

## Workplace Violence in **Emergency Departments**

## Prevalence of Workplace Violence in Health Care/Emergency Departments

Workers in the **health care** sector make up about

**EMERGENC** of all victims of workplace assault.1 In 2018, the rate of serious injuries related to workplace violence was higher for hospital workers than for all other private sector workers in the U.S.<sup>2</sup>

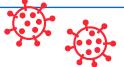


ED workers are exposed to significant rates of physical and **verbal abuse**. Under-reporting of workplace violence in the ED is common and contributes to the difficulty in accurately tracking violence.4,5





About 31 percent of hospital RNs said that they faced an increase in workplace violence during the pandemic.<sup>6</sup>



## 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.



of emergency nurses reported they had considered **leaving** the profession due to workplace violence.7

The estimated cost of workplace violence in health care is

- 1. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), US Department of Labor osha.gov
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (n.d.). Fact sheet | workplace violence in healthcare, 2018 | April 2020. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Retrieved March 21, 2022, from https://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/cfoi/workplace-violence-healthcare-2018.htm#

  3. Kowalenko T et al. Prospective study of violence against ED workers. (2013). American Journal of Emergency Medicine – 31 (1), 197-205
- 4. Taylor & Rew, A systematic review of the literature: workplace violence in the emergency department (2011). Journal of Clinical Nursing 5. Gacki-Smith et al. Violence against nurses working in US emergency departments (2009). Journal of Nursing Administration
- 6. National Nurses United Survey. NNU unionized nurse members and non-union nurses in the U.S. and Puerto Rico (June 1-July 21, 2021).
- 7. Gacki-Smith et al. Violence against nurses working in US emergency departments (2009). Journal of Nursing Administration 8. Gallant-Roman M. Strategies and Tools to reduce workplace violence (2008). AAOHN Journal