

California's Filipino American nurses are dying from COVID-19 at alarming rates

More than two-thirds of nurse deaths are among Filipino Americans

Mark Brown, chief nursing officer at Good Samaritan Hospital in San Jose, has watched those realities collide firsthand. Earlier this year, four Filipino American nursing assistants at Good Sam were working second jobs at a long-term care facility in the area when they all came down with COVID-19.

“They’re [working] full time with me, full time somewhere else, and maybe even part-time somewhere else,” Brown said. Combined with the lesser protections at nursing homes as compared to hospitals, plus the higher likelihood that these workers live in larger households, “it’s a bad recipe” for COVID-19, he said.