

# Long-Term Care in Colorado



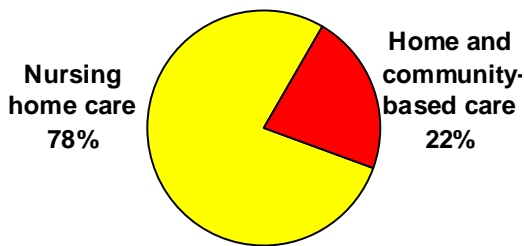
**The number of Colorado residents age 85 and older is projected to more than double by 2030.**

Colorado's older population can be at greater risk for chronic illnesses and in need of long-term care. Ten percent of Colorado's population is age 65+ with over 67,000 residents age 85+.<sup>1</sup> Colorado's age 85+ population – the age group that is most likely to need long-term care services – will grow 104% from 2007 to 2030.<sup>2</sup> This makes Colorado one of the top-ranked states (#8) in the projected growth rate of the 85+ population.

**Most prefer to receive long-term care at home; however, Colorado spends more than three-quarters of the state's Medicaid funds on institutional care.**

The majority of Americans age 50+ (89%) want to stay in their homes for as long as they can.<sup>3</sup> Nearly 550,000 Coloradans rely on Medicaid, and 10% are age 65+.<sup>4</sup> Home and community-based service (HCBS) waivers allow Medicaid recipients to receive Medicaid funding for in-home care. In Colorado, Medicaid allows some to choose in-home care instead of nursing home care. In 2006, 16,189 Coloradans 65+ with disabilities received a waiver.<sup>5</sup> On average, the Medicaid program can provide HCBS to three people for the cost of serving one person in a nursing home.<sup>6</sup>

Colorado spends 22% of its Medicaid long-term care dollars for older people and adults with physical disabilities on home and community-based care – ranking it 25<sup>th</sup> in spending on home care services for this population.<sup>7</sup>



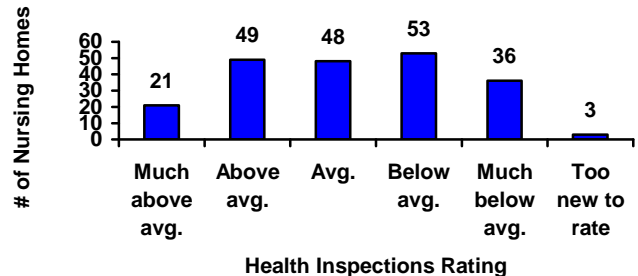
In addition, 540,000 Coloradans are providing family caregiving to a loved one at home. This care is valued at \$6.5 billion.<sup>8</sup>

**Colorado's average nursing home private pay rate in 2008 was higher than the national average at \$202 per day.**

In 2007, Colorado's nursing homes had an occupancy rate of 84%.<sup>9</sup> This care is expensive. In 2008, Colorado's nursing homes ranked 22<sup>nd</sup> in the country in the average private pay daily rate.<sup>10</sup> Colorado's average rates for home health aides (\$20/hr private pay and \$34/hr Medicare-certified) were close to the national average as was its average daily rate for adult day care (\$56/day).<sup>11</sup>

**One-third of Colorado's nursing homes rated above average in health inspections.**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) created a five-star quality rating to help consumers compare nursing homes. CMS rates nursing homes on health inspections, staffing, and quality measures.



The health inspection process is comprehensive and conducted by a trained team of objective surveyors.<sup>12</sup> Recent studies have found that non-profit nursing homes generally deliver higher quality of care.<sup>13</sup> In 2007, 68% of Colorado's nursing homes were for profit (22%, non-profit; 10%, government-owned).<sup>14</sup>

**Few Americans have long-term care insurance.**

Nationally, about 7 million long-term care insurance policies were in effect in 2005, and the typical purchaser was age 61 with assets over \$100,000.<sup>15</sup> Cost is a major factor in the decision to purchase long-term care insurance. In 2008, premiums for a married couple in their sixties were about \$3,000 a year.<sup>16</sup> Colorado has adopted the most recent long-term care insurance recommendations from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC).<sup>17</sup>

## End Notes

The data utilized in this report is the most recent publicly available data collected for all states

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. Estimates of the Resident Population by Selected Age Groups for the United States and Puerto Rico: July 1, 2008. Released May 14, 2009. URL: <http://www.census.gov/popest/states/asrh/SC-EST2008-01.html>

<sup>2</sup>Gibson, Mary Jo, Fox-Grage, Wendy, Houser, Ari. *Across the States 2009: Profiles of Long-Term Care and Independent Living: Executive Summary, State Data, and Rankings*. Page 34. AARP Public Policy Institute. Washington, D.C. URL: [http://www.aarp.org/research/ppi/ltc/Other/articles/across\\_the\\_states\\_2009\\_profiles\\_of\\_long-term\\_care\\_and\\_independent\\_living.html](http://www.aarp.org/research/ppi/ltc/Other/articles/across_the_states_2009_profiles_of_long-term_care_and_independent_living.html)

