



The Dignity Digest

Issue # 123

January 23, 2023

The Dignity Digest is information compiled by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts concerning long-term services, support, living options, and care issued each Monday.

*May require registration before accessing article.

Quotes of the Week

“People in nursing homes deserve safe, high-quality care, and we are redoubling our oversight efforts to make sure that facilities are not prescribing unnecessary medications.”

Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, *Nursing Homes’ Use of Schizophrenia Drugs to Be Audited by U.S. Government*, **Wall Street Journal**, January 19, 2023, <https://tinyurl.com/WSJSchizophreniaDrugAudit>

“The nursing home industry has used for decades these antipsychotic medications as a way to sedate our most frail and vulnerable citizens. This is an issue that could have been remedied. Many lives would have been saved if CMS had done their job, through different administrations.”

Martha Deaver, an Arkansas-based advocate for nursing-home residents and their families, *Nursing Homes’ Use of Schizophrenia Drugs to Be Audited by U.S. Government*, **Wall Street Journal**, January 19, 2023, <https://tinyurl.com/WSJSchizophreniaDrugAudit>

“President Biden issued a call to action to improve the quality of America’s nursing homes, and HHS is taking action so that seniors, people with disabilities, and others living in nursing homes receive the highest quality care. No nursing home resident should be improperly diagnosed with schizophrenia or given an inappropriate antipsychotic. The steps we are taking today will help prevent these errors and give families peace of mind.”

Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra, *CMS to Publicly Post Disputed Nursing Home Citations, Tighten Antipsychotic Oversight and Penalties*, **Skilled Nursing News**, January 18, 2023, <https://tinyurl.com/TightenAntipsychoticOversight>

“Antipsychotic drugs are too often used on residents with dementia because a facility is unwilling to hire sufficient staff, with the appropriate competencies, to employ non-pharmacological approaches to dementia care.”

Long Term Care Community Coalition, *CMS to Publicly Post Disputed Nursing Home Citations, Tighten Antipsychotic Oversight and Penalties*, **Skilled Nursing News**, January 18, 2023,
<https://tinyurl.com/TightenAntipsychoticOversight>

Almost every American has been affected in some way by the COVID-19 pandemic. . . These findings make clear that nursing homes in this country were not prepared for the sweeping health emergency that COVID-19 created, nor were they able to stem the devastation once it was evident that nursing homes were especially vulnerable. Virtually all nursing homes experienced infections, and more than 1,300 nursing homes had extreme infection rates of 75 percent or higher during a surge period and an average overall mortality rate close to 20 percent.

New OIG Report on First Year of COVID-19 Pandemic Dispels Myth of Inevitability of Infection, Finds Fault with Infection Surveys, and Recommends Exploring Increased Staffing to Protect Residents from Infections, **The Consumer Voice**, January 19, 2023,
<https://tinyurl.com/OIGReportDispelsMyth>

“In some cases, these labor challenges have resulted in nursing homes permanently closing their doors.”

Data Doesn't Lie: Current Pace Sets Nursing Home Workforce Recovery Back to 2027, **Skilled Nursing News**, January 19, 2023,
<https://tinyurl.com/SNNDataDoesntLie>

“I understood why patients might cancel in-person visits or elective surgeries because there are so many potential points of infection associated with office or hospital-based care. I wasn't prepared to hear about so many patients declining home-based health care services, since home-based health care is a much more controlled interaction with fewer potential points of infection.”

Jennifer Inloes, a Doctor of Nursing Practice student at the University of Michigan School of Nursing, *Many older adults declined home medical care for fear of COVID, causing new or worsening conditions*, **Michigan News**, January 18, 2023, <https://tinyurl.com/DeclinedHomeMedicalCare>

“If you’re a younger model, in a certain way you’re not as impactful because it’s an expected situation. But for me, it makes women my age feel good about themselves and that’s very rewarding.” As a 90-year-old model her job was to communicate: “You are not the perfect person. You are simply an example of what everyone could aspire to.”

Frances Dunscombe, who began her modeling career at age 82, *They’re Cover Girls. They’re in Their 70s*, ***Wall Street Journal**, January 20, 2023 (updated), <https://tinyurl.com/CoverGirlsInTheir70s>

“We prefer not to strike. We want to work, we are privileged to do what we do, but we have no leverage if it’s not on the cards.”

Anis Adnani, a second-year emergency medicine resident at the University of Illinois Chicago, where residents voted to join CIR in 2021, *Medical Residents Unionize Over Pay, Working Conditions*, ***Wall Street Journal**, January 17, 2023, <https://tinyurl.com/MedicalResidentsUnionize>

“Advocating for living wages helps me be more focused on my patients, rather than worrying about if I can afford gas to get home or what I’m going to eat.”

Nicolette Alberti, a union member and second-year resident in emergency and internal medicine at UIC, *Medical Residents Unionize Over Pay, Working Conditions*, ***Wall Street Journal**, January 17, 2023, <https://tinyurl.com/MedicalResidentsUnionize>

One promising means of helping patients is supported decision-making, in which an adult with cognitive impairment (called a beneficiary) identifies one or more trusted others (called supporters) to assist them in decision-making.

Supporting decision making as cognition declines, **Baylor College of Medicine**, January 20, 2023, <https://tinyurl.com/SDMAsCognitionDeclines>

The top concern to voters 65 and over, especially women, was “threats to democracy,” according to AARP.

Older Voters Know Exactly What's at Stake, and They'll Be Here for Quite a While, **New York Times (free access)**, January 22, 2023,
<https://tinyurl.com/OlderVotersKnow>

We're not your parent's grandparents.

Older Voters Know Exactly What's at Stake, and They'll Be Here for Quite a While, **New York Times (free access)**, January 22, 2023,
<https://tinyurl.com/OlderVotersKnow>

"The battle isn't over," said Jeffrey Duchin, the health officer for the public-health agency that covers Seattle and King County, who said he is concerned the U.S. isn't pushing harder for things like improved vaccines and better indoor ventilation. "The virus is relentless; it's not going to disappear.

U.S. Covid-19 Pandemic Enters Fourth Year with Hospitalizations on the Decline, ***Wall Street Journal**, January 20, 2023 (updated),
<https://tinyurl.com/PandemicEntersFourrthYear>

"We've got to really keep in perspective that we've seen many downstream effects of Covid and we can't ignore them."

Dr. Manisha Juthani, commissioner of Connecticut's Department of Public Health, *U.S. Covid-19 Pandemic Enters Fourth Year With Hospitalizations on the Decline*, ***Wall Street Journal**, January 20, 2023 (updated),
<https://tinyurl.com/PandemicEntersFourrthYear>

City and state governments across the country publicly own land and houses that could be turned over to community groups.

How Housing Activists Took on Philadelphia and Won, **The New Republic**, March 29, 2021, <https://tinyurl.com/TNRHosuingActivists>

"Because psychiatric units are unable to transfer patients ready for discharge into DMH continuing care beds, the psychiatric units themselves are unable to accept new patients into the inpatient psychiatric beds. This, in turn, contributes to 'behavioral health boarding' in hospital emergency departments and other units."

