National Academies of Science Engineering and Medicine: Study on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes

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The Commonwealth Fund

Established in 1918 by Anna M. Harkness, the mission of The Commonwealth Fund is to promote a high performing health care system that achieves better access, improved quality, and greater efficiency, particularly for society's most vulnerable populations.

Areas of Focus:















The previous NASEM study on nursing homes had significant impacts on federal policy

1986: Improving the 1987: Nursing Quality of Care in Home Reform **Nursina Homes** Act passed as report released part of the **Omnibus Budget** Reconciliation Act 2010: The ACA includes provisions to improve nursing home transparency, care quality, and 2020: abuse preventions **New NASFM** study on nursing home reform

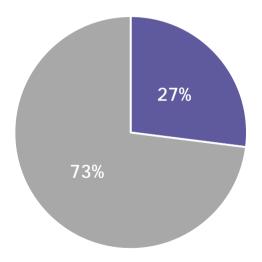
The 1986 Improving the Quality of Care in Nursing Homes report spurred major Congressional reform of nursing home regulations in 1987. As a result:

- Long term care is no longer synonymous with nursing homes
- Use of alternative non-institutional settings increased (i.e., home-based care)
- Understanding of residents' needs, preferences, and values improved
- Assessment of nursing home quality reformed



The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted and amplified problems in nursing homes

Over a quarter of all COVID-19-related deaths in the U.S. have occurred in nursing homes



Total deaths, as of November 2020: 238,000+

The following issues have contributed to an impaired pandemic response:

- Fragmented financing
- Low staff wages
- Clinicians not often on-site
- Lack of transparency in care quality
- Cracks in regulatory framework little oversight or enforcement
- Less emphasis on infection control prior to the pandemic
- Lack of owner accountability



The Commonwealth Fund has three primary aspirations for the NASEM Study



Document the variable quality and drivers of poor quality in nursing home care



Examine issues for both older people on Medicare as well as younger people with serious disabilities



Propose actionable ways for clinicians and policymakers to improve the quality of nursing home care