<sup>3</sup>Providing More Long-term Support and Services at Home: Why It's Critical for Health Reform. AARP Public Policy Institute, June 2009. URL: [http://www.aarp.org/research/ppi/ltc/hcbs/articles/fs\\_hcbs\\_hcr.html](http://www.aarp.org/research/ppi/ltc/hcbs/articles/fs_hcbs_hcr.html)

<sup>4</sup>The Kaiser Family Foundation, statehealthfacts.org. State Medicaid Fact Sheets, 2006-2007: Colorado. URL: <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/mfs.jsp?rgn=7&rgn=1&x=10&y=11>

<sup>5</sup>Ibid. *Medicaid 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Service Waiver Participants, by Type of Waiver, 2006*. Data Source: The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured (KCMU) and The University of California at San Francisco's (UCSF) analysis based on The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Form 372, December 2009, Table 5. "Medicaid 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Service Programs: Data Update" available at <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/7720.cfm>. URL: <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparetable.jsp?ind=241&cat=4>

<sup>6</sup>Providing More Long-term Support and Services at Home: Why It's Critical for Health Reform. AARP Public Policy Institute, June 2009. URL: [http://www.aarp.org/research/ppi/ltc/hcbs/articles/fs\\_hcbs\\_hcr.html](http://www.aarp.org/research/ppi/ltc/hcbs/articles/fs_hcbs_hcr.html)

<sup>7</sup>Gibson, Mary Jo, Fox-Grage, Wendy, Houser, Ari. *Across the States 2009: Profiles of Long-Term Care and Independent Living: Executive Summary, State Data, and Rankings*. Page 45. AARP Public Policy Institute. Washington, D.C. URL: [http://www.aarp.org/research/ppi/ltc/Other/articles/across\\_the\\_states\\_2009\\_profiles\\_of\\_long-term\\_care\\_and\\_independent\\_living.html](http://www.aarp.org/research/ppi/ltc/Other/articles/across_the_states_2009_profiles_of_long-term_care_and_independent_living.html)

<sup>8</sup>Ibid. Page 44.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid. Page 66.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid. Page 59.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid. Page 60.

<sup>12</sup>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Note: These data are updated monthly. Data for this brief was pulled on November 3, 2009. URL: <http://www.medicare.gov/NHCompare/Include/DataSection/Questions/ProximitySearch.asp>.

<sup>13</sup>BMJ 2009 (British Medical Journal); 339:b2732. URL: [www.pnhp.org/nursing\\_home](http://www.pnhp.org/nursing_home)

<sup>14</sup>The Kaiser Family Foundation, statehealthfacts.org. Table: *Distribution of Certified Nursing Facilities by Ownership Type, 2007*. Data Source: C. Harrington, H. Carrillo, and B. Blank. Table 7, "Nursing, Facilities, Staffing, Residents, and Facility Deficiencies, 2001 Through 2007," Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of California, San Francisco, accessed September 2008. Available at <http://www.pascenter.org>. Based on the Online Survey, Certification, and Reporting system (OSCAR), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. URL: <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparetable.jsp?ind=412&cat=8&sub=97&yr=62&typ=2>

<sup>15</sup>Kassner, Enid. Long-Term Care Insurance Fact Sheet. AARP Public Policy Institute. June 2009. URL: [http://www.aarp.org/research/ppi/ltc/ltc-ins/articles/LTCI\\_fact\\_sheet\\_2009\\_08.html](http://www.aarp.org/research/ppi/ltc/ltc-ins/articles/LTCI_fact_sheet_2009_08.html)

<sup>16</sup>Tumlinson, Anne, Aguiar, C. and Watts, M. Closing the Long-Term Care Funding Gap: The Challenge of Private Long-Term Care Insurance. Kaiser Family Foundation. Page 6. June 2009. URL: <http://www.kff.org/insurance/upload/Closing-the-Long-Term-Care-Funding-Gap-The-Challenge-of-Private-Long-Term-Care-Insurance-Report.pdf>

<sup>17</sup>Gibson, Mary Jo, Fox-Grage, Wendy, Houser, Ari. *Across the States 2009: Profiles of Long-Term Care and Independent Living*. Page 28. AARP Public Policy Institute. Washington, D.C. URL: [http://www.aarp.org/research/ppi/ltc/Other/articles/across\\_the\\_states\\_2009\\_profiles\\_of\\_long-term\\_care\\_and\\_independent\\_living.html](http://www.aarp.org/research/ppi/ltc/Other/articles/across_the_states_2009_profiles_of_long-term_care_and_independent_living.html)

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