% Asian  
17% Latino/Hispanic

### Work experience

About eight years with current employer  
Average hours – 31 hours/week (all jobs)

### Occupations

Home health aides 43%  
Personal care homemaker 38%  
Homemaker 36%  
Certified nursing assistant 12%  
Personal care attendant 11%  
Companion 11%  
Hospice aide 3%

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*Learning with Purpose*

## The Safe Home Care Project: Safety and Health for Home Care Workers in Social Assistance and Healthcare

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### Survey Preliminary Findings for Home Care Aides Employed by Private Agencies November 2013



Thank you for supporting the Safe Home Care Project survey.  
Here are some key findings that represent the experience of 634 home care aides as they performed a total of 2,564 client visits.

# Findings

FOR 634 HOME CARE AIDES EMPLOYED BY PRIVATE AGENCIES

## The majority of aides reported:

- high job satisfaction
- accomplishing something useful at each visit
- looking forward to their next client visit

## Positive comments (% of aides)

- I probably or definitely will not leave my job – 85%
- I would recommend this job to a friend – 89%
- My work contributes to improving clients' health – 91%
- I get the respect I deserve at work – 87%
- Stable job; I am not afraid of losing it – 68%

## I continue to work in my current job because:

- I enjoy caring for others – 90%
- I feel good about the work I do – 81%
- I have a flexible schedule or hours – 66%
- I can work independently – 62%

## Common client conditions

(% of recent visits)

- Limited mobility – 35%
- Diabetes – 27%
- Incontinence – 25%
- Respiratory condition – 22%
- Dementia – 20%
- Obesity – 16%

## Sharps injury

- 2% of aides got stuck or cut by a used medical sharp in the past 12 months

## Chemical irritants

- Bleach, ammonia or other cleaning products were used in 27% of recent client visits.

## Infectious agents

- Aides were exposed to blood or feces in 15% of recent client visits.



## In the past 12 months, aides experienced:

### 1 out of 3 aides (32%) had low back pain

A majority felt it was related to their work.



### 1 out of 4 aides (23%) experienced verbal aggression

Verbal aggression includes being yelled at, made to feel bad about self, racist language, or verbal threat of harm.



### 1 out of 13 aides (8%) experienced physical aggression

Physical aggression includes aggressive physical contact, object thrown, sexual assault, bitten or spit on, beaten or strangled.



Aides reported that they did not feel safe from verbal abuse (in 8% of visits) or physical threat (in 5% of visits) during client visits in the past month.

## Over the course of their home care careers:

### 14% of aides had an injury or pain

severe enough to result in lost work time or need medical care.



### Of this 14% (86 aides), in the past 12 months alone, the following lost work time or required medical care:

- 17 aides (20%) experienced a slip, trip or fall (inside or outside the home)
- 9 aides (10%) were assisting with client handling
- 9 aides (10%) had a work-related traffic accident
- 6 aides (7%) received an animal bite