



**PalAmerican**  
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**SECURITY**



## Addressing the Rise in Healthcare Violence in Denver

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## Introduction

The increasing incidents of violence within Denver's healthcare facilities have raised significant concerns regarding the safety of both staff and patients. Recent events underscore the urgency of implementing robust security measures to address this growing issue.



## Understanding the Threat: Violence in Denver Healthcare

Violence in hospitals has reached a national crisis level, and Denver is no exception. According to TIME Magazine, 44% of nurses across the U.S. reported an increase in physical violence since the pandemic, while 68% experienced verbal abuse. The Emergency Nurses Association reports that 70% of its members have been hit or kicked on the job. These figures underscore a harsh reality for healthcare workers, who now face constant risks on the job.

Locally, Denver hospitals are grappling with similar challenges, prompting major systems like UCHHealth to invest millions in violence-prevention training. Nationally, the American College of Emergency Physicians found that 80% of physicians believe violence in emergency departments negatively impacts patient care. Post-pandemic, the IAHSF reports healthcare worker assault rates have reached 17.7 per 100 hospital beds. Meanwhile, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that 73% of nonfatal workplace injuries requiring time off due to violence occur in healthcare settings—an underreported figure that may only hint at the actual scale of the problem.

These alarming statistics highlight the urgent need for Denver healthcare institutions to re-evaluate their physical security strategies—whether building internal teams or partnering with experienced providers like PalAmerican Security.

73%

of nonfatal workplace injuries requiring time off due to violence occur in healthcare settings

## The Impact of Hospital Violence on Staff Retention

Workplace violence not only poses immediate physical risks but also leads to psychological trauma, burnout, and job dissatisfaction among healthcare professionals. These factors contribute to higher turnover rates, further straining the healthcare system. Addressing workplace violence is essential to retaining skilled medical staff and increasing the quality of patient care.

### In-House Security Teams: Pros and Cons

#### Pros:

- **Greater Control:** Hospitals can tailor security protocols to their specific needs.
- **Deep Institutional Knowledge:** In-house staff have an intimate understanding of hospital layouts and potential vulnerabilities.
- **Immediate Response:** On-site teams can quickly address incidents as they arise.
- **Cultural Integration:** Security personnel aligns closely with the hospital's mission and values.

#### Cons:

- **High Costs:** Salaries, benefits, training, and equipment require substantial investment.
- **Staffing Challenges:** Recruiting and retaining specialized personnel is resource-intensive.
- **Scalability Issues:** Adjusting security coverage for fluctuating patient volumes can be challenging. Potential Inconsistencies: Security quality may vary depending on individual performance.

## Outsourcing Security: Pros and Cons

### Pros:

- **Cost-Effectiveness:** Outsourcing can reduce overhead costs associated with maintaining an internal team.
- **Specialized Expertise:** Access to professionals trained in de-escalation and healthcare security.
- **Scalability:** Easily adjust security presence based on demand.
- **24/7 Monitoring:** Many providers offer continuous surveillance and rapid response services.

### Cons:

- **Less Direct Control:** Hospitals may have limited influence over outsourced operations.
- **Potential Communication Barriers:** Gaps between hospital staff and security providers can impact efficiency.
- **Lack of Familiarity with the Facility:** Outsourced personnel may not fully understand hospital-specific risks. Vendor Dependency: Reliance on providers to maintain high-quality service standards.





## The PalAmerican Advantage: Overcoming Outsourcing Challenges

PalAmerican Security offers tailored solutions that integrate seamlessly with hospital operations, providing specialized training in de-escalation techniques, emergency response, and patient safety. Our local presence in Denver, combined with national resources, allows for responsive and comprehensive security services.

## Patient Watch Services: A Critical Need in Denver Healthcare

Managing patient watch programs is challenging for in-house teams due to staffing shortages and liability concerns. PalAmerican's specialized sitters provide continuous monitoring, reducing strain on medical staff and enhancing patient safety.



## Cost Analysis: In-House vs. Outsourcing Security in Denver

Outsourcing security services can be more cost-effective for Denver hospitals, eliminating expenses related to recruitment, training, and equipment maintenance. However, the exact comparison depends on the hospital's size and specific security needs.



## Legislative Measures in Colorado

In response to the rising violence in healthcare settings, Colorado has introduced legislative measures aimed at enhancing workplace safety. The “Violence Prevention in Health-Care Settings Act” (H.B. 24-1066) requires healthcare facilities to establish workplace violence prevention committees and develop comprehensive prevention plans. Additionally, Senate Bill 25-166 proposes financial incentives for hospitals to implement and enforce workplace violence prevention measures. [Denver 7 Colorado News \(KMGH\)+4Colorado General Assembly+4Hand Safety Program+4911Cellular.com+1Colorado Hospital Association+1](#)

## Relevant News Stories

**UCHealth Invests \$3M to Address Rising Patient Violence at Hospitals:** UCHealth has increased training for staff to handle patient aggression, investing \$3 million to address rising workplace violence affecting healthcare staff nationwide. [UCHealth+1The Business Journals+1](#)

**Colorado Lawmakers Aim to Prevent Violence Against Health Care Workers with Proposed Bill:** The proposed bill would require healthcare facilities to establish workplace violence prevention committees to document and review incidents of violence against employees. [Colorado General Assembly+2Denver 7 Colorado News \(KMGH\)+2Hand Safety Program+2](#)

**Colorado Bill Aimed at Preventing Violence in Health Care Facilities:** The “Violence Prevention in Health Care Settings Act” seeks to mandate the creation of workplace violence prevention committees and plans in healthcare facilities. [Hand Safety Program](#)

## Conclusion: Making the Right Choice for Denver Hospitals

Increasing the safety of healthcare environments in Denver is crucial. Hospitals must carefully evaluate the benefits and challenges of in-house versus outsourced security models to determine the best fit for their specific circumstances. By proactively addressing these challenges and considering legislative requirements, Denver's healthcare facilities can create safer environments for both staff and patients.

