

# **Nursing Home Weekly Bed Census Survey**

## **OVERVIEW**

**New York State Department of Health  
Office of Primary Care and Health Systems Management**

**November 2019**

**Health Data NY**

## **General Description**

The Department of Health requires nursing homes to complete electronic filing of each facility's licensed nursing home beds and availability by bed category on a weekly basis. All nursing homes are requested to submit their Weekly Bed Census between Wednesday and Friday of each week, based on the census at 12:00 AM on Wednesday night. Available Bed and Occupancy information is self-reported, and is not audited by the NYSDOH.

The survey has allowed the nursing home surveillance program to:

1. Improve the coordination of nursing home placements in the event of a closure or emergency situation within a community; and
2. Create a consistent and efficient mechanism for long term care stakeholders to collect and report on nursing home bed availability.

Occupancy rate information is displayed on the Nursing Home Profile [https://profiles.health.ny.gov/nursing\\_home](https://profiles.health.ny.gov/nursing_home) overview tab for each related nursing home. This information is updated monthly for the general public.

Researchers may use the data to help assist in evaluating:

1. Occupancy Rates by Region/County
2. Bed Availability
3. Evaluate Bed and Specialty Bed Needs

## **Dataset Revisions Effective August 21, 2019**

The Department of Health requires submission of the Weekly Bed Census Data Survey effective August 21, 2019.

The following was removed from the survey:

- Coma Recovery Bed census

The following was added to the survey:

- Total Pediatric Ventilator Capacity, replacing the Pediatric Ventilator Bed census
- Neurogenerative Beds
- Onsite home hemodialysis units for bedside and den, replacing the dialysis census

## **Data Methodology**

A Weekly Bed Census Survey form is available in electronic format for weekly data submission. The form was developed, and is available via the Health Commerce System (HCS) in the nursing home area. All nursing homes are requested to submit their Weekly Bed Census between Wednesday and Friday of each week, based on the census at 12:00 AM on Wednesday night.

Any facilities not submitting current information are called by Department of Health staff, requesting submission of their data. Most facilities have recent census data.



All Nursing Home Weekly Bed Census data is stored in an MS Access database for analysis purposes. The information is reviewed against Health Facilities Information System (HFIS) for data inconsistencies. Follow-up has been performed with nursing homes when there are apparent issues in data.

### **Statistical and Analytic Issues**

There are some gaps in data points due to nursing homes reporting variation. The Department bases occupancy statistics on the most recent week available to the Department.

There are some inconsistencies between HFIS and the weekly bed census survey due to the temporary opening of beds. There can be disparities between the Department HFIS certified bed counts versus that of the operational census data provided in this data set.

### **Limitations of Data Use**

Public access to this census data is intended solely to allow the public convenient and immediate access to public information. Available Bed and Occupancy information is nursing home facility self-reported and is not audited by the NYSDOH. While all attempts are made to provide accurate, current, and reliable information, the Department of Health recognizes the possibility of human and/or mechanical error and that information captured at a point in time often becomes obsolete. Therefore, the Department of Health, its employees, officers and agents make no representation, warranty or guarantee as to the accuracy, completeness, currency, or suitability of the information provided here.