

Workplace Violence in Emergency Departments

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



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



63%²

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}



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.



1/3 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



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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).
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