



JB Pritzker, Governor
Sameer Vohra, Director



JULY 1, 2024

ANNUAL REPORT

LONG-TERM CARE
OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE REGULATION



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

July 1, 2024

To the Honorable JB Pritzker, Governor, and Members of the General Assembly:

Thank you for the opportunity to present the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) 2023 Long-Term Care Facility Annual Report. This report was prepared pursuant to Section 3-804 of the Nursing Home Care Act (210 ILCS 45) and Section 6 of the Abused and Neglected Long-Term Care Facility Residents Report Act (210 ILCS 30).

Situated within the Office of Health Care Regulation (OHCR), the Bureau of Long-Term Care is responsible for ensuring long-term care facilities comply with the provisions of applicable federal regulations and state statutes. A cooperative agreement between IDPH and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) authorizes IDPH to conduct certification and complaint surveys to ensure facilities receiving Medicare and Medicaid funding abide by applicable federal regulations. The Bureau of Long-Term Care also licenses, inspects, and regulates a wide range of state-licensed facilities beyond those certified by CMS, including assisted living facilities, facilities providing care for individuals with developmental disabilities, and those providing care to clients with specialized mental health rehabilitation needs. As part of IDPH's regulatory responsibilities, OHCR maintains the Health Care Worker Registry, the Central Complaint Registry, oversees the Certified Nursing Assistant Program, and liaisons with CMS to provide ongoing training and certification of long-term care surveyors. To ensure high-quality care throughout the long-term care setting, OHCR's Administrative Rules Division is responsive to changes in the statutory and regulatory framework necessary to authorize the activities of the OHCR.

During the last year, OHCR met or exceeded most CMS performance metrics by vigorously investigating complaints and ensuring facilities meet overall regulatory standards through annual health and life safety construction surveys. IDPH continued to respond to COVID-19 concerns in facilities as required by federal and state regulations with implementation of requirements focusing on resident and staff vaccine education and training. Many regulations were continued after the end of the federal and state Public Health Emergency in March 2023.

Recognizing the overarching collaboration required to transform long-term care, IDPH partners with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, the Illinois Department on Aging, the Illinois Department of Human Services, and external stakeholders dedicated to improving the quality of life and care of individuals seeking long-term care.

This report details the long-term care regulatory activities of IDPH, and I hope it will serve to contribute to the previous groundwork and ongoing initiatives aimed at ensuring high quality, person-centered, and equitable care in Illinois' long-term care facilities.

Sincerely,

Sameer Vohra, MD, JD, MA
Director

MISSION OF THE OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE REGULATION

The Illinois Department of Public Health Office of Health Care Regulation (OHCR) is to be an advocate and partner with the people of Illinois to re-envision health policy and promote health equity, prevent, and protect against disease and injury, and prepare for health emergencies. OHCR licensed and inspected 1,586 long-term care facilities, including those providing skilled nursing, intermediate nursing care, sheltered care, community living, assisted living, specialized mental health rehabilitative services, and care for individuals with intellectually complex/developmentally disabled needs. OHCR also licensed and inspected a combined 3,169 non-long-term care facilities and in-home agencies providing medical care or home services. In addition to ensuring compliance with federal and state regulations, OHCR conducts criminal background checks on unlicensed health care workers, approves training courses and competency evaluations for certified nursing assistants, approves basic and advanced nursing assistant training programs, and operates a 24/7 central complaint registry to serve the needs of individuals seeking to express concerns about the quality of care provided in long-term care and medical facilities.

The Bureau of Long-Term Care (BLTC) and its various divisions ensure IDPH maintains an effective system to implement the state and federal statutory and regulatory framework applicable to long-term care that supports the overarching IDPH mission and vision. BLTC is committed to improving the quality of care, effectively using data and technology to track trends in facility performance and utilizing enforcement actions to ensure sustained regulatory compliance. OHCR is required to file reports to the General Assembly and other required stakeholders and follow all required scheduled reporting. During the period this report covers, the OHCR had a staff of 435 employees with 319 working in BLTC divisions. There were 262 nurse surveyors of which five transitioned out of the bureau. The average tenure of nurse surveyors is approximately eight years.

The BLTC includes the Division of Licensure and Certification; Division of Special Investigations; Division of Long-Term Care Field Operations, which includes Specialized Mental Rehabilitation Services and ICF/IID facilities; Division of Compliance Assurance; Division of Assisted Living; Division of Life Safety and Construction; Technical and Training Unit; and Administrative Rules and Procedures. The primary responsibilities of each division and activities during 2023 are included in this annual report.

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BUREAU OF LONG-TERM CARE OVERVIEW

Bureau of Long-Term Care (BLTC) activities are supported by multiple divisions within the Office of Health Care Regulation (OHCR). To meet the OHCR licensing and regulating responsibilities, staff are situated in the IDPH Springfield office and eight regional offices throughout the state. A brief description of each division is provided below.

Division of Licensure and Certification: The division is responsible for licensure activity, including new applications; changes in ownership and administrators; coordinating activities with field operations, compliance assurance, life safety, and construction; processing closure notices; and maintaining databases. Processes re-certification documents with CMS and collaborates with other state agencies where licensing and regulatory activities intersect.

Special Investigations Unit includes the Central Complaint Registry (CCR): Investigates quality of care issues, such as allegations of actual or potential harm to patients, patient rights, infection control, and medication errors. The unit also investigates allegations of unlicensed long-term care facilities and leads various task forces related to abuse, neglect, and theft. CCR houses the single statewide telephone number maintained by IDPH that persons may use to report suspected long-term care facility resident abuse or neglect at any hour of the day or night, on any day of the week.

Division of Long-Term Care Field Operations: This division operates in eight regions throughout the state from seven regional offices: Bellwood, Champaign, Fairview Heights, Marion, Peoria, Rockford, and West Chicago. The division is responsible for conducting annual health, complaint, and state licensure surveys and ensuring federal and state regulatory compliance in long-term care facilities in concert with the CMS. Its surveyor teams include nurses, dietitians, sanitarians, environmentalists, behavioral health specialists, and social workers. The team responds to emergencies, including allegations of closures, unsafe environments, and health care quality and staffing concerns. The division also handles survey activity of Intermediate Care Facilities/Individual Intellectually Disabled and Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitation Facilities (ICF/IID/SMHRF).

Division of Compliance Assurance (CA): The division is responsible for processing surveys, enforcement actions, informal dispute resolutions, and acts as a liaison with the field operations staff. The staff works closely with partners at the CMS Chicago Regional Office to ensure the imposition and recommendation of enforcement actions. Staff are also responsible for responding to requests for information via the Freedom of Information Act, the maintenance of surveying/enforcement records, and support to the entire bureau. CA is also responsible for the implementation of statutes and regulatory activities associated with staffing rules and requests for registered nurse waivers.

Division of Assisted Living: The division is responsible for all licensing and regulatory activities associated with assisted living facilities. The division encompasses field and enforcement activities under the applicable administrative code.

Division of Life Safety Code and Construction: Given the dual regulatory responsibilities of this division both in long-term care and non-long-term care, its activities fall within OHCR, but outside

of the BLTC. Staff join OHCR as architects, engineers, and project designers but must also be certified by CMS and pass rigorous examinations to independently survey in the long-term care setting.

STATUTORY DEFINITIONS OF FACILITIES

The following statutory provisions describe the types of residents and long-term care facilities licensed and regulated by BLTC.

LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

Long-term care facilities are defined as a private home, institution, building, residence, or any other place, whether operated for profit or not, or a county home or similar institution for the infirm and chronically ill operated by a political subdivision of the state that provides, through its ownership or management, personal care, sheltered care, or nursing for three or more persons, not related to the applicant or owner by blood or marriage. It includes skilled nursing and intermediate care facilities (Nursing Home Care Act, 210 ILCS 45/1-113).

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES/DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (ID/DD)

The ID/DD Community Care Act (210 ILCS 47) provides for the licensure of intermediate care facilities for persons with developmental disabilities, whether operated for profit or not, which provides, through its ownership or management, personal care, or nursing for three or more persons not related to the applicant or owner by blood or marriage. Developmental disabilities are characterized by significant limitations in both intellectual functioning (intelligence) and in adaptive behavior (ID/DD Community Care Act, 210 ILCS 47).

MEDICALLY COMPLEX FOR THE DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED (MC/DD)

The MC/DD Act provides for the licensure of facilities for medically complex persons with developmentally disabled individuals. (MC/DD Act, 210 ILCS 46).

SPECIALIZED MENTAL HEALTH REHABILITATION FACILITY

Under the Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitation Act of 2013 (210 ILCS 49/1-102), a SMHRF is a facility that provides at least one of the following services: (1) triage center, (2) crisis stabilization, (3) recovery and rehabilitation support, or (4) transitional living units for three or more persons. The facility shall provide a 24-hour program that provides intensive support and recovery services designed to assist persons, 18 years of age or older with mental disorders, to develop the skills to become self-sufficient and capable of increasing levels of independent functioning.

ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY

The Assisted Living and Shared Housing Act (210 ILCS 9/5) was enacted to support the goal of aging in place. These facilities shall be operated as residential environments with supportive services designed to meet the individual resident's changing needs and preferences. The residential environment shall be designed to encourage family and community involvement. The services available to residents, either directly or through contracts or agreements, are intended to help residents remain as independent as possible. "Assisted living establishment" is defined as a

home, building, residence, or any other place where sleeping accommodations are provided for at least three unrelated adults, at least 80% of whom are 55 years of age or older.

COMMUNITY LIVING FACILITY (CLF)

Under the CLF Licensing Act (210 ILCS 35), a transitional residential setting provides guidance, supervision, training, and other assistance to ambulatory mildly and moderately developmentally disabled adults with the goal of eventually moving these people to more independent living arrangements. A CLF shall not be a nursing or medical facility and shall house no more than 20 residents.

SHELTERED CARE FACILITY

Under the Nursing Home Care Act, sheltered care facilities provide maintenance and personal care (Nursing Home Care Act, 210 ILCS 45/1-124).

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION SECTIONS

The Licensure Section processes applications for the licensure of new facilities, changes of ownership, licensure renewal applications, and bed level/services changes. Additionally, the section provides statistical reports and collaborates/supports the Certification Section to process various facility requests.

The Certification Section is responsible for processing and tracking initial certifications and annual recertifications of long-term care facilities. Additionally, the Certification Section is responsible for processing and tracking Life Safety Code Waiver requests; bed certification changes; changes of ownership and information, terminations, and closures; Title XIX collections; and civil money penalties.

Based on IDPH records, more than 1,000 facilities are regulated under the Illinois Nursing Home Care Act (NHCA), the ID/DD Community Care Act, the Medically Complex/Developmentally Disabled (MC/DD) Act, the Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitation Act, the Community Living Facilities Licensing Act, and/or federal requirements for Medicare (Title XVIII) and/or Medicaid (Title XIX) participation. Of these facilities, 690 are licensed under the NHCA with the majority (97.54%) participating in the federal certification program for Medicare and/or Medicaid.

Program staff process a wide range of provider requests. Licensure actions include upgrades of care levels, the addition of approved services, adding or removing beds, or simply changing room bed location. Other actions include licensing new facilities and processing changes of ownership, facility closures, and replacement facilities. Licensure actions are finalized following approval by the Division of Life Safety and Construction and the successful completion of a health survey by the Division of Field Operations staff.

NUMBER AND TYPES OF LICENSED FACILITIES

The following tables provide data for 2022 and 2023 on the types of facilities, including overall beds licensed and regulated by IDPH.

Number and Type of Licensed and/or Certified Facilities			
Facility Type		2022	2023
SNF Only		517	512
SNF/ICF		119	116
SNF/ICF/SC		13	10
SNF/ICF/ICF-DD		0	0
SNF/SC		33	32
SNF and MC/DD		1	1
MC/DD		9	9
ICF Only		13	14
ICF/IID 17 Beds or more		16	16
ICF/IID 16 Beds or less		173	170
ICF/SC		4	4
SC Only		32	31
CLF Only		25	24
Hospital-based LTC Units		18	12
Swing Beds		53	52
Supportive Residences		1	1
State Mental Health LTC Units		7	7
Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitation Facility		21	21
TOTAL FACILITIES		1,055	1,032

NUMBER OF LICENSED BEDS PER FACILITY TYPE		
FACILITY TYPE	2022	2023
SNF	80,958	79,843
ICF	9,234	12,877
ICF/DD	3,998	3,950
MC/DD	940	940
Community Living Facility	347	331
Sheltered Care	4,993	4,832
SMHRF	3,950	3,764
TOTAL BEDS	104,420	106,537

The table below summarizes other types of licensure activity:

APPROVED LICENSURE ACTIONS		
ACTION	2022	2023
Change of Ownership	38	78
Replacement Facility	0	0
New Facility	0	1
Bed / Service Change	15	16
Closure	13	17

TWO-YEAR LICENSES

The Nursing Home Care Act, ID/DD Act, and the MC/DD Act allow IDPH to issue two-year licenses to qualifying facilities. During 2023, IDPH issued a total of 673 renewal licenses. Facilities continuing to qualify are issued a two-year license. However, as new facilities are licensed, facilities change ownership or become disqualified from participation, the number of one-year licenses increases. Because IDPH uses the certification survey for licensing and the certification program requires facilities to be surveyed approximately once per year, the certification survey sanctions affect the length of a facility's license. Each facility's certification survey results must be reviewed annually in addition to a review for licensure program sanctions to determine whether the facility meets the two-year license criteria.

License Renewal Information			
Month	1-Year License	2-Year License	Monthly Total
January	59	12	71
February	40	19	59
March	39	12	51
April	45	20	65
May	64	17	81
June	59	24	83
July	36	10	46
August	36	9	45
September	22	7	29
October	57	12	69
November	38	10	48
December	23	3	26
TOTAL	518	155	673

CHANGES IN LICENSURE

Many long-term care facilities experience changes in licensure due to a change in the owner/operator of the facility, the addition to an Alzheimer's special care unit, bed increases and/or upgrades not requiring construction/renovation, a decrease in the number of licensed beds, or facility closure.

In 2023, 16 bed changes resulted in skilled care beds increasing by 62. Intermediate care beds decreased by 41, sheltered care beds decreased by eight, and SMHRF beds decreased by 186.

Seventeen long-term care facilities closed in 2023, resulting in a reduction of 1,498 skilled care beds, 286 intermediate care beds, 108 sheltered care beds, 62 intermediate care for developmentally disabled beds, and 16 community living facility beds.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) consists of five separate areas working together for the protection of individuals residing in long-term care facilities. Resident abuse is one of the most serious findings IDPH addresses. Residents of long-term care facilities are highly vulnerable, and abuse can be devastating for residents and their families. The Nursing Home Care Act requires a facility employee or agent who becomes aware of resident abuse or neglect to immediately report the matter to IDPH and the facility administrator.

