U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Office of Inspector General

Serious Falls in Nursing Homes

January 20, 2026

CMS quality monitoring and falls

- CMS monitors nursing home quality of care through several programs

- To provide residents and their families with an easy way to understand nursing home quality, CMS assigns each nursing home an overall rating of 1 to 5 Stars and posts these ratings to Care Compare

- Several data sources

  - Health Inspections

  - Staffing

  - MDS (completed by the nursing home) and Claims (billing records)

Find & compare providers near you.

Not sure what type of provider you need?
Learn more about the types of providers.

- Welcome
- Doctors & clinicians
- Hospitals
- **Nursing homes including rehab services**
- Home health services
- Hospice care
- Inpatient rehabilitation facilities

Find nursing homes including rehab services near me

Find and compare Medicare-certified nursing homes based on a location, and compare the quality of care they provide and their staffing. A nursing home is a place for people who can't be cared for at home and need 24-hour nursing care.

MY LOCATION
Enter street, ZIP code, city, or state.

Illinois

NAME OF FACILITY (optional)

Search

Show past search results

Nursing home

Montgomery Place

Overall rating:

★★★☆☆

♡ Save to Favorites

Ratings   Details   Location

RATINGS

Overall rating

★★★☆☆

Average

The overall rating is based on a nursing home's performance on 3 sources: health inspections, staffing, and quality measures.

Learn how Medicare calculates this rating

Health inspections

★★★☆☆

Average

View Inspection Results

Staffing

★★★★☆

Above average

View Staffing Information

Quality measures

★★★★☆

Above average

View Quality Measures

Additional quality measures - Short-stay residents

These measures are part of the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) and report information on residents who get skilled nursing services under their Medicare Part A benefit.

Percentage of residents whose medications were reviewed and who received follow-up care when medication issues were identified ⬆ *Higher percentages are better*	**61.90%** National average: 95.19%
Percentage of residents where the SNF provided a current medication list to the next health care setting ⬆ *Higher percentages are better*	**93.48%** National average: 95.42%
Percentage of residents where the SNF provided a current medication list to the resident, family, and/or caregiver at final discharge ⬆ *Higher percentages are better*	**98.44%** National average: 96.15%
Percentage of SNF residents who experience one or more falls with major injury during their SNF stay ⬇ *Lower percentages are better*	**0.79%** National average: 0.78%
Percentage of residents who are at or above an expected ability to care for themselves at discharge ⬆ *Higher percentages are better*	**52.22%** National average: 53.18%

Long-stay quality measures ⌃

★★★★☆
Above average

The long-stay quality measures rating reflects the average level of a nursing home's performance in certain areas of care for those who stayed in a nursing home for 101 days or more, and whose typical goal is to maintain or attain their highest possible well-being while residing in the facility.

Number of hospitalizations per 1,000 long-stay resident days ↓ *Lower numbers are better*	**Not available** [9] National average: 1.89 Illinois average: 2.05
Number of outpatient emergency department visits per 1,000 long-stay resident days ↓ *Lower numbers are better*	**Not available** [9] National average: 1.80 Illinois average: 2.25
Percentage of long-stay residents who got an antipsychotic medication ↓ *Lower percentages are better*	**6.8%** National average: 14.4% Illinois average: 20.2% ⌄
Percentage of long-stay residents experiencing one or more falls with major injury ↓ *Lower percentages are better*	**0%** National average: 3.3% Illinois average: 3.4%
Percentage of long-stay residents with pressure ulcers ↓ *Lower percentages are better*	**10.2%** National average: 5.2% Illinois average: 5.3% ⌄

Why did OIG evaluate the falls measures?

