

## **Understanding the Impact of The Covid-19 Pandemic on The Mental Health of Healthcare Workers: A Comprehensive Study**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Healthcare workers (HCWs) are under a lot of strain because of the COVID-19 pandemic. HCWs' circumstance should be completely and helpfully comprehended. The objective of this meta-examination is to decide what the COVID-19 pandemic has meant for healthcare experts mentally. "The Health Care Expert Stress Outline" was appropriated as a feature of an on the web, cross-sectional survey between June 9, 2021, and July 14, 2021, to portable thought suppliers and care staff at three multispecialty care transport associations. HCWs distinguished the weakness in regards to when the COVID-19 eruption will be tended to as the best tension element, while the broadest concern was about self-passing from COVID-19. Age, course, and word-related risk factors were viewed as in diverges from COVID-19 tension impacts. While word-related positions with expanded transparency risk didn't report fundamentally more significant levels of stress, more energetic ages and orientation direction were related with more elevated levels of tension. Constraints on work because of serious health conditions were connected with COVID-19-related stress, nervousness, and rest issues. These discoveries highlight the seriousness and expansiveness of mental health results experienced by HCWs in migrant conditions, and they bring up significant issues about clever mediations to reduce that weight. It is guessed that future examination would zero in on clear mediations to help HCW success and mental health.

**Keywords:** Covid-19 Pandemic, Mental Health, Healthcare Workers, Personal Protective Equipment

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Pandemic examinations uncovered that past urgent sicknesses brought about determined and long-haul psychopathological impacts inside this gathering. Likewise, health care workers (HCWs) expected a crucial job in this very troublesome and difficult battle against COVID-19 and may encounter serious close to home stress. Like what a few examinations found, numerous HCWs seemed to experience the ill effects of a couple of steady mental health conditions, like uneasiness, wretchedness, absence of rest, etc. Longer work shifts are proposed to HCWs to oblige their developing interest in healthcare. In the meantime, a couple of elements that add to additional mental health issues among HCWs are lacking social help, unfortunate rest quality, being away from loved ones, feeling of dread toward tainting their family members, and close communication with patients. What's more, health care workers (HCWs) should wear protective stuff during working hours, which makes their turn of events and action happen progressively and causes respiratory distress and difficulties, the two of which are disturbing elements for the mental results of HCWs.

The worldwide spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has started an exceptional health crisis that is presenting complex difficulties to individuals and social designs all over the place. Healthcare experts have taken the brunt of this fiasco in the midst of the leader reaction, exploring a tumultuous scene portrayed by overpowering patient burdens, resource deficiencies, and raised personal gamble. Despite the fact that the plague has irrefutably caused impressive monetary misfortunes, a squeezing stress is the significant effect on the profound health of healthcare experts. This top to bottom examination means to investigate the unpretentious parts of this effect, offering light on the different manners by which the pandemic has impacted the mental health of people in the front of healthcare game plans.



levels of COVID-19 care and further developed mental health outcomes, healthier dietary patterns, and expanded actual work. This stresses that it is so vital to have a functioning general health correspondence when there are occasions like the COVID-19 scourge to advance healthy conduct changes.

Gallis et al. (2018) zeroed in on the action related legitimacy and dependable nature of the Patient Health Survey (PHQ) in Urdu utilizing an example of Pakistani pregnant ladies living in their nearby area. Their evaluation, which was disseminated in Companion J, expected to survey the reasonableness of an ordinarily utilized mental health screening device in the Pakistani setting. The scientists found empowering results about the PHQ's Urdu form, showing its material ness in looking at mental health worries among hopeful moms in Pakistan. This study features the worth of socially fitting and approved devices for evaluating mental health, especially in different populaces like those in Pakistan.

A fast-online review directed by Hayat et al. (2020) investigated Pakistani inhabitants' impression of COVID-19 during the beginning phases of the flare-up. Their survey, which was distributed in the Worldwide Journal of Environmental Investigation and General Health, gave significant bits of knowledge into public discernments and mentalities toward the pandemic. The discoveries uncovered a scope of reactions, for example, feeling of dread toward the disease spreading, recognition of precautionary measures, and confidence in government mediations. Arranging assigned interventions and correspondence strategies to successfully screen general health circumstances, for example, COVID-19 requires a comprehension of different perspectives.

