

RATES AND IMPACTS OF WORKPLACE VIOLENCE ON RNS: Survey by National Nurses United

In 2017, National Nurses United (NNU), the largest union and professional association for registered nurses (RNs) in the United States, conducted a survey of 286 RNs on their experiences of workplace violence within the past year. Results from the NNU survey on the impact and rates of workplace violence on RNs are included below in Table 1 and Table 2.

TABLE 1: NNU Survey on Workplace Violence – Impact of Workplace Violence on Nurses.

How has workplace violence impacted you and your work?	% of respondents who experienced these effects from workplace violence in the past year
Physical injury or other physical symptoms (e.g., headache, stomach aches, etc.)	16.8%
Took time off work	18.2%
Anxiety, fear, or increased vigilance	54.2%
Difficulty working in environment that reminds me of past incident	18.2%
Applied for workers' compensation	4.9%
Changed or left job	9.1%
Physical injury prevents me from working	3.5%
Psychological effects prevent me from working	9.8%
No injury/no effect or did not experience violence	30.8%

TABLE 2: NNU Survey on Workplace Violence – Experience Rates by RNs in the Past Year.

What types of workplace violence have you experienced in the past year?	% of respondents who experienced this type of violence in the past year at work.
Objects thrown at you	24.5%
Pinched or scratched	34.6%
Slapped, punched, or kicked	26.2%
Spat on or exposed to other bodily fluids	18.9%
Verbally threatened	62.9%
Physically threatened	21.0%
Groped or touched inappropriately	11.9%
Verbally harassed based on your sex or appearance	30.1%
I have not experienced workplace violence	17.1%

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