

SENIOR CARE POLICY BRIEFING

May 12, 2023

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NEWSFLASH

- President Biden signed an [Executive Order](#) on April 18, 2023 calling for additional support and resources for long-term care workers and family caregivers.
 - Note: Nursing home care workers, who are mostly women of color, are among the lowest-paid in the country and often have to rely on public benefits despite working complex and demanding jobs. Women make up nearly two-thirds of family caregivers and drop out of the workforce at a rate three times higher than men.
- [Nursing homes owned and operated by private equity firms and other private owners divert billions](#) of Medicare and Medicaid dollars from the care of residents to personal profits. Though existing laws give government agencies authority to crack down on egregious practices, more needs to be done to effectively disincentivize predatory operators.

LTC BY THE NUMBERS

- **Less Isn't More.** Study finds that individuals admitted in nursing homes for rehab during the COVID pandemic received [10% less therapy services](#). Why this matters: Federal law mandates that nursing homes only admit individuals if they can provide needed care and services. In addition, under current Medicare payment methodology, nursing homes are paid the same amount even if they reduce needed therapy services.
- **Profits Over Patients.** [Over 130 nursing homes are suing New York State](#) over a law requiring nursing homes to spend 70% of their profits on resident care. This is in addition to another lawsuit filed by nursing homes in December 2021 in which they report [excess income of over \\$510 million in 2019 alone](#).

Nursing assistants (primarily women, people of color, and immigrants) provide 24-hour care to residents in nursing homes. Heavy workloads and long hours lead to stress, injury, and burnout, which contribute to high turnover.

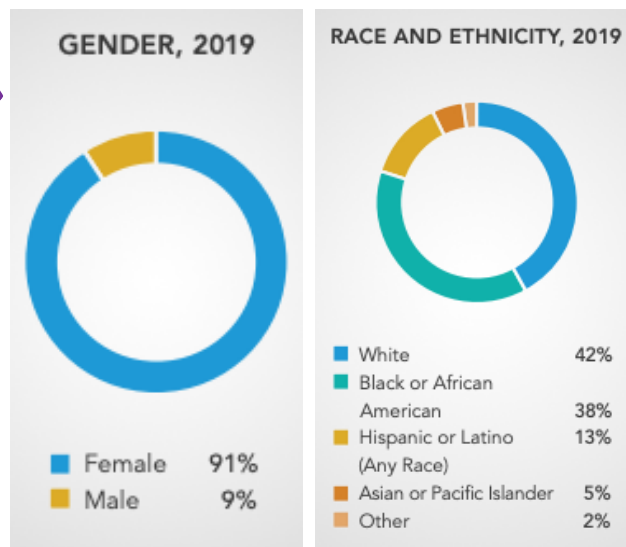


Chart by PHI, "Direct Care Workers in the United States," page 22. For more information, visit <https://www.phinational.org/resource/direct-care-workers-in-the-united-states-key-facts-3/>.

GET THE FACTS

- Failures in state and federal oversight lead to U.S. taxpayers paying for substandard care, elder abuse, and worthless services:
 - [State Comptroller finds](#) that "New Jersey Medicaid Continues to Fund Poor Quality Care for Nursing Home Residents."
 - A trio of [nursing home providers suffer a blow](#) as a District Court denies their motion to dismiss in a "worthless services" case brought by DOJ.
 - Nursing home surveyors cite more than 95% of deficiencies as causing "no harm" to residents despite [clear, undeniable suffering](#), and even death.

VISIT [NURSINGHOME411.ORG](https://www.nursinghome411.org)/JOIN OR SCAN QR CODE TO RECEIVE THE ONLINE VERSION OF THIS BRIEF.

