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Workplace Violence Against Health Care Providers in Emergency Departments of Public Hospitals in Jordan: A Cross-sectional Study

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## **Abstract**

**Objectives:** Workplace violence (WPV) against health care providers is a serious problem that carries health, safety and legal consequences. Healthcare providers working in emergency departments (ED) are more susceptible to WPV compared to other healthcare settings. This study aimed to assess the prevalence of physical and verbal violence against ED physicians and nurses in public hospitals in Amman, Jordan and to explore the relationship between the WPV and the socio-demographic characteristics of the participants.

**Methods:** A quantitative descriptive cross-sectional study design was used to assess physical and verbal violence against ED physicians and nurses. A self-administered questionnaire was completed by 67 physicians and 96 nurses from three public hospitals in Amman. Data was analyzed using SPSS 20, including Pearson's correlations, descriptive statistics and Chi-squared test.

**Results:** In the past year, 33% and 53% of the participants experienced physical and verbal violence, respectively. Males were physically abused more frequently than females. The main perpetrators of physical and verbal violence were the patients' relatives. Only four incidents of physical and verbal abuse were reported by the respondents.

**Conclusion:** There is a widespread occurrence of physical and verbal violence against ED physicians and nurses in the public sector hospitals in Jordan. A collaborative effort by all stakeholders should be instituted to ensure the safety of the physicians and nurses to improve the quality of the healthcare provided.

**Keywords:** Emergency department, workplace violence, Jordan, physicians, nurses

## **Biography**

Hana Taha, assistant professor of public health at Faculty of Medicine in the Hashemite University, Jordan, an active member in the Swedish Academics Union and Senior Researcher at Karolinska Institutet, Sweden. Dr. Taha received a PhD in Global Public Health and a Postdoc in Epidemiology from Karolinska institutet, Sweden. She has a wealth of international experience and in-depth knowledge of capacity building using innovative adult learning techniques.

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