



World
Patient Safety
Day 17 September 2021

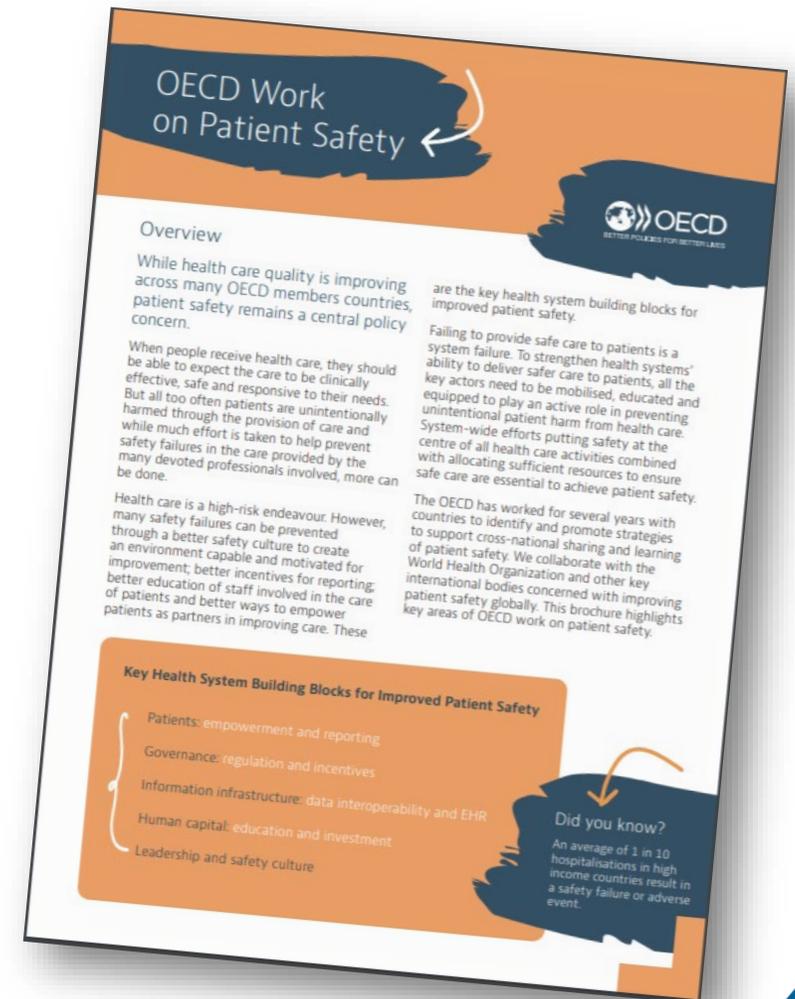
THE ECONOMICS OF PATIENT SAFETY: SAFETY IN THE WORKPLACE

Niek Klazinga, OECD



OECD Work on Patient Safety

- The OECD has been leading efforts to develop and establish internationally comparable patient safety indicators for over ten years
- An average of **1 in 10 hospitalisations** in high income countries **result in a safety failure or adverse event.**
- In developed countries, the direct cost of treating patients who have been harmed during their care approaches **13% of health spending**. This amounts to USD 606 Billion a year, just **over 1% of OECD countries' combined economic output.**





Economics of patient safety... an ongoing series

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The economics of patient safety: Strengthening a value-based approach to reducing patient harm at national level |
| 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The economics of patient safety in primary and ambulatory care: Flying blind• Measuring patient safety: Opening the black box |
| 2020 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The economics of patient safety part III: Long-term care - Valuing safety for the long haul• The economics of patient safety: Analysis to action <p>Also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• System governance towards improved patient safety - Key functions, approaches and pathways to implementation• Culture as a cure - Assessments of patient safety culture in OECD countries |
| 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The economics of patient safety Part IV: Safety in the workplace -- Occupational safety as the bedrock of resilient health systems |



The economic component of patient safety is relevant **across** WPSD themes

2019



Speak up for patient safety!

No one should be harmed in health care




2020



A safe and supportive work environment for health workers

contributes to safe patient care



Speak up for health worker safety!

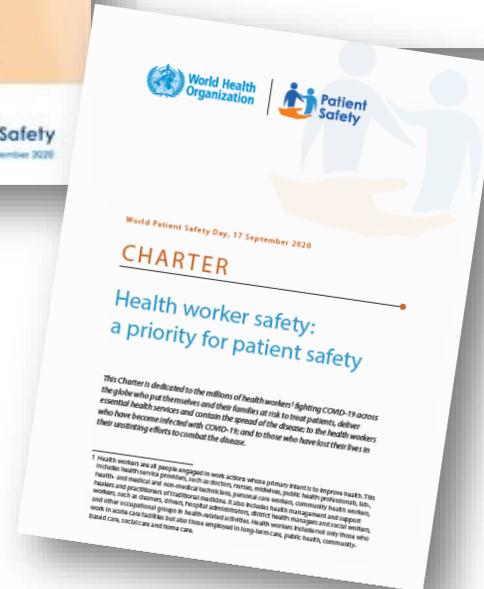


2021



Act now for safe & respectful childbirth!





