COVID-19 complicated healthcare and caused more unsafe care due to (not in any particular order):

- **NURSES MOVING TO TRAVEL NURSE ROLES**
  - 90% of hospital executives hired travel nurses to bolster their nursing during the pandemic, compared with less than 60% in 2019. In some European countries, many hospitals are reliant on foreign-travel nurses to bolster their nursing.[10, 11, 12, 13]
  - In July 2021, mental healthcare made up 60% of virtual care visits.

- **VENTILATOR SHORTAGES**
  - Both ventilator supply as well as staffing in hospitals have been strained. COVID-19 patients occupied 80% of ventilators in many hospitals.[14, 15]

- **RISE IN MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES**
  - During 2020 working-aged adults from high-adult mortality rate areas showed poor access to health care outside pandemic conditions.[16, 17]
  - More than 7 million (48%) of the U.S. physicians surveyed said the pandemic had imposed too much stress on them. Among U.S. physicians, 46% reported worsened burnout; only Portugal and Brazil had higher rates.[17]

- **IMPACT ON BIPOC**
  - Ethnic and racial subgroup differences widened, with disproportionately higher percentages in deaths, with the most pronounced effect among the Hispanic/Latino communities who represent an estimated 21% of the essential critical infrastructure workforce.[18]

Take Action
Learn how you can help to raise awareness about patient safety as a significant concern during the pandemic. [https://patient.sm/take-action]