SIU's intent is to reduce the incidence of abuse in nursing homes by combining the resources of IDPH's investigation program with those of criminal law enforcement and prosecution agencies. IDPH has established working relationships with the Illinois State Police Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU), Cook County State's Attorney's Office, and the U.S. Attorney's Office in Springfield. With improvements in the federal database, known as ASPEN Complaint/Incidents Tracking System (ACTS), IDPH can use the information to identify trends in the quality of long-term care that guide surveying activities.

SIU: CENTRAL COMPLAINT REGISTRY/HOTLINE

The Central Complaint Registry (CCR) is a 24-hour toll-free nationwide complaint hotline mandated by the Illinois Nursing Home Care Act, Federal Statute (Chapter 5 of the State Operations Manual), and the Abused and Neglected Long-Term Care Facility Residents Reporting Act. The CCR acts as a repository for concerns or complaints across multiple IDPH programs (29). Based on an allegation of non-compliance, the mandated timeframe in which a complaint must be investigated is determined (24 hours, 7 days, or 30 days).

IDPH is mandated to investigate complaints alleging abuse or neglect within seven days except when abuse or neglect signifies a resident's life or safety is in imminent danger. In these instances, the complaint must be investigated within 24 hours of receipt. All other complaints must be investigated within 30 days of the receipt of the complaint. The CCR reviews, logs, and forwards the complaints to the appropriate IDPH regional office for investigation.

Complaints are received from relatives, patients, citizens, legal representatives, and other agencies or associations, including, but not limited to, the ombudsman, Illinois Department on Aging, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (IDHFS), Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission, Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Office of the Attorney General, and advocacy groups. Calls not under the jurisdiction of the Office of Health Care Regulations are referred to other state agencies or IDPH divisions.

A complaint may have one or more allegations (assertion that the long-term care facility has failed to comply with a state or federal regulation). IDPH determines the validity of each allegation rather than each complaint in its entirety. An allegation is valid if what is stated in the complaint is found to be true. If the facility is following the regulations, a violation or deficiency will not be cited.

When a complaint is filed, the individual making the complaint has the option to file the complaint anonymously. In 2023, there were 1,800 long-term care, 64 ICF/DD, and 68 Specialized Mental

Health Resident Facility (SMHRF) complaints filed anonymously. If a complainant chooses to provide contact information, the surveyor will attempt to call them to discuss the information given at the time the complaint was filed and to obtain any additional information. Complaints are received in a variety of ways, including the hotline, email, facsimile, or mail.

NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS BY METHOD RECEIVED	2022	2023
Hotline	6,741	6,792
After Hours by Regional Staff	721	831
Email	2,433	2,656
Letters	160	206
Facsimile	292	343
Re-Investigation	3	3
TOTAL	10,347	10,831

Complainants may call to inquire about the status of the complaint, request a call from the surveyor, request clarification on the findings of a complaint, request a copy of the survey results letter, discuss the determination or the investigation, or request clarification on how to file an appeal and request a hearing. The caller must be identified as the individual who filed the complaint.

The CCR receives many calls beyond those reporting a complaint. The most common of these calls are for matters not within IDPH jurisdiction, and the call is referred to the appropriate agency (e.g., IDHFS, IDHS, Illinois Labor Relations Board). There were 4,351 referrals made to other agencies or programs (vs 3,017 in 2022), including the Illinois State Police, the Attorney General’s Healthcare Fraud Bureau, the state ombudsman with the Illinois Department on Aging, IDHS, and others.

In 2023, CCR received a total of 16,467 calls seeking assistance compared to 18,160 calls in 2022.

The corresponding chart demonstrates there has been an increase in the number of complaints received in the last few years. In 2023, there were 10,831 complaints filed compared to 10,350 in 2022: a 4.4% increase from the prior year.

The table below shows the number and percentage of complaints in 2023 by provider type.

NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AND PERCENTAGE RECEIVED BY PROVIDER TYPE 2023		
	NUMBER	%
<u>LONG-TERM CARE</u>		
Skilled Nursing Facilities, Intermediate Care Nursing Facilities, Shelter Care Facilities	7,876	72.7
Hospitals	1,571	14.5
ICF-IID/Under 22/CLF/State Owned Mental Health, Developmentally Disabled and Community Living Facilities	211	1.9
Assisted Living Facilities	697	6.4
Home Health Agencies	34	<1
Ambulatory Surgical Treatment Centers	14	<1
Hospice	29	<1
Portable X-rays	0	0
Home Nursing	6	<1
Home Services	32	<1
Ambulance Companies/EMS/EMT	22	<1
Laboratories	1	<1
Unlicensed Facilities	0	0
End Stage Renal Disease	27	<1
Rural Health	1	<1
Home Placement	0	0
Free-Standing Emergency Centers	3	<1
Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitation Facilities	304	3.0
Life Safety and Construction	3	<1
TOTAL	10,831	

The highest number of complaints are those related to long-term care facilities at 7,876 (72.7%). As OHCR also licenses, inspects, and regulates hospitals, these facilities generated the second-highest number of complaints with 1,571 (14.5%).

The following table shows the number of complaints by region/program in 2023.

(Note: Total complaint number differentiation between the chart above and below is due to changes made after the initial intake of the complaints. These numbers also include no action necessary complaints.)

REGION	TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS
1 - Rockford	746
1 - Rockford Developmental Disabilities	34
2 - Peoria	787
2 - Peoria Developmental Disabilities	13
4 – Metro East (Fairview Heights)	768
4 – Metro East (Fairview Heights) Developmental Disabilities	53
5 - Marion	319
5 – Marion Developmental Disabilities	09
6 - Champaign	508
6 - Champaign Developmental Disabilities	10
7 - West Chicago	1,308
7 - West Chicago Developmental Disabilities	32
8 - Bellwood	1,609
8 - Bellwood Developmental Disabilities	10
9-Bellwood	1,833
9 - Bellwood Developmental Disabilities	47
Special Mental Health Rehabilitation Facilities	304
TOTAL	8,390

The following table shows the number of complaints in 2023 by some of the more critical allegation types.

CRITICAL ALLEGATIONS MADE TO THE CCR FOR LTC, SMHRF, AND ICF-IID – 2023	
Physical Abuse	442
Sexual Abuse	155
Verbal Abuse	122
Neglect	635
Mental Abuse	393
Sexual Assault – Resident-to-Resident	103
Verbal Assault – Resident-to-Resident	19
Physical Assault – Resident-to-Resident	220
Mental Assault – Resident-to-Resident	41
Involuntary Discharge	151
Involuntary Discharge – Substantiated	47
Involuntary Discharge – Unsubstantiated	85
Involuntary Discharge – Pending	18
Retaliation	137
Social Media Complaints	N/A
Re-Investigations Ordered	3
TOTAL CALLS	16,467
TOTAL COMPLAINTS	10,831
TOTAL LTC, SMHRF, AND ICF/DD COMPLAINTS <i>(Skilled Nursing, Intermediate Care Nursing, Shelter Care, Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitation, Developmentally Disabled, under 22 and Community Living Facilities – Including No Necessary Action)</i>	8,387
TOTAL NON- LTC, SMHRF, AND ICF/DD COMPLAINTS <i>(ASSISTED LIVING, HOSPITALS, HOSPICE, ESRD’s, ASTC’s, HOME HEALTH AGENCIES, HOME SERVICE AGENCIES, HOME PLACEMENT AGENCIES, HOME NURSING AGENCIES, RURAL HEALTH CENTERS, FREE STANDING EMERGENCY CENTERS, PORTABLE X-RAYS, SUB-ACUTES, EMS / AMBULANCE, AND UNLICENSED FACILITIES)</i>	2,444

The following table shows the number of complaints investigated within the respective time frame.

