

## Massachusetts Nursing Homes

**Issue:** All people deserve to be treated with dignity and respect and to have access to quality medical care. This Platform includes improvements to care and living conditions that are necessary to ensure the ongoing well-being of all who live and work in Massachusetts nursing homes.

**Goal:** Strengthen the quality of care and quality of life standards for Massachusetts nursing home residents, advocate for a more dignified and safer living model for those residents, and support the long-term care workforce.

**Problem Statement:** Nursing home residents are some of the most vulnerable individuals in the Commonwealth. The coronavirus pandemic brought into transparent and painful public view many longstanding problems in nursing homes and the devastating effect of spreading contagious diseases in congregate settings — highlighting the need to implement care improvements, rethink the nursing home model, and improve access to home and community-based living options. For instance, the misuse and overuse of antipsychotics can be deadly to elders, and MA nursing homes have one of the highest antipsychotic usage rates in the country (see Issue Brief in Behavioral Health for details).

### **Nursing Homes by the Numbers:**

About 360 MA nursing homes<sup>i</sup> currently care for nearly 31,000<sup>ii</sup> older adults and people with disabilities.

- 86% of MA nursing home residents are over 64 years old. Two (2) nursing homes provide pediatric care<sup>iii</sup>.
- 71% of MA nursing homes are for-profit and 29% are not-for-profit (including 2 government facilities).<sup>iv</sup>
- 60% of MA nursing home residents have a dementia.<sup>v</sup> A 15% increase in Alzheimer's is expected by 2025<sup>vi</sup>.

### **Funding/Costs:**

- Any concerns about the cost of achieving these important goals must be measured against the pain, suffering, and loss of life by nursing home residents, as well as the emotional and financial impact on their caregivers.
- FY18 est. MassHealth Payments to Nursing Homes: \$1.7B.<sup>vii</sup> Complex structure with multiple rate add-ons.
- 2018 Resident Payor Mix<sup>viii</sup>: 69% MassHealth, 13% Medicare, 13% Private Pay, 5% other insurance.
- 2021 MA annual private pay median rate: Semi-private room \$415/day (60% above US average); Private room \$445/day (50% above US average)<sup>ix</sup>.

**Oversight:** Key oversight responsibilities include surveys (inspections), regulatory enforcement, complaint responses, remedies, and other quality assurance functions primarily by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Dept. of Public Health, Attorney General, and State Auditor. Ombudsmen directly support residents and resolve complaints.

### **Major Issues:**

1. Staffing (sufficient, qualified staff receiving a livable wage).
2. Oversight, Licensures and Closures.
3. Financial Responsibility.
4. Small Home Model.
5. Covid-19 Pandemic Issues.

For more information, contact Facilities Workgroup Chair: Arlene Germain, [agermain@manhr.org](mailto:agermain@manhr.org).

<sup>i</sup> About 360 nursing homes, does not include Chelsea Soldiers' Home: 362 per 101CMR 206.00:Standard Payments to Nursing Facilities [Standard Nursing Facility Rates \(effective October 1, 2021\).](#)

[364, includes Chelsea Soldiers' Home: Per 2/1/22 Care Compare Provider Info.](#)

360, does not include Chelsea Soldiers' Home: Q3 '21 Staffing Statistics (LTCCC).

<sup>ii</sup> 30,647 # Residents under I4800 Dementia, per Q4 '21 MDS data: <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Computer-Data-and-Systems/Minimum-Data-Set-3-0-Public-Reports/Minimum-Data-Set-3-0-Frequency-Report>:

<sup>iii</sup> New England Pediatric Care, North Billerica and Seven Hills Pediatric Center, Groton.

<sup>iv</sup> Feb. 2022 Care Compare Provider Info database:

Prof	261	71%
Gov *	3	1%
Non-Prof	103	28%
	<u>367</u>	<u>100%</u>

\* 2 government facilities + Chelsea Soldiers Home.

<sup>v</sup> Latest MDS data as of Q4, '21: <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Computer-Data-and-Systems/Minimum-Data-Set-3-0-Public-Reports/Minimum-Data-Set-3-0-Frequency-Report>:

I4200 Alzheimer's 11.44%

I4800 Dementia 47.63%  
59.07%

<sup>vi</sup> There are 130,000 individuals in MA living with Alzheimer's. This number is expected to increase by 15.4% between 2020 and 2025. [https://alzimpact.org/fact/state\\_profile/state/MA#facts](https://alzimpact.org/fact/state_profile/state/MA#facts)

<sup>vii</sup> Oct. 2019 Nursing Facility Taskforce: MassHealth Rates and Opportunities for Reform, presentation by EOHHS (MassHealth), Slide 11, <https://www.mass.gov/doc/october-18-2019-presentation-masshealth/download>.

<sup>viii</sup> Nursing Facility Task Force Workforce Presentation, Tara Gregorio, 10/18/19, Slide 13, <https://www.mass.gov/doc/october-18-2019-presentation-msca/download>.

<sup>ix</sup> Genworth Daily Median Room Rates

MA Semi-Private Daily \$415\*365=\$151,475 [60% higher than US rate below]

MA Private Daily \$445\*365=\$162,425 [50% higher than US rate below]

<https://www.genworth.com/aging-and-you/finances/cost-of-care.html>

Total US: Semi-Private Daily \$260

Total US: Private Daily \$297

<https://www.genworth.com/aging-and-you/finances/cost-of-care.html>