REPORTED SAFETY EVENTS AMONG PATIENTS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES: A NATIONAL STUDY IN TAIWAN

Authors: Yu-Jhen Huang*, Chun-Ta Chiu*, Shing Liao*, Wui-Chiang Lee*
* Taiwan Joint Commission on Hospital Accreditation

Intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD):
- Limitations in intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior (Conceptual, social, and practical skills) since childhood.
- They have greater healthcare needs, problems accessing health services than the general population, and are sometimes treated indifferently which could even lead to death.

The purpose is to assess the particular types and patterns of the safety events among patients with IDD:
- 214 (0.86 ‰) reports with IDD were retrieved from the Taiwan Patient safety Reporting (TPR) system—a nationwide and voluntary database—of 248,955 cases between 2005 and 2012.

Main findings:
- Major types of events are: fall (35.5%), disruptive, aggressive behavior (32.7%), tube-related (15.9%), and security (6.5%).
- Those events tend to occur among: male (64.5%), adult (65.4%) inpatients (81.3%) in wards (79.9%) of general hospitals (67.8%) in northern (36.4%) Taiwan and most reported by nurses (81.8%).
- Levels of harm (Outcomes of events): little to moderate (51.9%), no harm (40.7%), severe harm or death (5.1%).
- Disruptive, aggressive behavior events are particularly outnumbered the general population in TPR database.

Patient factor and communication failure are the major causes of the top 3 event types that reporter suggested
Better understanding and communication skills are essential to prevent those events from happening and promote patient safety while caring IDD patients.