The resting condition of bleeding edge healthcare staff during the COVID-19 eruption was researched by Jahrami et al. (2020). Their audit, which was distributed in Rest and Breathing, planned to survey the predominance of rest-related objections and related attributes among clinical experts who are straightforwardly associated with overseeing COVID-19 patients. The outcomes showed that unfortunate rest quality was more common among forefront healthcare workers, and elements like expanded liability, nervousness about tainting, and mental agony added to the disrupting impacts of unfortunate rest. This study underscores that it is so essential to address rest related issues and give sufficient help to healthcare experts to diminish the adverse consequences of the pandemic on their prosperity.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Khanal et al. (2020) managed a cross-sectional survey to explore the variables impacting mental health among healthcare faculty in a low-resource situation. Their survey, which was distributed in Overall Health, planned to decide how normal mental distress and related causes were among Nepali clinical experts. The discoveries exhibited the earnestness of mental health issues, like strain related side effects, burdensome side effects, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), among healthcare experts. To address the mental health prerequisites of healthcare experts, the appraisal features the need of assigned intercessions and genuinely steady organizations, especially in asset compelled settings where admittance to mental health administrations might be restricted.



**Figure 2:** Healthcare Workers

### 3. METHODS

#### 3.1. Study design and sample

Between June 9, 2021, and July 14, 2021, information gathering for a web-based cross-sectional survey study named ". Most of individuals were included specialists, undeniable level practice clinicians (i.e., sustain experts and specialist

associates), chaperons, clinical assistants, and patient assistance specialists. No other incorporation or rejection standards might have been conceivable; by the by, solicitations to the Well Med Clinical Social occasion were stretched out just to their doctors and senior practice clinicians.

### **3.2. Study procedures**

All information were procured through perplexing outlines constrained via a restricting online interface. Toward the finish of the preliminary, members were offered the choice to reach out to the Specialist Assist Program or the neighbourhood lead health with gathering (telephone number gave) assuming they required direction or help with dealing with the stress brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **3.3. Measures**

To recognize the central issues to remember for the synopsis instrument, the audit bunch teamed up with staff from the survey areas. To guarantee that the survey content could precisely and reliably measure the advancements expressed in the audit objectives, the audit bunch then, at that point, assessed critical text and drew from earlier outline insight. The audit board thought about whether the exercises were reasonable and effectively made due, gave rapidly interpretable outcomes, and limited respondent load while fostering the last outline instrument. Supported measures and new audit things that surveyed uneasiness, rest designs, stress connected with COVID-19, work limitations because of difficult issues, significant work and financial information, and individual and word-related risk factors for COVID-19 transparency and unexpected outcomes were remembered for the past outline.

### **3.4. Anxiety**

In light of the measures of the Decisive and Verifiable Manual of Mental Disorders-IV (DSM-IV), the Summarized Strain Disorder-7 (Stray 7) is a seven-thing, approved evaluating device for summarized distress disorder. Everything requests that members rate the recurrence with which they had a particular nervousness related secondary effect throughout the past two weeks utilizing four reaction choices: "not by any stretch," "a couple of days," "most of the days," and "essentially consistently." Everything is evaluated on a scale from 0 to 3, where 3 addresses a more recognizable repeat of unfriendly impacts. The scope of outright total scores is 0 to 21, where higher scores relate to additional striking degrees of strain. Utilizing spread out shorts, indisputably the all out scores for the proceeding with assessment were additionally positioned into four classifications of earnestness: "irrelevant" (0-4), "delicate" (5-9), "moderate" (10-14), and "outrageous" (15-21). The Wanderer 7 has gotten endorsement for use in different populaces, including overall public and settings associated with health organization.

### **3.5. Sleep patterns**

Five evaluation things that got different rest plan components were remembered for the ongoing audit. The essential solicitation was for center gathering individuals to report the typical number of hours they rested each late night over the past couple of weeks. The rest gauges utilized in the Clinical Outcomes Study considered the acknowledgment of this standard rest term. The leftover things were looked for rest-related obstructions and agitating impacts utilizing the Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS) thing banks.

