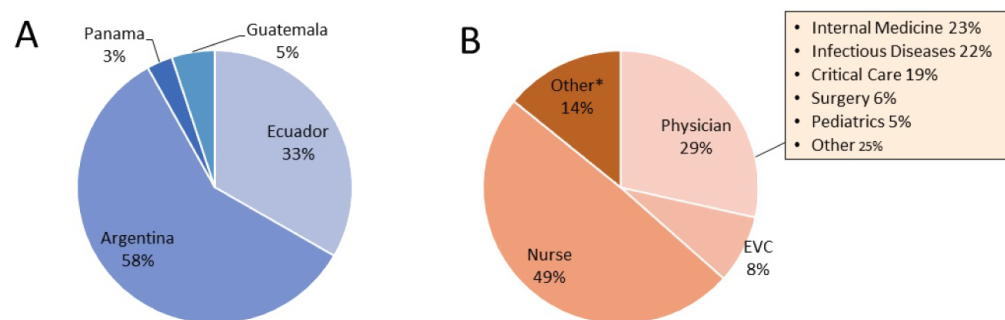


Figure 1: Distribution of participants by country (A) and role and specialty (B).

*Transport, administration, nutrition, physical therapy, occupational therapy, respiratory therapy, radiology technician, microbiologist.

factors influencing IPC compliance in hospital settings. **Results:** In total, 1,728 HCWs were interviewed; 76.8% of the participants had adequate knowledge on IPC and 54.6% reported safe practices. However, only 16.2% of HCWs had a favorable attitude toward IPC. Among the 3 HCW groups, nurses had the highest KAP scores (76.07 ± 12.7) followed by physicians (69.8 ± 16.2), and cleaning staff (34.4 ± 27.3). Only 29.2% of HCWs reported having received IPC training, and they cited heavy workload as a barrier to IPC guideline adherence. HCWs having adequate knowledge showed 9 times higher odds of safe IPC practice (AOR, 9.36; 95% CI, 5.47–16.04). HCWs who had a favorable attitude toward IPC were 16 times as likely to perform safe practice toward IPC activities (AOR, 15.5; 95% CI, 10.27–23.42). **Conclusions:** Knowledge of safe practices and having a favorable attitude toward IPC are key components of a successful IPC program. Significant improvements are required among all levels of HCWs in Bangladesh tertiary-care hospitals, especially cleaning staff. Educational interventions to train on IPC guidelines, plus monitoring, could improve HCW safe practices.

Disclosures: None

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Subject Category: Infection Control in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

Healthcare worker perceptions about infection prevention and control processes and practices in Latin America

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Background: The burden of hospital-associated infections (HAIs) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in Latin America is high. Improving engagement by healthcare workers (HCWs) in infection prevention and control (IPC) may lead to better patient outcomes; however, little is known about HCW perceptions of IPC in the region. We sought to understand HCW perceptions of IPC processes and practices. **Methods:** During August–September 2022, HCWs from 30 hospitals with IPC programs in 4 Latin American countries (Panama, Guatemala, Ecuador, and Argentina) were invited to participate in an electronic, voluntary, anonymous survey about their perceptions of IPC at their hospitals. Physicians, nurses, and environmental care (EVC) personnel were prioritized for recruitment. All respondents were asked 18 questions; IPC team members were asked 5 additional questions about specific activities implemented by IPC programs, how data are used, and how IPC could be improved. Answers with 5-point Likert scale responses were categorized into 2 groups

Figure 2: Activities IPC team members report always or almost always performing (n=181)

(eg, strongly agree or agree vs neutral, disagree, or strongly disagree) for analysis. **Results:** Of 1,252 HCWs who completed the survey, 181 (14%) were IPC team members, 1,095 (87%) had direct patient contact, and 1,156 (92%) worked >20 hours per week. Figure 1 shows participant characteristics. Most participants (56%) rated their IPC program as very good, 38% rated it as good, and 6% rated it as bad. Physicians were less likely to give a favorable rating. Compliance with prevention bundles and hand hygiene (HH) by colleagues was rated as poor by 28% and 22% of HCWs, respectively; however, only 11% and 5% indicated that their own compliance was poor, respectively. Also, 25% of participants reported not receiving or only occasionally receiving HH compliance data. Similarly, 41% of participants reported not receiving HAI data on a regular basis, and 19% of IPC nurses reported not receiving data despite being responsible for conducting surveillance. Furthermore, 41% of respondents indicated not receiving or only occasionally receiving IPC training or education relevant to their role. When asked about the safety climate, 16% of participants reported not feeling appreciated. In addition, 22% of IPC nurses and 37% of individuals in the “other” category (eg, health technicians and therapists) were more likely to report this. When IPC team members were asked how frequently specific activities were conducted (Fig. 2), several opportunities for improvement were identified, including improving HCW access to HH data and development of strategic plans. **Conclusions:** Improving HCW access to training on IPC and to data on HAI burden and compliance with HH and prevention bundles should be emphasized in Latin American hospitals.

Disclosures: None

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