CHARTER

Health worker safety: a priority for patient safety

This Charter is dedicated to the millions of health workers! Fighting COVID-19 across the globe who put themselves and their families at risk to treat patients, deliver essential health services and contain the spread of the disease; to the health workers who have become infected with COVID-19; and to those who have lost their lives in their unending efforts to combat the disease.

1 Health workers are all people engaged in work activities whose primary intent is to improve health. This includes health care providers, such as doctors, nurses, midwives, public health professionals, health and medical assistants, health technicians, personal care workers, community health workers, and other essential health workers. It also includes health managers and health workers, and other organizational groups in health-related activities. Health workers include not only those who work in acute care facilities but also those employed in long-term care, public health, community-based care, social care and home care.



COVID-19 crisis has... and is still...bringing recognition to the **occupational hazards** of health workers

- Health workers have been overrepresented in terms of **COVID-19 infections and mortality**, as well as **physical and mental strain** caused by the demands of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

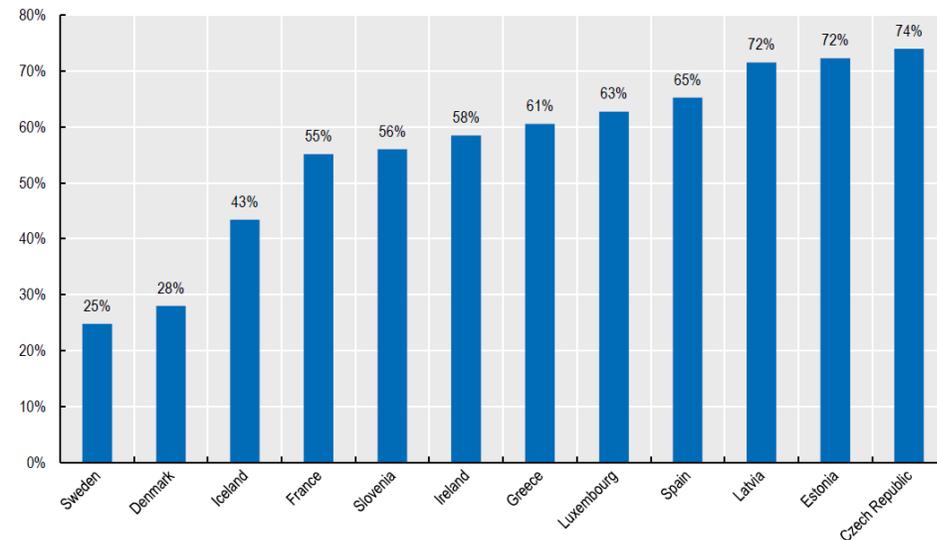
'Nursing Is in Crisis': Staff Shortages Put Patients at Risk



Health staff worried as Delta wave to crash on Queensland hospitals

Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals
Each COVID-19 surge poses a risk for healthcare workers: PTSD
By Lisa Baertlein

Percentage of health workers who had received two COVID-19 vaccination doses, selected countries [as of 05 May 2021]



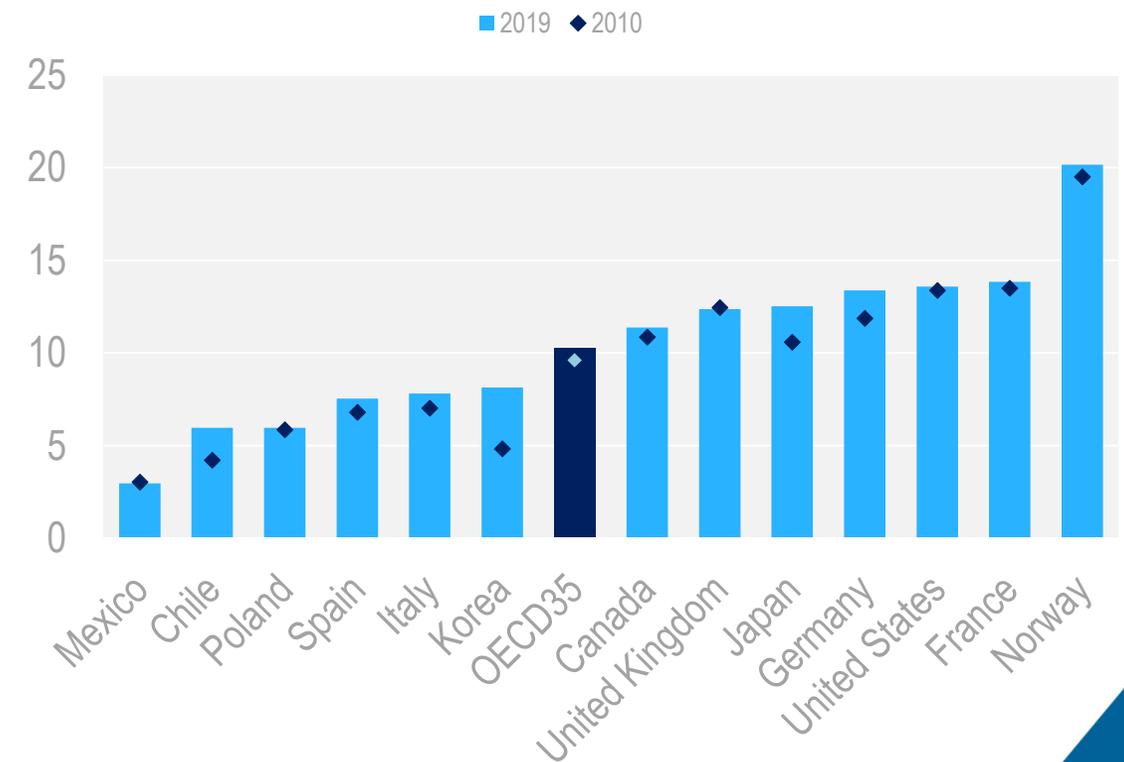
Source: Vaccine Tracker, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), 2021.



