

AARP Releases COVID-19 Nursing Home Dashboard Showing Trends in Iowa and Nationwide

The coronavirus pandemic has had a devastating effect in nursing homes and long-term care facilities, causing the deaths of more than 84,000 residents and staff, according to an Oct. 8 analysis by the Kaiser Family Foundation—including more than 750 in Iowa. As of Friday, October 16, the Iowa Department of Public Health reported 61 Iowa long term care facilities with current outbreaks. Yet policymakers have been slow to respond to this crisis, and no state, including Iowa, has done a good enough job to stem the loss of life. AARP has called for the enactment of a 5-point plan to protect nursing home and long-term care facility residents, and has fought for public reporting of nursing home COVID-19 cases and deaths.

Using data collected by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services—which is self-reported by nursing homes—the AARP Public Policy Institute, in collaboration with the Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University in Ohio, created the [AARP Nursing Home COVID-19 Dashboard](#) to provide four-week snapshots of the virus' infiltration into nursing homes and impact on nursing home residents and staff. Notably, the first release of the dashboard on October 14 reveals that nursing homes in every state reported shortages of PPE, ranging from 8% of facilities in the best-performing states, to 60% in the lowest-performing state. The dashboard also compared state and national data on COVID-19 cases and deaths, staff cases and staffing shortages.

For the period from August 24-Sept. 20, AARP's dashboard reports that Iowa had:

- 2.1 of COVID cases per 100 residents
- 0.41 of COVID deaths per 100 residents

Additionally, these three Iowa measures connected to staffing were notably worse than national averages

- Iowa: 3.7 of staff cases per 100 residents; National: 2.5 staff cases per 100 residents
- Iowa: 42.6% of nursing homes without a 1 week supply of PPE; National: 25.5% of nursing homes
- Iowa 39.6% of nursing homes with staffing shortages; National: 22.6% of nursing homes

Full data for Iowa, and a comparison to national data for each indicator, is available at aarp.org/IANursingHomes.

“This is a perfect storm: congregate care settings where at-risk individuals live and gather; staffing shortages; and staff, many who are ill-prepared and, in some cases, ill-equipped with the PPE needed while working in jobs in which social distancing isn't an option,” said Di Findley, Executive Director of Iowa Caregivers, an organization dedicated to supporting Iowa's direct care workforce. “It's a formula for disaster.”

More resources and information on COVID-19 and nursing homes can be found at aarp.org/nursinghomes.

About AARP:

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With a nationwide presence and nearly 38 million members, AARP strengthens communities and advocates for what matters most to families: health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment. AARP also produces the nation's largest circulation publications: AARP The Magazine and AARP Bulletin. To learn more, visit www.aarp.org or follow @AARP and @AARPadvocates on social media.