



## **Nursing Home Update: Latest Data Indicate Low Staffing is Persistent & Pervasive**

**May 13, 2019** - Staffing is perhaps the most important factor in a nursing home resident's quality of care and ability to live with dignity. Unfortunately, inadequate staffing is a widespread and persistent problem. While some nursing homes provide sufficient levels of qualified care staff, in the absence of limits on profits and administrative expenses, too many nursing homes fail to allocate funds to maintain sufficient staffing. Thus, the ability to find out about staffing levels in individual nursing homes is critical.

**Today, LTCCC announces the publication of the latest, [user-friendly data](#) on staffing for every U.S. nursing home** (in compliance with mandatory reporting requirements). This information can help the public, news media, and policymakers identify and assess the extent to which nursing homes in their communities are providing sufficient staffing to meet basic clinical and quality of life needs. The data are for the 4th quarter of 2018, the most recent period reported by the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Visitors to our website, [www.nursinghome411.org](http://www.nursinghome411.org), can download easy-to-use charts for every state that include:

1. The levels of care staff that a facility has for its residents;
2. Staffing levels for important non-nursing staff, including administrators and activities staff; and
3. The extent to which the facility relies on contract workers to provide resident care.

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 registered nurse (RN) care and which have the lowest.

In addition, **for the first time, we are reporting state staffing averages** (including Washington, DC).

- **The top ten states are:** Alaska, Washington, DC, Hawaii, Delaware, Idaho, Florida, California, Arizona, Oregon, and Vermont.
- **The bottom ten states are:** Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Nebraska, Indiana, New Mexico, South Dakota, Georgia, Illinois, and Iowa.

A few facts about the reported data:

- **US nursing homes provide an average of 3.4 total care staff hours per resident per day.** A 2001 landmark federal study indicated that at least 4.1 hours is needed to meet a typical resident's needs.
- **US nursing homes provide an average of .5 RN care staff hours per resident per day.** The 2001 federal study indicated that a minimum of 10 – 50% more is needed to meet a typical resident's clinical needs.