

More hospital staff being attacked in UK

2nd December, 2013



The number of physical attacks against hospital staff is rising in the U.K. New figures from Britain's National Health Service (NHS) show a six

per cent rise in violent assaults on care workers in the past year. There were 63,199 reported assaults in 2012-13 across England, up from 59,744 from the previous year. That means more than 173 nurses, orderlies or other staff are assaulted every day. Unions say these figures do not tell the whole story. Union spokeswoman Christina McAnea said: "Sadly, this is only the tip of the iceberg as violence on NHS premises remains an under-reported problem. The [government] cuts and resultant pressure on services are causing growing patient frustration."

Britain's Health Minister Dr Dan Poulter condemned the attacks on hospital staff. He said: "Any physical or verbal abuse against NHS staff is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated." He added: "It is outrageous that there have been so many physical assaults against NHS staff." He said there were measures to keep undesirable people out of hospitals. "Legal powers are available to remove people not requiring treatment from hospital premises in cases of nuisance behaviour, and to prosecute those who refuse to leave." Richard Hampton of the support group NHS Protect said: "NHS staff should expect to be able to provide care in a safe environment, free from violence and physical assault."

Sources: *Belfast Telegraph* / *ThisIsGuernsey.com* / *The Mirror*

Writing

People who attack hospital staff should spend a minimum of 20 years in prison. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

rising / assaults / previous year / nurses / tip of the iceberg / pressure / frustration / condemned / abuse / outrageous / undesirable / treatment / prosecute / care / safe

True / False

- There was a reported 6% rise in attacks on U.K. nurses and orderlies. T / F
- There was a rise of almost 60,000 attacks on Britain's hospital staff. T / F
- Unions say the figures are an accurate account of violence in hospitals. T / F
- Unions say government cuts are not responsible for the rise in attacks. T / F
- Britain's health minister condemned any attacks on hospital staff. T / F
- The health minister said he would take more measures to protect staff. T / F
- There is nothing hospitals can do to get violent people to leave. T / F
- A support group said staff should be able to work in a safe workplace. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. attacks | a. properties |
| 2. figures | b. take to court |
| 3. previous | c. denounced |
| 4. premises | d. preceding |
| 5. frustration | e. ill-treatment |
| 6. condemned | f. assaults |
| 7. abuse | g. shocking |
| 8. outrageous | h. annoyance |
| 9. prosecute | i. safe from |
| 10. free | j. statistics |

Discussion – Student A

- How are hospitals in your country?
- Will a health minister's condemnation be enough to stop the attacks?
- Why do ministers say violence is outrageous and will not be tolerated, then do nothing to stop it?
- Can hospitals refuse to treat people who do not behave?
- Should hospitals employ security guards to deal with troublemakers?
- Would you like to be a nurse?
- What's the best care you've had in a hospital?
- What questions would you like to ask Britain's Health Minister?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. The number of physical attacks against | a. verbal abuse |
| 2. violent | b. the previous year |
| 3. up from 59,744 from | c. group |
| 4. Sadly, this is only the tip | d. patient frustration |
| 5. causing growing | e. people out of hospitals |
| 6. physical or | f. hospital staff is rising |
| 7. measures to keep undesirable | g. a safe environment |
| 8. nuisance | h. assaults |
| 9. support | i. behaviour |
| 10. provide care in | j. of the iceberg |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What should happen to people who attack hospital staff?
- How can hospitals protect their staff against attacks?
- What would you do if you saw someone attacking a nurse?
- Why are more people in the UK attacking hospital staff?
- What needs to be done if this is just the tip of the iceberg?
- What advice would you give to hospital staff who are attacked?
- Should governments cut spending on hospitals?

Spelling

- The number of siylhpc attacks
- violent suasslt on care workers
- up from 59,744 from the uirevps year
- only the tip of the iebgcr
- violence on NHS sprsmeei
- causing growing patient rottaifsrnu
- Dr Dan Poulter edoncemnd the attacks
- totally paaeunlcecbt
- tuo easugor that there have been so many
- keep uesldbnerai people out of hospitals
- in cases of ucasnine behaviour
- provide care in a safe tnniomnveer

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. j	3. d	4. a	5. h
6. c	7. e	8. g	9. b	10. i

Role Play

Role A – Karate training

You think karate training for staff is the best way to stop attacks on hospital staff. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): security guards, prison sentences or denial of treatment.

Role B – Security guards

You think security guards are the best way to stop attacks on hospital staff. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): karate training for staff, prison sentences or denial of treatment.

Role C – Prison sentences

You think prison sentences are the best way to stop attacks on hospital staff. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): security guards, karate training for staff or denial of treatment.

Role D – Denial of treatment

You think denial of treatment is the best way to stop attacks on hospital staff. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): security guards, prison sentences or karate training for staff.

Speaking - Frustration

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put who frustrates you most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| • hospital staff | • banks |
| • store assistants | • motorists |
| • politicians | • telephone support staff |
| • teachers | • big companies |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.