



The
Consumer
Voice
is essential
to achieve
Safe Staffing
legislation

Safe Staffing Talking Points

Patient's Perspective

This cannot be left to Labor Management agreements.

There should be a standard that patients can rely on.

It's the government's responsibility to establish that standard.

There is research to support the fact that safe staffing saves lives.



It's about patients

- **Elderly patients** have been shown to have an **increased risk** of hospital acquired (or nosocomial) infection per hospital admission. Most common among elderly patients was urinary tract infections. Nosocomial infections in the elderly trauma population have a significant impact on morbidity and mortality.
- **About 1,800 older Americans living in nursing homes die each year from fall-related injuries and those who survive frequently sustain injuries that result in permanent disability and reduced quality of life.**

Unsafe staffing has a cost, one that may be just a cost of doing business for hospitals and nursing homes.

But that cost for consumers is too high a price to pay.

- A patient's **chance of DEATH increases by 7%** for each additional patient that a nurse must care for in a hospital
- **Older patients** routinely experience long term consequences from:
 - preventable infections (such as Urinary Tract Infections)
 - falls and
 - bed sores.
- **Many are never able to recover.**

Hospitals that staff with a 1:8 nurse to patient ratio

experience **five additional deaths** per 1,000 patients

than hospitals staffing with a 1:4 nurse to patient ratio.

Proposed NYS Legislation: A.2954/S.1032

Hospitals shall maintain a staffing ratio equal to at least the following:

- **1:1 in operating room and trauma emergency units,**
- **1:2 in all critical care areas including emergency critical care and all intensive care units and post-anesthesia units,**
- **1:3 in emergency room, step-down and telemetry units,**
- **1:4 medical/surgical and acute care psychiatric units, non-critical antepartum patients, postpartum mother only units and;**
- **1:5 in rehabilitation units and subacute patients.**

Proposed NYS Legislation: A.2954/S.1032

Nursing Homes shall maintain a staffing ratio equal to at least the following:

- **MINIMUM 4.1 hours of direct care per resident per day**

2.8 hours of care per resident per day by a certified nurse aide;

1.3 hours of care per resident per day by a licensed practical nurse or a registered nurse;

0.75 hours of care per resident per day by a registered nurse;

Residential health care facilities that care for subacute patients:

direct-care nurse-to-patient ratio:

one nurse to five patients.

COVID19 has **exacerbated** the problems

- Need to use universal precautions with more people to prevent infection spread.
- Time to gown up before each patient encounter, particularly in long term care, means the need for more time spent on each patient
- Staffing in facilities was often at minimal levels and now got worse because the staff themselves were getting sick or quarantined.
- Social isolation –residents/patients were kept in their rooms and visitors were prohibited.
 - Essential visitors often contributed to patient/resident care and with the prohibition of visitors, care degraded.

Research finds staffing matters – during the 2020 pandemic

2020 – two studies separately examined staffing and COVID infections

1. Harrington Finding: California study

Nursing homes with **low RN and total staffing** were associated with more:

Facilities with COVID-19 residents

Total deficiencies

Infection control deficiencies

For-profit ownership

Large size facilities

2. Li Finding: Connecticut study

• **Higher RN staffing helps reduce virus transmission and resulting deaths**

- Among NHs with >1 confirmed case, every 20 minutes (per resident day) increase in RN staffing was associated with 22% **fewer confirmed cases** (p<0.001).
- Among NHs with >1 death, every 20 minutes (per resident day) increase in RN staffing was associated with 26% **fewer COVID-19 deaths** (p=0.047).

**SAFE STAFFING
SAVES LIVES**

