**Definition**
Percentage of Medicare/Medicaid certified nursing home beds occupied.

**Numerator**
Number of occupied Medicaid/Medicare certified nursing home beds.

**Denominator**
Total number of Medicaid/Medicare certified nursing home beds.

**Why Is This Important?**
Long-term care is an aspect of the health care system that is changing rapidly, with an increasing emphasis on the continuum of life care and development of creative alternatives to the traditional nursing home model. Occupancy rate is used as a performance indicator for nursing homes and assisted living facilities. An occupancy rate that is near 100% indicates lack of capacity, which can lead to delays in hospital discharge as well as other problems. However, low occupancy rates indicate a high supply, with a potential for poor patient care in new facilities that are not yet fully staffed, and in facilities suffering from insufficient revenues.

**Other Objectives**
Similar to HP2010 Goal 1-15: (Developmental) Increase the proportion of persons with long-term care needs who have access to the continuum of long-term care services.

**How Are We Doing?**
Some rural areas in Utah have occupancy rates above 90% - an indication of demand outpacing supply. Some of these areas plan to build additional nursing home facilities, while others are using other alternatives, such as transitional care facilities and hospital "swing beds."

In 1989, the Utah Department of Health declared an emergency moratorium on Medicaid certification of new nursing home bed certification. By discouraging additional nursing facility certification of facilities, the moratorium was designed to stabilize the nursing home industry and give the state an opportunity to develop alternative solutions for a better long-term care system.

**Available Services**
health.utah.gov/licensing/consumer_info.htm

The data presented here reflect Medicaid-certified nursing home beds, only, and as such are just an indicator of the whole picture. More detailed information may be found in a recent report published by the UDOH, Office of Health Care Statistics, and may be found on the Internet at: http://health.utah.gov/hda/Reports/NHM02.pdf.

Lists of nursing care facilities are provided on the UDOH website, at: http://health.utah.gov/licensing/NCF.htm.
More Information


Other Program Information

Related Indicators
Related IBIS-PH Indicator Profile Links for Relevant Population Characteristics:
- Assisted Living Occupancy Rate: Type I
- Assisted Living Occupancy Rate: Type II

Related IBIS-PH Indicator Profile Links for Health Care System Factors:
- Assisted Living Occupancy Rate: Type I
- Assisted Living Occupancy Rate: Type II

Graphical Data Views
Percentage of Medicaid/Medicare Certified Nursing Home Beds Occupied by Year, Utah, 1997-2004
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>80.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>78.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>77.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>79.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>76.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>71.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>68.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data Sources**
Bureau of Program Certification and Resident Assessment, Division of Health Systems Improvement, Utah Department of Health;

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Bureau of Medicare and Medicaid Program Certification and Resident Assessment, Division of Health Systems Improvement, Utah Department of Health, Salt Lake City, UT