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| | <p>From Massachusetts Health and Hospital Association report, <i>Hospital Boarding Crisis Persists</i>, Salem News, January 21, 2023, https://tinyurl.com/HospitalBoardingCrisis</p> <p><i>“The 100-year life is here. We’re not ready.”</i> Stanford Center on Longevity, <i>The long-life paradox</i>, New York Times – Deal Book, January 21, 2023, https://tinyurl.com/LifeLongParadox</p> <p><i>Age discrimination is growing more pervasive in the corporate world, and that could affect corporate productivity. “I would like to see corporations held accountable for age discrimination just as they are for every other form of discrimination. I would like companies to have to report how many people are employed at different ages so we can get a sense of, ‘Are you employing people in their 60s and 70s?’”</i></p> <p>Lynda Gratton, a professor of management practice at London Business School and a co-author of “The Hundred-Year Life: Living and Working in an Age of Longevity,” <i>The long-life paradox</i>, New York Times – Deal Book, January 21, 2023, https://tinyurl.com/LifeLongParadox</p> <p><i>In fact, people with mental illness are much more likely to be victims of crime than perpetrators; crimes by those with a mental disorder usually have something to do with drug addiction.</i></p> <p><i>Mental Illness Shouldn’t Be Kept Out of Sight</i>, *Wall Street Journal, December 29, 2022, https://tinyurl.com/KeptOutOfSight</p> |
| Position Recruitment | <p>1. Office of the Massachusetts Inspector General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Director, Audit & Oversight Division (DAO), FY 2023.017— NEW!, Office of the Inspector General • Director of Health Care Division FY 2023.015 — NEW!, Office of the Inspector General |
| Reports | <p>2. Office of the Inspector General: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services January 19, 2023 <i>More Than a Thousand Nursing Homes Reached Infection Rates of 75 Percent or More in the First Year of the COVID-19 Pandemic; Better Protections Are Needed for Future Emergencies</i></p> <p>Key Takeaways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing homes had a surge of COVID-19 cases during the spring of 2020 and a greater surge during the fall, well after they were known to be vulnerable. • More than 1,300 nursing homes had extremely high infection rates—75 percent or more—during these surges. |

- For-profit nursing homes made up a disproportionate percentage of these homes.
- Nursing homes with extremely high infection rates experienced an average overall mortality rate approaching 20 percent—roughly double that of other nursing homes.
- High COVID-19 transmission in a county did not always lead to nursing homes in that county reaching extremely high infection rates.
- Significant changes are needed to protect residents and better prepare for future health emergencies.

WHY WE DID THIS STUDY

Almost every American has been affected in some way by the COVID-19 pandemic. By the end of 2020, COVID-19 had spread throughout the United States. The COVID-19 pandemic has been particularly devastating for Medicare beneficiaries in nursing homes, which is why OIG embarked on a three-part series of evaluations focusing exclusively on the nursing home experience during 2020. The first report in this series found that 2 in 5 Medicare beneficiaries in nursing homes either had or likely had COVID-19 in 2020. Some Medicare beneficiaries in nursing homes seemed to be at greater risk than others. Specifically, Black beneficiaries, Hispanic beneficiaries, and Asian beneficiaries were more likely than White beneficiaries to have or likely have COVID-19. In addition, overall mortality for Medicare beneficiaries in nursing homes increased by almost one-third in 2020 from the 2019 level.

This is the second report in the series and builds on the first OIG report by focusing on nursing homes themselves. It looks at the extent to which they had residents who were diagnosed with COVID-19 or likely COVID-19, and the characteristics of nursing homes with extremely high infection rates. The third report will feature specific challenges nursing homes faced and the strategies they used to deal with them.

For the health and safety of residents, nursing homes must be prepared to face current and future health emergencies. Understanding how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected nursing homes can help the CMS, Congress, and other stakeholders learn from what has happened and inform their decisions as they strive to improve care and better protect residents.

HOW WE DID THIS STUDY

We used Medicare claims data to determine the extent to which nursing homes had Medicare beneficiaries who were diagnosed with COVID-19 or likely COVID-19. We looked at 15,086 nursing homes nationwide and identified nursing homes with extremely high infection rates during the surges of cases during the spring and fall of 2020. These homes had three-quarters or more of their Medicare beneficiaries diagnosed with COVID-19 or likely COVID-19 during a surge period. We examined the characteristics of these nursing homes. We also examined whether these nursing homes had been cited with any infection control deficiencies and whether their reported nursing hours met minimum Medicare requirements for these hours.

WHAT WE FOUND

Nursing homes had a surge of COVID-19 cases during the spring of 2020 and a greater surge during the fall, well after they were known to be vulnerable. More than 1,300 nursing homes had extremely high infection rates—75 percent or more of their Medicare beneficiaries—during these surges. These nursing homes were more common and geographically widespread during the second surge.

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| | <p>Nursing homes with extremely high infection rates experienced dramatic increases in overall mortality (not limited to deaths of beneficiaries who had or likely had COVID-19). Specifically, these nursing homes experienced an average overall mortality rate approaching 20 percent during these surges—roughly double the mortality rate of other nursing homes during the same time periods. For comparison, in 2019 the average mortality rate in these same nursing homes was 6 percent.</p> <p>For-profit nursing homes made up a disproportionate percentage of the nursing homes with extremely high infection rates during both surges. Other characteristics varied by surge. For example, urban nursing homes were more likely to have extremely high infection rates during the first surge, but rural nursing homes were more likely to have extremely high rates during the second surge.</p> <p>High COVID-19 transmission in a county did not always lead to nursing homes in that county reaching extremely high infection rates. In addition, the survey process did not identify any deficiencies in infection control for the majority of the nursing homes with extremely high infection rates, raising questions about how effective the survey process is in preventing and mitigating the spread of infectious disease in nursing homes. Also, the vast majority of nursing homes with extremely high infection rates reported nursing hours that met or exceeded Medicare's specific minimum requirements for these hours, which may indicate that these requirements are not adequate to keep residents safe from infectious disease.</p> <p>WHAT WE RECOMMEND</p> <p>These findings make clear that nursing homes in this country were not prepared for the sweeping health emergency that COVID-19 created, nor were they able to stem the devastation once it was evident that nursing homes were especially vulnerable. Virtually all nursing homes experienced infections, and more than 1,300 nursing homes had extreme infection rates of 75 percent or higher during a surge period and an average overall mortality rate close to 20 percent. Significant changes are needed to protect the health and safety of residents and better prepare nursing homes for current and future health emergencies. The administration recently announced a major initiative to improve safety and quality of care in nursing homes. The findings in this report lend urgency to the administration's initiative. We recommend that CMS, as it supports the administration's initiative, take the following actions: (1) reexamine current nursing staff requirements and revise them as necessary; (2) improve how surveys identify infection control risks to nursing home residents and strengthen guidance on assessing the scope and severity of those risks; and (3) target nursing homes in most need of infection control intervention, and provide enhanced oversight and technical assistance to these facilities as appropriate. CMS concurred with the intent of the first and third recommendations and neither concurred nor non-concurred with the second recommendation.</p> <p>Complete Report https://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/OEI-02-20-00491.asp</p> |
| Dignity Advocates 2023 | <p>Healey / Driscoll Transition Team https://healeydriscolltransition.com</p> <p>Andrea Campbell Transition Committee https://www.andreacampbell.org/transition/</p> |

