Weapons Detection in the Healthcare Sector

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Education

MBA Southern New Hampshire University

BS Criminal Justice & Criminology
Arizona State University

Homeland Security Certification
Arizona State University

Recognition

2019 Campus Safety Magazine Director of the Year

2019 US OSPA Outstanding Security Team

2020 IAHSS Lindberg Bell Award

2020 Security Magazine Most Influential

Workplace Violence Impact in Healthcare

5-12X More likely than any other industry in US

92% Healthcare workers have experienced or regularly witness violence

70% Behavioral health workers will be assaulted this year

$6.6M Hospital Average Nurse turnover cost

Most common reasons metal detectors are deployed in hospitals

- Makes staff feel safe
- Reduces crime in hospitals
- Prevents Active Shooters
- Prevents Workplace Violence
- Indicated by Risk Assessment
- AB2975 compliance

Hospital's Risk Assessment for Weapons/Magnetometers Should Include:

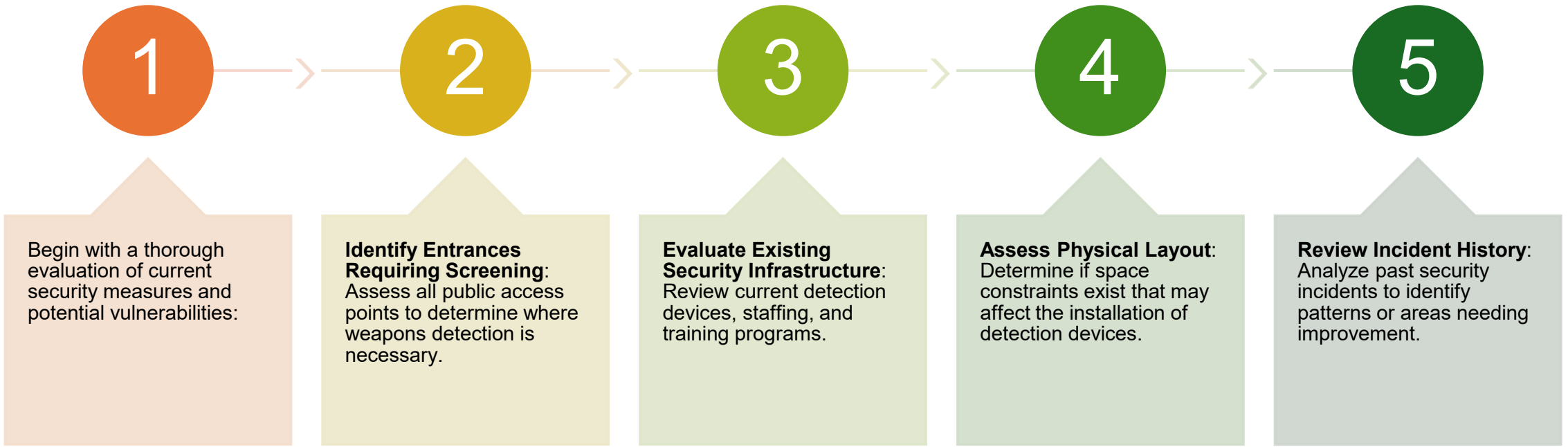
INTERNAL HOSPITAL RISK FACTORS:

1) Behavioral/Intoxicated Patients
2) Stress & Anxiety (Billing / Death / Bad Outcome)
3) Domestic Violence
4) Patient Victims of Violence (GSW's)
5) Trauma Centers
6) Crime Rate/Types of Crime on Hospital Property
7) Actual Violence Statistics
8) Floor Plans & Internal Processes

EXTERNAL / ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:

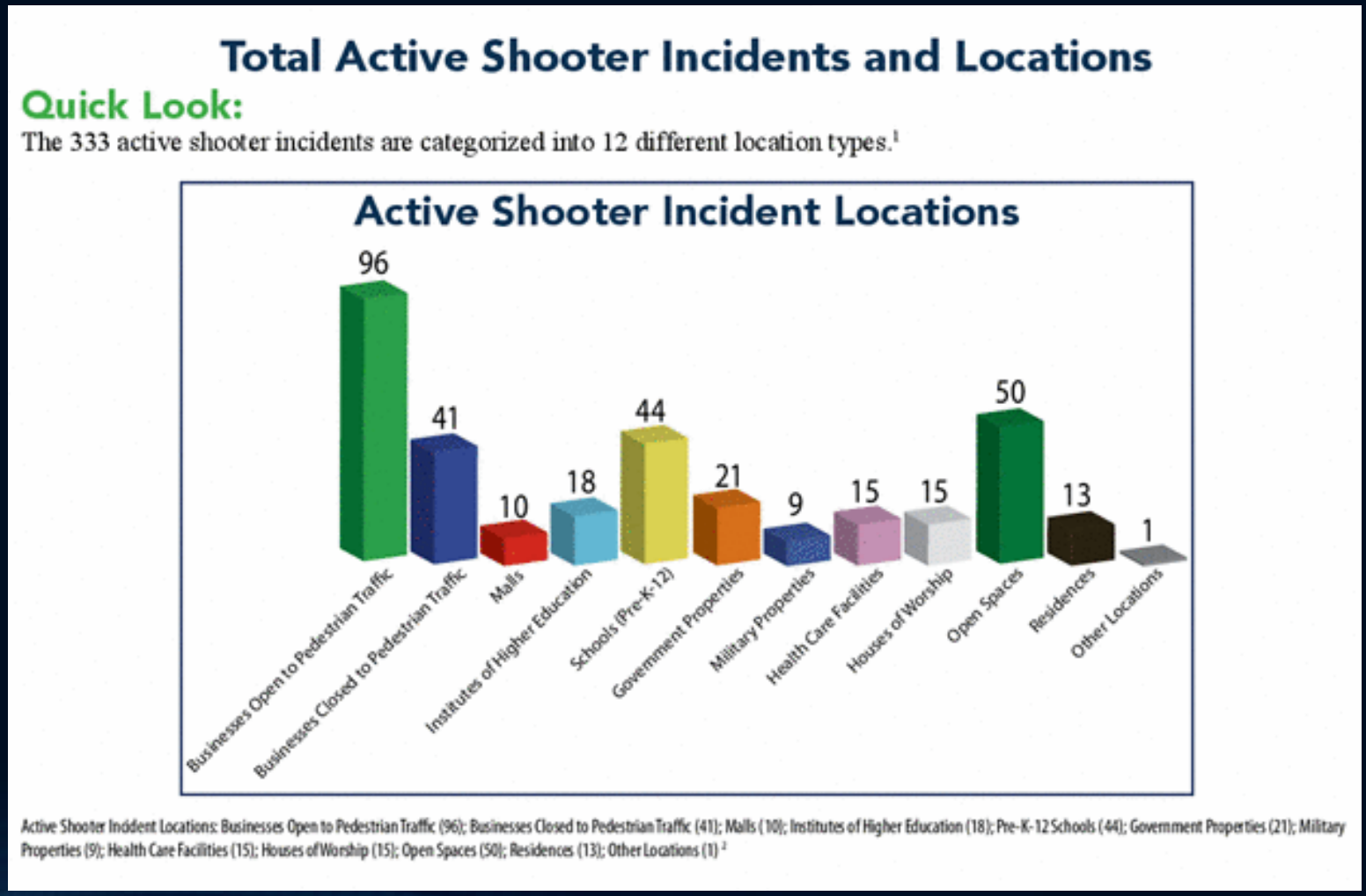
1) Hospital Location & Demographics
2) Civil Disturbance Risks
3) Concentric Crime Rates within 1-5 Miles distance from Hospital
4) Types of Crime
5) Prevalence of Weapons in the Hospital's Community