- Longstanding concern that provider-reported assessment data used for CMS quality measures is inaccurate

- We can identify falls in hospital claims to corroborate MDS reports

- 2023 OIG report: 55 percent of major injury falls identified in hospital claims for **home health** patients were not accurately reported in patient assessments

- Decided to revisit the issue in nursing homes to follow up

Methods

- **Medicare hospital claims**: Identified falls with major injury between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023

- **MDS assessment dates**: Identified nursing home residents

  - Nursing home discharge same day or day before the hospital admission

- **MDS items J1800/J1900**: Determined whether the fall was reported accurately

- **MDS and Care Compare**: To characterize the people that fell and the nursing homes they were in

42,864 falls resulting in major injury and hospitalization

Out of 3.2 million Medicare-enrolled nursing home residents

- 41,508 residents fell (most had 1 fall in the year)

- 1,911 died during the resulting hospital stay

- Medicare and enrollees paid over $800 million for the resulting hospital care

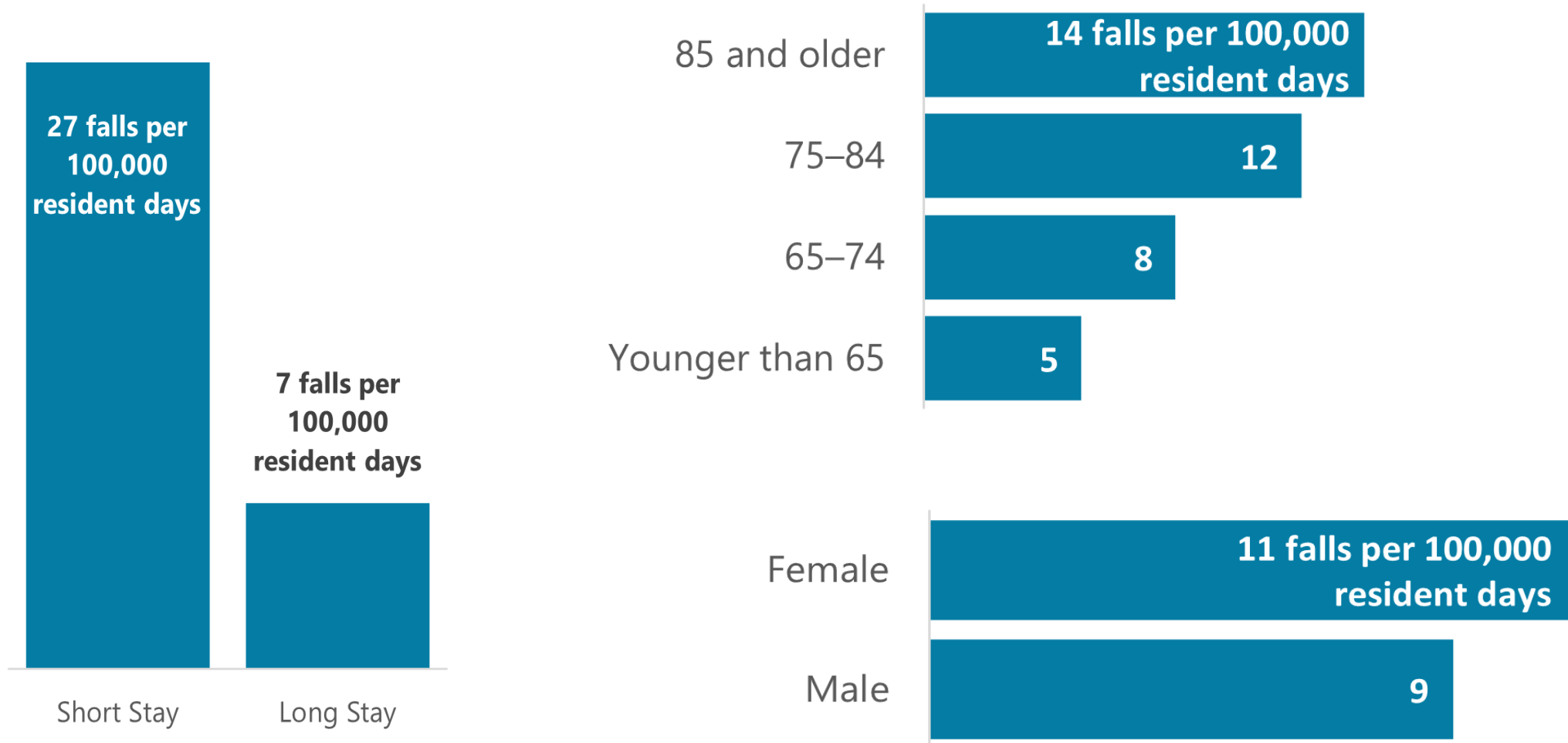- 42,864 falls / 365 days = 116 falls / day