### **3.6. Statistical analyses**

Illustrative investigations were centred around the information gathered from the internet-based outline. Implies, SDs, medians, and reach were utilized to sum up tenacious variables, though frequencies and rates were utilized to sum up straight-out factors. Utilizing graphical strategies (quantile plots and histograms) and the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test on all pertinent tenacious parts, departures from conventionality were surveyed.

As per age, direction, and word-related risk groupings (direct versus non-direct patient thought and respiratory focus versus non-respiratory office settings), the level of individuals who encountered "a ton" or "crazy" stress from each COVID-19 stressor was reported. Chi-square examination was utilized to assess the genuine meaning of contrasts between gatherings.

Since Stray 7 scores were seldom appropriated, non-parametric tests were utilized to search for quantifiably huge contrasts in the dispersion of scores among gatherings. The Wilcoxon two-model tests were intended to look at the appropriations

of Stray 7 scores for factors with only two groupings (i.e., direction and word-related risk factor social occasions), however the Kruskal-Wallis test was coordinated to inspect the flows of Stray 7 scores across factors with different groupings (i.e., age get-togethers). Essentially, utilizing chi-square testing, contrasts in the appropriation of individuals among Stray 7 reality bundles by age, direction, and occupation risk factor packs were assessed for quantifiable importance.

A month of typical day to day rest periods were analyzed comparable to mature, direction, and word-related risk factor gatherings. Contrasts were surveyed for quantifiable importance utilizing the Kruskal Wallis test for age gatherings and the Wilcoxon two-model test for direction and word-related risk factor gatherings. A correlation old enough, direction, and word-related risk factors was finished to decide the extent of study members who reported unfortunate rest quality or continuous issues and aggravations with their rest. The Chi-square test was utilized to survey the genuine significance of differentiations between packs.

Student's t-test was utilized to evaluate the genuine meaning of mean score contrasts between center gathering members and the normalizing score of 50 in the US populace for the SF-36v2 RE scale. Furthermore, the level of examination members who had areas of strength for a close to home shortcoming was inspected across risk factor gatherings associated with age, direction, and words. The Chi-square test was utilized to evaluate the genuine meaning of rate contrasts between bundles.

