At the Frontlines of a Pandemic: Nurse Leadership in the Era of COVID-19

Carole Treston, RN, MPH, ACRN, FAAN
Executive Director
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care

September 15, 2022
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care

Mission: ANAC fosters the professional development of nurses and others involved in the delivery of health care for persons at risk for, living with, and/or affected by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and its comorbidities. ANAC promotes the health, welfare, and rights of people living with HIV around the world.
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Knowledge Collaboration Advocacy Diversity Professional Support
Nurses and Advocacy

Advocacy: Seeing a need and finding a way to address it
Advocate: One that pleads, defends, or supports a cause or interest of another

Nurses: Provide 24-hour continuity of care and close surveillance
Are gatekeepers for patients
Lead health promotion
Educate patients and the public on the prevention of illness and injury
Nursing is Founded in Public Health Policy & Social Justice Advocacy

Health and Hospital Reform
Health and Hunger Reform in India
Women’s rights and workforce equality
Sex workers rights
Big Data
Let’s just pause for a minute
2020 YEAR of the Nurse & Midwife
YEARs of the Nurse & Midwife

Nurses and midwives are **central** to progress in global health.

The world needs **9 million** more nurses and midwives to achieve health for all by 2030.
Nurses and midwives are often the **first and only health point of contact** in their communities.

Nurses and midwives often **work in challenging circumstances**: undervalued, under-resourced, overworked.

---

**YEARs of the Nurse & Midwife**
Nurse Heroes
Health Outcomes

THE DRIVERS OF HEALTH

Health Behavior: 30%

Social & Economic Environment: 40%

Clinical Care: 20%

Physical Environment: 10%

Note: Excludes the role of genetics.
COVID-19 disproportionately impacts vulnerable populations
Poverty
Hunger
Healthcare
Education
Gender Equality
Global Health 2022

Impact of Climate Change on Human Health

- Injuries, fatalities
- Asthma, cardiovascular disease
- Malaria, dengue, encephalitis, hantavirus, Rift Valley fever
- Severe Weather
- Air Pollution
- Vector-borne Diseases
- Allergies
- Respiratory allergies, poison ivy
- Heat stress, cardiovascular failure
- Malnutrition, diarrhea, harmful algal blooms
- Heat
- Water and Food Supply
- Mental Health
- Environmental Refugees
- Water-borne Diseases
- Cholera, cryptosporidiosis, campylobacter, leptospirosis
- Anxiety, despair, depression, post-traumatic stress
- Forced migration, civil conflict

Adapted from J. Patz
Nurses Roles in Health Policy: Leaders & Change Agents

- Educate yourself
- Join a nursing organization
- Participate in coalitions
- Represent the nursing perspective
- Advocate for your patients
- Partner with other nursing organizations or other patient groups
- VOTE  <run for office!>
Nurses Roles in Health Policy: Leaders & Change Agents

- Community and Family Discussions
- School & Church Activities
- Letters to Editors
- Expert Testimony
- Legislative Visits
- Court Actions
- Local and National Boards
- Social Media
Access. Equity. Rights. Demand greater investments in NURSING

Sign the call to action

nursesinaidscare.org/signthecall

Access
- Improving access to healthcare by removing political, legal and economic barriers to nurse-led care

Equity
- Building sustainable solutions by requiring equitable representation of nurses on policy, guidelines and other decision making bodies

Rights
- Demanding an end to HIV stigma, discrimination and unjust HIV criminalization

**Nurses:**

- Ensure patients’ rights to equitable, accessible health care
- Represent 80% of the global healthcare workforce
- Provide care for underserved and vulnerable populations
- Provide evidence-based person-centered HIV care
- Provide care along the full HIV care continuum
- Are central to achievement of ambitious HIV prevention, care and treatment targets

**We call for:**

- Policy changes to support nurse-led care
- Greater investments in nursing
- Support for interprofessional collaboration
- Equity in decision making
Nurses:

- Ensure patients’ rights to equitable, accessible health care
- Provide care for underserved and vulnerable populations
- Provide evidence-based, person-centered HIV care
- Represent 80% of the global healthcare workforce
- Provide care along the full HIV care continuum
- Are central to achievement of ambitious HIV prevention, care and treatment targets
Summary: Nursing leadership responding to pandemics

• Nursing is a key component in scaling up health programs and responding to health crisis through nurse led models of care & leading inter-professional health care teams.

• Nursing roles are expanding, but in far too many areas of the globe, nurses are in need of mentoring and networking with their colleagues within and across borders.

• Nursing education programs must strengthen the teaching of leadership development and health policy to increase nursing participation at critical key decision making points.

• All nurses must have competency in community & population health to support effective health care in their own community and nationally.

• Partnership with patients, families and communities is at the core of nursing and a key component of public health, this is our legacy and must be maintained.

• Nurses must take advantage of opportunities to fill gaps and needs of fragmented health care systems around the world and step into leadership positions.