

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

Figure 2. Respiratory Therapists per 100,000 Population by State, 2017

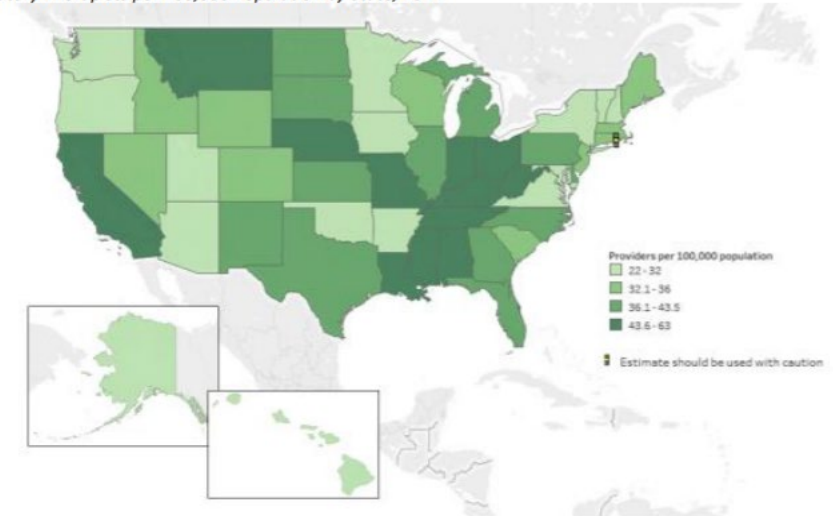
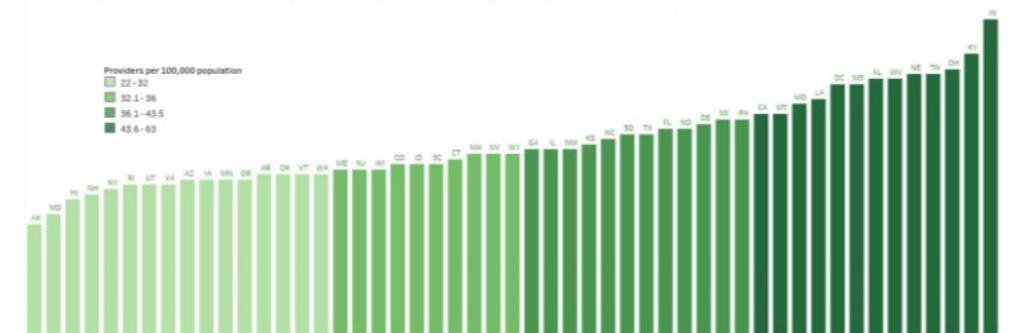


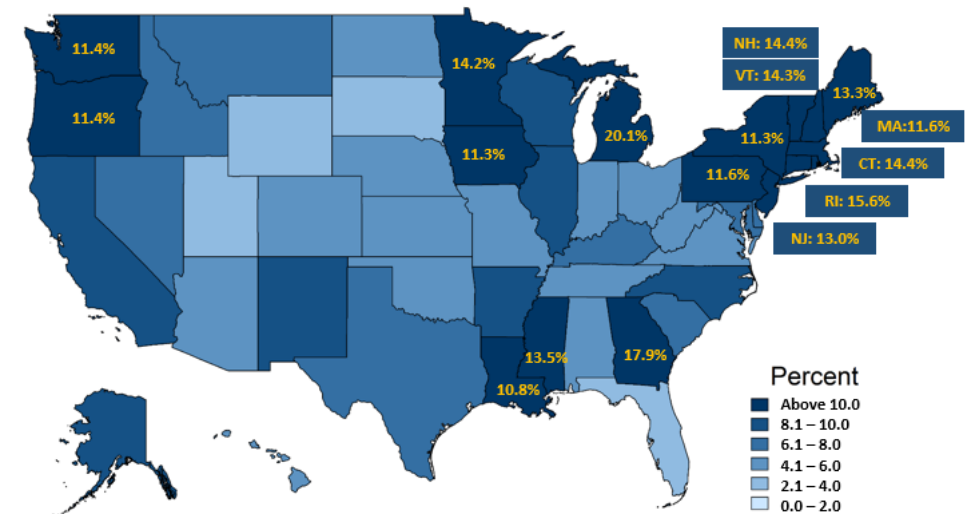
Figure 3. Ranking of States by Number of Respiratory Therapists per 100,000 Population, 2017