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| | <p>Diana DiZoglio Transition Committee info@dianaforma.com</p> |
| Webinars and Online Sessions | <p>3. Encore Boston Network Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. <i>Meet the Challenge of Solo Aging</i> Who will take care of me? That's the question asked by many people over 50 who are single. married without kids or living away from family. Learn from Sara Zeff Geber, a national expert on solo aging, about options, resources, and steps you can put in place now to live a rich life and get the support you need when you need it. REGISTER HERE</p> |
| | <p>Previously posted webinars and online sessions can be viewed at: https://dignityalliancema.org/webinars-and-online-sessions/</p> |
| Nursing Homes | <p>4. Skilled Nursing News January 19, 2023 <i>Data Doesn't Lie: Current Pace Sets Nursing Home Workforce Recovery Back to 2027</i> Year-end 2022 data puts the nursing home workforce shortage in "stark perspective," as slow job growth is pitted against regulatory updates and looming staffing mandates. That's according to the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL). The aging services organization on Thursday released an analysis of data published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). While nursing homes added on average 3,700 jobs per month over the last nine months, the current pace sets back recovery to 2027, according to AHCA's analysis. A previous analysis estimated workforce recovery to pre-pandemic levels would occur in 2026. . . At the same time, facilities are cutting admissions as a result of the staffing crisis, creating a vicious cycle of low occupancy leading to even slimmer margins for operators. . . The nursing home sector's 210,000 jobs lost translates to a 13.3% drop from its pre-pandemic workforce. https://tinyurl.com/SNNDDataDoesntLie</p> <p>5. Wall Street Journal January 19, 2023 <i>Nursing Homes' Use of Schizophrenia Drugs to Be Audited by U.S. Government</i> Medicare agency to increase oversight to make sure nursing homes are diagnosing properly. Federal health officials said they would take steps to increase oversight of nursing homes that prescribe powerful antipsychotic drugs, and prevent abuse of the medicines. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services said Wednesday it would begin auditing nursing homes to see if they are accurately diagnosing their residents as schizophrenic, and would factor in use of antipsychotic medicines in nursing-home ratings. . . The Department of Health and Human Services Inspector General reported in November that about 80% of Medicare's long-stay nursing-home residents were prescribed a psychotropic drug from 2011 through 2019. That figure includes the antipsychotic drugs that CMS has targeted, as well as anticonvulsants, which the inspector general said were being increasingly used in nursing homes.</p> |

<https://tinyurl.com/WSJSchizophreniaDrugAudit>

6. *New York Times

January 18, 2023

Regulators Announce Changes to Nursing Home Rating System

The federal agency that oversees nursing homes has tightened rules around the use of powerful antipsychotic drugs.

Federal regulators said Wednesday that they will begin penalizing nursing homes that give residents a false label of schizophrenia, a practice that many facilities have used to skirt restrictions on antipsychotic drugs, which can be especially dangerous for older people.

In the [announcement](#), officials at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services said that facilities inflating the number of residents with schizophrenia could be punished with a lower ranking in the federal ratings system used to evaluate the quality of nursing homes. . .

Under the federal rating system, nursing homes must report the number of their residents taking antipsychotic drugs. But facilities are allowed to exclude residents who have certain other medical diagnoses, including schizophrenia.

In a 2021 investigation, [The New York Times reported](#) that since 2012, when nursing homes were first required to report how many residents had received such drugs, the share of residents with a questionable schizophrenia diagnosis has soared by 70 percent. That year, one in nine residents had a schizophrenia diagnosis; in the general population, the disorder, which has strong genetic roots, afflicts roughly [one in 150](#) people. . .

[A 2021 report by a federal oversight agency](#) concluded that nearly one-third of long-term nursing home residents with schizophrenia diagnoses in 2018 had no Medicare record of being treated for the condition. The Medicare agency, which oversees nursing homes, said it would conduct an audit of medical records in nursing homes to evaluate whether the diagnoses were correct.

The agency also said it would begin publishing citations against nursing homes even while the facilities were appealing the charges. [The New York Times reported](#) that thousands of problems uncovered by state health inspectors had been hidden from public view because they were being appealed by the nursing homes, in a secretive process. In many cases, inspectors had uncovered dangerous conditions that violated federal regulations, but the nursing homes were allowed to keep their high ratings during the appeals, which sometimes had lasted for years.

<https://tinyurl.com/NursingHomeRatingChanges>

7. Skilled Nursing News

January 18, 2023

CMS to Publicly Post Disputed Nursing Home Citations, Tighten Antipsychotic Oversight and Penalties

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has [announced](#) a plan to publicly display survey citations that nursing homes are disputing, as well as new policies related to antipsychotic use and related penalties.

Currently, disputed citations are not posted to Care Compare. This will change starting on Jan. 25, 2023, CMS announced Wednesday. The citations will not be included in a facility's Five Star rating calculation while under dispute. . .

In November 2022, a report released by the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) found that the overall use of psychotropic drugs in nursing homes remained "high and unchanged" since 2011

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| | <p>— with 80% of nursing home residents between 2011 and 2019 prescribed a psychotropic drug, including antipsychotic drugs.</p> <p>Perhaps most damningly, in 2019, nursing homes with lower ratios of registered nurse staff to residents were associated with higher use of psychotropic drugs, and nursing homes with higher percentages of residents with low-income subsidies were also associated with higher use of psychotropic drugs.</p> <p>There was also a staggering 194% increase in the number of residents reported through the minimum data set (MDS) as having schizophrenia between 2015 and 2019, though OIG researchers noted they didn't have corresponding diagnoses in Medicare claims and encounter data.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/TightenAntipsychoticOversight</p> |
| Home Health | <p>8. *Wall Street Journal January 22, 2023 <i>High Turnover of Home Caregivers Makes Life Precarious for Many</i></p> <p>The supply of home health aides isn't meeting growing demand as America ages and many people prefer to stay out of facilities.</p> <p>High turnover among in-home caregivers is straining the daily lives of America's aging population, which relies on them to remain in their homes.</p> <p>The median caregiver turnover rate—or the percentage of all caregivers who left or were terminated from jobs—was about 64.9% in 2021, according to a report by Home Care Pulse, a company that provides data and training to home care agencies. Though the number has improved from a peak of 81.6% in 2018, it represents a major supply gap, according to people in the home care industry. . . [T]he pandemic added to demand, as the high number of Covid deaths at long-term-care facilities contributed to the desire for people to remain in their homes.</p> <p>Between 2008 and 2018, the number of home care workers more than doubled to 2.26 million from about 900,000, according to a 2022 report from the Home Care Association of America, an industry trade organization representing home care providers.</p> <p>The Labor Department projects 25% employment growth in the next decade for home health and personal care aides, which includes those who work in group homes and day service programs, compared with an average expected growth rate of 5% for all occupations.</p> <p>Even with rapid growth, home care agencies can't meet demand. More than 85% of the home care agencies in the 2022 HCP Benchmarking Report turned down cases in 2021 due to the shortage, and 59.7% consistently turned down clients.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/HighTurnoverHomeCare</p> <p>9. Home Health Care News January 19, 2023 <i>Large Home Health Companies Unlikely to Stay Independent</i></p> <p>With interest in scaled home health assets climbing among strategic buyers, few, if any, large home health companies are likely to stay independent. . .</p> <p>"Managed-care companies are showing increasing interest in partnering with or potentially owning home nursing operators in order to reduce the cost of care for patients with chronic conditions."</p> <p>Recent home health transactions lend credence to these observations — Humana, Inc.'s \$5.7 billion acquisition of a 100% stake in Kindred at Home and Optum Health's pending purchase of LHC Group (NASDAQ: LHCG) for \$5.5 billion.</p> |

