

Factors Affecting Violence against Personnel in Hospital Emergency Wards: A Multivariate Analysis

Simha F. Landau and Yehudit Bendalak
Institute of Criminology, Hebrew University, Jerusalem,
ISRAEL



Violence against medical and non-medical personnel was analyzed in a large-scale project, conducted in the emergency wards of all 25 general hospitals in Israel. The main data collection method was a self-report questionnaire administered to all emergency ward personnel (N=2,356). A General Violence Index (GVI) was constructed (Cronbach's Alpha=.897), based on the participants' reports about the type and frequency of violence they have experienced during the preceding year (2001-2002). The multiple regression analysis for explaining the GVI was comprised of 15 independent variables divided into three main groups: I. Professional characteristics of participant: position, weekly workload, tenure in dept., additional responsibility, perceived ability of coping with violence, participation in workshop for coping with violence; II. Participant's socio-demographic characteristics; country of origin, gender, age, religion; and III. Hospital's structural features: size of hospital, entrance permission for accompanying person(s), availability of an emergency button. Most variables have significantly contributed to the explanation of the GVI, jointly explaining 55% of the variance ($R^2=.550$). The detailed regression analysis will be presented, and the implications of the finding to coping with violence against EW personnel will be discussed.

Communicating author:

Simha F. Landau: Phone +972-2-5816517;5882515

Fax +972-8-9435918; e-mail: msfredy@mscc.huji.ac.il