Conducting a Comprehensive Risk Assessment

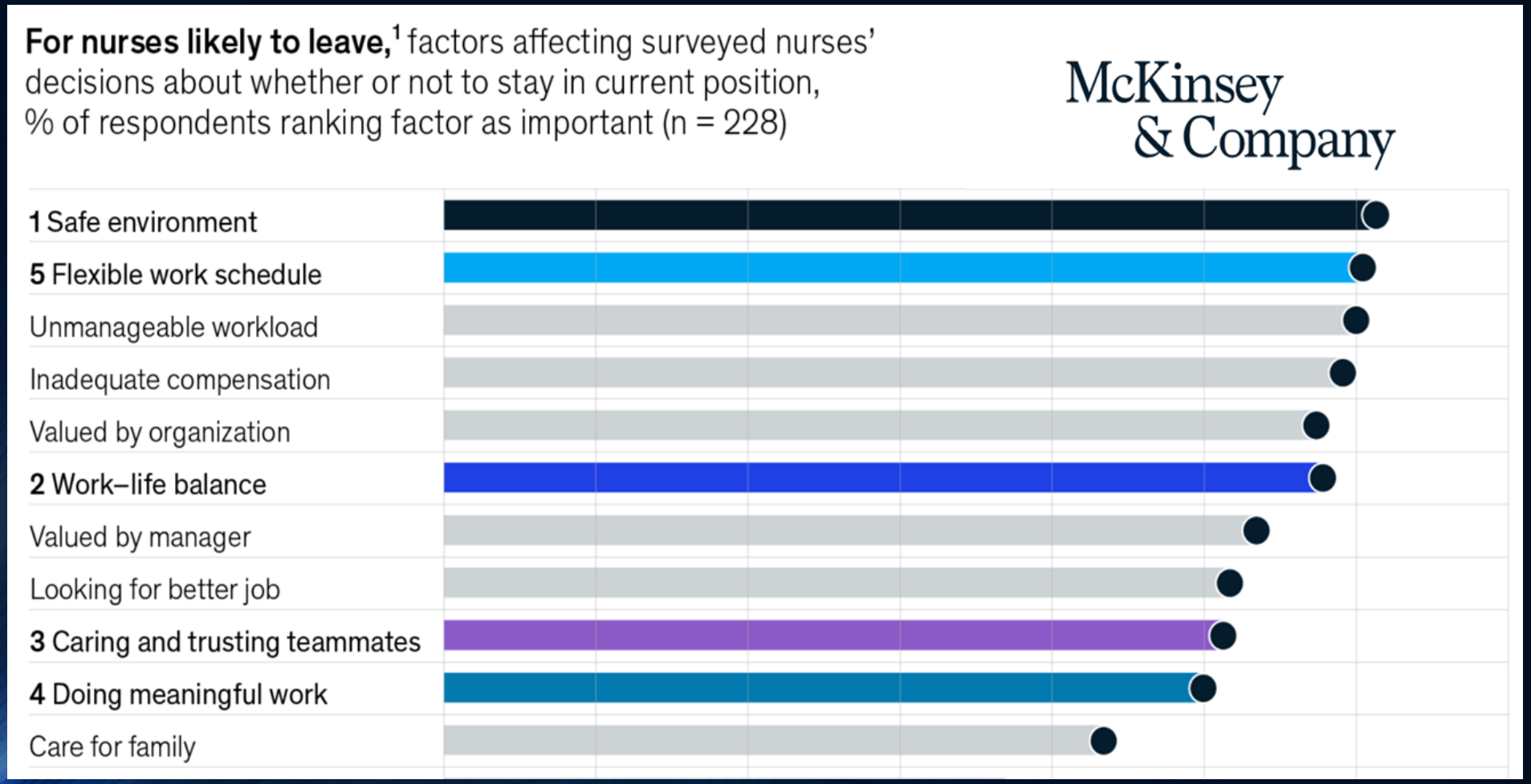


Hospital Staff Perception of Safety: Understanding Fear

- FBI Active Shooter Data (2000-2019)
- 15 Active Shooter Incidents occurred in a Healthcare setting
- Businesses open to pedestrian traffic had highest number of incidents with 96, followed by open spaces with 50, and schools with 44.