Overall fall rate = 10.7 falls / 100,000 resident-days

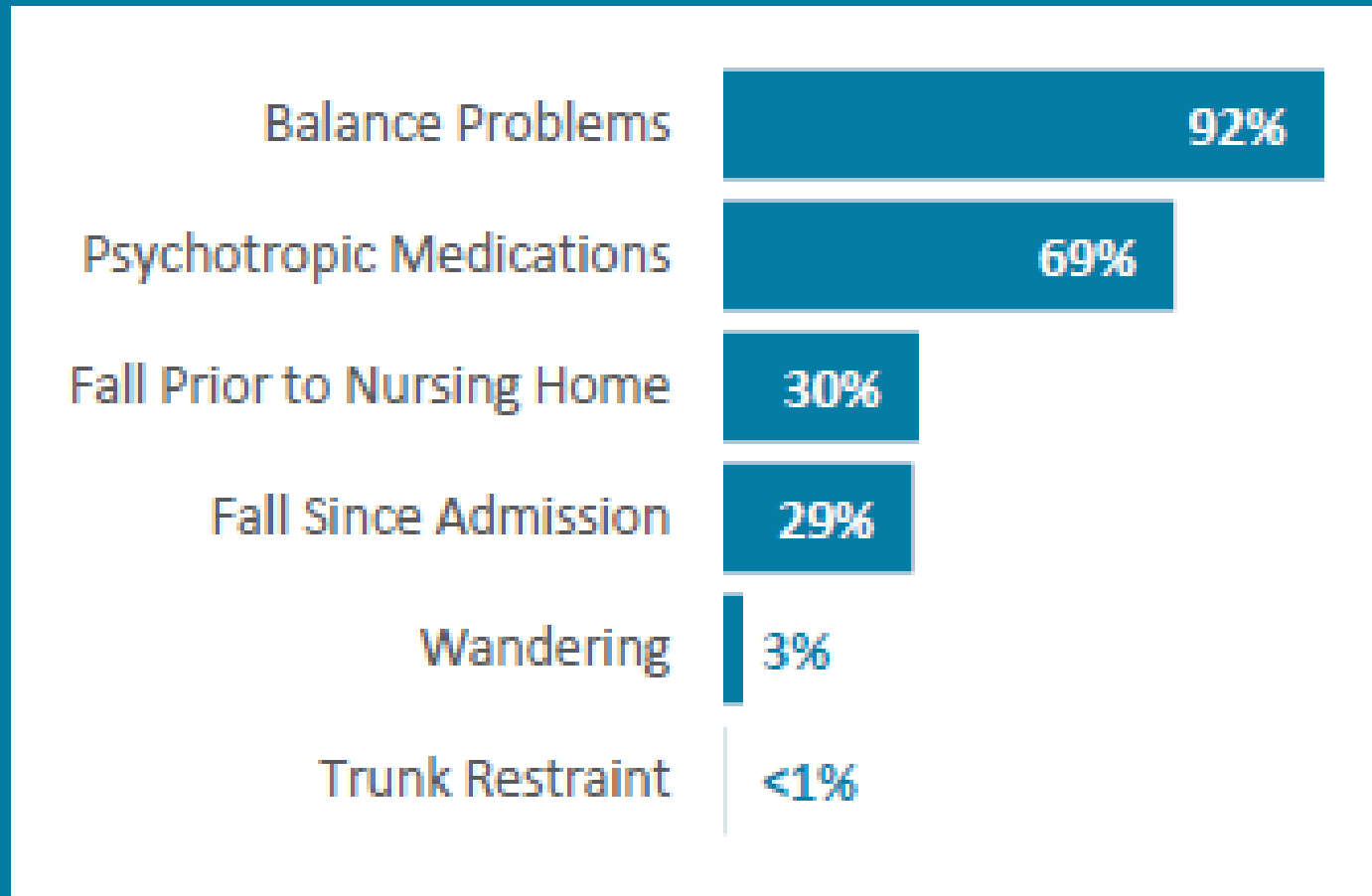3.2 million Medicare-enrolled nursing home residents spent 396 million days in nursing homes