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| | <p>https://tinyurl.com/UnlikelyToStayIndependent</p> <p>10. Michigan News January 18, 2023 <i>Many older adults declined home medical care for fear of COVID, causing new or worsening conditions</i> COVID-19 interrupted or delayed medical treatment for many people who chose to put off elective procedures or couldn't get in to see a specialist. But new research from the University of Michigan finds another population was affected: Many homebound older adults canceled medically necessary home-based health care services out of fear of getting COVID-19. This caused new or worsening medical conditions for a number of patients, and home-based health care providers reported feeling that they lacked sufficient information and training to advise patients through the process of deciding whether or not to continue care. https://tinyurl.com/DeclinedHomeMedicalCare</p> |
| Behavioral Health | <p>11. Salem News January 21, 2023 <i>Hospital Boarding Crisis Persists</i> Hundreds of psychiatric patients are still being “boarded” in emergency rooms across the state as they await beds in mental health facilities, according to a new report. The Massachusetts Health and Hospital Association’s report, which surveyed hospitals, found that some patients with severe psychiatric conditions who require “continuing care” services from the state Department of Mental Health have been waiting for more than a year for specialized care. . . The average length of stay awaiting transfer to a continuing care bed is 197 days — an increase from 161 days in 2021. . . Overall, the number of state-funded psychiatric care beds in the state has dropped from 829 to 663 over the past 15 years, adding to the challenges of placing patients. https://tinyurl.com/HospitalBoardingCrisis</p> <p>12. *Wall Street Journal December 29, 2022 <i>Mental Illness Shouldn't Be Kept Out of Sight</i> A writer who witnessed his brother’s lifelong struggle learned that sustained personal relationships are crucial for people with mental illness. . . According to the National Institute of Mental Health, more than 14 million Americans suffer from a mental illness that “results in serious functional impairment,” and more than three million experience this impairment on a long-term, chronic basis. Recently, the media has paid abundant attention to America’s mental health crisis, discussing the role of politics and funding, the medical establishment, new treatments for depression and teenage mental health. Politicians and the media often blame people with mental illness for the recent rise in violent crime and homelessness (it is estimated that a third of individuals experiencing homelessness have serious mental illness). In fact, people with mental illness are much more likely to be victims of crime than perpetrators; crimes by those with a mental disorder usually have something to do with drug addiction. . . Thanks in large part to the excellent treatment that Robert received at a critical point in his life, he managed to survive, with his mind, spirit, and sense of humor</p> |

largely intact, to the same age that our father reached. Millions of others—mad, homeless, abandoned, neglected, drugged, confused—are far less fortunate. Yet they remain at least as complicated and human as the rest of us, and if we can find the resources to provide them with the care that they need, they might have a chance to lead what we too often take for granted: our gloriously imperfect lives.

<https://tinyurl.com/KeptOutOfSight>

Housing

13. Greenfield Recorder
 January 22, 2023
Housing authority takes on new role in accessibility program
 Residents can apply for home modification loans of up to \$50,000. The [Home Modification Loan Program](#), which is overseen by the Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation (CEDAC), helps people with disabilities or elders modify their homes with accessibility improvements. CEDAC is a public-private community development institution that provides financing and technical expertise for nonprofits and other community organizations in Massachusetts. The program was established by the Legislature in 1999 and provides no-interest loans from \$1,000 to \$50,000 to allow folks make modifications to their residence for elders, adults with disabilities and families with children with disabilities. Payment is required upon sale of the property. The program is also available for landlords with fewer than 10 units, however, landlords are only eligible for loans with a 3% interest rate. The income requirements are generous, too, as a household of two people earning less than \$224,400 are eligible to participate in the program.

<https://tinyurl.com/NewRoleAccessibility>

14. Disability Scoop
 January 20, 2023
Housing Vouchers Earmarked for People with Disabilities
 The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is sending millions in funding to local officials across the country to help people with disabilities access housing in their communities. The agency said this month that it’s awarding \$24.7 million to [98 local public housing authorities](#) in order to provide permanent affordable housing to those with disabilities. The funding is being made available through the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Section 811 Mainstream Housing Choice Voucher Program. It’s aimed at helping non-elderly people with disabilities who are transitioning from institutions or other isolated settings as well as those at risk of institutionalization or homelessness.

| Housing Authority | Vouchers | Voucher Funding | Extraordinary Administrative Funding |
|--------------------|----------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Yarmouth | 10 | \$118,266 | 0 |
| Dedham | 10 | \$171,049 | 0 |
| Chelsea | 10 | \$229,434 | 0 |
| Milton | 0 | 0 | \$19,500 |
| Community Teamwork | 10 | \$132,456 | \$41,000 |
| Taunton | 30 | \$436,943 | \$44,500 |
| Sandwich | 0 | 0 | \$75,500 |
| Boston | 0 | 0 | \$205,00 |

