

The Significance of Reporting Healthcare Workplace Violence

Andrew Thum, MSN, ML, RN, NE-BC

Violence against healthcare workers is underreported.

Without accurate reporting, organizations and leaders struggle to make informed decisions to address violence.

Does providing frontline nursing staff with education focused on the process for and importance of reporting violence improve reporting practices?



Design: Descriptive, quality improvement with one group pre-post intervention.

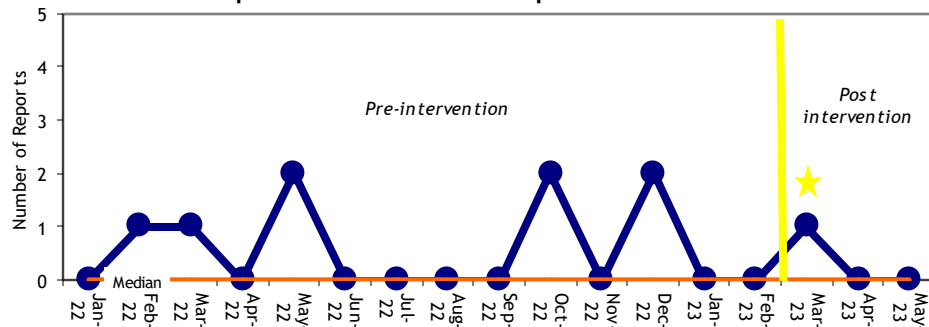
Setting: Inpatient medical-surgical nursing unit.

Intervention: Targeted, online education module.
Completion n=37, 50%.

Outcome measure: Number of reported workplace violence events.



Workplace Violence Event Reports Intervention Unit



12 months pre-intervention = 8 reports vs. 3 months post-intervention = 1 report
Post-survey staff experienced violence during the intervention period (n=6, 60%) and are more likely to report violence due to intervention (n=10, 100%); nevertheless this was not associated with increased reporting.

Education programs alone may not be sufficient to improve workplace violence reporting. Organization data is needed to promote understanding between leaders responsible for ensuring a safe work environment and those staff at risk.