42,408 falls
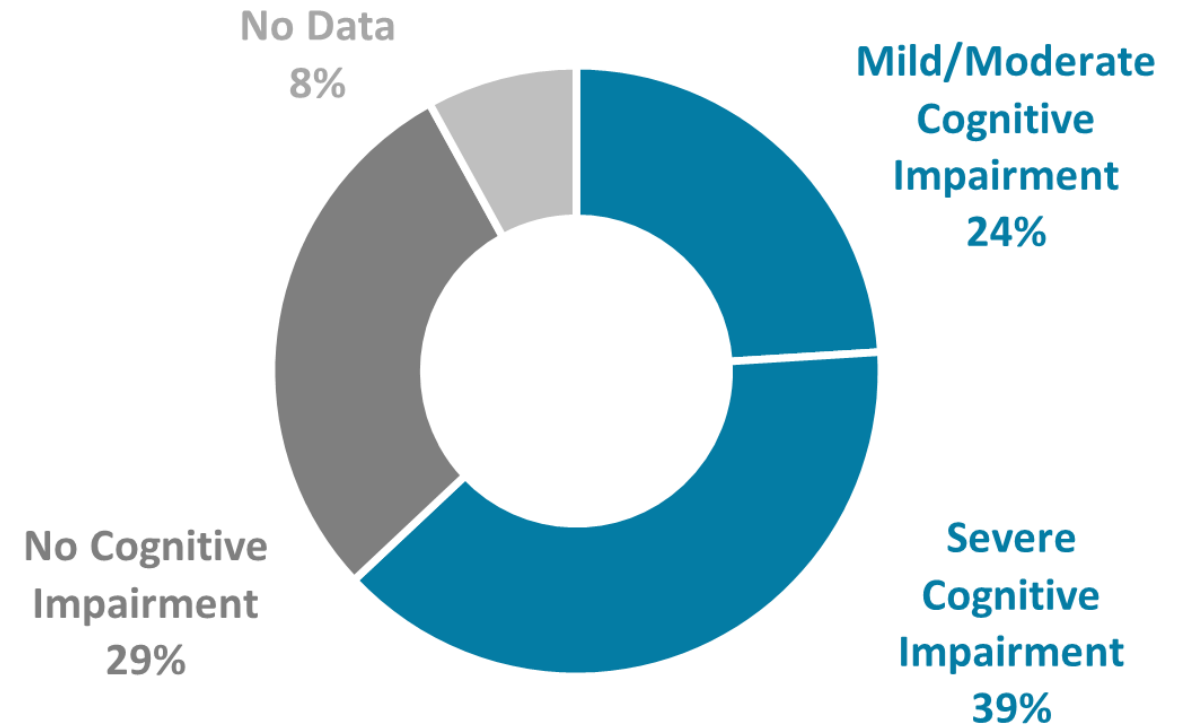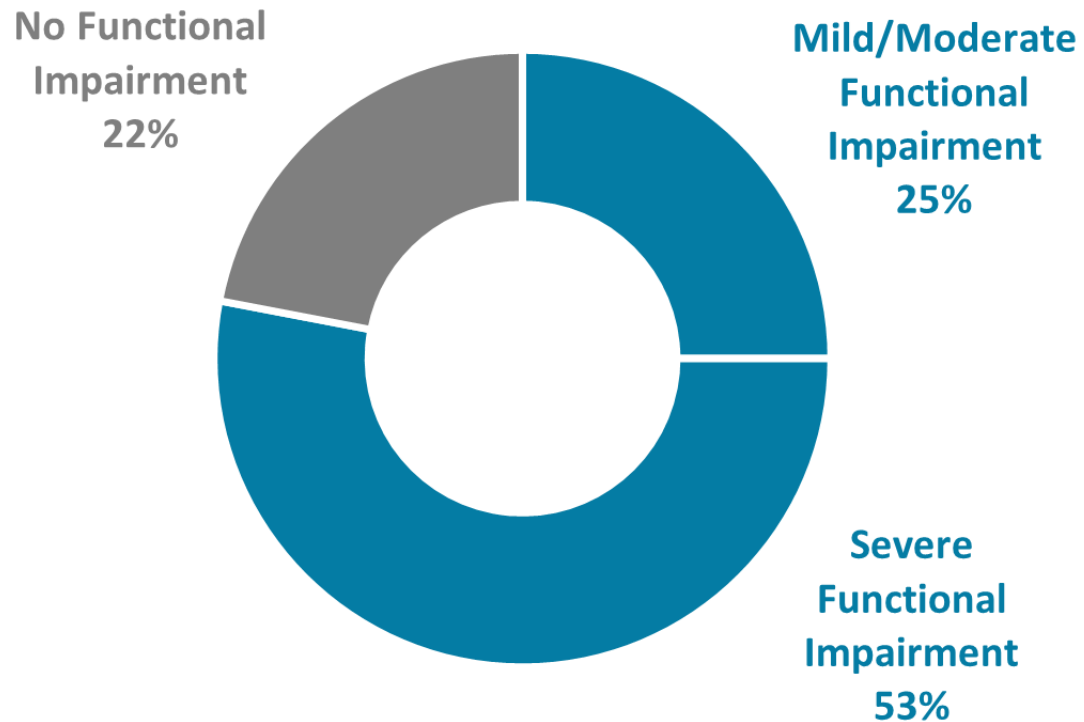
= 10.7 falls / 100,000 resident-days

