REVIEWED ABSTRACT

Background

Rates of agitation, aggression, or violence occurring in general EDs in the U.S.; difficult to determine due to:

- A MEDLINE (1966–1/2010) and Internet search identified published reports of U.S. rates of agitation, aggression, or violence occurring in general EDs, including staff surveys (16 studies), staff focus groups (1), and published reports of U.S. rates of agitation, aggression, or violence occurring in general EDs.
- A total of 23 studies were identified, including staff surveys (16 studies), staff focus groups (1), and published reports of U.S. rates of agitation, aggression, or violence occurring in general EDs.

Objectives

- To estimate the U.S. annual incidence of assaults perpetrated by agitated adult patients with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder.
- To determine the percentage of reported physical assaults that were unreported.
- To determine the annual total number of assaults in the U.S.

Methods

- A Medline search from 1966 to 2010 identified published reports of U.S. rates of agitation, aggression, or violence occurring in general EDs.
- A total of 23 studies were identified, including staff surveys (16 studies), staff focus groups (1), and published reports of U.S. rates of agitation, aggression, or violence occurring in general EDs.

Results

- The estimated annual unique number of U.S. general ED patient assaults is 314,334.
- The estimated annual total number of U.S. general ED patient assaults is 574,066.
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Conclusion

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References

- Shows et al. (2010) concluded that agitation and aggression are common in general EDs, and physical assaults are a serious concern. They recommended implementing strategies to reduce these occurrences.
- Zun and Downey (2003) explored the prevalence of physical assaults in general EDs and identified risk factors associated with such events.
- Gerberich et al. (2006) conducted a survey of ED nurses to assess the frequency of patient assaults and found that over 50% of nurses reported having been assaulted at least once.
- May et al. (2007) studied the incidence of assaults on ED nurses and physicians and found that assaults occurred more frequently among nurses.
- Ganzini et al. (1995) examined the impact of patient assaults on ED staff and highlighted the need for improved security measures.

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