



**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## DART Supports America's Nurses

As part of [National Nurses Month](#) (May 1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>), [DART](#) will feature stories and resources throughout the month dedicated to helping healthcare workers, especially nurses, respond to workplace violence situations.



YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

DART recognizes nurses' unparalleled impact on health and health care in the U.S. They truly do make a difference. Nurses are there for us. We must be there for them as well. The nursing profession is under great stress due to staff shortages, the impacts of COVID, and even an increase in violence against the very people who keep us healthy and alive.

The [American Nurses Association's](#) (ANA) 2023 [National Nurses Month](#) is organized around 4 weekly themes: Self-Care, Recognition, Professional Development, and Community Engagement. DART will promote these themes on its website and social media during the month of May.

### Violence Against Healthcare Workers is Increasing

Some 2 million American workers are victims of workplace violence each year. Workplace violence can occur anywhere; no workplace is immune. Some workers, however, are at increased risk (e.g., healthcare and schools).

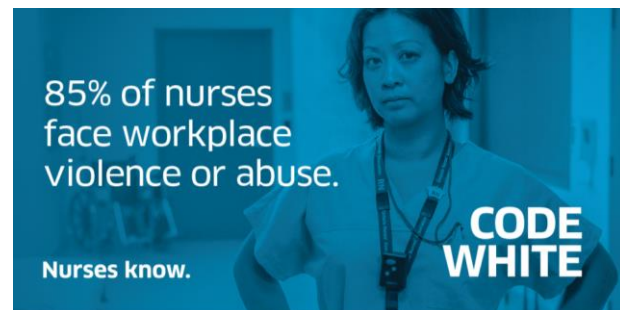
The American Hospital Association (AHA) reported that "44% of nurses had experienced physical violence and 68% reported experiencing verbal abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Check out DART's free [survey](#) to see where your organization stands on violence prevention training, policy, and awareness.

Workplace violence has severe consequences for the entire health care system. Not only does violence cause physical and psychological injury to health care workers, workplace violence and intimidation make it more difficult for nurses, doctors, and other clinical staff to provide quality patient care.

A newly released trends report by the Colorado Hospital Association (CHA) indicates violence against health care workers is on the rise.

Nearly half of nurses – according to a National Nurses United survey – report increased workplace violence. That represents a 119% surge since 2021.



## Violence Prevention Begins with Education

DART, a Colorado nonprofit, provides educational resources and violence prevention training for healthcare professionals, to help them maintain a safe work environment.

DART identifies 4 critical topic areas for a violence prevention program:

1. Establish a Workshop Safety System that includes Management Support, Workplace Safety Analysis, Training and Education, and a Post-incident Response Process.
2. Teach de-escalation techniques.
3. Teach situational awareness skills.
4. Introduce personal safety techniques with a focus on escapes, restraints, and team intervention skills.

“Violence prevention training is essential to maintaining a safe work environment and increasing employee retention”, said Michele Dusenbery, Executive Director of DART. “When all employees recognize the warning signs of an escalating situation and know how to properly respond, the response can be effective in bringing the situation back under control. Providing verbal de-escalation training to employees also demonstrates management support and can be an important component of a Workplace Safety System.”

For more information about DART's Violence Prevention trainings and resources, click [here](#).

## About DART

DART, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Colorado. With more than twenty years of experience, DART offers courses created by experts in violence prevention, law enforcement, and education. DART offers highly effective courses in violence prevention and violence management for dating, workplace, and stalking situations. DART's goals in every workplace training session are to enhance employee confidence, ensure a safer workplace environment, and positively impact employee retention.

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*"People have the right to live free of violence."*

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