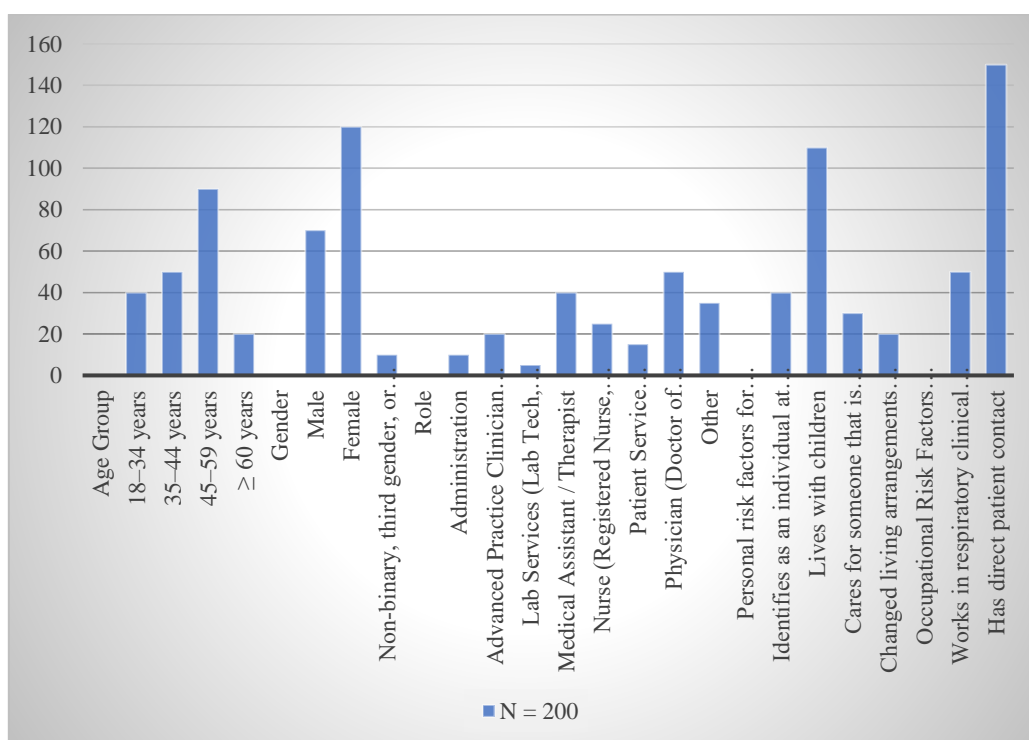
#### 4. RESULTS

For this preliminary, the general response rate was 47.1%. Inside every one of the three multispecialty care transport affiliations, response rates went from 43.3% to 50.2%. Table 1 shows the economics of the individuals. The way that most of study members (68%) had direct patient contact was especially critical since it improved the probability that an individual would be presented to the disease and experience further developed mental health impacts. Across the scope of occupations canvassed in the model, the pervasiveness of direct patient contact changed. Doctors, high level practice clinicians, and clinical accomplices/counsellors reported the most elevated predominance (going from 90 to 93% inside these gatherings), trailed by chaperons (81%) and patient help specialists (75%) (information not shown). Around 33% of faculty in crisis facility association reported direct patient contact, contrasted with generally 66% of lab organization trained professionals (65%).

**Table 1:** Characteristics of the study's sample

Characteristic	N = 200	Percentage
<b>Age Group</b>		
18–34 years	40	20.0%
35–44 years	50	25.0%
45–59 years	90	45.0%
≥ 60 years	20	10.0%
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	70	35.0%
Female	120	60.0%
Non-binary, third gender, or preferred not to answer	10	5.0%
<b>Role</b>		
Administration	10	5.0%
Advanced Practice Clinician (Nurse Practitioner / Physician's Assistant)	20	10.0%
Lab Services (Lab Tech, Phlebotomist)	5	2.5%
Medical Assistant / Therapist	40	20.0%
Nurse (Registered Nurse, Licensed Vocational Nurse / Licensed Practical Nurse)	25	12.5%
Patient Service Representative / Technician	15	7.5%
Physician (Doctor of Medicine [MD] / Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine [DO])	50	25.0%

Other	35	17.5%
<b>Personal risk factors for COVID-related complications (% yes) *</b>		
Identifies as an individual at high risk	40	20.0%
Lives with children	110	55.0%
Cares for someone that is high risk outside of home	30	15.0%
Changed living arrangements during COVID-19	20	10.0%
<b>Occupational Risk Factors (% yes) *</b>		
Works in respiratory clinical settings	50	25.0%
Has direct patient contact	150	75.0%



**Figure 3:** Graphical Representation of Characteristics of the study's sample

Inspecting an expansive scope of potential COVID-related stressors, the best stressor that health care workers (HCWs) experienced was vulnerability about when the COVID-19 pandemic would be settled; 42.2% of them said that vulnerability impacted their everyday lives "an incredible arrangement" or "exceptionally" (Table 2). Members likewise recognized that media portrayal (36.2%) and the assumption for wearing security gear consistently (35.10%) were stressors influencing their everyday daily schedule. Roughly 33% of the members credited a lot of stress in their day to day routines to their apprehension about illuminating a companion or relative who has COVID-19 or a companion or relative who has died (35.3% and 33.3%, separately). Notwithstanding, only 10.3% of individuals reported "a ton" to "ludicrous" impact, while 53.5% of individuals said that their typical schedules were unaffected by their apprehension about passing on from COVID-19. In this way, not exactly half of individuals were worried about dying from the infection. Massive contrasts in the rate specifying "a ton" or "ridiculous" impact on 10 of the 13 COVID-19 sickness stressors were seen across age gatherings. The more youthful age bunches frequently showed a more prominent rate demonstrating a more observable impact. Contrasted with men, female HCWs showed a lot more grounded influence on five out of the thirteen stressors. HCWs that worked in respiratory offices and had direct patient contact were additionally liable to report more prominent impacts from COVID-19 stresses.

