Background

- 1/20/15: Michael J. Davidson MD, was shot on the premises of Brigham and Women’s Hospital
- At least a dozen active shooter incidences across country in the year before
- Most hospitals have few or no screens for weapons.

Objectives

- Determine incidence of active shooters and gun discharge in hospital settings, and whether annual incidence has increased.
- Determine motives and profiles of shooters, and policies for preventing gun violence in the future.

An Analysis of Active Shooters in the Hospital Setting, 2000 - 2015

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Results

Distribution of hospital-based shootings in the United States by year: 2000-2015

- The incidence of hospital shootings has risen in the past decade and a half to become a monthly occurrence.
- A greater fraction of hospital shootings are taking place inside the building, than in the past (graph not shown).
- By far the most common motive is that of a personal grudge.
- A consistent percentage of hospital shootings come from efforts by inmates to escape, highlighting a need to train guards on how to secure their guns.

Methods

A database of gun discharge events in hospitals was compiled using:
- Data from the Joint Commission, the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics, the National Institute of Occupation Safety and Health, and the National Violent Death Reporting,
- LexisNexis
- Public search engines (Google, Pubmed, Bing, Google Scholar)

Characteristics and Categories

- Total n = 241
- Inside Hospital n = 170
- Outside Hospital n = 71

Region of Country

- South 105 66 39
- Midwest 56 42 14
- West 42 35 7
- Northeast 38 27 11
- Rural 52 27 25

Specific Location

- ED 50 50 N/A
- Patient room 42 42 N/A
- Parking lot 40 N/A 40
- Entrance/Outside 29 N/A 29
- Other 80 78 2

Characteristics and Categories

- Total n = 241
- Inside Hospital n = 170
- Outside Hospital n = 71

Motive

- Grudge 79 52 27
- Suicide 27 20 7
- Ill relative 21 21 0
- Escape attempt 33 32 1
- Social violence 36 20 16
- Mentally instability 24 19 5
- Unclear 21 6 15

Disposition of perpetrator

- Suicide 110 90 20
- Arrested 61 31 30
- Shot and killed 38 23 25
- Shot and arrested 10 8 2
- Other 4 4 0
- Unclear 18 15 3

Conclusions

- Need to examine the effect of gun control laws, metal detectors in hospitals, and other factors on shooting rates.

Future Directions

- Need to examine the effect of gun control laws, metal detectors in hospitals, and other factors on shooting rates.

Acknowledgements

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References