Perceptions of workplace violence in Graduate Medical Education: A resident survey

Short Description: This study examines the incidence of workplace violence experienced by resident physicians at an urban, academic medical center and residents’ perception of workplace violence training. Our study reports a high rate of workplace violence during residency and suggests that residents need more workplace violence training.

Abstract: Purpose: Research shows higher rates of workplace violence in healthcare as compared to other industries. Our study examines the incidence of workplace violence experienced by resident physicians and their perception of workplace violence training.

Methods: A sixteen question, paper-based, workplace violence survey was administered to 109 residents at an urban, academic, tertiary care medical center. Residents representing at least eight different specialties completed surveys. Data was analyzed using SAS 9.3 and associations were tested using chi-square.

Results: 69 male and 40 female residents completed surveys. 64.2% of the residents reported having been threatened during their training, 51.4% in the past year. 28.4% of residents reported having been physically attacked during their training, 18.5% in the past year. 78.7% of residents felt they encounter situations at work where they could be victims of workplace violence. However, only 48.2% percent of residents agree or strongly agree they have received adequate workplace violence training, and only 46.7% of residents agree or strongly agree they have received formal training on workplace violence. Females (89.7%) were more likely than males (72.4%) to report that they could encounter situations at work where they could be victims of workplace violence (p=0.03). Senior residents (PGY-3,4,5+; 42.3%) were more likely than junior residents (PGY-1,2; 16.7%) to report being physically assaulted ever during work duties(p<=0.01) as well as in the past year (26.9% versus 11.3%; p=0.04).

Conclusions: Our study suggests a high rate of workplace violence during residency training. Moreover, a majority of residents do not agree they receive adequate training in workplace violence. These findings mirror previous studies and suggest that residents need more workplace violence training. Future studies could examine the impact of additional training.


PRESENTER: Jeffrey Norvell | Brendan Lund

AUTHORS/INSTITUTIONS: J.G. Norvell, B. Lund, J. Miller, C.M. Cannon, Emergency Medicine, University of Kansas Medical Center, Fairway, Kansas, UNITED STATES|N. Nazir, B. Behravesh, University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, Kansas, UNITED STATES