Improving safety not only improves patient outcomes, but it also improves the **financial bottom line** for health systems

- Health and social care systems now employ **more workers than ever before**.
- Workplace injury and harm in health care settings include infection, interpersonal violence, physical injury, and mental ill-health.
- Improving worker well-being has intrinsic value, but it also **lowers the costs** of occupational harm (estimated at up to **2% of health spending**) and contributes to minimising patient harm (estimated at up to **12% of health spending**).
- **But how do we get there...**

Growing share of health and Social Employment in total employment (selected OECD countries)





Creating the **right conditions** for a safe working environment across a health system

A focus on working conditions and culture

- Establishing the right policy and regulatory environment.

Models that empower workers with adaptive capacity

- Agency and capacity (within limits) to adapt how they carry out their tasks.
- Noting that some aspects of health care will always require strict protocols, rules, and standardization.

Aligning clinical risk management with corporate and professional risk

- Foundational and structural domains such as culture, communication and governance influence procedural domains, which in turn affect the health and well-being of workers, as patient outcomes.

Measures of worker safety

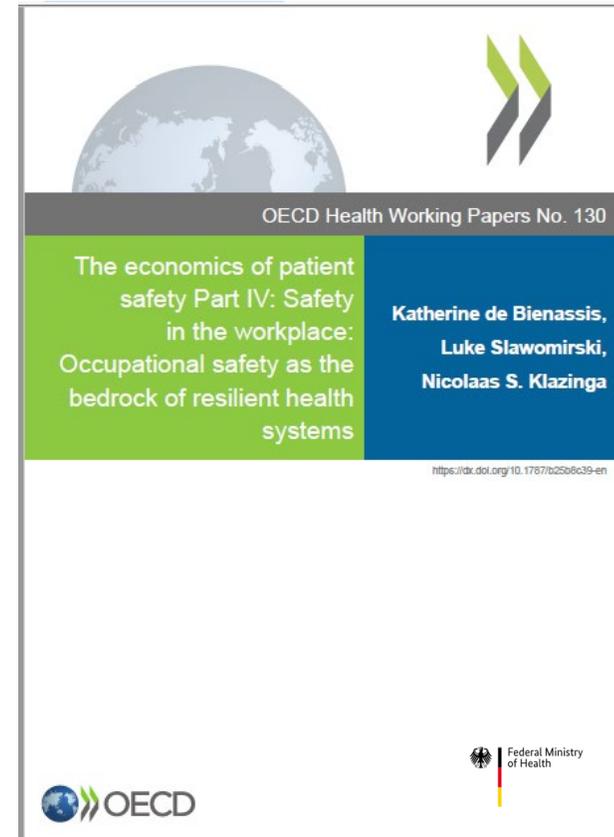
- Compliment to current commonly used patient safety and health care quality metrics.



Investing in health worker well-being to enhance health system resilience

Investment in promoting health worker safety **simultaneously addresses two sources of avoidable expenditure in health care systems**. This super-additive effect means that much can be gained from placing healthcare worker safety within a patient safety governance and policy framework.

- Countries should adopt policies that enable a **flexible workforce** with appropriate safeguards.
 - putting parameters around local adaptability
- The health workforce needs to be supported through **concrete policy actions and appropriate resources**.
 - PPE, testing, and vaccination
 - legal protections, psychological support, and promotion of employee well-being.
- Furnish workers with the skills and knowledge needed to **deploy change**.
 - Teams equipped to successfully plan, implement and assess improvement initiatives.
- Promoting well-being and safety in the workplace—**beyond preventing harm**.





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THANK YOU AND STAY SAFE