

# SURVEY: 2023 State of Pennsylvania Assisted Living Residences and Personal Care Homes

## Background

Between February 6-17, 2023, the Pennsylvania Health Care Association (PHCA) conducted a digital survey of members providing care in assisted living residences (ALR) and personal care homes (PCH).

The focus of the survey was to better understand the current state of long-term care, specifically access to care as a result of staffing challenges and resident finances. PHCA previously released Part I of the survey, focusing on nursing facilities. The purpose of this report is to share information gathered from providers in other parts of the long-term care continuum.

## Summary

The information shared by survey respondents revealed the access to care crisis is prevalent beyond just nursing facilities, as ALRs and PCHs average a waiting list tally that is even greater than nursing facilities. The senior living side of the long-term care continuum is not exempt from workforce challenges; however, contracted agency staff usage didn't score as high as it did for nursing facilities.

Another standout takeaway is the amount of average residents discharged to nursing homes because they can no longer privately pay for services. Nearly all respondents said they have residents who would benefit from Medicaid to cover their costs of services, enabling them to remain in their ALR/PCH. PHCA is advocating for legislation – Senate Bill 520 – that will support senior services in ALR settings with Medicaid funds.

## Respondent Profile

**31** ALR/PCH Executive Directors

**33%** PHCA AL/PC Member Participation

**8** ALR/PCH Owners



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RESPONSES

# 3.5

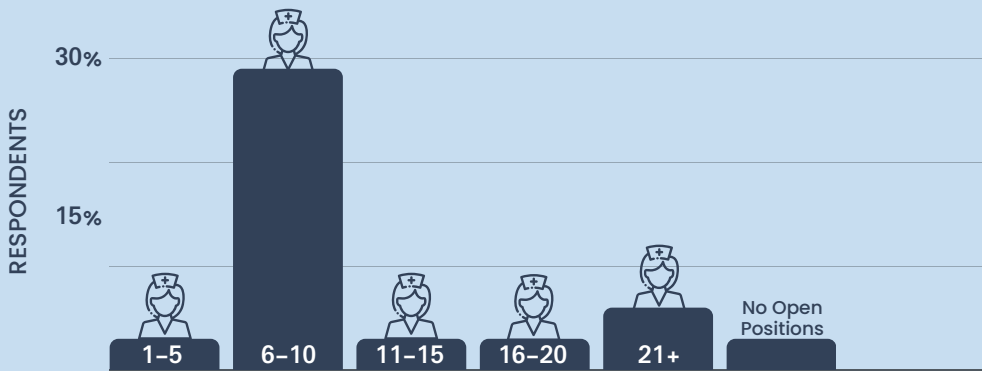
The average number of people on an assisted living residence (ALR) or personal care home (PCH) waitlist is nearly four people per building

With 1,135 ALRs and PCHs in Pennsylvania, this waitlist average equates to nearly 4,000 Pennsylvanians waiting to be admitted for senior living care.

PHCA's survey of nursing facilities revealed the average waitlist for nursing care is **three people per facility**, equating to more than **2,000** people waiting for nursing care in the state. These results further emphasize the access to care crisis.

# 29%

More than a quarter of the respondents said they have between 6-10 open positions that need to be filled.



# 97%

of respondents said they have open positions that need to be filled.

# 26%

More than a quarter of respondents said they are using contracted agency staff to fill open positions.

Of those using agency staff, 63% said they are using agencies much more in 2022 than in 2021.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RESPONSES

# 8

Respondents revealed that, on average, ALRs and PCHs discharged about eight people per building in 2022 because the residents no longer had enough funds to pay for services.

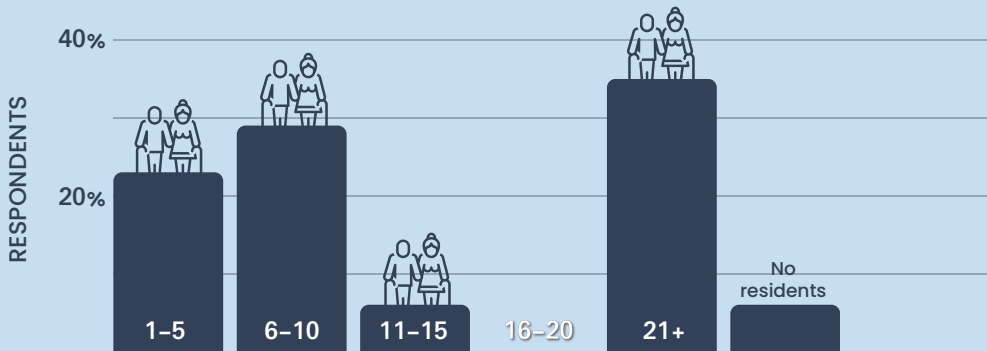
With 1,138 ALRs and PCHs in Pennsylvania, more than 9,000 residents would have been discharged in 2022 based on the eight person discharge average.

The top four reasons respondents said residents are transferred out of an ALR or PCH building are:

- #1 need for skilled nursing care
- #2 can no longer afford to privately pay
- #3 moved or relocated to another residence
- #4 no longer need the services

# 35%

More than one-third of the respondents said they have 21 or more residents in their building who would benefit from Medicaid to cover the costs of services each year.



# 94%

of respondents said they have residents that would benefit from Medicaid coverage.

# OWNER RESPONSES

19%

The average labor cost increase from 2019–2022 was 19%, according to owners of ALR/PCH buildings that collectively operate 50 buildings in Pennsylvania.

100%

of ALR/PCH owners who responded to the survey said they are concerned about losing staff to nursing home career opportunities if the Biden administration implements a 4.1 HPRD staffing requirement for nursing facilities.

The top four responses listed as the biggest challenges or concerns facing ALR/PCH owners in 2023 are:

- |                                     |        |                          |  |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------|--|
| #1                                  | #2     | #3                       | #T4  |
| workforce recruitment and retention | census | financial sustainability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• regulations and surveys</li><li>• liability and risk</li></ul> |

63%

of ALR owners said that if Medicaid funds were available for licensed assisted living residences in Pennsylvania, they would be likely to admit or continue care for residents reliant on Medicaid to cover resident care service costs.

38%

of PCH owners said they would at least be somewhat likely to pursue an assisted living residence license to become eligible to serve residents reliant on Medicaid to cover resident care service costs.