



ASSOCIATION
OF OCCUPATIONAL
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
IN HEALTHCARE

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AOHP Releases Position Statement on Workplace Violence

PITTSBURGH, PA — On behalf of healthcare workers nationwide, the Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare (AOHP) has released a Position Statement on Workplace Violence (WPV). WPV is defined as violent acts (including physical assaults and threats of assaults) directed toward persons at work or on duty, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

Healthcare workers sustain WPV injuries at a rate more than four times higher than employees in the private sector. According to 2014 data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, psychiatric hospitals have incidence rates over 64 times higher than in private industry as a whole. Nursing and residential care facilities have WPV-related injuries 11 times higher than those for the entire private industry.

AOHP's position is to encourage healthcare organizations to endeavor to protect patients, employees and visitors from acts of WPV by implementing comprehensive violence prevention programs that are risk-specific to each healthcare organization or facility, as well as to support research, education and training on prevention strategies for WPV.

"AOHP is concerned about escalating WPV events, which are too often viewed as 'part of the job'", explains AOHP Executive President Mary Bliss, RN, COHN. "Healthcare employers must adopt a zero tolerance approach to all types of WPV."

An effective violence prevention plan should include a written program, management commitment, employee participation, hazard identification, safety and health training, and hazard prevention, control and reporting. Facility leadership support is key to the success of WPV programs, which must also include buy-in from Safety, Risk Management, Security, Emergency Department, Communication, Education, Occupational Health and Human Resources, at a minimum.

AOHP is a national association with about 1,000 members whose vision is to be the defining resource and leading advocate for occupational health and safety in healthcare. AOHP promotes health, safety and well-being for healthcare workers through: advocating for employee health and safety; occupational health education and networking opportunities; health and safety advancement through best practice and research; and partnering with employers, regulatory agencies and related associations. For more information, please call AOHP Headquarters at 800-362-4347, or email info@aohp.org. The complete AOHP Workplace Violence Position Statement document can be viewed online at <http://aohp.org/aohp/Portals/0/Documents/ToolsForYourWork/Position%20Statements/AOHP%20POSITION%20STATEMENT%20-%20Workplace%20Violence%20Jul%202017.pdf>.

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