ADDRESSING NURSE BURNOUT AMIDST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Shweta Singh, PhD, MSN, RN

AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow

NIH Office of the Director/NINR



NURSE BURNOUT SIGNALS PROBLEMS FOR PATIENT CARE - Health Affairs, 2012

MAKE THE CLINICIAN BURNOUT EPIDEMICA NATIONAL PRIORITY - Health Affairs, 2016

CALL TO ACTION ON CLINICIAN WELL-BEING BY THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF MEDICINE-NAM 2017

BURNOUT IS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS - Boston Globe, 2019

A CRISIS IN HEALTH CARE: A CALL TO ACTION ON

- Harvard Global Health Institute, Harvard School of Public Health, Massachusetts Medical Society, Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association, 2019

PROVIDER BURNOUT URGENTLY DEMANDS ACTION

- Harvard School of Public Health, 2019



WHAT EXACTLY IS BURNOUT?

World Health Organization Intl. Classification of Diseases (ICD)

ICD-II (2019): Burn-out: an *occupational* phenomenon resulting from chronic workplace stress that "should not be applied to describe experiences in other areas of life"

A job-related phenomenon fundamentally characterized by high emotional exhaustion that exists as a feature of the work environment, manifesting both within and outside of individuals who are burned out.

BACKGROUND & NEED

Background: Nurse Burnout has widespread consequences.

There are many consequences of burnout:

CLINICIANS AND LEARNERS Occupational injury Problematic alcohol use Risk of depression and suicide Career regret Suboptimal professional development HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATIONS Fewer available staff (absenteeism and turnover) Lower morale and productivity Presenteeism (working while sick) Threat to organizational reputation

\$4.6 BILLION

Estimated societal costs attributable to burnout in the United States each year.

BURNOUT LOWERS PATIENT CARE QUALITY:

- Resulting staffing challenges decrease patients' access to care.
- High workloads, administrative burdens, and poorly designed technologies divert clinicians' time away from patient care.
- Workplace ethical dilemmas can erode clinician professionalism.
- Barriers to patient-clinician communication adversely affect patient satisfaction and health outcomes.
- Safety incidents, medical errors, and malpractice claims are more likely.

(NAM Clinician Wellbeing, 2020)

Need: Research is needed to develop, implement, and evaluate system-level interventions to prevent and reduce nurse burnout.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this concept is to provide opportunities for researchers to develop, implement, and/or evaluate effective

system-level interventions

to prevent and reduce nurse burnout,

which has been greatly exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.



OBJECTIVES

Expand research on the development, implementation, and evaluation of <u>system-level interventions</u> to prevent and reduce nurse burnout.

- Encourage research in healthcare systems that deliver care to underserved populations who were hit the hardest by COVID-19:
 - Including safety net providers, public hospitals, FQHCs, rural health centers, and community-based settings such as long-term care, home health, nursing homes, and justice settings.
 - This concept expands on ongoing NIH research initiatives looking at the social, behavioral, and economic COVID-19 impacts in underserved and vulnerable populations.

CONCLUSION

