

Do you know whom you're hiring?

By *The Canadian Hrreporter.com*

Used car dealers often have a reputation for being crooks, but what about the woman selling shoes in the mall or the accountant at the high powered firm across the street?

A recent study revealed that 8.4 per cent of job applicants had a criminal record, highlighting the need for thorough background checks when hiring new employees.

The study, completed by InfoLink Screening Services and based on all the background checks done by the service in 2004, found that even when applicants were told of the background check and authorized the investigation, many had convictions for felonies including assault with a firearm, sexual abuse, forgery and grand theft by employee.

The food service industry had the highest proportion of applicants with criminal records with 12.4 per cent, followed by retail with 11.7 per cent. Automotive dealers were ranked eighth out of 11 industries with 8.4 per cent of applicants having criminal convictions.

Here's a list of how each industry fared:

(Per cent of applicants with criminal records by industry)

Automotive dealers	8.4
Business services	10.2
Construction	8.1
Finance	6
Food services	12.4
Health care	5.7
Hospitality	8.6
Manufacturing	9.8
Retail	11.7
Staffing	8.5
Transportation	10.7

This study was first published by hrreporter.com on September 30, 2005