



# Nursing in the Americas

## Quick facts



Over **60%**  
of the health  
workforce  
is composed of  
\*NM personnel



**80%**  
of healthcare needs  
are covered by  
nurses and  
midwives



Nearly  
**20  
million**  
\*NM personnel  
worldwide



More than **5  
million**  
of them  
are in  
the Americas

\*NM- Nursing and Midwifery

## Why nurses are important



They are on  
the front line  
of health care



They promote  
health and  
disease prevention



They develop  
teaching activities  
in schools/universities  
and health services,  
train health personnel,  
and promote health  
education



They generate  
new scientific  
knowledge  
that influences  
clinical nursing  
practice



They manage  
health services  
and programs,  
and provide care  
to individuals,  
families and  
communities

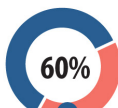
## Shortage

## Uneven distribution

\*\*An estimated **23 health workers per 10,000** inhabitants are needed to provide essential health services

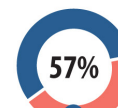
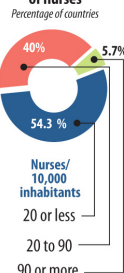


**10 of 35**  
countries  
in the Americas+  
have fewer than  
**15 nurses**  
per **10,000**  
inhabitants



**6 of the 10**  
have  
fewer than  
**10 nurses**  
per **10,000**  
inhabitants

### Regional distribution of nurses



of the more than  
**5  
million**  
\*NM personnel  
in the Americas  
are in the  
USA

\* NM- Nursing and Midwifery \*\* Source: WHO (2010) + Countries that provided data

## PAHO/WHO's nursing priority areas



Education



Research



Policies  
and strategies



Communication



Interprofessional  
collaboration

**Nursing and midwifery personnel have a significant impact on public health.  
To ensure universal access to health and universal health coverage,  
countries need to train more nurses and midwives.**

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