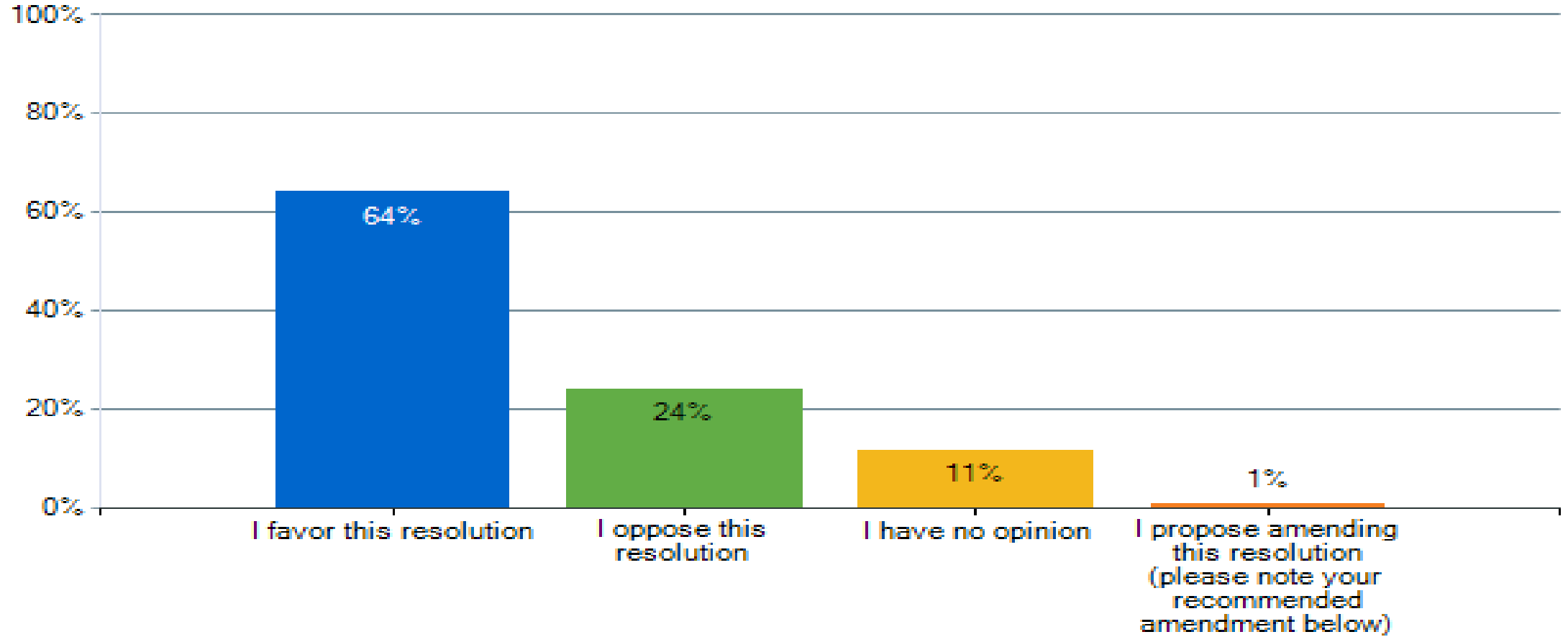
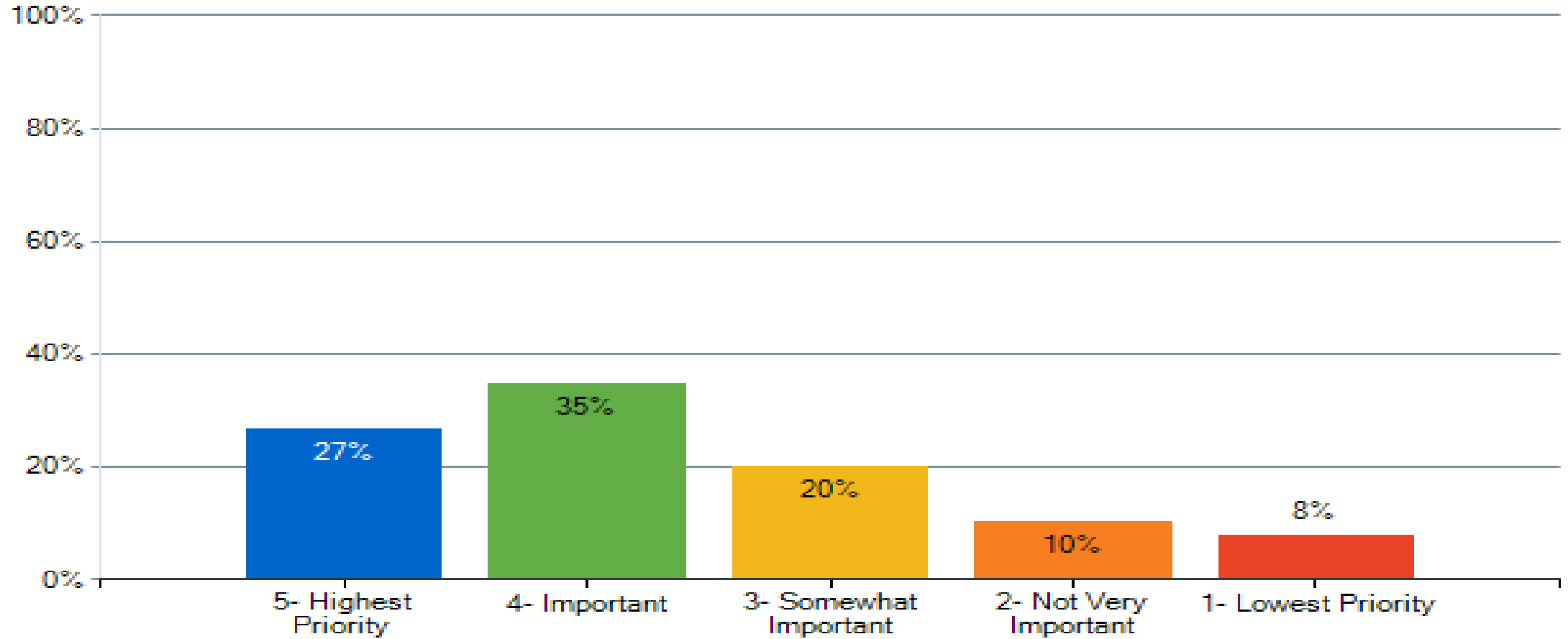


