

### FALL 2021 SURVEY OF 2,257 REGISTERED NURSES NATIONALLY

- 43% of nurses care for an unsafe number of patients (6 patients or more) during their shifts.
- 30% of nurses report that staffing levels are based on patient needs.
- 15% of nurses feel nurse-to-patient ratios in their units or hospitals are safe.
- 93% of nurses experience “moral distress,” caused when they feel that the ethical course of action is not being pursued due to organizational or institutional constraints.
- 51% of nurses were considering leaving the profession within the next 12 months—and the top reasons why were “unsafe staffing” and “unresolved moral distress.”

### FALL 2021 SURVEY OF 267 REGISTERED NURSES IN ILLINOIS

- 39% of nurses care for an unsafe number of patients (6 patients or more) during their shifts.
- 30% of nurses report that staffing levels are based on patient needs.
- 12% of nurses feel nurse-to-patient ratios in their units or hospitals are safe.
- 92% of nurses experience “moral distress,” caused when they feel that the ethical course of action is not being pursued due to organizational or institutional constraints.
- 45% of nurses were considering leaving the profession within the next 12 months.

#### ILLINOIS' REGISTERED NURSES IN CRISIS



Illinois nurses face severe moral distress, inadequate staffing, and high turnover.



### SAFE PATIENT LIMITS, STAFFING STANDARDS, AND PATIENT OUTCOMES

- In states with safe patient limits (also called “nurse-to-patient ratios”), nurses are 12% more likely to care for a safe number of patients, 13% more likely to report that staffing levels are based on patient needs, and 12% more likely to say that their units’ nurse-to-patient ratios are safe.
- Safe patient limits reduce moral distress by 4% and make nurses 6% less likely to consider leaving nursing.
- Safe patient limits reduce nurse turnover and decrease on-the-job injury rates for nurses, saving hospitals millions of dollars per year.
- Numerous studies have found that safe patient limits can improve patient care, reduce preventable medical errors and patient mortality, and lower rates of readmission in hospitals.

By reducing nurse-to-patient ratios, enacting a safe patient limits law in Illinois could improve occupational safety, increase nurse retention rates, and promote better health outcomes for patients while having little to no negative impact on the financial performance of Illinois’ hospitals.

Scan for related ILEPI reports and for more information:



SCAN ME

*Registered Nursing in Crisis: National Survey Reveals Insufficient Staffing, Severe Moral Distress, and High Turnover*

Focus Area  
Workers' Rights