Health Workforce Data Concerns during COVID-19

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Impacts of COVID-19 on Health Data Organizations
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Shortage of Health Care Workers

• Hospitals needed to surge their workforce to handle increased caseload including:
  • Registered nurses
  • Respiratory therapists
  • Nephrologists

• Data challenge:
  • Lack of data on where shortages exist and where there is an available workforce to recruit
Employment Concerns

• Despite re-opening of clinics, many health care workers remain unemployed.
• Uncertain future of patient care seeking behavior (e.g., dental)
• Data challenge:
  • Identifying which furloughed workers could be re-directed to and re-trained in areas of need

Source: State-by-State Unemployment Claims by Health Care Workers 2/2020-4/2020, UW CHWS Blog
Personal Safety Concerns

- Concern about how many health care workers at risk of getting sick and possibly dying from COVID-19
  - Affects available supply of workers
  - Affects prioritization of PPE and testing

- Data challenge:
  - Lack of reporting and tracking of health status of health care workers

Source: How many health care workers are at risk of being sacrificed to COVID-19 in the US? UW CHWS Blog
Resiliency of the Health Workforce

- COVID-19 has created stress to the health workforce due to:
  - Concerns about resurgence
  - Evolving understanding and treatment of the disease
  - Lack of access to PPE/testing
  - Unpredictable financial recovery

- Data challenge:
  - Identifying who is experiencing stress and how that is defined
  - Resources and solutions

Source: COVID-19 Resources: Health Workforce Safety, Health Workforce Technical Assistance Center