

Workplace Violence in Emergency Departments

Prevalence of Workplace Violence in Health Care/Emergency Departments

Health care workers account for



73%
of violence-related
injuries requiring
missed work days.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.¹



Studies show that **emergency nurses** and other personnel in the ED experience a **violent event** about

once every 2 months.²



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

63%¹

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.^{3, 4}



31%

About 31 percent of hospital RNs said that they faced an increase in workplace violence during the pandemic.⁵



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.**⁶

The estimated **cost** of **workplace violence** in health care is

\$4.2



billion annually.⁷

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