Short-stay, older, and female residents had higher fall rates

27 falls per 100,000 resident days (Short Stay)

7 falls per 100,000 resident days (Long Stay)

Short Stay

Long Stay

85 and older — **14 falls per 100,000 resident days**

75–84 — **12**

65–74 — **8**

Younger than 65 — **5**

Female — **11 falls per 100,000 resident days**

Male — **9**

98% had fall risk factors identified by the nursing home prior to the fall

Balance Problems	92%
Psychotropic Medications	69%
Fall Prior to Nursing Home	30%
Fall Since Admission	29%
Wandering	3%
Trunk Restraint	<1%

And most had cognitive and/or functional impairment

No Functional Impairment 22%

Mild/Moderate Functional Impairment 25%

Severe Functional Impairment 53%

No Data 8%

Mild/Moderate Cognitive Impairment 24%

Severe Cognitive Impairment 39%

No Cognitive Impairment 29%

Most nursing homes had 1 or more resident fall

83% of the approximately 15,000 nursing homes in the US had one or more of these serious falls
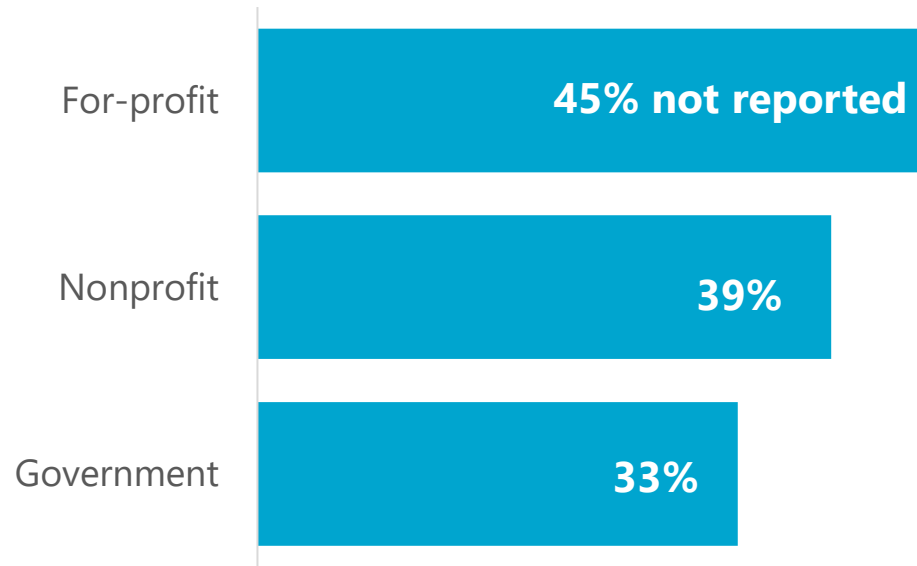
69% had 0-3 falls but many had more
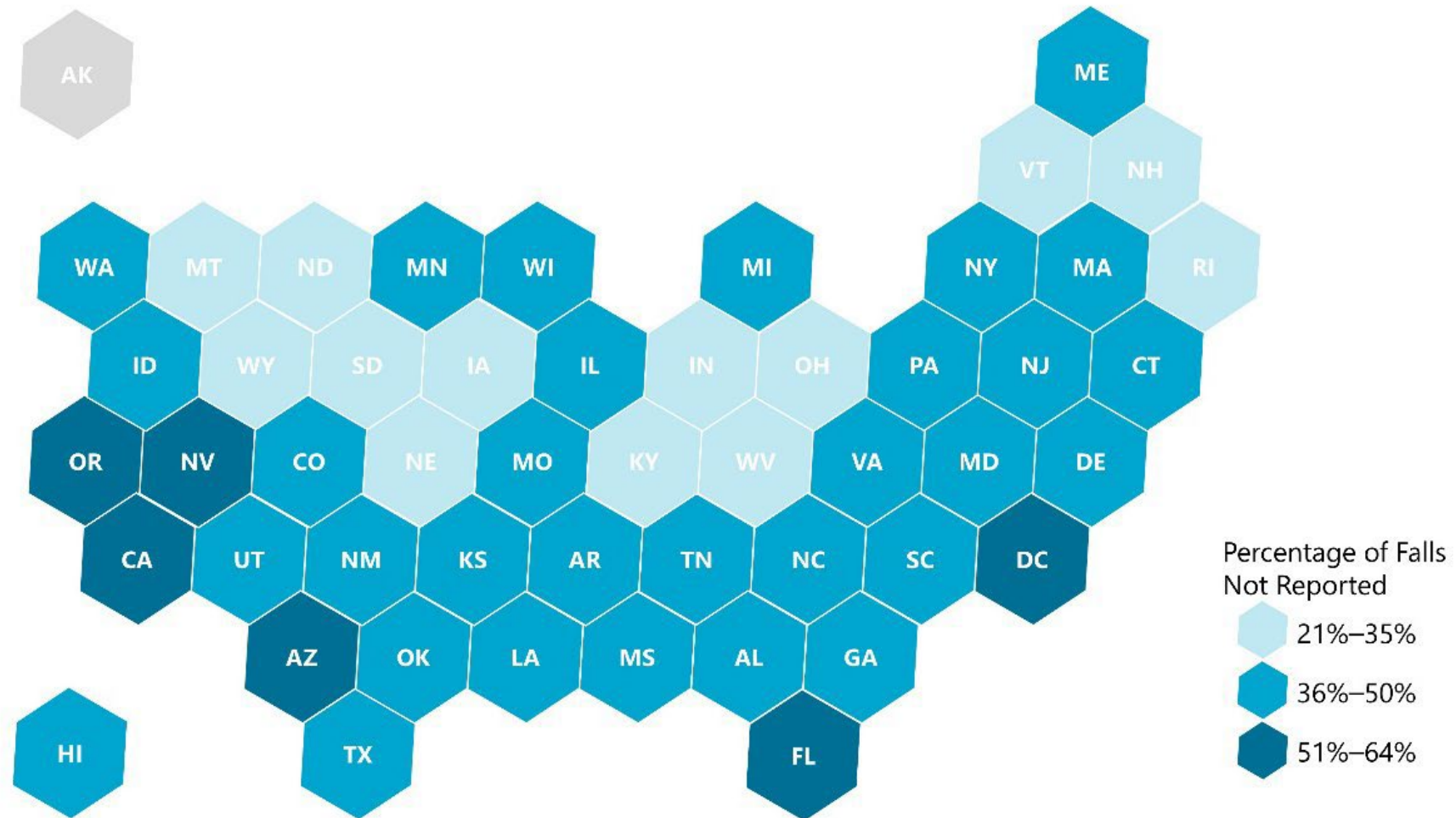
1 nursing home had 23 falls