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| | <p>https://tinyurl.com/HousingVouchersEarmarked</p> <p>15. *Boston Globe January 17, 2023 <i>Affordable housing project at West Newton armory OK'd by zoning board</i> The long-sought affordable housing development at the site of the historic city-owned armory in West Newton will move ahead after the Zoning Board of Appeals approved the project earlier this month. The plan would create 43 affordable apartments in a new, four-story addition erected behind the castle-like headhouse on the property along Washington Street. In many housing developments, affordable units are often mixed with market-rate apartments to help finance construction and other costs. In the case of the armory project, the entire \$29.8 million development will be devoted to affordable housing. https://tinyurl.com/AffordableHousingWestNewton</p> <p>16. The New Republic March 29, 2021 <i>How Housing Activists Took on Philadelphia and Won</i> In a city with thousands of vacant homes, families are still homeless. Jennifer Bennetch decided to do something about it. City and state governments across the country publicly own land and houses that could be turned over to community groups. Scattered site housing owned by housing authorities is common, as well. It's possible that instead of letting homes go abandoned, the public could pressure governmental organizations to buy these properties and turn them into public low-income housing. Of course, that path would also require citizens to demand that the federal government—through HUD—provide exponentially more funding to housing authorities. In Philadelphia, public encampments proved one effective method of making these demands, but any number of other tactics could work. Other cities are also rife with vacant private-market units; one report put the number of such units in Los Angeles at 93,000. https://tinyurl.com/TNRHousingActivists</p> |
| Caregivers / Workforce | <p>17. *Wall Street Journal January 17, 2023 <i>Medical Residents Unionize Over Pay, Working Conditions</i> Doctors-in-training say they want to advocate for themselves and patients. . . Physicians-in-training at top teaching hospitals across the country are joining unions, demanding higher pay and better working conditions. The Committee of Interns and Residents, the largest group representing doctors in residency and fellowship programs, said it added chapters at five teaching hospitals last year and two in 2021, up from a pre-pandemic pace of roughly one a year. CIR, which is affiliated with the Service Employees International Union, said it represents about 15% of the nation's 140,000 residents and fellows. . . Inflation is high and workers are scarce, leading workers in many industries to push for better pay and terms. Unionized nurses at Montefiore Medical Center and Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City went on a three-day strike this month over pay and staffing concerns. Graduate students at the University of California recently went on strike for over a month. . . Residents said they believe collective bargaining could win them better pay and working conditions that could alleviate some burnout and stress. CIR said its</p> |

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| | <p>members have won concessions, including better compensation at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital in Washington, D.C., and more protections for pregnant residents at the University of Washington. . .</p> <p>Residents said they don’t feel empowered as employees because of how they are matched to a hospital by an algorithm. Once matched, they can’t negotiate most terms of their employment.</p> <p>Physicians filed a class-action lawsuit in 2002 alleging that the matching program violated antitrust laws because it allowed for lower-than-competitive wages and exploitative working conditions. The case was dismissed two years later after Congress granted an antitrust exemption to the residency matching program.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/MedicalResidentsUnionize</p> |
| Elder Abuse | <p>18. National Center on Elder Abuse January 20, 2023 <i>Where Faith and Safety Meet: Partnering with Faith Communities to Increase Elder Justice</i></p> <p>[O]lder adults top the charts on attendance at religious services and events. In the 2014 Religious Landscape Study from the Pew Research Center, 48% of those 65 years and older reported attending services and events at least once per week, and an additional 25% attended one to two times per month or a few times per year. Of those 65+ years in age, 91% were affiliated with a particular faith tradition, while 65% pray daily and 42% read or study scripture daily. Simply put, faith and spirituality are important to older adults.</p> <p>That said, it should come as no surprise that older adults, especially if they are members of minority communities, report that if they were facing abuse, their “first stop’ would be a member of the clergy if they were to discuss their domestic violence with anyone.” Another study reported that “older women would seek help from a place of worship if they experienced abuse.” Older adults trust and feel safe in their faith communities.</p> <p>National Center on Elder Abuse X Safe Havens, “Bringing Together Faith and Safety for Older Adults” brochure Version 1 Version 2 https://tinyurl.com/FaithAndSafety</p> |
| Supportive Decision Making | <p>19. Baylor College of Medicine January 20, 2023 <i>Supporting decision making as cognition declines</i></p> <p>Dementia – the progressive loss of cognitive and behavioral abilities to an extent that interferes with daily life – is among the most feared conditions of old age. What ignites such fear? It’s not merely or even primarily the prospect of physical suffering. Rather, it’s that our society places significant emphasis on independence and on the ability to self-determine. Rational thinking and memory are needed to engage in daily tasks independently; dementia robs people of exactly these skills, threatening autonomy. . .</p> <p>One promising means of helping patients is supported decision-making, in which an adult with cognitive impairment (called a beneficiary) identifies one or more trusted others (called supporters) to assist them in decision-making. The domains and types of decision-making assistance are specified by the beneficiary, and the resulting decisions are the beneficiary’s own.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/SDMAsCognitionDeclines</p> |
| Covid / Long covid | <p>20. *Wall Street Journal January 20, 2023 (updated) <i>U.S. Covid-19 Pandemic Enters Fourth Year with Hospitalizations on the Decline</i></p> |

Deaths are down from past winters' peaks but still number in the hundreds daily. Three years after health authorities announced the [first known Covid-19 case in the U.S.](#), the virus behind the disease [remains persistent](#) but thus far hasn't triggered the severity of the waves seen in prior winters.

A recent climb in hospitalizations and Covid-19 wastewater readings—two key metrics for spotting trends—appears to have stalled following the quick rise of the [Omicron XBB.1.5 subvariant](#). The U.S. was gripped in significantly more deadly waves at this point in the last two winters, though currently there are still hundreds of deaths reported each day. . .

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported around this time in January 2020 that the first confirmed case of Covid-19 in the U.S. was detected in Washington state. Winters have been the pandemic's deadliest periods: In January 2021, the U.S. reached a peak of nearly 23,400 deaths reported in a single week, according to the CDC. The second-most deadly surge came about a year later, when the U.S. reported about 17,350 deaths in the week of Feb. 2, 2022. . .

The pandemic's [destabilizing effects](#) have also reached far beyond Covid-19 infections, having reshaped the workplace, [public transportation](#) and other elements of American society.

Drug overdoses, already amplified by the nationwide spread of the potent synthetic opioid fentanyl, [surged to record numbers](#) during the pandemic.

Researchers believe pandemic-related strain also [contributed to a rise in violent crime](#). Schools are still grappling with the [impact of learning loss on students](#).

<https://tinyurl.com/PandemicEntersFourthYear>

21. The Consumer Voice

January 19, 2023

New OIG Report on First Year of COVID-19 Pandemic Dispels Myth of Inevitability of Infection, Finds Fault with Infection Surveys, and Recommends Exploring Increased Staffing to Protect Residents from Infections

The Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (OIG) released a [data brief](#) today that examined how COVID-19 affected nursing homes during the first year of the pandemic. Using a variety of data sources, the report focused on the two initial COVID-19 surges that devastated nursing home residents in 2020, first in the spring and then in the fall. During this period of time, hundreds of thousands of nursing home residents were infected with COVID-19, with tens of thousands dying.

The report made several findings:

- High COVID-19 transmission in a county did not always lead to nursing homes in that county reaching extremely high infection rates.
- For-profit nursing homes made up a disproportionate percentage of nursing homes with extremely high infection rates.
- Surveyors failed to identify infection control deficiencies in the majority of nursing homes with extremely high infection rates.
- Current staffing requirements may not be sufficient to protect nursing home residents from deadly infections.

