

**Staffing and Personal Protective Equipment Shortages Due to COVID-19: Literature
Review**

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A quantitative study uses measurable variables. This type of research allows researchers to control and eliminate any effects (Houser, 2023). A literature review gives a deep look into the topic and shows what is known and lacking on the subject (Houser, 2023). It is not a secret that nursing homes struggle with staffing and personal protective equipment (PPE) issues. COVID-19 impacted the staffing and PPE shortage even more.

Shortages of Staffing in Nursing Homes During the COVID-19 Pandemic: What are the Driving Factors?

The authors of this article include Xu, Intrator, and Bowlblis, and they researched the impact that COVID-19 had on the nursing and PPE shortages within nursing homes (Xu et al., 2020). Self-reported information was collected on PPE availability, residents and staff exposed to COVID-19, and staffing shortages (Xu et al., 2020). This article discusses the factors contributing to staff and PPE shortages within nursing homes during COVID-19 (Xu et al., 2020).

Key Points

The data is collected from the first national COVID-19 nursing home staffing data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) (Xu et al., 2020). Several databases were collected (Xu et al., 2020). The study consisted of primarily free-standing nursing homes that had COVID-19 information during the week of May 31, 2020 (Xu et al., 2020). The variables were then collected on whether or not the nursing homes self-reported a staffing shortage (Xu et al., 2020). Out of the 11,920-nursing home that participated, 18.4%, 15.9%, 2.5%, and 9.8% has reported staffing shortages (Xu et al., 2020). Per 100 beds, there were 5.7 residents and 3.8 staff

members who confirmed having COVID-19. Nursing homes that had any staff that had COVID-19 were more likely to have staffing shortages (Xu et al., 2020). According to the chart within the article, nursing homes in the Midwest and East experienced higher staffing shortages (Xu et al., 2020). It is implied that nursing homes that reported more residents and staff members with COVID-19 experienced more staffing shortages (Xu et al., 2020). Nursing homes were low in PPE, and it was challenging to keep from transmitting COVID-19 (Xu et al., 2020).

Assumptions

This study provides evidence that correlates the relationship between staffing and PPE shortages to COVID-19. According to the article, one of the critical findings of the study was that COVID-19 factors were related to and associated with staffing shortages (Xu et al., 2020). 1 out of 6 nursing homes reported a staffing shortage during COVID-19 (Xu et al., 2020). To help support nursing homes and prevent the transmission of COVID-19, policymakers can help supply adequate PPE supplies (Xu et al., 2020). It has been proven that PPE is essential in helping prevent COVID-19 (Xu et al., 2020).

Deficit/Conclusion

This article aims to confirm the connection between COVID-19 and staffing shortages, along with PPE shortages. The Nursing Home COVID-19 Public File was downloaded from the Nursing Home Compare (NHCompare) website to help collect data for staffing and PPE shortages (Xu et al., 2020). Staffing and PPE shortages are correlated to COVID-19 factors (Xu et al., 2020). Further research will help show how policymakers can support nursing homes. Not acknowledging the impact that COVID-19 has on staffing and PPE shortages would show implications. It would show implications because COVID-19 is very quickly contracted, and having adequate staffing and PPE is essential in preventing transmission.

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