



Indiana State
Department of Health

LONG TERM CARE NEWSLETTER

**ISDH Long Term Care
Newsletter Issue 2015-18
August 31, 2015**

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Nursing Home Occupancy Report

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) released today its *Nursing Home Occupancy Report* for July 1, 2015. The report provides nursing home occupancy rates for all counties. The statewide nursing home occupancy rate on July 1 was 75%. The report is based on actual bed census data on July 1 as reported to the ISDH by comprehensive care facilities.

The ISDH was mandated by the legislature as part of the recent moratorium bill to determine occupancy rates for each county for January 1 and July 1 of each year. Bed census data is used for licensing purposes in determining eligibility for a license. The survey process is partly based on the facility census at the time of the survey. The data is also important for disaster preparedness reasons in being able to quickly identify facilities with available beds.

The new occupancy report represents a change in data sources from previous reports. Previous occupancy reports were based on data gathered at the time of surveys so the data had a span of up to fifteen months. This new report is therefore our first effort to have an accurate occupancy snapshot for a specific date.

To improve readability of reports, the ISDH has split the data into three reports. The *Comprehensive Care Bed Count Report* provides the number of comprehensive care beds licensed by the ISDH. The bed counts are split for type of bed - skilled nursing facility (SNF), nursing facility (NF), dually certified (SNF-NF), and non-certified comprehensive care (NCC) [state licensed only]. The *Comprehensive Care Facility Count Report* provides the number of licensed facilities with splits for certification type. The *Comprehensive Care Facility Occupancy Report* provides the occupancy rates.

Residential Care Facility Occupancy Report

The ISDH also released its *Residential Care Facility Occupancy Report* for July 1, 2015. Like the nursing home report, the report provides occupancy rates for all counties. The statewide residential care facility occupancy rate on July 1 was 63%. The report is based on actual bed census data from July 1 as reported to the ISDH by the facilities.

This is our first report on residential care facilities (licensed assisted living facilities). While there is not the same legislative mandate to obtain occupancy rates as with nursing homes, the legislature has frequently requested this information. On reports

pertaining to access to healthcare, the legislative has periodically required the ISDH to submit reports that include residential care data. Similar to nursing homes, bed census data for residential care facilities is also used for licensing purposes in determining eligibility for a license. The survey process is partly based on the facility census at the time of the survey and the data is also important for disaster preparedness reasons in being able to quickly identify facilities with available beds.

Like the nursing home reports, the ISDH has split the data into two reports. The *Residential Care Facility and Bed Count Report* provides the number of residential care facilities and the number of residential care beds licensed by the ISDH. The *Residential Care Facility Occupancy Report* provides the occupancy rates.

Accessing the Reports

The ISDH has a very extensive web site providing a wealth of information. The challenge is that the size of the site often results in difficulties in navigating the site and finding information. The ISDH home page is found at www.in.gov/isdh.

The ISDH Health Care Quality and Regulatory Commission produces a number of reports related to health care facilities. To assist individuals in finding these reports, a *Reports on Health Care Facilities* page has been created to serve as a common source for all reports. We expect to expand this page in the near future to add additional reports. The direct link to the *Reports on Health Care Facilities* page is <http://www.in.gov/isdh/26745.htm>.

The Reports page will eventually be a drop down under the Health Care Quality and Regulatory Commission link found in the left column of the ISDH home page. It will likely take a couple of weeks for that link to appear.

The link to the Reports page can now be found on the Health Care Quality and Regulatory Commission home page at <http://www.in.gov/isdh/19041.htm>. Links to the individual reports will also be found on the individual comprehensive and residential care program pages.

Lessons Learned and Next Steps

The ISDH thanks facilities for reporting their July 1 bed census data through the ISDH Gateway System. While the ISDH previously requested reporting of bed census data through the Gateway System, this was our first effort at collecting census data for every nursing home for a specific date and the first time that we included residential care facilities. There were some challenges. Being the first time that we attempted to gather data for a report through this process, there were some lessons learned for the ISDH and facilities.

We were fairly pleased with the process. In June we requested facilities to report July 1 bed census data by July 15 through the Gateway System. While we were not able to collect the data as quickly as we hoped, every facility was eventually able to submit data through the Gateway. One of our goals for this first time was to make sure every facility could use the Gateway System for data submission.

Completing the report took longer than we hoped. After July 15, we identified facilities that had not submitted their data. When contacted, some facilities stated that they did not have an administrator or their administrator was on vacation or nobody was present that had access to the Gateway System. Facilities need to ensure that there is always someone with access to the Gateway System who can receive information and submit reports. Our goal is to complete the report within a month of the July 1 or January 1 date. We therefore need data reported within 15 days of the reporting date to allow time for validating data and preparing reports.

The ISDH had some difficulty in making sure that every facility was included. Because of multiple databases and challenges in synchronizing files, we discovered that we had not sent out information to every facility as we thought we had. When our total number of facilities didn't match with what we knew were the total number of facilities, we had to sync databases. We think we have that corrected for the future.

We sent out the announcement through the Long Term Care Newsletter and Survey Report System. Provider associations also posted the information in their newsletter. We found however that a few providers did not get the information. Part of the problem was that the facility was not a subscriber to the newsletter or a member of an association so did not receive information

through those sources. Facilities should still have received information through the Survey Report System but we found that some facilities had changed personnel and did not have a current email and login. Facilities need to ensure that they maintain a current email and login to the ISDH Gateway System.

Another glitch was some confusion on what was to be reported resulting in some data fields being left blank. This was a good lesson learned for us to make sure that we are clear in our forms as to what is being requested. To resolve this problem, the ISDH will be simplifying the reports in January and providing better directions.

Moving forward, the ISDH will be collecting bed census data each January 1 and July 1. We will not be requesting monthly bed census reports as in the past. We anticipate only requiring the data twice a year to be reported by January 15 and July 15.