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Sexual harassment and burnout in health care context

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Abstract

Background: Burnout is a major problem among physicians [1]. Women physicians experience higher rates of both burnout and sexual harassment than their male counterparts. Sexual harassment may contribute to burnout. Some studies have shown a correlation between sexual harassment at workplace and burnout in women physicians [1]. **Objective:** The purpose of this study is to identify the relationship between sexual harassment and burnout in female physicians in a health care context. It is hypothesized that sexual harassment would be associated with female physician burnout. **Methods:** Apply a cross-sectional self-report study to assess burnout and sexual harassment among medical professionals [2]. Burnout will be assessed by the Maslach Burnout Inventory (MBI) for Portuguese samples. Sexual harassment will be assessed with an adaptation of the Sexual Experiences Survey – Victimization Form [3]. **Results:** It is expected that respondents report some kind of sexual harassment experiences perpetrated by their work colleagues and eventually those experiences would be significantly correlated with burnout scores on female physicians [1,4]. **Conclusions:** This study expects to find that reports of burnout and sexual harassment perpetrated by work colleagues are significantly correlated. The results may also imply that there are significant rates of sexual harassment in medical settings.

Keywords: sexual harassment; burnout; health care; physicians

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