BACKGROUND

- Healthcare staff, and particularly nurses, are at risk of violence.
- This may be vertical, perpetrated by patients and visitors, or horizontal violence from peers and colleagues, i.e. bullying.
- Student nurses spend a significant amount of time in clinical settings, and are therefore at risk of violence.

AIM:
To estimate student nurses’ violence exposure rates by type of violence, source and setting

SEARCH TERMS
POPULATIONS STUDENT NURSES
Nurs° AND STUDENT
PHENOMENA VIOLENCE OR AGGRESSION OR ASSAULT OR BULLYING OR OR HORIZONTAL VIOLENCE
SETTINGS CLINICAL PLACEMENTS INPATIENT OR OUTPATIENT OR HOSPITAL OR CLINICAL OR PLACEMENT

INCLUSION / EXCLUSION CRITERIA
PARAMETER
Inclusion / Excluded
Inclusion / Excluded

PHENOMENA
Prevalence or experiences of violence etc
Presence or experiences of violence etc

SETTING
Clinical placement
Away from clinical settings

STUDY TYPE
Primary research
Secondary research, grey literature

LANGUAGE
English language
Not written in English

DATABASES
Cinahl, Embase, Medline, Proquest, PsycINFO, PubMed, Web of Science

RESULTS

NUMBER OF STUDIES BY COUNTRY

VIOLENCE EXPOSURE

PHYSICAL
No. samples: 15
No. students: 5299
Mean %: 19.3
Range: 1.2-33.3

NON-PHYSICAL
No. samples: 14
No. students: 5722
Mean %: 53.3
Range: 25-100

BULLYING
No. samples: 11
No. students: 2607
Mean %: 45.4
Range: 3.5-96.1

SEXUAL HARASSMENT
No. samples: 10
No. students: 4872
Mean %: 19.3
Range: 1.2-53.3

RACE
No. samples: 4
No. students: 2388
Mean %: 18.3
Range: 6.1-46.7

MEAN PERCENT BY VIOLENCE TYPE

RATES OF VIOLENCE ARE REPORTED AS THE EXPOSURE RATE OF ALL PARTICIPANTS CALCULATED AS MEAN PERCENT

SOURCES OF VIOLENCE ARE REPORTED AS THE MEAN PERCENT OF ALL REPORTED INCIDENTS

VIOLENCE SOURCE

PHYSICAL
Patients: 46%
Nurses: 25%
Sexual harassment: 27%
Bullying: 16%

NON-PHYSICAL
Patients: 49%
Nurses: 16%

SEXUAL HARASSMENT
Patients: 56%
Nurses: 11%
Doctors: 24%

SETTING

PHYSICAL
General: 45.3
Psychiatric: 34.7

SEXUAL HARASSMENT
Nurses: 56%

REFERENCES

Dr Nutmeg Hallett
Lecturer in Nursing
University of Birmingham

CONCLUSIONS

- Student nurses experience high rates of all types of violence in clinical settings.
- Around half the students included in this review report experiencing non-physical or verbal aggression, while 60% experience bullying.
- Patients are the most common source of both physical and non-physical violence, while doctors are the most likely source of sexual harassment.
- Bullying is most likely to come from nurses adding weight to the argument that nurses ‘eat their young’.
- Educational establishments should prepare students to prevent and manage violence in all its manifestations.