The report identified more than 1,300 homes with “extremely high infection rates” of 75% or more residents. Importantly, the report contradicts the assertion by many in the nursing home industry that nursing homes in high transmission areas could not prevent COVID-19 transmission to residents. The report found that 63% of counties with high transmission rates during the first

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| | <p>surge did not have any nursing homes with “extremely high infection rates.” During the second surge, that number increased to 78%. According to the report, “Being located in a high-transmission county did not make it inevitable that a nursing home would have an extremely high infection rate.”</p> <p>The report made several recommendations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS re-examine current staffing requirements and revise them as necessary. The report stated, “Our findings also provide evidence of the need to propose new minimum staffing standards” to make sure residents receive good care. • CMS must improve how surveys identify infection control risks to nursing home residents and strengthen guidance on assessing the scope and severity of those risks. • Target nursing homes in most need of infection control intervention and provide enhanced oversight and technical assistance to these facilities as appropriate. <p>The OIG report identifies significant failures both of nursing homes and regulators to protect residents from COVID-19. Understaffing and poor enforcement of regulations led to the catastrophic events that resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of nursing home residents and caused incalculable harm to others.</p> <p>CMS has promised a minimum staffing standard, which according to the OIG report, will lead to better protections for nursing home residents. But CMS must also increase its enforcement actions regarding infection control. The OIG report makes clear: CMS must do something different in order to prevent a repeat of the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/OIGReportDispelsMyth</p> |
| Aging Topics | <p>22. New York Times (free access) January 22, 2023 <i>Older Voters Know Exactly What’s at Stake, and They’ll Be Here for Quite a While</i></p> <p>We at Third Act, the group we helped form in 2021, think older Americans are beginning a turn in the progressive direction, a turn that will accelerate as time goes on. . .</p> <p>[I]n the 63 most competitive congressional districts, the places where big money was spent on ads and where the margin in the House was decided, polling by AARP, an advocacy group for people over 50, found some fascinating numbers. In early summer, Republicans had a sturdy lead among older voters in 50 of those districts, up 50 percent to 40 percent. Those had Republicans salivating. But on Election Day, voters over 65 actually broke for Democrats in those districts, 49 to 46. . .</p> <p>The top concern to voters 65 and over, especially women, was “threats to democracy,” according to AARP. And exit polling by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that among women 50 and older, the court’s decision overturning the constitutional right to abortion had a major impact on which candidate they supported. Sixty-six percent of Black women said so, as did 61 percent of Hispanic women and 48 percent of white women. Voters who said the Supreme Court’s abortion decision was the single most important factor in their vote supported Democrats by a margin of 2 to 1. . .</p> <p>But here’s the thing. Many of us are going to be here for quite a while. Ten thousand Americans turn 60 every day, and on average we’ll live another 23 years. The last of the baby boomers, will be 65 or older in 2030. Youth voters,</p> |

moreover, are youth voters for only about a decade. One guarantee for 2024: We'll vote in huge numbers, as we always do. One possibility is that we'll help turn back the clock a little, toward the world we actually built in our youth. We're not your parent's grandparents.

<https://tinyurl.com/OlderVotersKnow>

23. New York Times – Deal Book

January 21, 2023

The long-life paradox

Today's 5-year-olds have it even better than you think.

In the wealthiest nations, more than half of these tykes will live to at least 100, the Stanford Center on Longevity expects. . .

Countries and companies are facing an aging crisis, and experts say policymakers and business leaders need to rethink how they deal with older workers. . .

But a society full of centenarians poses a profound challenge for the world's advanced economies and many of its companies: How do you adapt to an older world and pay for the inevitable pension time bomb ticking in the background as this super-ager cohort approaches retirement age?

As the Stanford center puts it: "The 100-year life is here. We're not ready." . .

At the World Economic Forum, organizers tried their best to change the gloomy Malthusian narrative about aging. Talk of time bombs or a "silver tsunami" were out, replaced by high-level discussions on what the forum calls the "longevity economy." A central theme: If we're expected to live longer, we're going to have to adjust some life goals and work longer, too. . .

For starters, we have to ditch the first-school-then-work-then-retire framework. Life is "nonlinear," . . .

Age discrimination, she said, is growing more pervasive in the corporate world, and that could affect corporate productivity. "I would like to see corporations held accountable for age discrimination just as they are for every other form of discrimination," she said. "I would like companies to have to report how many people are employed at different ages so we can get a sense of, 'Are you employing people in their 60s and 70s?'" Such a measure, she believes, would pressure management to recruit from a broader talent pool. And companies would see the [benefits of building multigenerational workplaces](#). . .

<https://tinyurl.com/LifeLongParadox>

24. New York Times (free access)

January 21, 2023

Five Rules for an Aging World

By Ross Douthat

There are two kinds of people in the world: Those who believe the defining challenge of the 21st century will be climate change, and those who know that it will be the birth dearth, the population bust, the old age of the world. . .

So, it's worth thinking about some rules for the age of demographic decadence — trends to watch, principles that will separate winners and losers, guideposts for anyone seeking dynamism in a stagnant world.

Rule No. 1: The rich world will need redistribution back from old to young.

[I]n an aging world, the technocratic desire to reform old-age entitlements will become ever more essential and correct — so long as the savings can be used to make it easier for young people to start a family, open a business, own a home.

Rule No. 2: Innovation isn't enough; the challenge will be implementation and adoption.
Rule No. 3: Ground warfare will run up against population limits.
Rule No. 4: In the kingdom of the aged, a little extra youth and vitality will go a long way.
Rule No. 5: The African diaspora will reshape the world.
<https://tinyurl.com/FiveRulesAgingWorld>

25. Kaiser Health News

January 17, 2023

Rural Seniors Benefit from Pandemic-Driven Remote Fitness Boom

Fitness classes for older adults became remote during the COVID-19 pandemic, and that option remains popular, especially for those living in rural areas who have difficulty traveling to exercise facilities. "Virtually the whole field knows that offering in-person and remote programming -- a full range of programming - - is a great way to reach more older adults, to increase access and equity," said Jennifer Tripken, associate director of the Center of Healthy Aging at the National Council on Aging.

After widespread lockdowns began in March 2020, agencies serving seniors across the U.S. reworked health classes to include virtual options. Isolation has long since ended, but virtual classes remain. For older adults in rural communities who have difficulty getting to exercise facilities, those virtual classes offer opportunities for supervised physical activity that were rare before the pandemic.

And advocates say online classes are here to stay.

<https://tinyurl.com/RemoteFitnessBoom>

26. *Wall Street Journal

January 20, 2023 (updated)

They're Cover Girls. They're in Their 70s.

Sky-high demand for older models—women in their 60s, 70s, 80s and even 90s—is creating a silver wave in the modeling industry. They even get stopped at the supermarket.

Ninety-year-old Frances Dunscombe only began modeling at age 82 after the death of her husband. When her daughter, a model in her 60s, suggested Ms. Dunscombe join her to visit her agency, she scoffed, "You must be joking." Now, she realizes, "Actually, I think it was quite a good time to start modeling, because it wasn't going to go to my head."

Ms. Dunscombe is part of the fashion and beauty industry's new silver wave. In recent years, luxury fashion brands, direct-to-consumer beauty brands and mass clothing lines have begun casting older models—*much* older models. Some are celebrities, but increasingly, they are unknowns. . .

But with the demand for older models appearing to be at a record high at every level of the industry, from print advertising to social-media campaigns to runway, older modeling newcomers are joining these familiar faces.

