Long-Term Care in Texas

The number of Texas residents age 85 and older is projected to double by 2030.

Texas’s older population can be at greater risk for chronic illnesses and in need of long-term care. Ten percent of Texas’s population is age 65+ with nearly 333,000 residents age 85+.\(^1\) Texas’s age 85+ population – the age group that is most likely to need long-term care services – will grow by 101 percent from 2007 to 2030.\(^2\) This ranks Texas 9\(^{th}\) in the projected growth rate of the 85+ population.

Most prefer to receive long-term care at home; however, Texas spends over half 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 4.1 million Texans rely on Medicaid, and 10% are age 65+.\(^4\) Home and community-based service (HCBS) waivers allow Medicaid recipients to receive Medicaid funding for in-home care. In Texas, Medicaid allows some to choose in-home care instead of nursing home care. In 2006, 45,325 Texans 65+ with disabilities and 141 adults (18-64) with disabilities received a waiver.\(^5\) There were 40,107 people 65+ with disabilities and 22 adults (18-64) with disabilities who waited for a waiver in 2008.\(^6\) On average, the Medicaid program can provide HCBS to three people for the cost of serving one person in a nursing home.\(^7\)

Texas spends 40% of its Medicaid long-term care dollars for older people and adults with physical disabilities on home and community-based care – ranking it 7\(^{th}\) in spending on home care services for this population.\(^8\)

In addition, 2.8 million Texans are providing family caregiving to a loved one at home. This care is valued at $26 billion.\(^9\)

Texas has one of the lowest average nursing home private pay rates in the nation at $160 per day.

In 2007, Texas’s nursing homes had an occupancy rate of 73%.\(^10\) In 2008, Texas’s nursing homes ranked 38\(^{th}\) in the country in average private pay daily rates.\(^11\) In 2008, the rates in Texas for home health aides ($17/hr private pay) and Medicare-certified ($40/hr) were close to the national average. However, the average rate for adult day care ($39/day) was lower than the national average.\(^12\)

One-third of Texas’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.\(^13\)

Recent studies have found that non-profit nursing homes generally deliver higher quality of care.\(^14\) In 2007, 83% of Texas’s nursing homes were for profit (14%, non-profit; 3%, 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.\(^17\) Texas 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.


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/ltc/hcbs/articles/fs_hcbs_hcr.html


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


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/QuesProximitySearch.asp.

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


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