



# Protect Hospital Caregivers from Workplace Violence



Violence against hospital workers has been on the rise for some time but has significantly accelerated since the COVID-19 pandemic. Health care professionals keep all of us safe. We need to return the favor. Violence against health care workers is never acceptable.

## Violence against health care workers is increasing.

- ▶ **90%** of health care workers experienced or witnessed violence from a patient or patient's caregiver in one month<sup>1</sup>.
- ▶ Hospital workers are **six times (6x)** more likely to be injured than other private sector workers<sup>1</sup>.
- ▶ Health care workers make up **12%** of total employment<sup>2</sup>, but suffered **73%** of all nonfatal workplace injuries due to workplace violence<sup>3</sup>.

Simple assault is defined by the FBI as an unlawful physical attack by one person upon another where neither the offender displays a weapon, nor the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury.

**Workplace  
Violence has severe  
consequences  
for patients  
and the health  
care system.**

- ▶ Violent exchanges tie up valuable resources and can delay urgently needed care for other patients<sup>4</sup>.
- ▶ **Workplace violence is exacerbating Kentucky's health care worker shortage.** Repeated trauma from violence, health care workers are leaving the field. Kentucky is already expected to be short **5,790** registered nurses and **3,190** LPNs by 2035, so the time to act is now.

## Implement Enhanced Penalties for Assault Against All Hospital Staff.

*Patients deserve a safe place to receive quality care.  
Health care workers deserve a safe workplace to provide it.*

For more information, contact:



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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/97590-92-of-healthcare-workers-experienced-workplace-violence-in-april-2022>

<sup>2</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation, Health Care Employment as a percent of Total Employment, 2022.

<sup>3</sup> 4. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (USBLS) 2018. Workplace Violence In Healthcare. <https://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/cfoi/workplace-violence-healthcare-2018.htm>

<sup>4</sup> (American Hospital Association, 2022), Fact Sheet: Health Care Workplace violence and Intimidation, and the Need for a Federal Legislative Response.