**Table 2:** The percentage of healthcare workers that report that COVID-19 has a "extreme" or "a lot" of stress in their daily lives

	Total sample	% Reporting "A lot" or "Extreme" stress impacts									
		Age groups				Gender		Occupational risk			
		18–34	35–44	45–59	≥ 60	Male	Female	Direct patient contact	Non-direct patient contact	Respiratory clinical setting	Non-respiratory clinical setting
Uncertain of when the COVID-19 pandemic will be contained	43.4	51.5	45.10	39.9	30.6***	35.6	45.9***	44.5	38.5*	44.10	42.10
COVID-19 coverage in the media	36.2	36.6	35.9	37.8	31.9	33.2	37.4	36.10	34.2	36.7	36.2
Daily usage of protective gear is required	35.10	38.4	37.3	35.8	28.4*	29.2	37.5**	40.10	23.9***	46.4	34.3***
Fear of spreading COVID-19 to loved ones or acquaintances	35.3	42.7	38.2	32.9	20.3***	30.7	36.4*	39.10	24.8***	47.3	33.4***
Fear of a loved one passing away from COVID-19	33.3	40.10	32.4	31.10	22.5***	30.3	33.9	34.9	29.3*	38.6	32.4*
Insufficient care for COVID-19	25.3	25.7	25.10	25.2	22.6	20.10	26.6*	25.5	24.5	26.5	24.10
Fear of running out of money if oneself or a significant other loses their work	24.10	31.7	28.6	21.7	12.5***	22.4	25.8	26.3	21.10	29.2	24.4*
Possibility of acquiring COVID-19 from a patient	23.3	26.10	24.3	22.6	15.6***	21.6	23.6	28.7	11.9***	32.9	21.8***
Observing anxious or fearful coworkers	23.10	29.9	26.7	21.4	12.8***	20.8	24.5*	26.9	17.10***	32.10	22.5***
Duty and personal safety collide	19.6	24.3	20.8	17.9	11.10***	17.2	19.9	22.5	13.5***	25.4	18.7**

Fear that being distracted could lead to more people being exposed to COVID-19	19.2	23.10	22.5	16.5	9.4***	19.3	19.2	21.3	14.10**	27.4	17.9***
Inadequate protective measures	13.10	18.5	14.6	13.2	8.10***	12.6	13.10*	16.4	8.10***	19.2	13.2**
Concern over COVID-19-related self-destruction	10.3	10.7	10.4	10.10	6.10	9.10	9.10	10.4	11.5	11.6	9.10

In this review, the typical Wanderer 7 score was 6.98, which is simply over the edge (5 centres) for gentle distress (Table 3). Close to half of the members communicated in excess of a negligible degree of disquiet, with 23.7% showing moderate to extreme degrees of stress and 28.8% showing gentle tension. Just 23.4% of the example showed no uneasiness, as shown by a Wanderer 7 score. Tremendous contrasts were seen in the dispersions of Stray 7 scores and Stray 7 reality levels among various age and direction gatherings. As a general rule, more youthful age bunches felt fundamentally more uncomfortable than more established age gatherings, and ladies were more restless than men. There was no distinction in the seriousness levels or Stray 7 scores between word-related risk factors.

**Table 3:** The COVID-19 pandemic's mean GAD-7 score and the distribution of anxiety severity levels among healthcare workers

	Total sample	Age groups				Gender		Occupational risk factors			
		18–34	35–44	45–59	≥ 60	Male	Female	Direct patient contact	Non-direct patient contact	Respiratory clinical setting	Non-respiratory clinical setting
<b>GAD-7 Total Score</b>											
Mean (SD)	6.98 (6.9)	8.46 (7.3)	7.34 (6.10)	6.34 (6.6)	4.94 (5.10)	6.08 (6.9)	7.17 (6.9)	7.05 (6.9)	6.74 (6.7)	7.23 (6.10)	6.94 (6.9)
Median	6.1	7.1	5.1	5.1	3.1** *	4.1	6.1***	6.1	5.1	6.1	5.1
<b>Anxiety Severity (n, %)</b>											
None	583 (23.4)	110 (17.6)	146 (20.8)	226 (25.10)	107 (33.9)	170 (31.4)	400 (21.1)	380 (22.5)	102 (23.4)	83 (23.4)	502 (23.4)
Minimal	717 (28.5)	145 (22.9)	204 (28.7)	268 (30.7)	106 (33.6)	151 (29.1)	549 (28.6)	490 (28.6)	138 (31.4)	90 (25.3)	629 (29.1)
Mild	725 (28.8)	187 (29.3)	215 (30.2)	249 (28.6)	80 (25.5)	113 (21.8)	590 (30.7)	507 (29.6)	119 (27.2)	112 (31.3)	615 (28.4)
Moderate	299 (12.5)	117 (18.6)	82 (11.10)	84 (10.2)	22 (7.4)	60 (11.9)	230 (12.6)	200 (12.3)	56 (13.1)	40 (11.5)	260 (12.7)



