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.¹

In 2018, the rate of **serious injuries** related to workplace violence was **6x** higher for hospital workers than for all other private sector workers in the U.S.²

Studies show that emergency nurses and other personnel in the ED experience a **violent event** about **once every 2 months**.³

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

From 2011–2018, the rate of **nonfatal workplace violence** against health care workers **grew by 63%**.²

**31%** About 31 percent of hospital RNs said that they faced an increase in workplace violence during the pandemic.⁶

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.¹³

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 **$4.2 billion annually**.⁸

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