Georgia Makely-Schraeder, the global director of digital and media at Ford Models, said that her agency had done open casting calls for older models to meet demand in recent years. Briefs from brands that once sought only young, thin, predictable models have increasingly opened up, she said: "We've seen more inclusion in breakdowns from clients, requesting specifically more mature models or even a lack of an age range, which was new for some of the agents here."

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| | https://tinyurl.com/CoverGirlsInTheir70s |
| | *May require registration before accessing article. |
| Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Legislative Endorsements | Information about the legislative bills which have been endorsed by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, including the text of the bills, can be viewed at: https://tinyurl.com/DignityLegislativeEndorsements Questions or comments can be directed to Legislative Work Group Chair Richard (Dick) Moore at rmoore8473@charter.net . |
| Websites | Safe Havens https://www.interfaithpartners.org/ Safe Havens Interfaith Partnership Against Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse is an interfaith organization that promotes hope and justice for victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence and elder abuse. Safe Havens empowers diverse faith communities and their local service providers to work together to end domestic and sexual violence and elder abuse. Vision No one should have to choose between faith and safety. This is why Safe Havens works to build a world in which all people are treated with dignity and respect and in which domestic and sexual violence and elder abuse no longer exist. We envision a time when every religious and spiritual community can fully embrace their unique and vital role to support survivors, provide prevention education, and speak out with moral authority against abuse and the systemic oppressions and inequities that undergird abuse. |
| Previously recommended websites | The comprehensive list of recommended websites has migrated to the Dignity Alliance MA website: https://dignityalliancema.org/resources/ . Only new recommendations will be listed in <i>The Dignity Digest</i> . |
| Previously posted funding opportunities | For open funding opportunities previously posted in <i>The Tuesday Digest</i> please see https://dignityalliancema.org/funding-opportunities/ . |
| Websites of Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Members | See: https://dignityalliancema.org/about/organizations/ |
| Nursing homes with admission freezes | Massachusetts Department of Public Health <i>Temporary admissions freeze</i> On November 6, 2021 the state announced that it would require certain high risk nursing homes and rest homes to temporarily stop all new admissions to protect the health and safety of residents and prevent further COVID-19 transmission. Stopping admissions enables homes to focus resources such as staff and PPE on the health and safety of its current residents and enables the home to stabilize before taking on new residents. Homes that meet certain criteria will be required to stop any new admissions until the Department of Public Health has determined that conditions have improved, and the facility is ready to safely care for new residents. The Commonwealth will work closely with homes during this time and provide supports as needed to ensure resident health and safety. There are a number of reasons why a facility may be required to stop admissions, and the situation in each facility is different. Some of the factors the state uses to make this decision include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new COVID-19 cases within the facility • Staffing levels • Failure to report a lack of adequate PPE, supplies, or staff |

- Infection control survey results
 - Surveillance testing non-compliance
- Facilities are required to notify residents' designated family members and/or representative when the facility is subject to an admissions freeze. In addition, a list of facilities that are currently required to stop new admissions and the reason for this admissions freeze will be updated on Friday afternoons, and as needed when the Department of Public of Health determines a facility can be removed from the list.

Updated on January 20, 2023. Red font – newly added

| Name of Facility | City/Town | Date of Freeze | Qualifying Factor |
|--------------------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| AdviniaCare Newton %Wellesley | Wellesley | 1/17/2023 | Not stated |
| Bear Mountain West Springfield | West Springfield | 1/10/2023 | Not stated |
| Holyoke Healthcare Center | Holyoke | 1/5/2023 | Not stated |
| Memory Care at Heritage | Agawam | 1/17/2023 | Not stated |
| Mount Carmel | Lenox | 1/10/2023 | Not stated |
| Walpole Healthcare | Walpole | 1/10/2023 | Not stated |

List of Special Focus Facilities

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

List of Special Focus Facilities and Candidates

<https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram>

Updated October 26, 2022

CMS has published a new list of [Special Focus Facilities](#) (SFF). SFFs are nursing homes with serious quality issues based on a calculation of deficiencies cited during inspections and the scope and severity level of those citations. CMS publicly discloses the names of the facilities chosen to participate in this program and candidate nursing homes.

To be considered for the SFF program, a facility must have a history (at least 3 years) of serious quality issues. These nursing facilities generally have more deficiencies than the average facility, and more serious problems such as harm or injury to residents. Special Focus Facilities have more frequent surveys and are subject to progressive enforcement until it either graduates from the program or is terminated from Medicare and/or Medicaid.

This is important information for consumers – particularly as they consider a nursing home.

What can advocates do with this information?

- Include the list of facilities in your area/state when providing information to consumers who are looking for a nursing home. Include an explanation of the SFF program and the candidate list.
- Post the list on your program's/organization's website (along with the explanation noted above).
- Encourage current residents and families to check the list to see if their facility is included.
- Urge residents and families in a candidate facility to ask the administrator what is being done to improve care.
- Suggest that resident and family councils invite the administrator to a council meeting to talk about what the facility is doing to improve care, ask for ongoing updates, and share any council concerns.

- For long-term care ombudsmen representatives: Meet with the administrator to discuss what the facility is doing to address problems and share any resources that might be helpful.

Massachusetts facilities listed (updated July 27, 2022)

Newly added to the listing

- None

Massachusetts facilities not improved

- Attleboro Healthcare, Attleboro
<https://tinyurl.com/AttleboroHealthcare>

Massachusetts facilities which showed improvement

- Marlborough Hills Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, Marlborough
<https://tinyurl.com/MarlboroughHills>

Massachusetts facilities which have graduated from the program

- Oxford Manor, Haverhill
- Worcester Health Center, Worcester

Massachusetts facilities that are candidates for listing

- Charwell House Health and Rehabilitation, Norwood
<https://tinyurl.com/Charwell>
Nursing home inspect information:
<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225208>
- Medway Country Manor Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation, Medway
<https://www.medwaymanor.com/>
Nursing home inspect information:
<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225412>
- Mill Town Health and Rehabilitation, Amesbury
No website
Nursing home inspect information:
<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225318>
- Plymouth Rehabilitation and Health Care Center
<https://plymouthrehab.com/>
Nursing home inspect information:
<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225207>
- Savoy Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, New Bedford
No website
Nursing home inspect information:
<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225423>
- South Dennis Healthcare, South Dennis
<https://www.nextstephpc.com/southdennis>
Nursing home inspect information:
<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225320>
- Tremont Health Care Center, Wareham
<https://thetremontrehabcare.com/>
Nursing home inspect information:
<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225488>
- Vantage at Wilbraham
No website
Nursing home inspect information:
<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225295>
- Vantage at South Hadley
No website