PERFORMANCE METRICS	2023				TARGET
	JAN-MAR	APR-JUN	JUL-SEP	OCT-DEC	
Number of complaint investigations meeting <u>immediate jeopardy</u> completed within mandated time frame. (24-hour investigation)	100%	98%	96%	98%	90%
	85/85	72/73	85/88	94/95	
Number of complaint investigations meeting <u>non-immediate jeopardy high</u> completed within mandated time frame. (7-day investigation)	74%	81%	66%	58%	90%
	1,219/1,643	1,272/1,560	1,038/1,565	878/1,505	
Number of complaint investigations meeting <u>non-immediate jeopardy medium</u> completed within mandated time frame. (30-day investigation)	94%	82%	84%	75%	90%
	281/296	265/323	272/321	216/286	

INCIDENTS

The facility shall maintain a file of written reports of each incident and accident affecting a resident:

- 1) That is not the expected outcome of a resident's condition or disease process. A descriptive summary of each incident or accident affecting a resident shall also be recorded in the progress notes or nurse's notes of that resident.
- 2) The facility shall notify IDPH of any serious incident or accident. For purposes of this section, "serious" means any incident or accident that causes physical harm or injury to a resident.
- 3) The facility shall, by fax or phone, notify the appropriate IDPH regional office within 24 hours after each reportable incident or accident. If a reportable incident or accident results in the death of a resident, the facility shall, after contacting local law enforcement pursuant to Section 300.695, notify the appropriate IDPH regional office by phone.

For the purposes of this section, "notify the appropriate IDPH regional office by phone" means to talk with an IDPH representative who confirms over the phone that the requirement to notify the regional office by phone has been met. If the facility is unable to contact the appropriate IDPH regional office, it shall notify IDPH's toll-free CCR. The facility shall send a narrative summary of each reportable accident or incident to IDPH within seven days after the occurrence. All incidents received by IDPH are reviewed and triaged based on the seriousness of the incident.

SIU: ABUSE PREVENTION REVIEW TEAM

The purpose of the Abuse Prevention Review Team (APRT) is to make an accurate determination of the causes of sexual assaults and unnecessary deaths, such as deaths related to abuse and/or neglect that occur in long-term care facilities, and to develop and to implement measures to prevent future assaults or deaths. The team conducts an in-depth, multi-disciplinary, and multi-agency review of cases where sexual assault is alleged and IDPH has determined the allegation to be valid or when an unnecessary resident death is investigated in conjunction with a complaint, incident, or annual survey.

Death cases referred by law enforcement, medical examiners, and coroners are also reviewed and tracked by the team. IDPH is responsible for ensuring that every death of a nursing home resident shall be reviewed by the IDPH region's review team that has primary case management responsibility if the deceased resident is one of the following:

- 1) A person whose death is reviewed by IDPH during any regulatory activity, regardless of whether there were any federal or state violations.
- 2) A person whose care IDPH received a complaint about alleging that the resident's care violated federal or state standards that contributed to the resident's death.

3) A resident whose death is referred to IDPH for investigation by a local coroner, medical examiner, or law enforcement agency.

Procedures have been established for tracking confirmed sexual assaults and unnecessary deaths, obtaining death certificates, and developing a database, as outlined in the Abuse Prevention Review Team Act (210 ILCS 28).

The Abuse Prevention Review Team Act (210 ILCS 28) mandates that “the Director, in consultation with the Executive Council and with law enforcement agencies and other professionals who work in the field of investigating, treating, or preventing nursing home resident abuse or neglect in the state, shall appoint members to two residential health care facility resident sexual assault and death review teams.” There are representatives from medical, nursing, social services, legal, law enforcement, ombudsman, and coroner to review confirmed or alleged cases of sexual assault and unnecessary deaths of nursing home residents. The agencies represented include IDPH, Illinois State Police, the State’s Attorney’s office, Office of the Attorney General, and the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. The members are appointed for a two-year term and are eligible for reappointment upon the expiration of the term. These team members volunteer their time and receive no compensation.

Two review teams meet quarterly. The northern team reviews deaths and sexual assault cases that occurred in facilities in the geographic area primarily north of Interstate 80. The southern team reviews sexual assault and death cases that occurred in facilities in the geographic area south of Interstate 80.

NORTHERN	2021	2022	2023
Cases Referred to APRT	56	72	58
Sexual Assault Cases Reviewed	13	30	35
Death Cases Reviewed	43	42	23
SOUTHERN			
Cases Referred to APRT	49	82	31
Sexual Assault Cases Reviewed	15	38	17
Death Cases Reviewed	43	44	14

SIU: MONITOR/RECEIVERSHIP PROGRAM

Placement of monitors is allowed through the Nursing Home Care Act (25 ILCS 45), the MC/DD Act (210 ILCS 46), and the ID/DD Community Care Act (210 ILCS 47), or as authorized by the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid. IDPH may place a monitor in a facility under any of the following conditions:

- 1) The facility is operating without a license.
- 2) IDPH has suspended, revoked, or refused to renew the existing license of the facility.
- 3) The facility is closing or has informed IDPH that it intends to close and adequate arrangements for the relocation of residents have not been made at least 30 days before closure.
- 4) IDPH determines that an emergency exists, regardless of whether it has initiated revocation or nonrenewal procedures. Emergency means a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of a resident that the facility is unwilling or unable to correct (e.g., residents are being abused).

Section 300.270 b) of the Skilled Nursing and Intermediate Care Facilities code requires that a monitor must:

- 1) Be in good physical health.
- 2) Understand the needs of long-term care facility residents as evidenced by one year of experience in working, as appropriate, with elderly or developmentally disabled individuals in programs such as patient care, social work, or advocacy.
- 3) Understand the NHCA and the monitors' duties as evidenced in a personal interview of the candidate.
- 4) Not be related to the owners of the involved facility either through blood, marriage, or common ownership of real or personal property, except ownership of stock that is traded on a stock exchange.
- 5) Have completed a baccalaureate degree or possess a nursing license or a nursing home administrator's license.
- 6) Have two years of full-time work experience in the Illinois long-term care industry.

The monitor (under the supervision of IDPH) will:

- 1) Visit the facility as directed by IDPH.
- 2) Review all records pertinent to the condition for which the monitor was placed.
- 3) Provide IDPH with written and oral reports detailing the observed conditions of the facility.
- 4) Be available as a witness for hearings involving the condition that resulted in their placement as a monitor.

The frequency of the monitor visits is based on the severity of violations and/or deficiencies cited. This frequency can be increased or decreased depending on the facility’s progress and the correction of identified issues.

In 2023, two monitors were placed in a facility licensed to provide intermediate and/or skilled care services. Monitor reports are critical components of IDPH’s ongoing effort to stay in touch with the day-to-day activities occurring in the monitored facilities. IDPH surveyors frequently serve as monitors in facilities with ongoing deficiencies and regulatory non-compliance. The reports are shared upon request with other state agencies to determine ongoing compliance and potential criminal issues.