Metal Detectors to Promote Safety Within Hospitals



166 responses

Please indicate your view of this resolution as an ISMS priority.



164 responses

Comments

Response Text

I'd very much prefer "consider" rather than "establish" : it sounds as though we want them to think, so long as they come to the same conclusion we did without careful study.

Also should favor effective gun control and registration.

It is well known that emergency departments, or more accurately the area outside those departments is unsafe at many inner city facilities. The answer is security staff and allowance of providers to protect themselves if they have a CCL.

I appreciate the pro-active nature of this resolution, all things considered. I also appreciate the actionable step of installing metal detectors. However, I would be interested in perhaps a broader investigation of safety in hospitals and medical clinics. Patients and staff threatened on their way to their cars/transportation, etc. I think while this specific recommendation is considered, we should consider enhanced safety measures generally as well. I'd be interested to see if there is data demonstrating physician support for metal detectors and how frequently positive findings (weapons, etc.) are identified by metal detectors. Are they cost-effective as well, like who acts when one goes off? Would it be more effective to have safety officers on site?

I think that individual hospitals need to decide if metal detectors would be helpful in their community. What we really need are better gun control laws and enforcement.

While I think this is , in many ways, a good idea, it would introduce one more delaying and sometimes challenging barrier to getting into the emergency department; it would have been an additional barrier for my wife, who was dying of cancer, to have to get through a medical detector when she was brought to the ED with high fever and sepsis syndrome.

This is so sad. I'd rather our society come down on the healthcare scourge of gun violence, but I get that this is a consequence of our inability to fully do so.

