

The impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on healthcare workers – June 10, 2020

Nicaragua, June 16, 2020

In the Citizen Observatory's last report (June 10, 2020), we reported a total of **536 suspected cases of COVID-19 among healthcare workers** and **61 casualties** due to pneumonia or suspected COVID-19. Below we present an analysis of the data from the Observatory on suspected cases of COVID-19 among health care workers in last four weeks.

WEEK	Total suspected cases (according to Observatory reports)	Total suspected cases among healthcare workers (according to Observatory reports)	Percentage of healthcare worker cases compared to total suspected cases*	New cases in healthcare personnel reported in the week
14 May to 20 May	2044	246	12.04%	97
21 May to 27 May	2966	348	11.73%	102
28 May to 3 June	3909	458	11.72%	110
4 June to 10 June	4971	536	10.78%	78

		Number and percentage of COVID-19 cases among healthcare worker by week and type of personnel (according to Observatory reports)					
WEEK	Total per week	Doctors	% Doctors**	Nursing staff	% Nursing staff	Other*	% Other
14 May to 20 May	246	148	60.16%	40	16.26%	58	23.58%
21 May to 27 May	348	210	60.34%	53	15.23%	85	24.43%
28 May to 3 June	458	274	59.83%	73	15.94%	111	24.24%
4 June to 10 June	536	322	60.07%	87	16.23%	127	23.69%

Other: lab personnel, administrative staff, other healthcare technicians, visiting medical staff

The previous analysis indicates:

- 1 out of every 10 cases verified as suspected COVID-19 by the Citizen Observatory corresponds to healthcare workers. (*)
- 6 out of every 100 cases verified as suspected COVID-19 by the Citizen Observatory corresponds to doctors. (**)
- 6 out of every 10 cases of suspected Covid-19 in healthcare personnel corresponds to doctors. (**)

We remind people to continue taking precautionary measures: washing their hands for forty seconds, keeping to a distance of at least two meters, wearing a mask in public, staying home or only going out if is necessary.

Below we have presented an analysis of data from the Citizen Observatory on **deaths of healthcare workers** from presumed COVID-19 over the last four weeks.

WEEK	Healthcare workers – Suspected cases and deaths			Deaths of healthcare workers as a percentage of total deaths reported by the Observatory	
	Healthcare workers – Total suspected cases (according to Observatory reports)	Healthcare worker deaths (according to Observatory reports)	% of healthcare worker deaths vs. Suspected cases*	Total deaths from pneumonia or suspected COVID-19 (according to Observatory reports)	% healthcare worker deaths vs all deaths**
14 May to 20 May	246	11	4.47%	465	2.37%
21 May to 27 May	348	28	8.05%	805	3.48%
28 May to 3 June	458	48	10.48%	1114	4.31%
4 June to 10 June	536	61	11.38%	1398	4.36%

The previous analysis indicates that in **the last two weeks:**

- 1 out of every 10 cases of suspected COVID-19 in healthcare workers reported by the Citizen Observatory has resulted in death. (*)
- 4 out of every 100 deaths reported by the Citizen Observatory corresponds to healthcare personnel.

The Observatory collects data on COVID-19 related symptoms and deaths among healthcare workers. **We do not gather information on other impacts, for example on mental health**, as a result of long working hours, being isolated from family, being aware of the potential risk for infecting family and being in contact with the disease without appropriate protection. Each healthcare worker who becomes sick means there is less capacity to treat patients who need healthcare. It also generates mistrust in the system's capacity to respond to demand. Each death is an irreparable loss. It is inadmissible and irresponsible that the government is not providing appropriate personal protective equipment to the healthcare workers that are caring for the population, and arbitrarily firing personnel who are needed on the frontline. It is necessary that the government takes measures to protect healthcare workers instead of continuing to intimidate, threaten or sack them.

We demand:

- That the necessary quantity and quality of appropriate personal protective equipment is provided to all healthcare workers that are involved in treating COVID-19 patients.
- That more healthcare workers are hired to adequately respond to demand in the first instance, particularly in hospitals.
- That the threats, harassment and arbitrary sackings of healthcare workers are halted.
- That arbitrarily sacked healthcare workers are reintegrated to their jobs.

If you can, stay home and save lives!

Note: This analysis is based on data published in our reports. Except for the data for last week, the retrospective revisions have now been included in this report.