

Overview

In July 2022, WISH commissioned a piece of research with YouGov to survey healthcare practitioners from across the globe. The study sought to shine a light on their experiences of working throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, gain insights about their careers and workplaces, as well as explore what the future of healthcare might look like according to those serving on the frontline of care delivery. Insights were gathered from healthcare professionals in a range of different roles, in the UK, US, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, India and Brazil.









Global Highlights

Pandemic Preparedness

The research showed that global health systems are not ready for another pandemic:

- 49 percent of healthcare workers agree health systems lack preparation for managing another pandemic if another were to arise in the next five years;
- 60 percent recognized lack of financial support, along with 55 percent highlighting talent shortages as other major risk factors;
- 44 percent stated an inability to properly support patients also poses a significant threat to their national health systems.

What do you see as the top threats facing your national health system if another pandemic were to arise in the next 5 years? *Please select all that apply*

	TOTAL	 UK	 USA	 Saudi Arabia	 Nigeria	 India	 Brazil
Lack of financial support	60%	66%	42%	62%	73%	62%	56%
Talent shortages	55%	65%	69%	36%	28%	50%	37%
Lack of preparation	49%	48%	47%	48%	54%	60%	44%
Inability to properly support patients	44%	52%	38%	24%	43%	40%	39%
Lack of access to equipment	44%	36%	31%	46%	76%	55%	52%

Mental Health of Healthcare Workers

The research showed that the global standard of healthcare has been significantly reduced due to the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of our healthcare practitioners:

- 59 percent agreed that their mental health has suffered due to working throughout the COVID-19 outbreak;
- 48% recognized that this has adversely impacted their ability to provide a high standard of patient care;
- 56 percent said that they were inclined to leave their jobs since the global health crisis began;
- Highlighting a major risk factor to their mental health, almost half of healthcare professionals revealed that they had witnessed or experienced more physical and verbal abuse since the start of the pandemic;
- Chief Nursing Officers stood out here, with over three quarters (78%) agreeing they had either seen increased abuse or been at the receiving end of it;
- Identifying the biggest changes to their work since the COVID-19 outbreak, more than half of all practitioners noted a higher workload, with a third specifying colleagues under more stress as some of the most prominent developments.

Individual Market Highlights

UK

The UK's healthcare workers were found to be far less likely than others globally to enter the healthcare industry if starting their careers now, and were also more doubtful of receiving mental health support in the future:

- Only 35 percent of practitioners in the UK would still train as healthcare professionals if joining the industry now, as opposed to 90 percent in India, 85 percent in Nigeria, and 76 percent in Saudi Arabia;
- 59 percent said that a higher workload has been one of the biggest changes they have experienced since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- The UK ranked lowest globally when considering trends predicted to be prevalent in the industry over the next five years:
 - Only 17 percent thought that an increased investment into research and development would be a trend, compared with India (60 percent), Nigeria (57 percent), Saudi Arabia (38 percent), Brazil (33 percent), and the US (25 percent);
 - Only 25 percent highlighted education and training of junior members of the team, compared with Nigeria (57 percent), India (53 percent), and Saudi Arabia (46 percent);

- 41 percent saw attention on mental health and diagnosis as a developing trend; less than in India (59 percent), Brazil (54 percent), and Saudi Arabia (52 percent);
- 70 percent – the highest number recorded – thought that a pressure on resources in the industry would remain a trend in the coming years. This was much higher than their colleagues in Brazil (27 percent), Nigeria (28 percent), India (31 percent), Saudi Arabia (38 percent) and the US (57 percent).

US

Healthcare workers in the US were found to be most impacted by worker shortages, with increasing pressure on existing resources having negatively impacted the ability of the US health system to respond to another large-scale health emergency:

- 69 percent of health and care workers in the US agreed that talent shortages pose the biggest threat to their national health system if another pandemic were to follow COVID-19 in the next five years;
- The US health system lags behind others globally and is more vulnerable in this area compared to other countries, with a lack of staff being a much less of a concern in Brazil (37 percent), Saudi Arabia (36 percent) and Nigeria (28 percent);
- Staff leaving during the pandemic was also seen to be the highest in the US, with a quarter stating that resignations had been more common, compared with the UK (17 percent), Saudi Arabia (9 percent), Nigeria (8 percent), Brazil (7 percent) and India (4 percent);
- Yet nearly half (47 percent) said that their workload had been higher throughout this period, along with 39 percent stating that their colleagues have been under more pressure;
- 57 percent of healthcare workers in the US said that a pressure on resources will continue to be a major trend in the healthcare sector over the next five years.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia’s healthcare workers recognized the value of strong organizational leadership and robust staff training programs as essential for future health system resilience:

- 52 percent of Saudi Arabia’s healthcare professionals pointed to the importance of leadership support as a key driver of a resilient health system;
- 26 percent also highlighted that robust training programs form a key component of health system resilience - in this category, they ranked top amongst global peers in the UK (8 percent), US (11 percent), Nigeria (13 percent), Brazil (16 percent) and India (18 percent);
- When reflecting on factors currently weakening their national health system, 28 percent stated that a lack of training, combined with other issues such as a shortage of skilled workers, were most prominent;

- 46 percent also placed the highest value in the idea that education and training of junior staff members will remain a trend in their healthcare industry over the next five years, compared with others in the UK (25 percent) and the US (30 percent).

Nigeria

Nigeria's healthcare workers identified inadequate financial support and access to equipment as leading factors threatening their health system in the event of a new pandemic:

- 73 percent of Nigeria's healthcare workers stated that a lack of financial support will be one of the biggest threats to their national health system in the event of a new global health emergency in the next five years;
- 75 percent specified a lack of access to equipment and 54 percent said lack of preparation will also be significant in such a crisis;
- 27 percent of Nigeria's healthcare workers revealed budgets being tighter as one of the biggest changes they have experienced since the outbreak of COVID-19. This was much less of an issue for their peers in the US (20 percent), Brazil (18 percent), India (15 percent), UK (10 percent), and Saudi Arabia (5 percent);
- 53 percent pointed to a lack of leadership as a major roadblock to the resilience of their national health system;
- Nigeria's healthcare workers were also the most likely (19 percent) to see lack of technology among the greatest obstacles to address, in contrast to their peers in Brazil (15 percent), India (13 percent), US (8 percent), Saudi Arabia (6 percent) and the UK (5 percent).

India

India's healthcare practitioners identified lack of access to equipment and inadequate preparation as key threats that endanger their health system:

- 55 percent of healthcare workers believe the efficiency of India's national health system is at risk should a major threat or another pandemic emerge in the next five years, due to a lack of access to equipment - compared with the US (31 percent), the UK (36 percent), and Saudi Arabia (46 percent);
- 60 percent consider a lack of preparation as one of the top hazards to India's health system, in contrast to Brazil (44 percent), the US (47 percent), Saudi Arabia (48 percent), the UK (48 percent) and Nigeria (54 percent);
- 90 percent of India's healthcare practitioners admitted that they would still train as healthcare professionals if joining the industry now – this was highest number compared with peers in the UK (35 percent), US (53 percent), Brazil (64 percent), Saudi Arabia (76 percent) and Nigeria (85 percent).

Brazil

Brazil's healthcare practitioners were found to be the most likely to suffer from poor mental health due to working through the COVID-19 pandemic:

- 78 percent of Brazil's healthcare practitioners felt that their mental health has suffered working through the COVID-19 pandemic – much higher than their peers in the US (49 percent), Nigeria (57 percent), the UK (59 percent), India (65 percent) and Saudi Arabia (70 percent);
- More than half (53 percent) agreed that this has also adversely impacted their ability to provide a high standard of care;
- Brazil's healthcare workers (52 percent) were the most likely to experience more verbal or physical abuse in their roles since the start of the ongoing pandemic – similar to their Saudi counterparts (52 percent) and in contrast to peers in the US (40 percent) and the UK (43 percent);
- When reflecting on the biggest changes to their work since the arrival of COVID-19, Brazil's healthcare workers were also in majority (39 percent) - like their US counterparts (39 percent) - to state that their colleagues had been under more pressure than normal during the pandemic.

Additional information

For more information about this study, please contact Hannah Joyce
hannahj@bljworldwide.com

For more information on WISH 2022, please visit: <https://2022.wish.org.qa/>

WISH, a health initiative of [Qatar Foundation](#), is a global platform which gathers healthcare experts, policymakers, and innovators to unite in the goal of building a healthier world. The biennial WISH Summit, taking place October 4-6 in Doha, Qatar and virtually, aims to showcase WISH's evidence-based research and discuss how to translate these findings into practical, policy-driven solutions that help transform global healthcare delivery.

The sixth edition of the summit will run under the banner of “Healing the Future.” The summit will thoroughly explore the legacy of COVID-19 from various perspectives, including how to build more resilient and sustainable healthcare systems, improve our response to the mental health crisis faced by health and care workers, and harness the rapid progress in pharmaceutical innovation that has taken place during the pandemic.