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Problems, Causes, Impact, and Preventive Measures for Addressing Violence Faced by Nurses in Healthcare Settings in Thailand

[International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health](#) • [Article](#) • [Open Access](#) • 2026 •

DOI: 10.3390/ijerph23081018

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Abstract

Workplace violence (WPV) is a major occupational hazard for nurses in Thailand, negatively affecting psychological well-being, professional confidence, and patient care. In this quantitative cross-sectional analytic study involving 415 nurses, 43.61% reported experiencing at least one incident of WPV during the previous 12 months. Verbal abuse (41.20%) and physical violence (13.25%) were the most frequently reported forms, with a higher prevalence observed in urban hospitals than in rural hospitals (53.66% vs. 33.81%). Higher WPV risk was associated with working in medical wards (adjusted incidence rate ratio [Adj IRR] 3.33) and emergency departments (Adj IRR 2.47), caring for male-only patients (Adj IRR 1.87), younger age (Adj IRR 3.31), divorced or separated status (Adj IRR 3.05), rotating day and night shifts (Adj IRR 2.03), and extreme concern about WPV (Adj IRR 4.57). The psychological impact was considerable. Hypervigilance was the most common response (66.30%), especially following physical violence (76.36%). More than 41% of affected nurses reported intentions to resign or transfer and reduced professional confidence. Reporting incidents was often perceived as ineffective, contributing to underreporting. Nurses identified clear disciplinary measures, increased staffing, improved workplace environments, stronger security systems, and organizational support as key prevention priorities.

These findings highlight the urgent need for context-specific interventions, targeted staff training, and organizational strategies to protect nurse well-being, strengthen workforce resilience, and maintain quality patient care. © 2026 by the authors.

Author keywords

health effect; psychological violence; violence exposure; workplace violence

Indexed keywords

MeSH

Adult; Cross-Sectional Studies; Female; Humans; Male; Middle Aged; Nurses; Thailand; Working Conditions; Workplace Violence

Regional Index

Thailand

GEOBASE Subject Index

health worker; mental health; occupational exposure; relocation; violence; workplace

EMTREE medical terms

adult; analytical research; Article; behavior; controlled study; cross-sectional study; divorced person; emergency ward; emotional abuse; exposure to violence; female; health care; health care setting; human; incidence; intensive care unit; major clinical study; male; middle aged; night shift; nurse; nursing staff; physical violence; prevalence; professional confidence; psychological impact; psychological well-being; quantitative study; questionnaire; registered nurse; resignation (employment); rotating shift; rural hospital; security device; self-administered questionnaire; sexual harassment; staff training; Thailand; treatment duration; urban hospital; verbal hostility; work environment; work experience; workforce; workplace violence; Workplace Violence Questionnaire; epidemiology; prevention and control; psychology

Device trade names

Commercial names given to devices, used for branding and differentiation in the market, commonly referenced in scientific and clinical research.

Tradename	Country	Manufacturer
Stata version 17.0	United States	StataCorp

Funding details

Details about financial support for research, including funding sources and grant numbers as provided in academic publications.

Funding sponsor	Funding number	Acronym
Walailak University See opportunities by WU ↗	WU69205	WU
Walailak University See opportunities by WU ↗		WU

Funding text

This research was partially supported by Walailak University, Thailand, under the New Researcher Development Scheme (Grant No. WU69205).

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