



Long-Term Care in Massachusetts



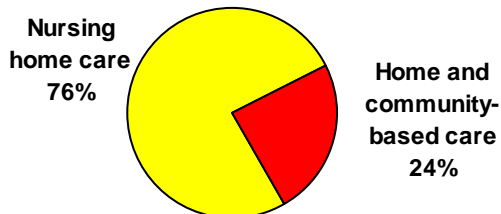
The number of Massachusetts residents age 85 and older is projected to grow by more than 50 percent by 2030.

The older population in Massachusetts can be at greater risk for chronic illnesses and in need of long-term care. Thirteen percent of Massachusetts's population is age 65+ with over 143,000 residents age 85+.¹ Massachusetts's age 85+ population – the age group that is most likely to need long-term care services – will grow 52% from 2007 to 2030.² This ranks Massachusetts in the middle (#34) of the nation in the projected growth rate of the 85+ population.

Most prefer to receive long-term care at home; however, Massachusetts spends 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.³ Over 1.2 million Massachusetts residents rely on Medicaid, and 12% are age 65+.⁴ Home and community-based service (HCBS) waivers allow Medicaid recipients to receive Medicaid funding for in-home care. In Massachusetts, Medicaid allows some to choose in-home care instead of nursing home care. In 2006, 8,122 Massachusetts residents 65+ received HCBS services under a Medicaid waiver.⁵ As of December 2009 there were 2,350 65+ who are on a waiting list to receive HCBS services through a Medicaid waiver.⁶ On average, the Medicaid program can provide HCBS to three people for the cost of serving one person in a nursing home.⁷

Massachusetts spends 24% of its Medicaid long-term care dollars for older people and adults with physical disabilities on home and community-based care – ranking it 22nd in spending on home care services for this population.⁸



In addition, 690,000 Massachusetts residents are providing family caregiving to a loved one at home. This care is valued at almost \$9 billion.⁹

Massachusetts has the 4th highest nursing home private pay rate in the nation at \$296 per day.

In 2007, Massachusetts's nursing homes had an occupancy rate of 90%.¹⁰ This care is expensive. In 2008, nursing homes in Massachusetts had an average private pay daily rate of almost \$300.¹¹ Massachusetts had higher rates for private pay home health aides (\$23/hr), but lower rates for Medicare-certified home health aides (\$32/hr) and for adult day care (\$56/day).¹²

Over one in three nursing homes in Massachusetts 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.

Health Inspections Ratings for Massachusetts Nursing Homes



The health inspection process is comprehensive and conducted by a trained team of objective surveyors.¹³

Recent studies have found that non-profit nursing homes generally deliver higher quality of care.¹⁴ In 2007, 70% of Massachusetts's nursing homes were for profit (28%, non-profit; 2%, government-owned).¹⁵

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 \$100,000.¹⁶ 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.¹⁷

Massachusetts has not adopted the most recent long-term care insurance recommendations from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC).¹⁸

End Notes

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

¹U.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>

²Gibson, 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

³Providing 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

⁴The Kaiser Family Foundation, statehealthfacts.org. State Medicaid Fact Sheets, 2006-2007: Massachusetts. URL: <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/mfs.jsp?rgn=23&rgn=1&x=14&y=16>

⁵Ibid. *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>

⁶Executive Office of Elder Affairs *ASAP Waitinglist Report*, December 10, 2009. Contact the Executive Office of Elder Affairs at (617) 727-7750 for a copy of the report.

⁷Providing 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

⁸Gibson, 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

⁹Ibid. Page 44.

¹⁰Ibid. Page 66.

¹¹Ibid. Page 59.

¹²Ibid. Page 60.

¹³Centers 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>.

¹⁴BMJ 2009 (British Medical Journal); 339:b2732. URL: www.pnhp.org/nursing_home

¹⁵The 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>

¹⁶Kassner, 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

¹⁷Tumlinson, 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>

¹⁸Gibson, 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