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Patient-to-patient bullying in secure psychiatric services

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Abstract

The study presented here examines the reporting of patient-to-patient bullying in a high secure psychiatric hospital housing adult men. It examines official records of bullying recorded on Suspected Bullying Report forms (SBRs), noting motivations for bullying and exploring how information was recorded. Its subsidiary aim was to explore the value of official records, presenting comparison data from three patient bullying surveys completed at the same hospital. All suspected reports of bullying in the hospital documented for a two-year period were collected. The patient surveys included data from three data-sets collected at the same hospital over a five-year period. The prediction that the patient surveys would suggest a higher level of bullying behaviours than official records was confirmed. Results for official records also demonstrated that motivation for bullying was either not recorded or was reported as a typology, bullying was not likely to be recorded as hospital incidents, and perpetrators were unlikely to be offered supportive intervention. The results are discussed with regard to the value of official records as a reporting mechanism.

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