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

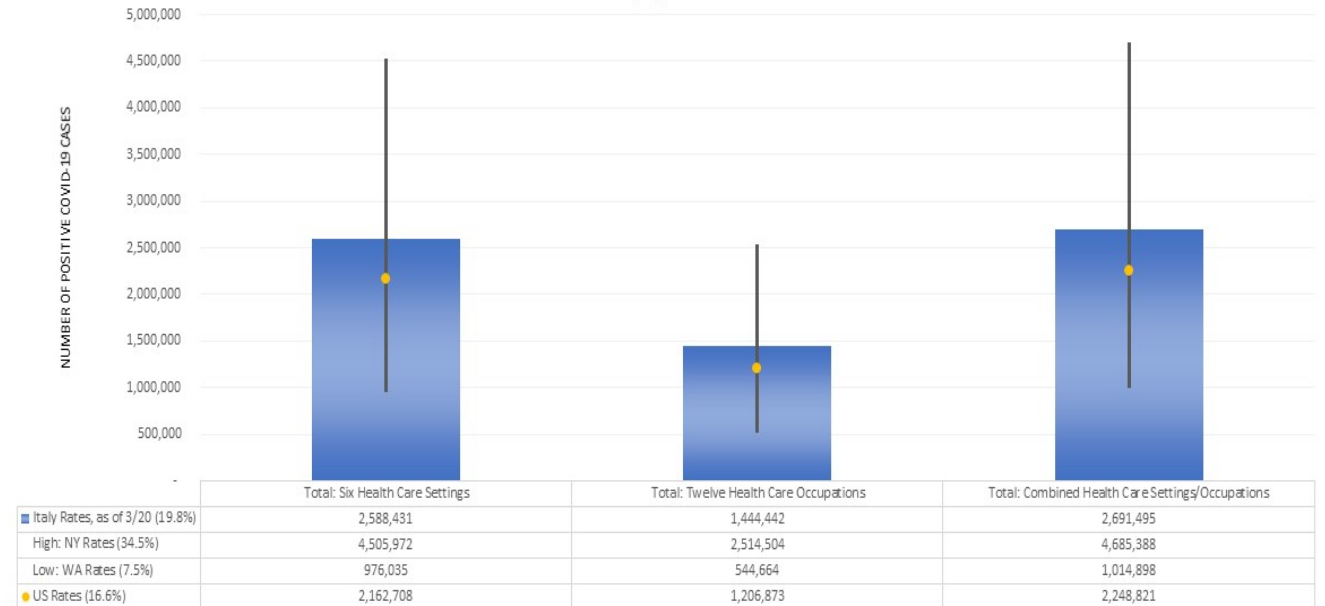
Unemployment Claims by **All Health Care Workers** in **May 2020** as a Percentage of **Total Health Care Workforce** in September 2019 by State



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

Figure 5: Combined Number of Positive COVID-19 Cases by Health Care Setting/Occupations Under Different Scenarios Based on 3/30/20 Rates



Sources: Occupational Employment Statistics [Data]. Bureau of Labor Statistics 2018 [cited 2020 Mar 23]; Available from <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oesrci.htm>; The COVID Tracking Project [Data]. 2020 [cited 2020 Mar 30]; Available from: <https://covidtracking.com/>; Italy [Data]. Our World in Data 2020 [cited 2020 Mar 30]; Available from: <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-testing>

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



HEALTH WORKFORCE SAFETY

- › Surge Capacity Strategies
- › Health Workforce Policies and Guidelines
- › Telehealth
- › Long-Term Care
- › Health Workforce Safety
- › Maintaining the Educational Pipeline
- › Regulatory Flexibility
- › State Workforce Strategies
- › HWRC Resources
- › Contact

Information about risks to the health and well-being of healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic and strategies to protect both the health workforce.

(06/09/20) **Protecting Midwives and Mothers During the Pandemic**

An article covering the issues midwives are experiencing in the United States and around the world in performing their duties safely amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Issues acquiring personal protective equipment are increasingly putting both midwives and their patients at risk of infection.

(06/08/20) **COVID-19 Has Highlighted the Risks Home Health Workers Face — Here's What Can Be Done To Help**

An article covering many of the risks home health workers face during the COVID-19 pandemic, most of which stem from even before the pandemic. Low pay and insufficient hours or seasonal employment both increase risk of infection for the workers and their patients and lead to issues maintaining a home health workforce.

(06/07/20) **'I Have Never Felt So Helpless': Front-Line Workers Confront Loss**

An article discussing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic thus far on the mental health of those treating patients. Burnout, PTSD, and "moral injury" are listed as major symptoms of mental health issues faced by doctors, nurses, and first responders addressing this crisis.

Source: [COVID-19 Resources: Health Workforce Safety](#), Health Workforce Technical Assistance Center