Violence Against Nurses

The High Cost of Patient Care

Registered nurses (RNs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs), nurse practitioners (NPs), licensed vocational nurses (LVNs), personal/home health aides and other nursing professionals make up the largest part of the healthcare industry in the U.S.

3.9 million RNs

4 million Home Care Aides

270,000 NPs

724,500 LPNs and LVNs

Though their main responsibility is patient care, nurses endure a staggering amount of physical and verbal abuse often **by the very people they're caring for.**

Some Risk Factors

1. Long patient wait times or crowding in clinical environments
2. Patients with behavioral issues admitted to emergency departments with little or no health information, and no intake facility willing or able to take the patient
3. Having no access to emergency communication, such as a call button
4. Entering a home or location where there's a prevalence of firearms, knives and other weapons among residents and their families and friends
5. Working a certain time of day or location (e.g., late at night or in poorly lit settings)

Sources: OSHA and The Joint Commission

The Results

Virtually all types of nurses have been victims of violent incidents. They often occur inside a patient's hospital room, as well as in emergency departments and geriatric and psychiatric environments.

96% of male nurses and **85%** of female nurses have been **physically threatened** by their own patients.

Source: Medscape

61% of RNs work in private hospitals

- Violent events accounted for **12.2% of all injuries**
- Nurses between the ages of **20–24 (15.4%) and 25–34 (15.1%)** experienced the most violent incidents
- RNs who worked at **nursing and residential care facilities experienced the most violent events** (16.2%), followed by hospitals (13.5%) and ambulatory healthcare centers (4.7%)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

61% of home care nurses

have experienced some form of workplace violence

- **18%-59%** reported verbal aggression as the most common type
- **30%** of these nurses said they were sexually harassed

Sources: The Joint Commission and Nurse.com

The Legal & Business Costs for Employers

The causes of workplace violence is starting to become a factor in hiring and retaining nursing personnel.

About **20%** of nurses who leave direct patient care do so because of the work-related risks

Replacement costs are estimated to be between **$22,000** for a new nurse and **$64,000** for an experienced nurse

Hospitals lose anywhere between **$300,000 and $4 million** each year, including the costs of recruiting, hiring, retaining and training each nurse

Sources: OSHA and The Journal for Nurse Practitioners

Healthcare organizations could be held liable if a victim or a victim's family can prove they knew or should have known the violence incident was likely to cause seriously bodily harm or death, as well as prove there was a way to eliminate the situation.

These organizations can face penalties starting at $13,260 per violation and increases to $132,598 for willful and repeat violations.

The average out-of-court settlement for workplace violence is about **$500,000**

Negligent lawsuits average about **$2 million**

The average jury award is approximately **$3 million**

Sources: OSHA and Medlaw

The cost for hospitals to provide uncompensated or insufficiently compensated care and treatment to victims is estimated to be over

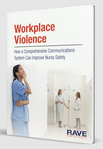
$850 million

Absenteeism related to workplace violence incidents costs hospitals **$53.7 million** per year

Disability annually costs **$90.7 million**

Source: American Hospital Association

You must maintain your daily operations 24/7 and ensure your patients are receiving top-notch care. **But how are you protecting your nursing personnel while they care for patients?** Discover how you can reach your nurses wherever they're working, as well as empower them with technology that instantly connects them with safety and security personnel when an incident takes place.



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