

“Are staff shortages in your profession hurting patient care?”

78% said YES.

In November 2002, your union hired a professional polling firm, Viewpoints Research, to conduct a survey of hospital professionals.

Viewpoints called a total of 608 people, employed at hospitals across the province, from Nov. 5 to Nov. 18. Survey respondents were drawn from all occupations in the OPSEU central bargaining unit for hospital professionals.

The results show a hospital system that is under stress – and so are its employees....

What’s causing staff shortages?

When asked if they believed their hospital employs a sufficient number of people in their job classification, 64% said NO.

Of this group, 93% agreed or strongly agreed with this statement:

“The workload has increased but staffing levels have remained the same or declined.”

61% agreed or strongly agreed with this statement:

“There are jobs posted but no qualified applicants to fill the vacancies.”

When asked why their hospital had trouble filling vacancies,

79% said LOW SALARIES were an important or very important factor.

68% said not enough students are being trained.

Of those who thought their hospital had too few staff in their job classification and said their workload had increased over the past year:

82% said they were expected to work faster.

80% said they were responsible for more patients.

78% said they were covering for absent co-workers more often.

78% said patients now require more care.

63% said the tests and procedures they are doing now are more complex than they were before.

For full details of the Viewpoints report, go to www.hospitalprofessionals.org

How's your stress level?

In the Viewpoints survey, **89%** of all respondents said they sometimes, often, or usually feel rushed during their work day because staff shortages mean they have too much to do.

81% said they sometimes, usually, or often go to work when they are sick.

77% said they sometimes, often, or usually skip breaks to stay on top of their workload.

57% said the stress of their job has negatively affected their family or social life.

21% said they knew of cases in the past six months where a patient's condition worsened because staff were unable to provide quality or timely results or care.

18% said that staff shortages and difficult working conditions were causing them to make "too many mistakes" at work.

What makes the system work?

These days, the only thing holding our short-staffed and stressed-out hospital system together is the dedication of the people who work in it. In the Viewpoints poll, **77%** of hospital professionals said they "go the extra mile" at work because they care about their patients.

It's time hospital professionals got the recognition and respect they deserve. Please support the **Hospital Emergency Day of Action** on February 13, 2003.



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Staff shortages are hurting patient care

Highlights of the Viewpoints survey of hospital professionals

