



Increasing Protections for Health Care Workers

Patients deserve a safe place to receive care, and health care workers deserve a safe place to deliver it. Hospitals are consistently implementing strategies that address the concerning rise of physical and verbal assault against staff, but they cannot solve the problem alone.

What You Need to Know:

Violence against health care workers continues to rise, with assaults against those in the profession reaching an all-time high in 2021, according to the most recent [survey](#) from the International Association for Healthcare Security and Safety (IAHSS) Foundation.

<p>5x</p> <p>Health care workers have the highest rates of workplace violence injuries – they are five times more likely to be injured than other workers.¹</p>	<p>Every 30 minutes</p> <p>On average, a nurse is assaulted every 30 minutes – more than 5,200 nurses were assaulted in just the second quarter of 2022.²</p>	<p>90%</p> <p>In a one month review, 90% of health care workers had experienced or witnessed violence from a patient or a patient’s caregiver.³</p>
--	---	---

This startling trend is causing experienced staff to leave the field, and it is deterring future workers from pursuing a health care career at a time when Colorado is [projected](#) to be short 10,000 nurses and 54,000 health care ancillary staff members by 2026.

How Hospitals Are Addressing Violence:

The safety of their patients and staff is the highest priority for every Colorado hospital. All hospitals have violence prevention programs and are required to have worker training programs as a condition of their accreditation. Safety efforts underway include:



Health care workers need the support of legislators and their communities to ensure that violence is mitigated so patients can be treated in an environment of comfort and healing.

¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9206999/>
² <https://www.ormanager.com/briefs/2022-statistics-on-healthcare-workplace-violence/>
³ <https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/97590-92-of-healthcare-workers-experienced-workplace-violence-in-april-2022>

CONTACT:

Joshua Ewing, CHA vice president of government affairs, at Joshua.Ewing@cha.com for more information.