Severe	292 (12.2)	107 (17.1)	94 (13.7)	82 (9.10)	15 (5.2)	50 (10.2)	229 (12.5)	205 (12.6)	44 (10.5)	49 (13.10)	245 (11.9)
Chi-Square, p-value	–	113.1, p < 0.001				39.4, p < 0.001		4.6, p = 0.476		5.2, p = 0.390	

Table 4 presents correlations between the SF-36v2 RE scale scores and the review members' reactions to stress, general anxiety, and rest related issues. Each connection has a genuine basic worth of  $p < 0.001$ . The SF-36v2 RE scale showed moderate ( $0.3 < r < 0.5$ ) correlations with a couple of COVID-19 related stressors, for example, vulnerability about when the episode would be settled ( $r = -0.37$ ), feeling of dread toward monetary troubles because of employment misfortunes ( $r = -0.33$ ), struggle between obligation and personal prosperity ( $r = -0.36$ ), seeing restless or stressed accomplices ( $r = -0.39$ ), uneasiness over interruptions that could prompt transparency ( $r = -0.38$ ), and insufficient protective measures ( $r = -0.33$ ). The SF-36v2 RE scale likewise showed moderate correlations with by and large rest quality rating ( $r = -0.49$ ) and other rest configuration concentrate on things, like lying in bed for a lot of time, holding on to fall asleep ( $r = -0.45$ ), and awakening and experiencing difficulty returning to rest ( $r = -0.44$ ). The SF-36v2 RE scale major areas of strength for showed with strain (estimated by the Wanderer 7 hard and fast score;  $r = -0.64$ ) and trouble centering because of unfortunate rest ( $r = -0.60$ ).

**Table 4:** Relationship between COVID-19 Stressors, Anxiety, and Sleep Issues and Role Limitations Caused by Emotional Problems (RE)

	Correlation with SF-36v2 RE scale <i>r</i>
<b>COVID-19 Stressors</b>	
Uncertain of when the COVID-19 pandemic will be contained	-0.36
COVID-19 coverage in the media	-0.29
Daily usage of protective gear is required	-0.28
Fear of spreading COVID-19 to loved ones or acquaintances	-0.29
Fear of a loved one passing away from COVID-19	-0.30
Insufficient care for COVID-19	-0.29
Fear of running out of money if oneself or a significant other loses their work	-0.33
Possibility of acquiring COVID-19 from a patient	-0.28
Observing anxious or fearful co-workers	-0.39
Duty and personal safety collide	-0.36
Fear that being distracted could lead to more people being exposed to COVID-19	-0.38
Inadequate protective measures	-0.33
Concern over COVID-19-related self-destruction	-0.27
Anxiety (GAD-7)	-0.64
<i>Sleep Problems</i>	
My sleep quality was...	-0.49
Having trouble focusing due to inadequate sleep	-0.60
spent hours in bed, unable to get to sleep	-0.45
woke up and found it difficult to get back to sleep	-0.44

## 5. CONCLUSION

This careful investigation accentuates the COVID-19 pandemic's significant and diverse effect on healthcare experts' mental health. Via cautiously assessing a few elements, like mental misery, burnout, nervousness, discouragement, and the delayed consequences of post-traumatic stress disorder, it explains the inescapable difficulties looked by these imaginative workers. Our examination assists with making sense of the mental health outcomes of a huge and different gathering of healthcare workers who gave outpatient care in the US in the underlying months of the COVID-19 pandemic. The discoveries uncovered an elevated degree of stress among outpatient healthcare workers and gave subtleties on contrasts in light old enough, business type, and direction. This information can be utilized to exhort business affiliations and different colleagues engaged with the conveyance of healthcare. It is guessed that extra examination will distinguish the essential elements adding to the distinctions saw between age and direction, make it more obvious the mind-boggling connections between these mental health impacts, and utilize this information to foster intervention systems to help healthcare workers (HCWs) during this pandemic and other stressful times from now on.

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