

ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS

EXPERT CARE FOR ANYONE, ANYWHERE,
AT ANY TIME



Violence in the Emergency Department



Workers in the health care sector are **four times more likely to experience serious workplace violence** than those in private industry on average.



ED violence adds pressure to an already understaffed emergency medical system, causing further staffing shortages and dangerous gaps in care.



In cases where law enforcement does make an arrest for violent behavior, the charges are often not pursued by district attorneys and offenders are not prosecuted. As a result, so many of these incidents go completely unseen.



Two-thirds physicians polled reported being physically assaulted within just the last year, and 85 percent report the rates of ED violence increased over the last year.

Emergency department (ED) violence creates additional stress and contributes to low morale.

While emergency physicians are exposed to significant rates of verbal and physical abuse, these rates likely do not represent the full impact of ED violence.

Emergency physicians strongly support policies that would establish criminal penalties for assailants and strengthen workplace prevention programs for employees.

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Fast Facts About Emergency Medicine

Access to emergency care is critical and more people rely on emergency physicians than ever before.

One in three people in the U.S. come to the emergency department, for a total 150 million visits to the emergency department every year.

Emergency physicians are uniquely trained with the expertise to lead skilled care teams in thousands of emergency departments across the country.



Nearly half of all medical care in the United States is delivered in an emergency department.



Nearly 70% of emergency care goes uncompensated or undercompensated.



Nine in ten say it is essential to have 24/7 access to the ER, the highest of any utility or service that communities provide.



Only 2.5% of the patients seen in 2020 came to the emergency department for a non-urgent medical condition.



More than half of adults who sought immediate medical care chose to go to an emergency department because urgent care was unavailable, or they were referred by a medical provider.