

ACCESS TO CARE REPORT

August 2023

Nursing homes are struggling to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Labor shortages, inflation, and a lack of government funding are forcing many nursing homes to reduce the number of residents they can serve. This growing access to care crisis is devastating to displaced nursing home residents, prospective patients and family members searching for care, and hospitals that are overwhelmed with patients needing to be discharged.

Limiting Admissions

55%

of facilities are having to turn away prospective residents/patients

48%

have a waiting list of at least a few days

Facilities Downsizing

45,217

fewer nursing home beds

21%

of facilities are downsizing the number of beds/units they can offer because of labor shortages

24%

closed a unit, wing, or floor due to labor shortages

Closures

579

nursing homes closed

21,508

residents displaced by closures

30

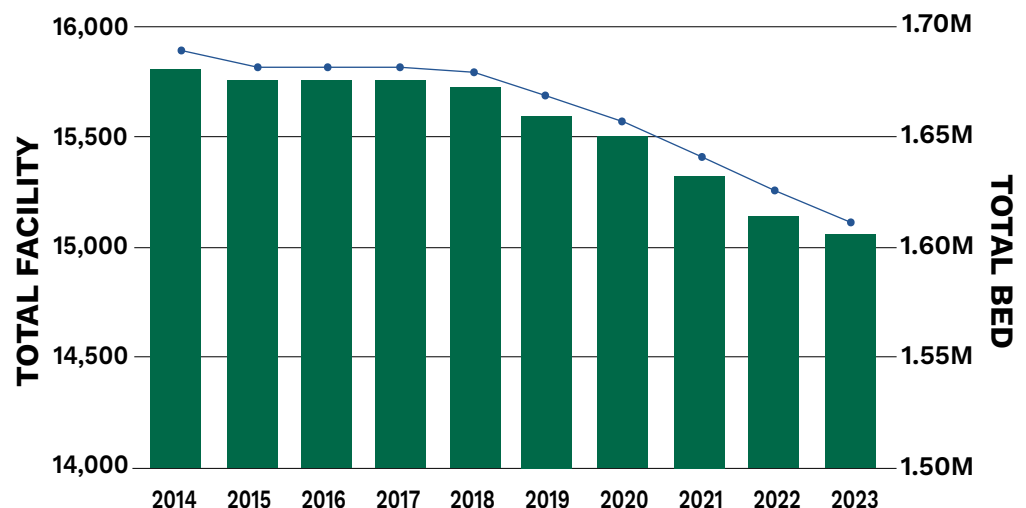
more U.S. counties became nursing home deserts

- As of June 2023
- During the Pandemic (2020-present)

A STARK DECLINE DURING THE PANDEMIC

Even prior to COVID-19, the total number of nursing homes and beds had been slightly decreasing, but the decline accelerated by nearly **4 times** during the pandemic.

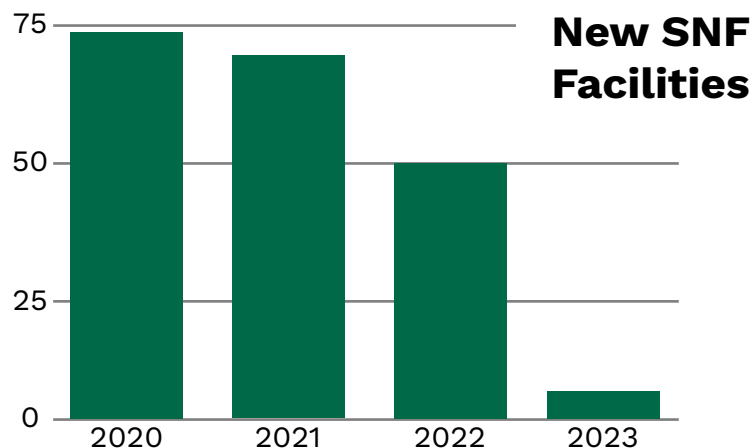
	Total Loss	Avg. Loss Per Year
Pre-Pandemic (2014-2019)	170	28
Pandemic (2020-Current)	403	100



FEW NEW NURSING HOMES

About 64 new nursing homes were certified each year in 2020-2022.

Only 3 new nursing homes have opened in 2023.



CLOSURES: FACILITY CHARACTERISTICS

Nursing homes that closed during the pandemic tend to be smaller facilities in urban settings where the majority of residents rely on Medicaid. **Nearly two in five nursing homes** that closed were highly rated by the federal government and three in 10 were not-for-profit.

76

avg. bed size

62%

of residents on Medicaid

-17%

avg. operating margin

70% / 30%

urban rural

38%

of closures were 4 or 5- star facilities

31%

non-profit ownership

FEDERAL STAFFING MANDATES WOULD WORSEN ACCESS TO CARE

The Biden Administration is expected to release a federal staffing mandate for nursing homes when many providers are already struggling to keep their doors open due to a nationwide shortage of caregivers. A staffing requirement without resources or workforce development programs will only accelerate this growing access to care crisis.

446,715

residents may be at risk of displacement



if facilities are unable to increase their workforce and must reduce their census in order to comply with a 4.1 hours per resident day staffing minimum.

BOTTOM LINE

Seniors deserve access to high-quality nursing home care when they need it.

With a rapidly growing elderly population, the time is now to strengthen this critical aspect of our health care system. Long term care needs meaningful investments by our nation's policymakers to help nursing homes on shoestring budgets recruit more staff and keep their doors open.