SIU: UNLICENSED LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

The Nursing Home Care Act authorizes IDPH to investigate any location reasonably believed to be operating as a long-term care facility without a license. IDPH is made aware of these types of locations, as they are the subject of complaint investigations. When a location is found to be in violation for the first time, the owner is offered an opportunity to comply with the Nursing Home Care Act. If the owner fails to comply or is found to be in violation more than once, the location is then referred to the Office of the Attorney General for prosecution. In 2023, there were no unlicensed complaints filed. A comparison of 2022 and 2023 of these activities is provided below.

<i>Unlicensed Complaints Filed</i>	<i>Number of Unlicensed Complaints for 2022</i>	<i>Number of Unlicensed Complaints for 2023</i>
Facility Licensed (verified with Assisted Living (AL))	0	0
Facility Renewal of License in Process	0	0
Converting to Licensed Facility (AL aware)		
Facilities Complaint Allegations were Invalid	0	0
Supportive Living Facility Referred to Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services	220	293
Facility Referred to Illinois Department of Aging, Allegations not under IDPH Jurisdiction to Investigate	1	136
Facility Scheduled for Revisit	0	0
No Action Required	1	0
Facility Application to AL pending	0	0

SIU: ALLEGATIONS OF AIDE ABUSE, NEGLECT, OR MISAPPROPRIATION OF RESIDENT PROPERTY

The Nursing Home Care Act and Abused and Neglected Long-Term Care Facility Residents Reporting Act require allegations of suspected abuse, neglect, or misappropriation of a resident's property by nurse aides, developmental disabilities aides, and certified childcare-habilitation aides (hereafter referred to as aides) be reported to IDPH. The reports and supporting documentation are reviewed by the Abuse, Neglect, and Theft Committee. The decision to proceed with a case must be made by a majority vote.

Allegations of abuse, neglect, or misappropriation of property by aides are received by IDPH through incident reports, complaints, and survey results. Documentation from incident reports, complaint investigations, police reports, court records, and any additional information requested from the facility are reviewed to determine whether there is substantial evidence to proceed in pursuing an administrative finding on the alleged abuse, neglect, or misappropriation of a resident's property.

If IDPH determines there is substantial evidence to validate the allegation, the aide is sent a Notice of Finding via certified mail, which outlines the allegation and includes information on the right to a hearing to contest the finding or submit a written response to the finding instead of requesting a hearing. The aide has 30 days from the date of the Notice of Finding to request a hearing. If a hearing is requested and after the hearing the aide is found to have abused or neglected a resident or misappropriated resident property while working in a facility or if the aide does not request a hearing within 30 days of receiving the Notice of Finding, a final order is sent to the aide via certified mail.

The finding of abuse, neglect, or misappropriation is then designated on the Health Care Worker Registry together with a clear and accurate summary from the individual if he or she chooses to make a statement. Long-term care facilities must develop and operationalize policies and procedures for:

- 1) Screening and training of employees.
- 2) Screening of residents and families.
- 3) Protection of residents.
- 4) Prevention, identification, investigation, and reporting of abuse, neglect, mistreatment, and the misappropriation of property to prevent occurrences of abuse, neglect, and theft.
- 5) Providing a safer environment for residents.

SIU: RELEASE OF INFORMATION AND DATA TO STATE MEDICAID FRAUD CONTROL UNIT

A memorandum is in place from CMS with guidance to state survey agencies (SA) regarding the regulatory requirement to share ASPEN Complaint Tracking System (ACTS) data, Long-Term Care Minimum Data Set (MDS) data, and survey documents with the state Medicaid Fraud Control Units (MFCU). Illinois State Police (ISP)/MFCU investigators are more involved in IDPH investigations, which promotes cross-training of IDPH surveyors and ISP/MFCU investigators. IDPH maintains a growing relationship with local law enforcement, states attorneys, the FBI, and coroners. IDPH

staff have attended association meetings, conferences, and informational one-on-one meetings to respond to issues and to concerns about preventing abuse and neglect in long-term care facilities. Because of the relationships, awareness of the problem of abuse, neglect, and theft in long-term care facilities has increased. Another benefit is local law enforcement officials are aware of the regulatory requirements of long-term care facilities and are becoming more comfortable interacting with providers.

In 2023, 124 incidents and complaints of abuse/neglect, theft, and/or fraud were referred by the Special Investigations Unit to ISP/MFCU. Documents were requested for 31 complaint/incident investigation packets to support and/or close their case(s).

ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND MISAPPROPRIATION OF RESIDENT PROPERTY FINDINGS-2023	
Cases Closed	72
Cases Processed	11
Abuse	0
Neglect	0
Misappropriation of Property	0
Criminal Conviction	9
Removal of Neglect Findings	2

IDENTIFIED OFFENDERS PROGRAM (IOP)

The Nursing Home Care Act requires long-term care facilities (LTCF) to conduct a criminal background check via CHIRP (Criminal History Information Response Process) through the Illinois State Police Bureau of Identification (BOI). The name-based criminal history is required to be conducted within 24 hours for newly admitted residents to determine if they have been convicted of any qualifying felony offense, and/or are a registered or convicted sex offender. Additionally, the Illinois State Police (ISP) Sex Offenders Database, the Illinois Department of Corrections (DOC) Sex Offenders database, and the National Databases of Sex Offenders websites are reviewed to determine if the newly admitted resident is a registered or convicted sex offender or if they had a qualifying criminal conviction that would classify them as an identified offender.

The facility is required to conduct a fingerprint background check (commonly known as a FEAPP) by a licensed fingerprint vendor. If an IOP resident has severe medical issues with a lack of potential risk, the facility may apply for a waiver of the fingerprint background check through the Office of Health Care Regulation Special Unit of Investigation. In occurrences where the IOP resident is not approved for a fingerprint waiver, the initial CHIRP is used. Using the results of a CHIRP, however, is not always conclusive for all new residents. When an IOP resident doesn't qualify for a fingerprint waiver per the current legislation, there are no other options available currently. Fingerprinting every newly admitted resident would be effective in determining if the new residents have qualifying convictions as fingerprints would include the results of FBI records.

The facility submits a referral packet for each resident with a qualifying offense, to the IDPH Identified Offenders Program (IOP) as the information is maintained in a database and a referral is sent to the Illinois State Police. IDPH IOP collaborates with the ISP, and the investigators complete a Criminal History Analysis (CHA) and forwards the CHA to a forensic psychologist who then completes an Identified Offender Report and Recommendation (which is also known as the risk assessment). The facility should incorporate the risk assessment into the identified offender's individual care plan. Convicted or registered sex offenders must reside in private rooms. Additionally, convicted, or registered child sex offenders cannot reside in facilities that are within 500 feet of a school, park, or facilities used by minors. IDPH and IOP maintain secured databases of LTCF residents determined to be identified offenders. IOP also maintains a secured database of LTCF residents determined to be identified offenders. It is important to note that the Identified Offenders Program is not located in the Office of Health Care Regulation (OHCR), but it is currently in the Division of Patient Safety in the Office of Patient Planning and Statistics. Staff from IOP, OHCR, and IDPH legal meet monthly to discuss program planning and possible legislative changes.

IDPH also tracks waivers that are requested, granted, or denied. A waiver is granted if the resident is completely immobile as verified by a signed physician statement or has the existence of a severe, debilitating physical, medical, or mental condition that nullifies any potential risk. Once the request for the waiver is reviewed, a determination letter is sent to the facility. This waiver is valid only while the resident is immobile and the documentation supporting the criteria for the waiver exists. In 2023, there were 112 fingerprint waiver requests approved and 29 denied.

