Long-Term Care in New Hampshire

The number of New Hampshire residents age 85 and older is projected to grow by 87 percent by 2030.

New Hampshire’s older population can be at greater risk for chronic illnesses and in need of long-term care. Thirteen percent (170,000) of New Hampshire’s population is age 65+, with 24,480 residents age 85+. New Hampshire’s age 85+ population – the age group that is most likely to need long-term care services – will nearly double from 2007 to 2030. This ranks New Hampshire 20th in the nation in the projected growth rate of the 85+ population.

Most prefer to receive long-term care at home; however, New Hampshire spends most state Medicaid funds on institutional care.

The majority of New Hampshire residents age 50+ (85%) want to stay in their homes for as long as they can. Over 141,000 Granite Staters rely on Medicaid, and 12% are age 65+. Home and community-based service (HCBS) waivers allow Medicaid recipients to receive Medicaid funding for in-home care. In New Hampshire, Medicaid allows some to choose in-home care instead of nursing home care. In 2006, 2,804 Granite Staters 65+ received a waiver. There were no waiting lists for this group in 2008. On average, the Medicaid program can provide HCBS to three people for the cost of serving one person in a nursing home.

New Hampshire spends 13% of its Medicaid long-term care dollars for older people and adults with physical disabilities on home and community-based care – ranking it 38th in spending on home care services for this population.

New Hampshire has the 7th highest average nursing home private pay rate in the nation at $259 per day.

In 2007, New Hampshire’s nursing homes had an occupancy rate of 90%. This care is expensive. In 2008, New Hampshire’s nursing homes had an average private pay daily rate well over $200. New Hampshire also had the highest rate for home health aides ($24/hr private pay) but its rates for Medicare-certified home health aides ($39/hr) and adult day care ($58/day) were close to the national average.

Over a third of New Hampshire’s 80 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.

In 2007, 53% of New Hampshire’s nursing homes were for profit (33%, non-profit; 14%, government-owned). New Hampshire has not adopted the most recent long-term care insurance recommendations from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC).

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. 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. New Hampshire has not adopted the most recent long-term care insurance recommendations from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC).
End Notes

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


7 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)


9 Ibid. Page 44.

10 Ibid. Page 66.

11 Ibid. Page 59.

12 Ibid. Page 60.

13 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/ProximitySearch.asp](http://www.medicare.gov/NHCompare/Include/DataSection/ProximitySearch.asp).

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