| | <p>Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225757</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watertown Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Watertown (added in June) No website <p>Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225425 https://tinyurl.com/SpeicialFocusFacilityProgram</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <p><i>Nursing Home Inspect</i></p> | <p>ProPublica <i>Nursing Home Inspect</i> Data updated November 2022 This app uses data from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Fines are listed for the past three years if a home has made partial or full payment (fines under appeal are not included). Information on deficiencies comes from a home’s last three inspection cycles, or roughly three years in total. The number of COVID-19 cases is since May 8, 2020, when homes were required to begin reporting this information to the federal government (some homes may have included data on earlier cases). Massachusetts listing: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/state/MA Deficiencies By Severity in Massachusetts (What do the severity ratings mean?)</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th># reported</th> <th>Deficiency Tag</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>250</td> <td>B</td> </tr> <tr> <td>82</td> <td>C</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7,056</td> <td>D</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1,850</td> <td>E</td> </tr> <tr> <td>546</td> <td>F</td> </tr> <tr> <td>487</td> <td>G</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31</td> <td>H</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>I</td> </tr> <tr> <td>40</td> <td>J</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>K</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>L</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | # reported | Deficiency Tag | 250 | B | 82 | C | 7,056 | D | 1,850 | E | 546 | F | 487 | G | 31 | H | 1 | I | 40 | J | 7 | K | 2 | L |
| # reported | Deficiency Tag | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 250 | B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 82 | C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 31 | H | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 2 | L | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Nursing Home Compare</p> | <p>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) <i>Nursing Home Compare Website</i> Beginning January 26, 2022, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is posting new information on the that will help consumers have a better understanding of certain staffing information and concerns at facilities. This information will be posted for each facility and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff turnover: The percentage of nursing staff as well as the number of administrators who have stopped working at a nursing home over the past 12-month period. • Weekend staff: The level of weekend staffing for nurses and registered nurses at a nursing home over a three-month period. <p>Posting of this information was required as part of the Affordable Care Act, which was passed in 2010. In many facilities, staffing is lower on weekends, often meaning residents have to wait longer or may not receive all the care they need. High turnover means that staff are less likely to know the residents, recognize changes in condition, or implement preferred methods of providing</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | <p>care. All of this contributes to the quality-of-care residents receive and their quality of life.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/NursingHomeCompareWebsite</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|-------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|--------------|--|----------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|----------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------|--|---------|--------------|--|-------------|---------------|--|--------------|-------------|--|
| Data on Ownership of Nursing Homes | <p>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services <i>Data on Ownership of Nursing Homes</i> CMS has released data giving state licensing officials, state and federal law enforcement, researchers, and the public an enhanced ability to identify common owners of nursing homes across nursing home locations. This information can be linked to other data sources to identify the performance of facilities under common ownership, such as owners affiliated with multiple nursing homes with a record of poor performance. The data is available on nursing home ownership will be posted to data.cms.gov and updated monthly.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Long-Term Care Facilities Specific COVID-19 Data | <p>Massachusetts Department of Public Health <i>Long-Term Care Facilities Specific COVID-19 Data</i> Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) reports related to long-term care facilities in Massachusetts.</p> <p>Table of Contents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Daily Dashboard • COVID-19 Weekly Public Health Report • Additional COVID-19 Data • CMS COVID-19 Nursing Home Data | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DignityMA Call to Action | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MA Senate released a report in response to COVID-19. Download the DignityMA Response to Reimagining the Future of MA. • Advocate for state bills that advance the Dignity Alliance Massachusetts’ Mission and Goals – State Legislative Endorsements. • Support relevant bills in Washington – Federal Legislative Endorsements. • Join our Work Groups. • Learn to use and leverage Social Media at our workshops: Engaging Everyone: Creating Accessible, Powerful Social Media Content | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Access to Dignity Alliance social media | <p>Email: info@DignityAllianceMA.org Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/DignityAllianceMA/ Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/dignityalliance/ LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/dignity-alliance-massachusetts Twitter: https://twitter.com/dignity_ma?s=21 Website: www.DignityAllianceMA.org</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Participation opportunities with Dignity Alliance Massachusetts</p> <p>Most workgroups meet bi-weekly via Zoom.</p> <p>Please contact workgroup lead for more information</p> | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Workgroup</th> <th>Workgroup lead</th> <th>Email</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>General Membership</td> <td>Bill Henning Paul Lanzikos</td> <td>bhenning@bostoncil.org paul.lanzikos@gmail.com</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Behavioral Health</td> <td>Frank Baskin</td> <td>baskinfrank19@gmail.com</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Communications</td> <td>Pricilla O’Reilly Lachlan Forrow</td> <td>prisoreilly@gmail.com lforrow@bidmc.harvard.edu</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Facilities (Nursing homes, rest homes, assisted living)</td> <td>Arlene Germain</td> <td>agermain@manhr.org</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Home and Community Based Services</td> <td>Meg Coffin</td> <td>mcoffin@centerlw.org</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Housing</td> <td>Bill Henning</td> <td>bhenning@bostoncil.org</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Legislative</td> <td>Richard Moore</td> <td>rmoore8743@charter.net</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Legal Issues</td> <td>Jeni Kaplan</td> <td>jkaplan@cpr-ma.org</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Workgroup | Workgroup lead | Email | General Membership | Bill Henning Paul Lanzikos | bhenning@bostoncil.org paul.lanzikos@gmail.com | Behavioral Health | Frank Baskin | baskinfrank19@gmail.com | Communications | Pricilla O’Reilly Lachlan Forrow | prisoreilly@gmail.com lforrow@bidmc.harvard.edu | Facilities (Nursing homes, rest homes, assisted living) | Arlene Germain | agermain@manhr.org | Home and Community Based Services | Meg Coffin | mcoffin@centerlw.org | Housing | Bill Henning | bhenning@bostoncil.org | Legislative | Richard Moore | rmoore8743@charter.net | Legal Issues | Jeni Kaplan | jkaplan@cpr-ma.org |
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| <i>The Dignity Digest</i> | <p>For a free weekly subscription to <i>The Dignity Digest</i>: https://dignityalliancema.org/contact/sign-up-for-emails/ Editor: Paul Lanzikos Primary contributor: Sandy Novack MailChimp Specialist: Sue Rorke</p> | | |
| Note of thanks | <p>Thanks to the contributors to this issue of <i>The Dignity Digest</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judi Fonsh • Chris Hoeh • Suzanne Lanzikos • Dick Moore <p>Special thanks to the MetroWest Center for Independent Living for assistance with the website and MailChimp versions of <i>The Dignity Digest</i>. <i>If you have submissions for inclusion in <u>The Dignity Digest</u> or have questions or comments, please submit them to paul.lanzikos@gmail.com.</i></p> | | |
| <p><i>Dignity Alliance Massachusetts is a broad-based coalition of organizations and individuals pursuing fundamental changes in the provision of long-term services, support, and care for older adults and persons with disabilities. Our guiding principle is the assurance of dignity for those receiving the services as well as for those providing them. The information presented in "The Dignity Digest" is obtained from publicly available sources and does not necessarily represent positions held by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts.</i></p> <p><i>Previous issues of The Tuesday Digest and The Dignity Digest are available at: https://dignityalliancema.org/dignity-digest/</i></p> <p><i>For more information about Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, please visit www.DignityAllianceMA.org.</i></p> | | | |