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## **Workplace Safety: Utilization of Simulation to Improve Management of Aggression and Reduce Physical Assault by Patients on Nursing Care Providers in the Acute Care Setting**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this scholarly project is to reduce injury related to workplace violence in the acute care setting. The aim is to incorporate a simulation component to the education to reduce the number of injuries sustained by nursing care providers during workplace violence events.

### **BACKGROUND**

Patient aggression has caused an increase in nursing care provider injury at a 255-bed, non-profit, community hospital organization resulting in an injury rate of 78.6%.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The method used was a pre-designed workplace violence simulation program. Participants were recruited to attend this four-hour training and participate in verbal and physical de-escalation techniques. Data related to physical workplace violence events reported and injuries sustained were collected and the rate of injury was determined.

### **RESULTS**

From October to December 2019, pre-intervention data determined an injury rate of 78.6%. The intervention was completed in February 2021. Post-intervention data was collected from March-May 2021 and the rate of injury was calculated at 28.6%.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

Based on a 63.6% decrease in the rate of injury between the pre-intervention and post-intervention period, adding a simulation component to workplace violence education may reduce injury and assist in keeping nursing care providers safer while caring for patients.