Safety, flexibility, and work environment are top priorities for surveyed nurses



Is the issue weapons or people?

- 2 out of every 100 persons carries a weapon
- 1 out of every 100 persons carries a firearm
- 2021 US Population: 331 million (6,620,000 carrying a weapon)

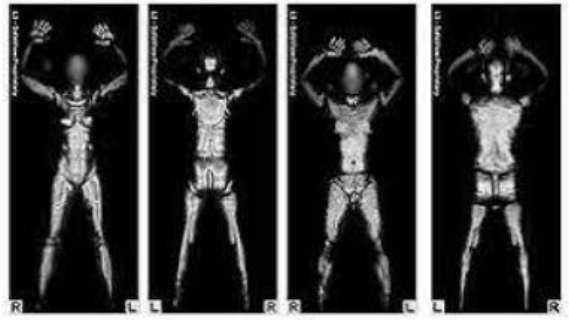
Metal Detector Considerations

- Pros
  - Detect all types of metal weapons
  - Staff may feel safer
  - Deterrence Factor (add Signage)
  - Reduces/Eliminates weapons from the Environment
  - Public Perception=Positive/Mixed
- Cons
  - Staffing Costs v Cost/Benefit Analysis
  - TSA Red Team=95% Failure Rate (DHS Study-2015)
  - Won't Stop a Committed Shooter
  - Delayed Entry to Facility
  - False Sense of Security
  - Public Perception=Is this a safe place?
  - Multiple Entry Points

WEAPON DETECTION TECHNOLOGY: IS IT EFFECTIVE AND HOW DOES IT WORK

All weapons detection technologies (except video management systems) use different frequency ranges of the electromagnetic (EM) spectrum to emit and/or capture signals that are analyzed to develop images or warning systems for operators. These systems are classified according to the frequency at which they operate, such as the frequency of the earth's magnetic field and its distortions, induced magnetic fields, ultrasound, electromagnetic resonances, millimeter wave, terahertz, infrared and X-rays.

Types of Weapons Detection



Operational Considerations

- Policy and Procedure
- Prohibited Items
- Refusal to be searched and EMTALA implications
- Delay in Care
- What to do with found weapons
- Testing and calibration

Assign Trained Personnel:

Hospitals must assign appropriate personnel, other than healthcare providers, trained through the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services (B.S.I.S) to operate and monitor these screening devices. These individuals are **required to receive at least eight hours of training** on topics including the operation of detection devices, hospital policies for when a weapon is detected, de-escalation techniques, and implicit bias.

Best Practices

- PREVENTION /DETECTION:
  - "No Weapons" Signage
  - Good Customer Service
  - Behavioral Detection Training
  - Clinical Processes Assessments
  - Officers Carry Handheld Metal Detectors & Search Patients/Visitors
  - K9's to Search Patients, Guests & Employees
- WEAPONS RESPONSE
  - Threat Management Team
  - Flexible Response Protocols
  - Armed Security w/ Body Armor
  - Law Enforcement Presence
  - Defensive Tools (Tasers, Batons, Pepper Spray)
  - Mass notification & communications
  - Lockdown

Recommendations

Technological advances have allowed the development of highly accurate, effective, safe weapons detection devices with real-time detection, which, when implemented in a security system, establish an adequate level of security for the healthcare environment. Threats from gunfire to people's safety can occur at any location. The recent increase in the incidence of mass trigger events indicates the importance of implementing security systems that are highly efficient in detecting threats to mitigate the risk of these life-threatening events

Engaging Stakeholders

• Key Stakeholders:

- Facilities and engineering

- Security and compliance teams (Legal, Risk, Quality)

- Hospital leadership, including Human Resources

•Will your hospital require employees to go through weapons detections? If so, will start times be changed, or will discipline for tardiness and violations need to be altered? A conversation with HR can answer some of these questions.

Employee exemption: A provision permitting a hospital to exclude current hospital employees or health care providers who enter a hospital wearing an identification badge bearing their name and title from undergoing weapons detection screening

Questions?