COVID-19 INFECTIONS & DEATHS AMONG NURSES AND OTHER HEALTHCARE WORKERS

NURSES
A VOICE TO LEAD
A VISION FOR FUTURE HEALTHCARE

As of 31 December 2020, the cumulative number of reported COVID-19 deaths of nurses in 59 countries was

2,262**

More than

1.6 million

healthcare workers* in 34 countries have been infected by COVID-19.[1]

41%

In many countries, nurses are the biggest health worker group with COVID-19 infection. For instance, in Mexico, nurses correspond to 41% of confirmed HCW infections.[2]

Since May 2020, the International Council of Nurses has consistently called for the systematic and standardised collection of data on HCW infections and deaths. It is evidence that would help protect the safety of patients and HCWs. Regrettably, the continued under-reporting of such information means that the true extent of HCW infections and deaths will be much higher than ICN's data.

30%

ICN has seen a significant variation in HCW infection rates across countries. HCW infection rates of up to 30% of all infections have been reported to ICN. The average across the ICN data set is 10%[1] but does vary at different points in time.

---

* The definition of "healthcare worker" (HCW) varies and is not standardised across countries. "Healthcare worker" refers to all staff who work in any healthcare facilities, encompassing but not limited to nurses, midwives, doctors, paramedical staff, healthcare assistant, hospital support staff and community health workers. The definition includes HCWs working in both public and private sectors.
** There is significant underreporting of HCW infections and deaths across countries and as a result ICN figures are highly likely to under report the true extent of HCW infections and nurses deaths.

References:
1. ICN (2021). Mass trauma experienced by the Global Nursing Workforce. Available at: https://www.icn.ch/sites/default/files/inline-files/ICN%20COVID19%20update%20report%20FINAL.pdf
2. Gob.mx. 2021. PERSONAL DE SALUD 07 DE DICIEMBRE DE 2020. Available at: https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/598195/COVID-19_Personal_de_Salud_2020.12.07.pdf