

# Trends in Workplace Violence for Health Care Occupations and Facilities Over the Last 10 Years



Brianna Lombardi, PhD, MSW, Todd Jensen, PhD, MSW Evan Galloway, MPS, Erin Fraher, PhD, MPP  
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Workplace violence (WPV), or “any act or threat of physical violence, harassment, intimidation, or other threatening disruptive behavior that occurs at the work site,” facing health workforces has increased since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1-5</sup> Despite growing recognition of WPV and its impacts on workers exiting the health workforce, there is limited understanding of whether and how WPV rates vary between health care facilities and occupations. To examine whether underlying factors contributing to workplace violence rates differ between occupations and settings, this study investigates trends in workplace violence for different types of health care workers and across different health care facilities over a ten-year period (from 2011-2021/2022). Data drawn from the Bureau of Labor Statistics on Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illness were used to examine trends in non-fatal workplace injuries that resulted in at least one day away from work related to the event code for “violence and other injuries by persons”. Overall, this study’s findings suggest that WPV within health care industries is significantly increasing over time, yet across all health care occupations there was no statistically significant increase in average rates of WPV, particularly when excluding outlier occupations. Previously reported average annual rates of WPV often do not exclude significant outliers within occupations and facilities—which drive high rates of WPV reported. However, data suppression and year over year volatility make it hard to discern time trends for WPV.

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