

ABSTRACT

RESEARCH PAPER: Identifying Potential Factors Related to Violence in the Workplace

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DATE: July 2015

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Nursing has been said to be a stressful environment. To remain profitable, hospitals may find it necessary to decrease available staffing. Not only can this increase tension among personnel but safety becomes a concern.

The focus of this study is to identify potentially violent situations within the workplace particularly in the mental health inpatient setting and identify successful intervention. A literature review will be performed to examine previous studies involving the violent situations, their severity, and successful intervention that were appropriate. Data will be collected by interviewing ten nursing staff members who have experienced violence situations in psychiatric wards. The sample of ten nurses will be derived from staff nurses inpatient psychiatric units located at the VA Medical Center located in Leeds, MA. Nurses will be asked the open-ended question “tell me about the violent situation you experienced with mental health patients.” In addition, health records of documentations of violent situations that occurred in the past will be reviewed. Situations reviewed will be involving adult individuals primarily with psychiatric admissions to hospitals who have committed an act of violence or aggression towards nursing staff. The benefits to this study will be a better understanding the impact violence has on nurses and identifying strategies for reducing violence the workplace.