

# National Survey of Residential Care Facilities

## National Health Care Surveys



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Center for Health Statistics

## Introduction

The National Survey of Residential Care Facilities (NSRCF) is a first time national data collection effort to gather information about the characteristics of residential care facilities, including assisted living residences, board and care homes, congregate care, enriched housing programs, homes for the aged, personal care homes, and shared housing establishments.

## Importance

The number of people in the United States who need long-term care is expected to increase to 27 million in 2050. Although assisted living and residential care is an important and growing segment of the long-term care industry, there is an information gap about these communities and their residents. This study will provide for the first time a national picture of assisted living and residential care communities, the characteristics of the people who live in them, and the range of services received by residents. These data will help characterize how residential care and assisted living communities meet the needs of elders and adults with disabilities and help shape future long-term care policies.

## Residential care and assisted living

Residential care and assisted living residences are known by different names in different states. To be eligible for this study, a residential care or assisted living residence should:

- Offer help with personal care such as bathing and dressing, or health-related services such as medication;
- Provide room and board with at least two meals a day;
- Provide around-the-clock onsite supervision;
- Serve an adult population; and
- Be licensed, registered, listed, certified, or otherwise regulated by a state.

Residences licensed to serve exclusively persons with mental illness, mental retardation, or developmental disabilities are ineligible.

## Interview content and process

The NSRCF interviews will be conducted by RTI International. During the interviews, information will be collected on:

- Facility characteristics, such as physical structure and environment; types of services offered; types of staff employed; and policies on admission, retention, and discharge
- Resident characteristics, such as demographics, involvement in inside and outside activities, use of services, charges for care, health status, and cognitive and physical functioning

Approximately 2,250 facilities—representative of all regulated residential care and assisted living providers with four or more beds in the United States—will be interviewed for the study. Within each residence, a random sample of three to six residents will be selected depending on the number of beds.

In-person interviews will be conducted with directors and caregivers, not with residents. Results from this study will be presented separately by bed size (4–10 beds, 11–25 beds, 26–100 beds, and 100 beds or more).

## Confidentiality

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is required by law to maintain the confidentiality of data it collects about facilities and persons. All data that you provide will be kept in strict confidence and will be used only for statistical purposes. All information, publications, and data files will be released in such a way that no individual provider, staff, or resident can be identified. Any NCHS staff, contractor, or agent who willfully discloses confidential information may be subject to a jail term or a \$250,000 fine.

## Intended uses of the data

NSRCF is designed to provide national-level data that can be used by providers, consumers, policymakers, and researchers to:

- Describe assisted living and other residential care communities and services;
- Describe functionality of residents; and
- Examine service level differences by community size and geographical region.

## NSRCF partners

NSRCF is an initiative of CDC's NCHS in collaboration with:

- Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), HHS
- CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP), HHS
- CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), HHS
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

## NSRCF supporters

- American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA)
- American Seniors Housing Association (ASHA)
- Assisted Living Federation of America (ALFA)
- Board and Care Quality Forum
- National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL)

## To learn more about NSRCF call

301-458-4747, or

visit the NSRCF website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsrcf.htm>