

Reference Number: FOI2021/363
From: Private Individual
Date: 28 October 2021
Subject: Total number of physical and verbal assaults against NHS staff from members of the public and patients during 2019, 2020 and 2021

Please can I have the information from 1st January 2019 to 28th October 2021 (or the most recent incident). I ask for the information to be broken down into years (2019, 2020, 2021).

Q1 The total number of physical assaults against NHS staff from members of the public and patients that occurred during 2019, 2020 and 2021.

A1

Year	Number of Physical assaults
2019	40
2020	33
2021	16

Q2 The total number of verbal assaults against NHS staff from members of the public and patients that occurred during 2019, 2020 and 2021.

A2

Year	Number of Verbal assaults
2019	51
2020	24
2021	36

Q3 Can you provide any more detail surrounding the nature of these incidents?

A3 **Physical Assaults:**

Detail / Action	2019	2020	2021
Twist/Squeeze/Scratched/Grip	12	9	5
Kick	11	10	0
Thrown objects	7	1	2
Punch	7	12	6
Hit	6	4	0
Pulled out cannulas/lines/tubes	4	2	1
Bite	4	0	0
Spit	3	0	2
Headbutt	2	2	0
Push/shove	1	1	1
Use of objects (stab/spray/poke)	0	5	0
Strangle	0	1	0
Trap (finger, leg etc)	0	0	1

Please note that some incidents have more than one type of assault mentioned i.e. kick and punch, and also some incidents include attempted physical harm.

Verbal Assaults:

Detail / Action	2019	2020	2021
Verbal Aggression	47	24	35
Verbal with Gender Content	1	0	0
Verbal with Racial Content	9	0	1
Delirious Patient	Yes:0 No: 0	Yes:7 No: 8	Yes:14 No: 38

Other details include being verbally aggressive, inappropriate comment, rude and swearing.

Please note, the Trust introduced field on our Datix reporting system for capturing Delirium in August 2020.