Take a stand: No more violence to health care workers

Forms of violence to health care workers

- Biting
- Kicking
- Punching
- Pinching
- Shoving
- Scratching
- Spitting
- Name calling
- Intimidating
- Threatening
- Yelling
- Harassing
- Stalking
- Beating
- Choking
- Stabbing
- Killing

Statistics on violence against health care workers

- 25 percent of nurses reported being physically assaulted by a patient or a patient's family member, and about half reported being bullied (ANA)
- Workers in health care settings are four times more likely to be victimized than workers in private industry (SIA and IAHSSF)
- Health care workers have a 20 percent higher chance of being the victim of workplace violence than other workers (National Crime Victimization Survey)
- Violence-related injuries are four times more likely to cause health care workers to take time off from work than other kinds of injuries (BLS)

Violence against health care workers is grossly underreported

Only 30 percent of nurses report incidents of violence

Health care workers
- think that violence is “part of the job”
- are sometimes uncertain what constitutes violence
- often believe their assailants are not responsible for their actions due to conditions affecting their mental state

Factors associated with perpetrators of violence

- Altered mental status or mental illness
- Patients in police custody
- Long wait times or crowding
- Being given “bad news” about a diagnosis
- Gang activity
- Domestic disputes among patients or visitors
- Presence of firearms or other weapons

What to do when violence occurs

Report it! Notify leadership, security and, if needed, law enforcement.


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