**IDENTIFIED OFFENDERS IN
LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES**

Year	Number of Offenders
2021	2,257
2022	1,923
2023	2,414

MEDICALLY COMPLEX FOR THE DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED (MC/DD)

In 2015, the General Assembly passed, and the governor signed into law Public Act 99-180 (210 ILCS 46), which provides for the licensure of facilities for the medically complex for the developmentally disabled. With this act, long-term care facilities that serve an under 22 years of age population were removed from the ID/DD Community Care Act.

INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES (ICF) INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES (IT)

In 1994, responsibility for the Inspection of Care (IOC) was transferred to IDPH from IHFS. The IOC program is a federally mandated reimbursement activity in which field reviews are conducted at intermediate care facility/individual intellectually disabled (ICF/IID) facilities. The purpose of the reviews is to determine if Medicaid-reimbursed health care services are being carried out and to gather and to review data necessary to establish Medicaid reimbursement rates for each participating facility.

IDPH conducts annual and bi-annual certification/licensure surveys in ICF/IID facilities on a rolling basis. In 2023, there were 168 annual health surveys conducted in the ICF/IID facilities. Of the 207 complaints received through the CCR alleging failure to provide care in compliance with federal and state regulations, 97 were found to be substantiated and 110 were unsubstantiated.

SPECIALIZED MENTAL HEALTH REHABILITATION FACILITIES

The Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitation Act of 2013 (“SMHRA”) authorizes IDPH to license and survey long-term care facilities federally designated as institutions for mental disease (IMD) that specialize in providing rehabilitation services to individuals with serious mental illnesses (SMI). In the calendar year 2023, there were 21 licensed SMHRFS and all had an annual health inspection.

In 2014, Part 380 rules were adopted (Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitation Facilities Code). The six subparts of Part 380 are general provisions, facility programs, program personnel, administration, support services, environment, and licensure requirements. The act and rule define four programs to serve consumers in different stages of illness: triage centers, crisis stabilization centers, recovery and rehabilitation support units, and transitional living units. IDPH conducts annual surveys at each SMHRF. In 2023, there were 296 complaint surveys conducted to investigate failure to provide care consistent with the regulations; 99 were found to be substantiated and 197 were found unsubstantiated.

DIVISION OF LONG-TERM CARE: FIELD OPERATIONS

INSPECTIONS AND SURVEYS

Nursing home surveys are conducted in accordance with state and federal requirements and survey protocols to determine compliance with regulations. Survey protocols and interpretive guidelines are utilized to clarify and/or explain the intent of the regulations. Deficiencies are assigned when one or more violations of the regulation are identified and are based on observations of the nursing home's performances or practices.

Federal CMS' expectations of IDPH as the state survey agency (SSA) include:

- Ensuring nursing home residents attain or maintain their highest practicable well-being.
- Monitoring nursing homes' ability to prevent pressure ulcers, dehydration, and malnutrition.
- Ensuring nursing facilities honor resident preferences while maintaining resident rights to dignity, respect, and quality of life.
- Conducting annual, complaint, and follow-up surveys for providers to identify potential issues related to resident rights, quality of care, quality of life, or nursing services.

Mandated certification surveys and investigations are conducted in accordance with federal survey procedures. Both licensure and certification requirements are reviewed during combined surveys. The CMS Mission and Priority Document (MPD) states "CMS reviews each state's citation and enforcement data for recent years to ensure conformance with CMS policy and statutory requirements."

In calendar year 2023, BLTC conducted, reviewed, and processed 683 standard surveys, 7,861 complaint surveys, and 814 special surveys (including those extended due to immediate jeopardy, special focus, and infection control surveys) under the authority of Medicare and Medicaid of the Social Security Act. The structure, format, and time of certification activities are mandated and regulated by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through CMS.

While state licensure is mandatory per the Nursing Home Care Act (NHCA), federal certification is a voluntary program. Participation allows a facility to admit and to provide care for clients who are eligible for Medicaid or Medicare. Facilities providing long-term care located within a licensed hospital are not required to have an additional state license under the NHCA. Facilities operating as intermediate care facilities (ICF) for the developmentally disabled by IDHS also are not required to have an additional state license under the NHCA.

DIVISION OF COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

The Division of Compliance Assurance (CA) is comprised of several distinct sections: FOIA/Hearing/Files, Support Services, Compliance Assurance, Staffing Ratios/RN Waivers, and Technical Support. CA is responsible for processing licensure and certification surveys and issuing enforcement penalties for long-term care facilities, such as skilled nursing, shelter care, veterans' homes, intermediate care for the intellectually disabled, community living, specialized mental health rehabilitation facilities, and MC/DD. The staff ensures the overall survey cycle that encompasses surveying, enforcement action, and re-licensure and/or certification are conducted within the state and federal statutorily mandated time frames. Licensure and certification activities were recently moved to a separate division in the BLTC given the significant number of activities.

The FOIA/Hearing/Files Section maintains records, processes Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, and handles hearing requests. CA employs registered professional nurses to review surveys completed by field operations staff. CA is also responsible for Informal Dispute Resolution (IDR), Independent Informal Dispute Resolution (IIDR), state licensure violations, and recommending federal civil money penalties. The technical support coordinator maintains the CMS Automated Survey Process Environment (ASPEN) program, works closely with staff to maintain software programs, maintains statistical databases, and tracks quality and performance data. CA works closely with providers, federal CMS, and IHFS.

SPECIAL FOCUS FACILITIES

The federal Special Focus Facility (SFF) program focuses on issues affecting the quality of life and quality of care of residents in nursing homes. Facilities are identified as an SFF due to serious deficiencies cited on repeated surveys. While CMS caps the number of SFFs for state agencies, each state is allowed to participate in the selection of new facilities based on regulatory compliance and quality of care. Illinois' current maximum cap is four facilities. Once a facility is selected as an SFF, a full survey is conducted not less than once every six months. If deficiencies are found during the survey, progressively stronger consequences are implemented until the nursing home either graduates from the SFF program or is terminated from the Medicare and/or Medicaid program(s).

To graduate from the SFF program, a facility must have two consecutive full surveys showing improvement. SFFs will not graduate if the following occurs:

- Any standard health survey results in deficiencies cited at an S/S level of "F" or higher.
- Any LSC or EP survey results in deficiencies cited at an S/S level of "G" or higher.
- 13 or more total deficiencies are cited on any survey (standard health, LSC, EP, or complaint).
- Intervening complaint surveys with 13 or more total deficiencies, or any deficiencies cited at an S/S level of "F" or higher.

Discretionary termination will be considered if any two surveys of any type result in deficiencies that pose an immediate jeopardy to one or more residents while the facility is in the SFF program. Once a facility successfully graduates from the program, a new facility is selected to replace it. In 2023, one SFF facility graduated from the program and one SFF facility closed voluntarily. New SFF facilities were selected for participation.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Requests under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (enacted in 1989) are received from the IDPH Division of Legal Services FOIA officer. FOIA requests must outline the specific information being sought. Any person has the right to request records of information under FOIA. This information can involve residents, patients, facilities, persons of interest, or citations/violations against a facility. Records with health information or identifiable information are protected from disclosure and are redacted before release to the requestor. Determinations of allowable information are made by the FOIA officer and CMS. For long-term care requests, the Statement of Deficiencies (Form CMS 2567) and the Plan of Correction (POC) are the two documents that can be directly released by IDPH. Per recent CMS guidance, IDPH may also release additional survey documents, including the CMS 671 (Long-Term Care Facility Application for Medicare/Medicaid), the CMS 672 (Resident Census and Conditions of Residents), and other documents with no privacy concerns (e.g., policy memos or staffing schedules).

