

LONG TERM CARE COMMUNITY COALITION

Advancing Quality, Dignity & Justice

Nursing Home Staffing: New Resources & Information for Residents & Families

Contact: Richard Mollot - 212-385-0356, richard@ltccc.org

New York, NY, January 12, 2018 — Staffing is key to the quality of care and safety provided by a nursing home. Though the critical need for sufficient staffing is widely acknowledged, too many nursing homes fail to have enough staff to ensure that residents receive decent care and are able to live with dignity. With over half of Americans who reach age 60 expected to need nursing home care at some point, accurate staffing information is important to the public and to state and federal policymakers (who are responsible for overseeing both public safety and the appropriate use of Medicaid and Medicare funds, which pay for the majority of nursing home services).

To help consumers, families and the public understand why this is a critical issue and how they can find out about staffing in the nursing homes in their communities, LTCCC has posted the following resources on our website, www.nursinghome411.org:

Issue Alert: Nursing Home Staffing: This brief alert provides basic information on nursing home staffing, its relevance to resident care, quality of life and dignity, federal standards for “sufficient” nursing home staffing, a “real life” case study on what sufficient staffing means to residents and families, and more.

Staffing Information for U.S. Nursing Homes: In November 2017, the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released, for the first time, information on nursing home staffing that is based on payroll or other auditable data sources (rather than data that facilities have self-reported). Importantly, facilities are required to report verifiable staffing data that distinguishes between staff who were assigned to resident care and those with administrative duties.

LTCCC used these data to compile, for the public, easy-to-use tables for every state that include, for each facility in the state (that has reported), the facility’s resident census (population); its RN, LPN and CNA care staffing levels; and the amount of care staff hours per resident day (HPRD) for both all care staff and for RNs specifically. To facilitate ease of use, the individual state files can be downloaded and are easily sortable. For example, a state file can be sorted to identify which facilities have the highest reported levels of RN care and which have the lowest.

Staffing Citations for U.S. Nursing Homes: Though insufficient staffing is a problem in far too many facilities, it is infrequently cited. LTCCC’s 2015 [study of nursing home safety and oversight](#) found that the annual rate of staffing deficiencies per resident is infinitesimal: 0.036%. Nevertheless, we believe that the public should be informed about citations in their facilities and use this information to advocate for stronger accountability in their states and communities. To support this, we have posted information on both [overall staffing citations](#) and [RN staffing citations](#) for the last three years.

Important Note: The data posted today on www.nursinghome411.org on citations are as of November 2017 and the data on staffing are for 2017 Q2 (the most recent data available as of January 8, 2018). We will endeavor to post updated staffing data semi-annually and updated citation data annually.