



Protecting our Caregivers from Workplace Violence

Health care professionals keep all of us safe. We all need to return the favor. Violence against health care professionals is never acceptable.

Violence against health care workers is on the rise.

- From 2010 to 2020, the rate of nonfatal workplace violence against health care workers more than doubled. Worse, nearly 400 caring professionals were killed by assailants in their workplaces.
- Hospital workers were six times more likely to suffer a workplace violence injury than other professions in 2020.
- Health care workers made up 12 percent of the U.S. workforce in 2020 but suffered 73 percent of nonfatal injuries due to workplace violence.
- During 2019, 91 percent of emergency medical services workers were verbally assaulted and 67 percent were physically assaulted while on the job.

Sometimes the injury isn't the worst damage.



It takes all of us to keep health care workers safe.

In 2020, Pennsylvania made it a felony to assault a health care worker and protected health care workers' identities by allowing their last names to be omitted from ID badges.

Nationally, during June 2022, U.S. Representative Madeleine Dean (D-4) [introduced](#) the Safety from Violence for Healthcare Employees (SAVE) Act along with Representative Larry Bucshon, MD (R-IN). HAP [supports](#) this important legislation that establishes federal criminal penalties for assaults and authorizes grant funding to reduce violence and intimidation in hospitals.

Hospitals are increasing their efforts to prioritize staff safety, making new investments in:

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| ✓ Safety plans | ✓ Restricted access |
| ✓ Risk assessments | ✓ Video monitoring |
| ✓ Security officers | ✓ Staff training |

The work is far from over. Violence does not belong in the workplace. HAP and Pennsylvania hospitals support additional policy improvements aimed at keeping health care professionals safe from violence and abuse.

This fact sheet with citations available at: <https://www.haponline.org/Resource-Center?resourceid=780>