In 2023, the Division of Compliance Assurance handled 504 FOIA requests.

- 86 were for non-survey related information (e.g., not contained in the statement of deficiencies, floor layout of facilities, license information, etc.).
- 70 were unable to be fulfilled due to lack of information available (e.g., there was no complaint regarding the resident or facility requested).
- 348 were for the statement of deficiencies for a complaint investigation.

FEDERAL AND STATE HEARINGS

CA receives federal hearing requests when a licensee or the designated attorney representing the facility has requested an appeal of penalties imposed by CMS. Documentation related to the survey is submitted to CMS within seven business days of receiving the request.

State hearing requests are received from the licensee, an attorney representing the facility, or an individual unsatisfied with survey results. All documents are compiled and sent to the IDPH Division of Legal Services within seven business days of receiving the request.

In 2023, CA processed 512 hearing requests, nearly double the number processed in the preceding fiscal year:

- 83 from individual(s)
- 356 from facilities
- 73 federal hearings requests

DIRECT CARE STAFFING RATIOS

This program requirement focuses on the staffing of direct care staff within LTC facilities. Facilities consist of both Medicare/Medicaid certified facilities as well as licensed-only private pay facilities. These facilities are required to submit to IDPH a census showing the number of residents in their facility for each day during the quarter. If any facility fails to meet the required staffing number for that day, the facility could receive a notice of violation with a monetary penalty. Facilities that suffer an unforeseen circumstance during the quarter can notify IDPH and request to use the unforeseen provision to waive the penalty. The program is currently in the implementation phase and, although violation data were issued to facilities, no violations, fines, or penalties were assessed during 2023. Facilities were required to submit plans of correction if violations occurred in the quarter of census data submission.

2023 Quarter	Facilities with RN Violations	Facilities with Licensed Nurse Violations	Facilities with Other Staff Violations
Q1	475	212	587
Q2	442	182	426
Q3	455	203	450
Q4	459	237	424

STATE VIOLATIONS

Article III, Part 3 of the Nursing Home Care Act (Violations and Penalties) states:

- If after receiving the report specified in subsection (c) of Section 3-212 the Director, or his designee, determines that a facility is in violation of this Act or of any rule promulgated there under, he shall serve a notice of violation upon the licensee within ten (10) days, thereafter. Each notice of violation shall be prepared in writing and shall specify the nature of the violation, and the statutory provision or rule alleged to have been violated (210 ILCS 45/3-301).
- Each violation shall be determined to be either a level 'AA', a level 'A', a level 'B', or a level 'C' violation, or an administrative warning. The level 'AA' is the most severe.

LEVELS DEFINED

- 1) A "level AA violation" or a "Type AA violation" is a violation of the act or this part which creates a condition or occurrence relating to the operation and maintenance of a facility that proximately caused a resident's death (Section 1-128.5 of the Nursing Home Care Act).

- 2) A "level A violation" or "Type A violation" is a violation of the act or this part which creates a condition or occurrence relating to the operation and maintenance of a facility that creates a substantial probability that the risk of death or serious mental or physical harm will result therefrom or has resulted in actual physical or mental harm to a resident (Section 1-129 of the Nursing Home Care Act).
- 3) A "level B violation" or "Type B violation" is a violation of the act or this part which creates a condition or occurrence relating to the operation and maintenance of a facility that is more likely than not to cause more than minimal physical or mental harm to a resident (Section 1-130 of the Nursing Home Care Act).
- 4) A "level C violation" or "Type C violation" is a violation of the act or this part which creates a condition or occurrence relating to the operation and maintenance of a facility that creates a substantial probability that less than minimal physical or mental harm to a resident will result therefrom (Section 1-132 of the Nursing Home Care Act).
- 5) If the director or his designee determines that the report's findings constitute a violation or violations which do not directly threaten the health, safety, or welfare of a resident or residents, the department shall issue an administrative warning as provided in Section 300.277 of the Illinois Administrative Code (Section 3-303.2(a) of the Nursing Home Care Act).

In 2023, IDPH issued a total of 988 state licensure violations. IDPH imposed fines of \$12,628,350 in 942 out of 1,022 violations. Also, in 2023, IDPH collected \$6,869,886 in state licensure fines. For comparison purposes, in the preceding year, IDPH imposed \$12,658,350 in 964 out of the 1,019 violations and collected \$4,504,919 in state licensure fines. The table below illustrates the level of state licensure violations imposed in 2023 and the trend of state licensure violations issued in three years from 2021 to 2023.

STATE LICENSURE VIOLATIONS PER YEAR			
Levels of Action	2021	2022	2023
"AA" Level	14	23	16
"A" Level	308	445	429
Repeat "A" Level	2	2	0
"B" Level	401	493	677
Repeat "B" Level	0	0	0
"C" Level	110	98	178
Administrative Warnings	47	54	13
Total	882	1,115	1,313

ADVERSE LICENSURE ACTIONS

Based on the number and/or level of violations, adverse licensure action(s) that may be taken include:

CONDITIONAL LICENSE

IDPH issues conditional licenses for violations as specified in the Nursing Home Care Act (210 ILCS 45/3-305):

- (1) A licensee who commits a Type "AA" violation as defined in Section 1-128.5 is automatically issued a conditional license for a period of six months to coincide with an acceptable plan of correction and assessed a fine up to \$25,000 per violation.
- (2) A licensee who commits a Type "A" violation as defined in Section 1-129 is automatically issued a conditional license for a period of six months to coincide with an acceptable plan of correction and assessed a fine of up to \$12,500 per violation.

LICENSE REVOCATION OR DENIAL

IDPH may deny an application for a license for:

- (1) Failure to meet any of the minimum standards set forth by this act or by rules and regulations promulgated by IDPH under this act.
- (2) Conviction of the applicant, or, if the applicant is a firm, partnership, or association, of any of its members. If a corporation, the conviction of the corporation or any of its officers or stockholders, or of the person designated to manage or supervise the facility, of a felony, or of two or more misdemeanors involving moral turpitude, during the previous five years as shown by a certified copy of the record of the court of conviction.
- (3) Personnel insufficient in number or unqualified by training or experience to properly care for the proposed number and type of residents.
- (4) Insufficient financial or other resources to operate and to conduct the facility in accordance with standards promulgated by IDPH under this act and with contractual obligations assumed by a recipient of a grant under the Equity in Long-term Care Quality Act and the plan (if applicable) submitted by a grantee for continuing and increasing adherence to best practices in providing high-quality nursing home care.
- (5) Revocation of a facility license during the previous five years, if such prior license was issued to the individual applicant, a controlling owner, or controlling combination of owners of the applicant; or any affiliate of the individual applicant or controlling owner of the applicant and such individual applicant, controlling owner of the applicant, or affiliate of the applicant was a controlling owner of the prior license; provided, however, that the denial of an application for a license pursuant to this subsection must be supported by evidence that such prior revocation renders the applicant unqualified or incapable of meeting or maintaining a facility in accordance with the standards and rules promulgated by IDPH under this act.
- (6) That the facility is not under the direct supervision of a full-time administrator, as defined by regulation, who is licensed, if required, under the Nursing Home Administrators Licensing and Disciplinary Act.

