

Special Issue

Worker Burnout: Evidence and Potential Solutions

Message from the Guest Editors

Burnout and healthcare workers have been in the spotlight during COVID-19. Burnout research with nurses began decades ago, and there is compelling evidence that work environment factors, such as staffing and workload management, are significantly associated with nurse, patient, and organizational outcomes. Nurse burnout is characterized by emotional exhaustion, cynicism, withdrawal, intent to leave, and eventual turnover. The question is, what have we learned and what can we do to mitigate work environment factors that seriously threaten our valuable but finite health human resources? This issue invites researchers to share new research and perspectives on burnout, especially evidence-informed strategies at different systems levels (e.g., socioecological levels, organizational levels). We must also consider our globalized world and what we have learned about culture's influence on burnout. Although we traditionally think of burnout in relation to healthcare, we know burnout is on the rise in other professions, such as law enforcement. We welcome submissions, therefore, that explore burnout from different disciplines' perspectives.

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Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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