And non-reporting in MDS was common

- 43 percent of the 42,236 of falls with major injury and hospitalization among Medicare-enrolled residents were not reported in resident assessments, as required
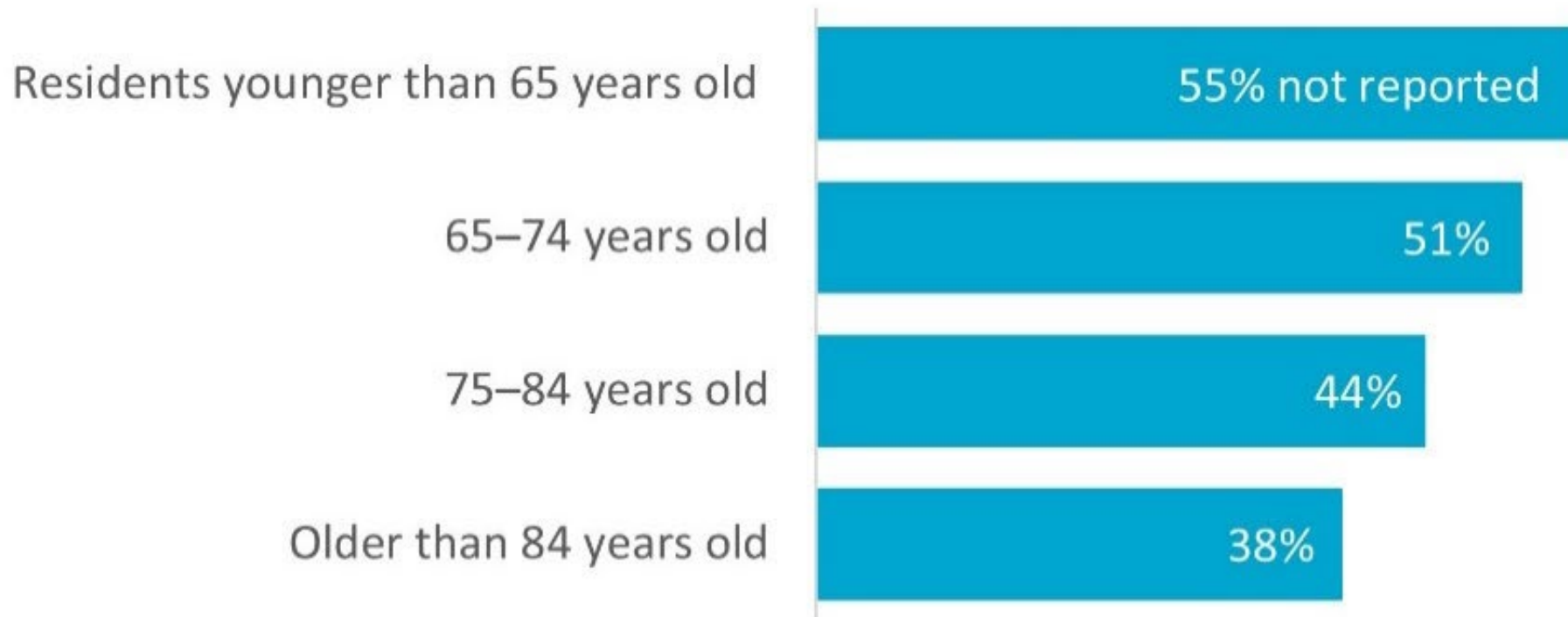
For-profit and chain-owned nursing homes failed to report falls most often
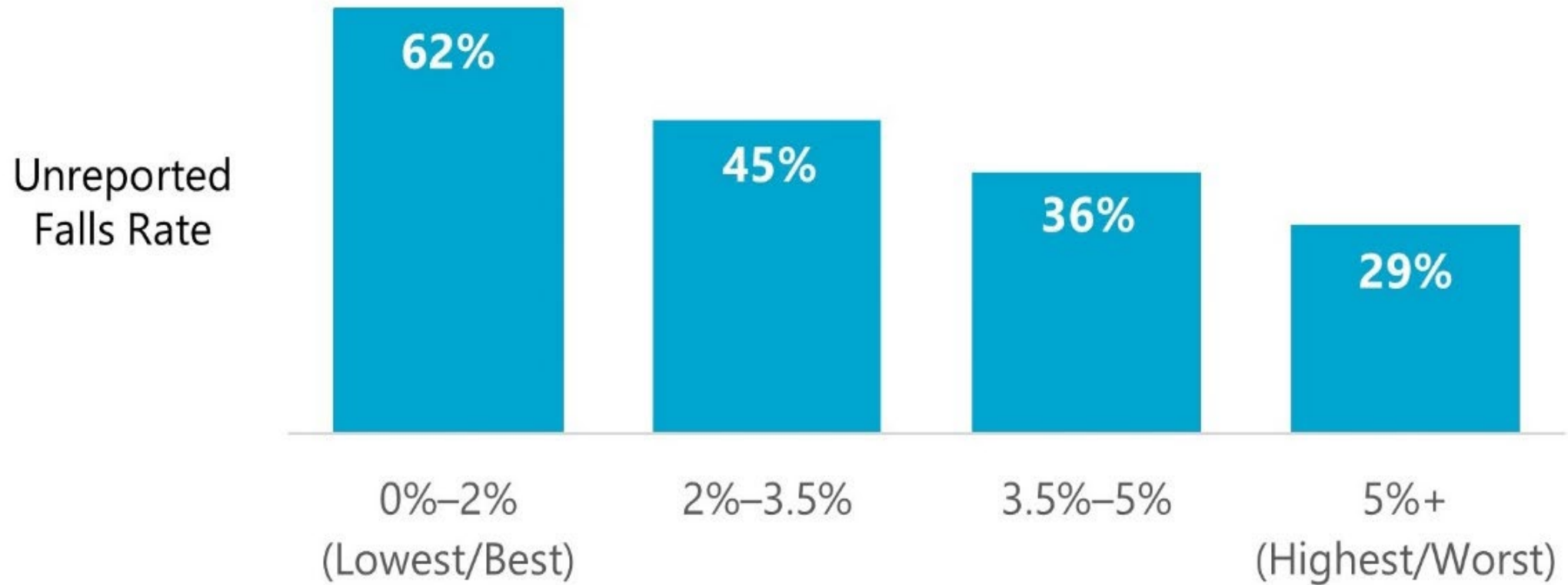
Nursing homes' nonreporting varied from a low of 21% in SD to a high of 64% in DC

Percentage of Falls Not Reported
- 21%–35%
- 36%–50%
- 51%–64%

Nursing homes failed to report falls more often for younger residents than older residents

Residents younger than 65 years old — 55% not reported

65–74 years old — 51%

75–84 years old — 44%

Older than 84 years old — 38%

Nursing homes with the lowest Care Compare fall rates had the highest rates of unreported falls

CMS actions

- MDS validation program as part of SNF VBP

- In November 2025, CMS released new falls with major injury (FMI) technical specification reports for each post-acute care setting, including for <u>nursing homes</u>

  - Uses claims / encounters and MDS to identify falls and major injuries