Need a system which is less disruptive and less intrusive than currently being used at airports and sporting events. Patients and visitors should not be detained or delayed through screening.

Should be up to the hospital.

Metal detectors are bedded, put this is out of our area of expertise

Sounds reasonable but implementation is expensive.

It is not "gun violence." This is a meaningless term and defeat a from the issue. People commit the violence. You should be addressing the violent action is people and the root cause, not on the weapon of choice. Metal detectors do not promote safety anymore than seat belts prevent car accidents. Wise up.

As a survivor of workplace gun violence and having dealt with now countless episodes of varying degrees of workplace violence I can say I whole heartedly oppose this measure. Hospitals are a place of healing not an airport or other security checkpoint. We should combat workplace violence by pursuing other means of deterrence such as stiff penalties for its perpetrators as currently only a fraction of those responsible for workplace violence incidents in hospitals are prosecuted. Further, I've personally witnessed hospital administration, law enforcement, etc try to discourage hospital workers from pressing charges against its perpetrators for a variety of reasons. We need to send a message that violence against healthcare workers will not be tolerated and back this up with stiff penalties and an improved/streamlined process for reporting these incidents to law enforcement agencies.

A sad commentary on our world but metal detectors are probably indicated. Concomitant security personnel will be necessary to make them truly effective which is an added expense to hospitals.

It won't prevent someone coming in to do harm, as they would shoot their way through. However, it may prevent the patient or family who gets angry and resorts to extreme violence. Sad that we have to even consider this resolution!

Necessary to promote safety of our colleagues

As an emergency physician who has been in situations where weapons have been involved I understand the importance of the issue. The concern I have is if metal detectors are the best way to handle the issue. We are implementing a weapons detection system, that supposedly works better than a metal detection system. Has there been a comprehensive analysis to understand the difference in these types of systems. They lead to an increased level of expense for hospitals, and in this time of shrinking resources and being able to have enough staff, it is important to know that we are spending resources wisely, while recognizing that protecting those in healthcare is critically important.

there is an average of 14 hospital shooting per year. one is too many. Any means has to be universal screening everyone Unfortunately I support this resolution

The final decision of implementation of metal detectors has to be left to individual hospital and healthcare facilities discretion. Each hospital or medical facility should be able to decide the need for implementing depending on their own individual needs, or perceived needs.

The nation is being held hostage by law of jungle where any one is free to kill any one for no reasons and each year the carnage on the name of second amendment goes on and no one really cares including the people, the politicians and the press. They all pay a lip service after a fresh carnage. So, the second best thing is to at least create safe havens by putting metal detectors at least at schools, colleges, hospitals and almost all public gathering places so that none of us become victim of random violence

Not really the ISMS' job. Individual hospitals can install the equipment.

ER, maybe, depends on how it's done. There is at least likely to be security and/or police there. The issue I foresee is OK, now that there is a possible metal detector "hit" who deals with it, and how do they deal with it. This isn't like airport TSA and possibly people forgetting to declare a firearm. Once a metal detector "hit" is recognized, this is an honest to goodness need to give any of the full range of tactical responses, from a dirty look, to physical intervention, to going to force on force. If someone is there to do harm, that metal detector "hit" may become the trigger for having the "event" right here. Military Medicine mandated searching and disarming all patients before entering the ER. That was dangerous and demanding work for service members. We must be careful about where we design that check point. I don't think anyone is ready to move that check point back from the ER entrance, and I sure don't want a well intended check point inside the ER. The main need is the presence of trained & armed personnel. That combines with the benefit of observing behavior, regardless of metal detectors. I would be fine with consistent LE and/or armed security staffing and watching behavior without metal detectors. Main hospital entrance? No metal detectors. Too much possibility of excess "hits" combined with lack of trained personnel and consistent staffing.

This will also require security personnel to be there as well

Hospital are not prisons and should not be made to feel that way.

I agree with the ER metal detectors but not the Hospitals main entrance.

With the increase in crime and Illinois refusing to hold criminals in jail, ALL hospital workers are in jeopardy. This should include pediatric hospitals since many violent criminals are juveniles. All facilities should have armed security in parking lots and the area around facilities.

sad to see but needed.

