

# SENIOR CARE POLICY BRIEFING



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## NEWSFLASH

- Far too often, the public funds that pay for most nursing home care are not being used with integrity. New federal data show that improper payment of nursing home Medicare claims nearly doubled from 2021 (7.79%) to 2022 (15.1%). These errors were "[determined to be the top driver of the overall Medicare Fee-for-Service improper payment rate.](#)"
- Antipsychotic (AP) drugs are intended for people with severe mental illness, but are routinely used inappropriately to sedate residents, particularly residents with dementia. When used inappropriately, these drugs can lead to significant adverse outcomes in the elderly, including heart attacks, strokes, Parkinsonism, falls, and death. Despite these known risks, [the FDA approved a new AP drug, Rexulti \(brexpiprazole\)](#), for treating agitation in Alzheimer's patients.
- "[My investigation](#) reveals unacceptable rates of vacancies at state survey agencies, threatening the safety and health of nursing home residents as their complaints collect dust while inspectors struggle to meet the demand." -U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging Chairman Bob Casey

## LTC BY THE NUMBERS

- **Evicted.** [The Office of the Inspector General \(OIG\)](#) is investigating whether nursing homes are meeting CMS's requirements for facility-initiated discharges. This inquiry comes after the OIG found, through long-term care ombudsman data, that complaints related to discharge/eviction are the most frequently cited grievances about these facilities.
- **Underreported.** Over a six-year period, 40% of hospitalizations related to major fall injuries and 33% of pressure ulcer hospitalizations went unreported [according to a new study](#) assessing Care Compare data.
- **Breaking Point.** According to a survey, [71% of nursing professionals](#) cite staffing shortages as the primary cause of burnout and attrition, revealing the significant impact of understaffing on the nursing profession.

More than half of state inspection agencies linked delays in crucial annual nursing home inspections to underfunding and understaffing within these critical state offices, according to a [new U.S. Senate Aging report](#).

27 States, DC and PR Linked Survey Delays to Staff Shortages

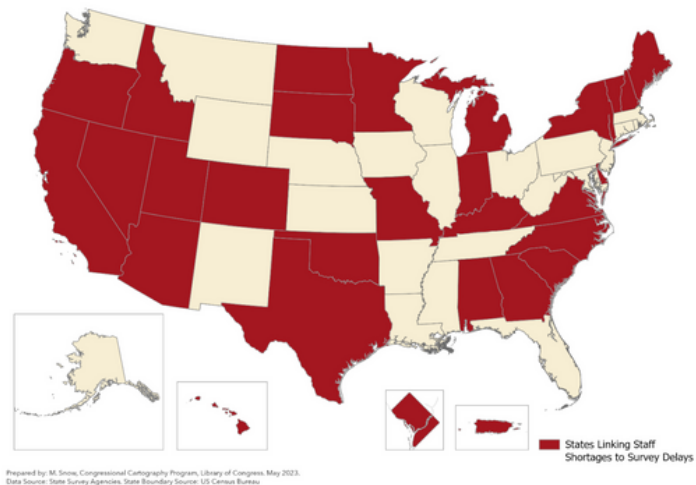


Chart via U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging Report, "[Uninspected and Neglected.](#)"

## GET THE FACTS

- Despite persistent industry claims of "razor-thin" margins as an excuse for inadequate staffing and substandard care, "[skilled nursing valuations are high, and acceleration is expected](#)" according to an investment and valuations expert.
- [More than 95% of nursing home health violations are cited as causing no resident harm.](#) In one "no harm" example, a resident's teeth were missing and broken after not seeing a dentist in 20+ months. For more "no harm" deficiencies, check out [LTCCC's Elder Justice Newsletter](#).

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



The Long Term Care Community Coalition is a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to improving nursing home care.

Visit [NursingHome411.org](https://NursingHome411.org) for the latest data on staffing levels and quality for every U.S. nursing home as well as resources on resident rights, quality standards, and more.