

Viciously Viral: The Scope of Harm Caused by Clinician Burnout

Because of its potential to touch the lives and health of anyone who visits a hospital or clinic, there might not be an adequate means of expressing the full scope of harm caused by clinician burnout. Its ill effects on patient care are proven:

“We observed that patients in hospitals with higher levels of nurse burnout had higher odds of mortality and failure to rescue, as well as longer length of stay.”¹

And the harm continues right into the minds and emotions of physicians themselves. Despite being a group that overwhelmingly believes their work is meaningful, burnout can bring some professionals, like this emergency medical physician, to make statements like the following:

“I have little joy in performing the job that I believe I was born to do. Now, not only am I tired of work — I’m tired of life.”²

By The Numbers

53.9%

of 29,550 physician assessments reported experiencing burnout³

\$242,483

per year estimated annual cost of burnout-driven turnover to an organization of 50 physicians (as calculated by the [AMA cost of burnout calculator](#))

1 in 10

physicians considered or attempted suicide in 2022⁴

These facts represent just a snapshot of the consequences of clinician burnout, but there is a growing movement of organizations and individuals combating it. [The National Academy of Medicine](#) outlined six essential elements of a successful wellness initiative, with workplace assessment chief among them. That is where [validated tools](#) like the Well-Being Index do their part - providing organizations the means to accurately and anonymously assess the well-being of clinicians.

To date, over 500,000 Well-Being Index assessments have been completed by medical professionals at over 1,000 healthcare institutions. And, our yearly reviews of clinician burnout draw data analysis from tens of thousands of respondents. View these free reports and further case studies at mywellbeingindex.org.

Explore Case Studies

Visit: mywellbeingindex.org/case-studies

Explore Burnout Reports

Visit: mywellbeingindex.org/insights

1. Schlak AE, Aiken LH, Chittams J, Poghosyan L, McHugh M. Leveraging the Work Environment to Minimize the Negative Impact of Nurse Burnout on Patient Outcomes. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 2021 Jan 12;18(2):610. doi: 10.3390/ijerph18020610. PMID: 33445764; PMCID: PMC7828279.
2. Medscape. “A Tragedy of the Profession: Medscape Physician Suicide Report 2022.” - <https://www.medscape.com/slideshow/2022-physician-suicide-report-6014970#3>.
3. Well-Being Index. “State of Well-Being 2022-2023 Report: Well-Being Index.” - <https://www.mywellbeingindex.org/state-of-well-being-2022-2023-report>.
4. Medscape. “Doctors’ Burden: Medscape Physician Suicide Report 2023.” - <https://www.medscape.com/slideshow/2023-physician-suicide-report-6016243#4>.