Federal Researchers Release Data From First National Survey Of Assisted Living
Source: Karl Polzer NCAL

Last week, federal researchers released initial findings of the first-ever nationally representative study of assisted living/residential care facilities and residents—officially titled the “2010 National Survey of Residential Care Facilities.” This is the largest study of the assisted living profession ever done by the federal government.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Health Care Statistics conducted the data collection in an effort to gather information about the characteristics of residential care buildings and its residents.

Perhaps most significant was evidence of the growth of Medicaid’s role in assisted living. The study found that 19 percent of residents received Medicaid funding, and 43 percent of facilities had at least one resident receiving Medicaid assistance. Key findings also include the following:

- In 2010, there were 31,100 residential care facilities (RCFs the study’s term for assisted living), with 971,900 licensed beds nationwide. (Facilities exclusively serving adults with severe mental illness or developmental disabilities were excluded from the survey.)
- About one-half of RCFs were small facilities with four to 10 beds. The remainder comprised medium facilities with 11 to 25 beds (16 percent), large facilities with 26 to 100 beds (28 percent), and extra-large facilities with more than 100 beds (7 percent).
- One-tenth of all RCF residents lived in small RCFs, and a comparable 9 percent lived in medium facilities, while the majority resided in large (52 percent) or extra-large (29 percent) RCFs.
- Larger RCFs were more likely than small RCFs to be chain-affiliated and to provide occupational therapy, physical therapy, social services counseling, and case management.

Researchers from the National Center for Health Statistics also released facility and resident public-use data files. A data brief describing resident characteristics is scheduled to be released in March 2012.

Linda Kirschbaum, NHA, Director Assisted Living, Residential Care & Quality
Oregon Health Care Association ~11740 SW 68th Parkway, Ste 250, Portland, Oregon 97223
(503) 726-5260 (office) ~ (503) 726-5228 (direct line)
www.ohca.com