Prevalence of Workplace Violence in Health Care/Emergency Departments

Workers in the health care sector make up about 50% of all victims of workplace assault. From 2002–2013, serious incidents of workplace violence were 4x more common for workers in the health care sector than for all other workers in the U.S.

ED workers are exposed to significant rates of physical and verbal abuse. Under-reporting of workplace violence in the ED is common and contributes to the difficulty in accurately tracking violence.

Impact of Workplace Violence on Nurses, Patients and U.S. Health Care System

Emergency nurses are more likely to experience acute stress than other nurses. 1/3 of emergency nurses reported they had considered leaving the profession due to workplace violence.

94% of emergency nurses surveyed reported at least one post-traumatic stress disorder symptom, with 17% scoring high enough to be considered probable for PTSD.

The estimated cost of workplace violence in health care is $4.2 billion annually.

1. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), US Department of Labor osha.gov

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