

Steps We can Take to Prevent Violence in Healthcare

The Story

Healthcare has unique cultural factors that may contribute to underreporting or acceptance of workplace violence. Healthcare workers recognize that injuries caused by patients may be unintentional due to medical condition or disease. It's essential that we are reporting incidents and protecting ourselves. There are many items in everyday practice that can be used to harm healthcare workers. Are you aware of your surroundings?



The Tie to Safety



According to the World Health Organization (WHO), about 8% to 38% of HCWs are exposed to violence, by an incidence of **8.3 attacks per 10,000 employees** compared to two per 10,000 for the general workplaces (WHO 2018).



Make no assumptions, anyone can cause harm, at any age, at any place, and at any time.

The Takeaway



1. Have a departmental plan.
2. PRACTICE the plan frequently.
3. Stay alert.
4. Situational/Environmental awareness.
5. Exit strategies.
6. Physical proximity.
7. Equipment locations.
8. Colleagues need to trust their instincts.
9. Ask for help.
10. Know your resources.

****Talk about how violence is a real concern in everyone's life. Its important to address colleague concerns, listen, discuss what is within everyone's circle of control, and what resources are available to them.****