This is a tough one. Hospitals should certainly be gun free zones. And virtually all hospitals have some type of security personnel at their main entrances and emergency room entrances. However, I think it sends a chilling message and overall I do not think that the ISMS should be behind this or even propose it.

The EMTALA implications of this should be better elucidated, but since this is simple supporting guideline creation, I can be in favor of it. I would like for this to not be necessary, but I suspect that

it is likely to be helpful in some instances, and creating guidelines will help to avoid inefficient or biased implementation.

Certainly, we do not want guns in an emergency department and preventing their entry into the Emergency Department is desirable. However, anyone who has stood in long lines at the airport waiting for such a search would not want to see such delays in receiving emergency care at a busy Emergency Department. The aim is laudable, but the method is not for emergency care.

This would be onerous in managing for the vast majority of hospitals and would not promote a culture of safety except in large urban centers where it would also be very challenging to administer.

Not all hospitals have equal exposure to firearm weapon use risk. The decision to implement metal detectors should be a hospital by hospital decision. Might be very important at one hospital and complete waste at another low risk facility. Medical staff personnel should address with their hospital board and or leadership if they determine that they are at risk. The implementation of metal detectors is an undue burden on law abiding patients and their families using these medical facilities. Think of the TSA and your airport experience. Are surgical patients going to hospital based appointments and tests, procedures now going to be delayed and have to get out of their wheelchairs to be searched including 80 yo grandmothers because the metal detector went off? Security staff efforts and ultimately costs will be diverted to these efforts increasing costs for hospitals and patients alike. Let hospital and medical staff make these decisions.

I recognize the safety issues present but this allows the possibility of delay of care for injured people. Our first responsibility is to those injured and sometimes a few minutes counts. Let's see if there is a measure that might allow safety but continued attention to why we have EDs in the first place.

My community has had dramatic worsening of public safety and spent holidays hearing family testimony of unprecedented new crime experiences. No surprise spilling over into health care settings. Now we have (newly) armed security guards on campus. Metal detectors will solve as much at hospitals as they do at public schools, sure there are lessons, including their necessity and limitations.

I wouldn't have anyone to staff the area so it would just be one more alarm going off with no monitoring and increase my liability. Not to mention an unfunded mandate. Nothing is stopping facilities from doing this now if they feel it is needed except for funding and people.

Doctors have fought the local hospital re lack of security for decades. ER personnel were attacked. A nurse was sexually attacked in another nearby hospital. Hospitals need to spend some of the monies from overcharging and monopolizing healthcare for security

This issue is best addressed by the security departments of the individual healthcare facility, which I'm sure they are doing. No need for the ISMS to waste its time and effort on an issue which we have little expertise.

At least one study with a large number of weapons retrieved based on use of metal detectors. Other studies which indicate metal detectors do not result in negative perception of facility. Documented occupational risk to ER physicians of physical assault; confiscation of weapons can potentially reduce morbidity from assaults to physicians, nurses and other ER staff.

This might be better directed at institutional safety officers or departments rather than law enforcement. Agree with the wording of "urge" and "establish guidelines" since each institution should be able to decide the need for such measures. A second resolved might be to encourage member physicians to request of their institutions to investigate and promote the use of such measures to protect the safety and welfare of the healthcare team and the other patients in the healthcare setting.

The safety of everyone who participates in healthcare is just as important as those who work in the judicial system. All courthouses and most state and federal office buildings have metal detectors and screening in place.

Metal detectors should be implemented in hospitals because of gun violence and violence with other weapons extending into the hospitals. This could be prevented by the use of metal detectors.

Are hospital ED'S the place of greatest danger? What about schools, stores, places of worship? It's probably good to have metal detectors- but who would man them? At the airport this requires personnel. Stethoscopes, keys, belt buckles may set it off. What about a belt to put your metallic items to bypass? This does not seem well thought out. At risk hospitals can always put metal detectors in place with pressure from staff. Schools should be first in line if we're going to recommend this