

Nursing Home Abuse and Neglect A Growing Concern



General Population of people over 65

Number of Nursing Homes in the U.S.

In 2003: 35,919,174 In 2012: 43,145,356

In 2003: 16380 In 2012: 15652

Increase of 7,226,182 people

A decrease of 728 Nursing Homes



In 2012, more than 1.4 million people 65 and older lived in nursing homes.

Bed Sores in Nursing Homes

Bed sores are among **the most serious medical conditions** that occur at nursing homes.

The rate of pressure ulcers in nursing home patients is often a quality-care indicator.

Between 2 percent and 28 percent of nursing home residents currently suffer from bed sores.

More than 10 percent of nursing home residents have suffered from a pressure ulcer.

Of those patients, about half of those diagnosed had Stage 2 bed sores. More than one-third of all nursing home residents with bed sores rated as "Stage 2" or higher required "special wound care services."



About 5% of adults 65 and older live in nursing homes, but nursing home residents account for about **20% of deaths** from falls in this age group.

20%

16.6%

16.6% reported a fall (since they were admitted or since the most recent assessment).

1800

About 1,800 older adults living in nursing homes **die each year** from fall-related injuries. Those who survive frequently sustain injuries that result in permanent disability and reduced quality of life.

Each year, a typical nursing home with 100 beds reports 100 - 200 falls. Many falls go unreported.

Between half and three-quarters of nursing home residents fall each year. That's **twice the rate** of falls among older adults living in the community.



Falls result in **disability, functional decline, and reduced quality of life**. Fear of falling can cause further loss of function, depression, feelings of helplessness, and social isolation.



Environmental hazards in nursing homes cause **16% to 27% of falls** among residents. Such hazards include **wet floors, poor lighting, incorrect bed height, and improperly fitted or maintained wheelchairs.**

These preventative measures are the responsibility of the Nursing Home. Are they doing this properly?

According to the CDC fall prevention in nursing homes presents multiple challenges.

Fall interventions include:

1. Assessing patients after a fall to identify and address risk factors and treat the underlying medical conditions.
2. Educating staff about fall risk factors and prevention strategies.
3. Reviewing prescribed medicines to assess their potential risks and benefits and to minimize use.
4. Making changes in the nursing home environment to make it easier for residents to move around safely.
5. Providing patients with hip pads that may prevent a hip fracture if a fall occurs.
6. Exercise programs can improve balance, strength, walking ability, and physical functioning among nursing home residents.

Other Signs of Abuse or Neglect

Physical injury from falls
Malnutrition or dehydration
Bed sores, pressure ulcers
Gangrene
Aspiration pneumonia
Over-sedation
Poor medical care
Medication mistakes
Lack of supervision
Property theft

Abandonment
Ineffective equipment
Sexual assault
Coercion
Physical or mental abuse
Poor Hygiene
Bruises
Fractures
Urinary Tract Infections
Sepsis
Wrongful death



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Sources:

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2. <http://www.injurylawyer.com/practice-areas/personal-injury/abuse/nursing-home-abuse-attorneys/>
3. <http://medicare.gov/NursingHomeCompare/Resources/Resident-Rights.html>