

LONG TERM CARE COMMUNITY COALITION

Advancing Quality, Dignity & Justice

LTCCC ALERT: LATEST STAFFING REPORTS INDICATE MOST NURSING HOMES FAILING TO MEET FEDERAL STAFFING THRESHOLD

August 5, 2021 – Numerous studies have found that nursing homes with higher staffing levels are better equipped to meet their residents' care needs. Though COVID-19 vaccinations have helped nursing homes mitigate risk of infections and fatalities, residents have continued to suffer due to pervasive understaffing that can lead to neglect and poor quality of care.

Today, LTCCC announces the [publication of the latest staffing data](#) for every U.S. nursing home (in compliance with mandatory reporting requirements) during the first quarter of 2021. The federal data show that nationwide, nursing homes averaged 3.92 Total Nurse Staff hours per resident day (HPRD)* (including 0.69 RN HPRD) falling below the minimum staffing threshold (4.10 total care staff HPRD, 0.75 RN HPRD) indicated by a landmark 2001 federal study. Our findings show that, even when accounting for nurse administrative staff, most nursing homes (63%) failed to provide sufficient staffing to meet their residents' needs.

LTCCC's [Q1 2021 staffing report](#) provides user-friendly files for every state that include: **1)** Staffing levels of nurse staff; **2)** Staffing levels for important non-nursing staff, including administrators and activities staff; and **3)** Data indicating the extent to which facilities rely on contract workers. The report also includes data on state, CMS region, and national quarterly staffing levels.

Staffing Facts for Q1 2021

- **Less than two in five (37%) U.S. nursing homes met the total care staff threshold (4.10 HPRD)** as determined by [the landmark federal study](#). When excluding Admin & DON nurse staff, only **one in four nursing homes (27%)** met the total care staff threshold.
- Total resident census **recovered to reach 1.10 million, a 3% increase** from the start to end of Q1 2021. Total resident census dropped 5% in the previous quarter, from 1.11M to 1.06M.
- **RN DON and RN Admin account for one third (32%)** of total RN hours nationwide. Nursing homes averaged 0.47 RN care staff HPRD (excl. DON and Admin) and 0.69 total RN staff HPRD.

LTCCC's Q1 2021 report can help the public, media, and policymakers identify and assess the extent to which nursing homes in their communities provided sufficient staffing to meet basic clinical and quality of life needs. The report is based on the most recent payroll-based journal (PBJ) data reported by the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). (See: [PBJ Daily Nurse Staffing](#) and [PBJ Daily Non-Nurse Staffing](#)). Visit the [Nursing Home 411 Data Center](#) for more information on staffing, five-star ratings, and other important nursing home data.

*Methodology Note

To be consistent with CMS, LTCCC's Q1 2021 report cites "Total Nurse Staff HPRD," an expansive staffing metric that includes RN Admin, LPN Admin, RN DON, Med Aide/Tech, and NA in Training. These additional categories (accounting for 12% of all nurse staff hours) were excluded from the primary staffing metrics—Direct Care Staff and RN HPRD—cited in previous LTCCC staffing reports.