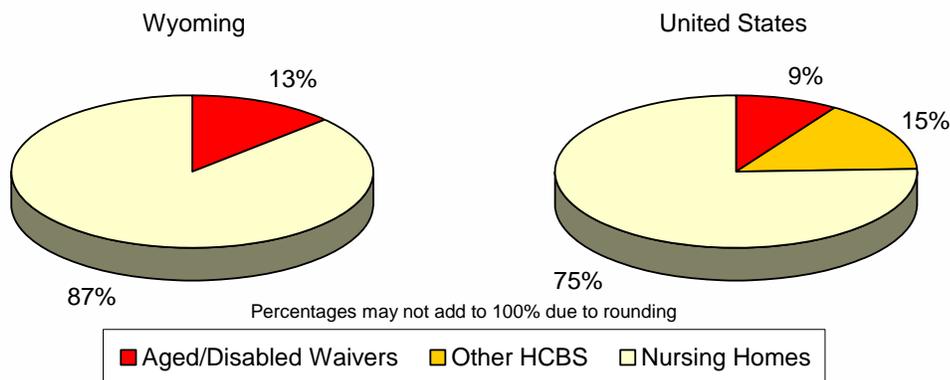


State Long-Term Care Reform in
WYOMING

Medicaid Long-Term Care Spending for Older People and Adults with Physical Disabilities in Wyoming and the U.S., 2006



Compared to the U.S. average, Wyoming allocates a greater percentage (87 percent) of its Medicaid long-term care (LTC) spending for older people and adults with physical disabilities to nursing homes, even though most people prefer to remain in their own homes and communities. In FY 2006, Wyoming spent 13 percent on waiver services.

Type of Service	Medicaid Participants ¹			Expenditures (millions)		
	1999	2004	Change	2001	2006	Change
HCBS	982	1,356	+374	\$0	\$10	+\$10
Nursing Homes	2,609	2,659	+50	\$39	\$64	+\$24

Recent Medicaid trends indicate that Wyoming has made some progress in expanding access to home and community-based services (HCBS) for Medicaid participants, but the state still has an unbalanced LTC system for older people and adults with physical disabilities. More Medicaid participants received nursing home services than received HCBS in 2004. However, the number of participants receiving HCBS increased, while the number of participants receiving nursing home services remained relatively flat from 1999 to 2004. Funding for the waiver program began in FY 2002. From FY 2001 to FY 2006, the increase in Medicaid spending on nursing homes was more than twice as much as the increase in spending on HCBS.

¹ This analysis separates Medicaid participation and spending data for older people and adults with physical disabilities from the population with mental retardation/development disabilities (MR/DD) and other LTC populations. Participants and expenditures for HCBS include all 1915(c) waivers for older people and adults with physical disabilities, and the personal care services option, if the state offers it. All participants and expenditures for nursing homes are included, regardless of the participants' type of disability or reason for admission. Excluded are participants and expenditures for intermediate care facilities for mental retardation (ICF/MR), HCBS waivers for other populations such as MR/DD, home health, and individuals receiving LTC services through managed care programs. Participant numbers include all persons receiving services during the year, not the average number on a given day; the number of nursing home participants is greater than the number of nursing home beds in each state. The average number of Medicaid nursing home residents on any given day for each state appears in the *Tables* tab at the end of the full report *A Balancing Act: State Long-Term Care Reform (#2008-10)*.

Medicaid is not the only source of funding for LTC. The state-funded Community-Based In-Home Services program had \$3.8 million in funding and 2,800 participants in 2007.

Major Initiative

In February 2007, the Wyoming Legislature enacted the Long-Term Care Choices Act (SF 89), which included the following provisions:

- Expand the capacity of the Medicaid HCBS waiver program by 300 slots and the Assisted Living Waiver by 22 slots.
- Authorize the Wyoming Department of Health to license an adult foster care home pilot project.
- Fund transition services for people leaving nursing homes or avoiding placement in an institutional setting.
- Authorize three pilot grants, with a 25 percent local match, to study the feasibility of innovation in LTC facilities.

“Long-Term Care Choices Act”

This Act expands the HCBS waiver program by 300 slots, establishes a licensed adult foster care home pilot project, provides funding for transition efforts, and authorizes three pilot grants to examine innovations in LTC facilities.

The legislation refers to “alternative elder care homes,” which are defined as fully detached houses with no more than 10 residents, “providing the highest level of care permitted under the state’s applicable health care facility rules” and modeled on the “Green House” concept. An elder care home must provide a “residential home environment to Medicaid-supported residents,” the legislation says. The bill, which also authorizes a feasibility grant to fund the exploration of one elder care home, was signed into law on March 15, 2007.

Other Developments

Home and Community-Based Services. The Wyoming legislature clarified and expanded the duties of the Wyoming Advisory Council on Aging in 2007 (House Bill 0149) by including assisted living, adult day care, boarding homes, and personal care as issues on which the Council should advise the Division on Aging. In another piece of legislation (House Bill 0016), the legislature added personal care services to the Community-Based In-Home Services Program.

Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC). State officials received an \$800,000 ADRC grant in 2005 to develop a single-point-of-entry demonstration in central Wyoming. Since the opening of the Resource Centers in August 2006, more than 500 consumers have either received information or gained access to LTC services. In addition, 21 consumers were transitioned, through the nursing home transition/diversion program, into HCBS settings in FY 2006–07.