

# LONG TERM CARE COMMUNITY COALITION

*Advancing Quality, Dignity & Justice*

## Latest Federal Data on Nursing Home Staffing Levels Now Available

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**New York, NY, March 7, 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, safe staffing and accurate information is important to every family.

To help consumers, families, and policymakers find out about staffing levels in the nursing homes in their communities, and [why staffing is important](#), LTCCC posts a variety of resources on our website, [www.nursinghome411.org](http://www.nursinghome411.org).

### **NEW!** [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). This signifies a critical improvement in the accuracy of information provided to residents, families, and the public at large. Importantly, facilities are now required to report verifiable staffing data that distinguishes between staff who were assigned to resident care and those with administrative duties.

Today we are releasing data on the staff assigned to provide resident care in a [user-friendly format](#) for the most recent time period now available: 2017 Q3 (July – September 2017). Visitors to our website, [www.nursinghome411.org](http://www.nursinghome411.org), can download easy-to-use tables for every state that include (for each facility in the state in compliance with the reporting requirement):

1. The facility's resident census (population);
2. Its direct care RN, LPN and CNA staffing levels; and
3. The amount of care staff hours per resident per day for both all care staff and for RNs specifically.

To facilitate ease of use, the individual state files 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.

### **Important Notes:**

1. Resident census and staffing data are averages for the quarter (which we believe provide a better picture of a facility's staffing patterns for the time period). See the "Notes" tab in each state file for additional information about the data.
2. According to a [landmark federal study](#) published in 2001, typical residents need about 4.1 hours of direct care staff time per day, with .55 - .75 hours of the total provided by RNs. Due to the increasing acuity of residents over the years, care staff needs are likely higher now.
3. The staffing data indicate the hours a caregiver was paid, *not* the amount of time he or she provided care to residents.