(7) That the facility is in receivership and the proposed licensee has not submitted a specific detailed plan to bring the facility into compliance with the requirements of this act and with federal certification requirements, if the facility is certified, and to keep the facility in such compliance.

ADVERSE LICENSURE ACTIONS	2022	2023
Conditional License	430	377
Revocation or Denial of License	0	0
Suspension	3	0

FEDERAL CERTIFICATION DEFICIENCIES IN NURSING HOMES

Federal enforcement regulations established a classification system for certification deficiencies based on the severity of the problem and the scope, or the number of residents upon whom the non-compliance had or may have an impact. The four levels of severity, in ascending order, are potential for minimal harm, potential for more than minimal harm, actual harm, and immediate jeopardy. The scope of deficiencies is classified as isolated, pattern, or widespread (e.g., an “H” level deficiency would represent a problem where several residents were harmed because of the facility’s non-compliance with regulations). The 12 levels of scope/severity are identified using the letters A through L. The following is the scope/severity grid established to classify federal deficiencies. Immediate jeopardy (IJ) deficiencies represent the most serious examples of non-compliance that can occur in long-term care facilities. These deficiencies represent non-compliance that has caused, or is likely to cause, serious injury, harm, impairment, or death to a resident.

SEVERITY	ISOLATED	PATTERN	WIDESPREAD
Minimal Harm	A	B	C
More Than Minimal Harm	D	E	F
Actual Harm	G	H	I
Immediate Jeopardy	J	K	L

FEDERAL CERTIFICATION ACTIONS

Skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), nursing facilities (NFs), and dually participating facilities (SNF/NFs) are required to maintain compliance with Medicare and Medicaid requirements. To avoid enforcement actions, including termination of their provider agreements, facilities have a responsibility to correct any deficiencies cited during a federal survey. Application of federal enforcement remedies is based upon the seriousness of the deficiency(s). Below is a brief description of remedies:

- *Directed Plan of Correction (DPOC)* - A plan the state or CMS develops to require a facility to act within the specified time frame to achieve compliance.
- *Directed In-Service Training (DIST)* - A remedy the state or CMS uses to require a facility to provide education, by an outside source, to correct the deficiency to achieve compliance.

- *Denial of Payment for New Admissions (DPNA)* - Cessation of payment for new admissions implemented by CMS or the state Medicaid agency at 90 days in the survey cycle for a period between the date the remedy was imposed and the date the facility achieves compliance.
- *Discretionary Denial of Payment for New Admissions (DDPNA)* – Cessation of payment for new admissions implemented by the discretion of CMS or the state Medicaid agency for any period between the date the remedy was imposed and the date the facility achieves compliance.
- *State Monitor (SM)* - A state monitor oversees the correction of cited deficiencies in the facility as a safeguard against further harm to residents when harm or a situation with a potential for harm has occurred.
- *Civil Money Penalties (CMP)* - CMS or the state imposes a monetary fine for the number of days that a facility is not in compliance with certification requirements or, in some cases, each example of non-compliance.
- *Temporary Management (TM)* - Reserved for when deficiencies constitute immediate jeopardy or widespread actual harm, and a decision is made to impose an alternative remedy to termination. The temporary manager’s responsibility is to oversee the correction of the deficiencies and to assure the health and safety of the facility’s residents while the corrections are being made or to oversee the orderly closure of a facility.
- *Termination* - The most severe remedy utilized by CMS that terminates a facility from participation in the Medicare and/or Medicaid program.

CIVIL MONEY PENALTIES AS AN ENFORCEMENT REMEDY

As the state agency responsible for surveying certified nursing homes following the CMS guidelines, IDPH makes recommendations for civil money penalties (CMPs) that CMS ultimately imposes. Like other monetary penalties, CMPs are designed to correct serious deficiencies quickly and to ensure sustained compliance. The following statistics are an illustration of the impact of civil money penalties:

FEDERAL CMS CERTIFICATION CIVIL MONEY PENALTIES (CMPs) IMPOSED	
Medicare, Medicare/Medicaid Facilities (Dually Certified)	\$2,705,611.70
Medicaid only Facilities	\$ 208,211.24
Total CMPs Imposed	\$2,913,822.94

CMS returns a portion of federal civil money penalties to state agencies to distribute to nursing homes and other eligible groups, such as the ombudsman, for initiatives aimed exclusively at

improving the quality of care and life of long-term care residents. CMP funds may be used for, but are not limited to, the following:

- Improvements to quality of care
- Culture change
- Training for facility staff and surveyors
- Resident quality of life
- Projects that support resident and family councils
- Resident transition due to facility closure or downsizing.

The Illinois CMP Fund is administered by IDPH and OHCR oversees grants to entities that develop Civil Money Penalty Research Project proposals that directly improve patient outcomes and meet proposal requirements set forth by OHCR and CMS.

IDPH established a yearly cycle for CMP grants with solicitation and grant-making from January through June of each year and grant execution commencing on or around July 1 of each year. In 2022, the solicitation process followed the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA), 30 ILCS 708, and corresponding rules found in Title 44, Part 7000 of the Illinois Administrative Code. IDPH’s grant rules and the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) specify who is eligible to apply for the CMP grant funds and the types of projects that can be funded.

Also, under the direction of CMS, IDPH imposes Discretionary Denial of Payment of New Admissions (DDPNA) instead of recommending a civil money penalty for surveys that meet specific criteria and involve substandard quality of care deficiencies as determined by CMS. The benefit of imposing DDPNA, in these instances, is that it encourages a rapid return to compliance.

INFORMAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Guidance at 42 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 488.331 requires states to offer skilled nursing facilities, nursing facilities, and dually participating Medicare/Medicaid facilities an informal opportunity to dispute survey findings called Informal Dispute Resolution (IDR).

In 2023, IDRs were requested for 672 deficiencies cited on 446 surveys. Most of these requests were for IDPH to conduct the IDRs. IDPH conducted IDRs for 522 deficiencies cited on 296 surveys. The independent contractor completed IDRs on 150 deficiencies cited on 90 surveys. The results from the independent contractor are reviewed and processed by a Compliance Assurance supervisor.

INDEPENDENT INFORMAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Guidance at 42 CFR 488.331 and 488.431 offers facilities, under certain circumstances, an additional opportunity to informally dispute cited deficiencies through a process that is independent of the state survey agency (SSA) or, in the case of federal certification surveys, the CMS regional office. This process is called Independent Informal Dispute Resolution (IIDR). CMS offers facilities an IIDR for surveys in which a civil money penalty (CMP) was imposed against the facility.

IIDR is not intended to be a formal or evidentiary hearing, nor are the results of the process an initial determination that gives rise to appeal rights. IIDR results are recommendations to the state and CMS and are not subject to a formal appeal. The IIDR process is available to a facility at no

charge as IDPH assumes the cost. IDPH’s current contractor for IIDRs is the Michigan Peer Review Organization. In 2023, 26 IIDR requests were processed for 40 federal tags, which are numbered deficiencies that correspond to the specific violation within the Code of Federal Regulations.

LTC: FEDERAL CIVIL MONEY PENALTIES AND STATE FINES

IDPH is required to submit to the General Assembly an accounting of federal and state fines received in the preceding *fiscal year* by the fund in which they have been deposited. For each fund, the report shall show the source of monies deposited into each and the purpose and number of expenditures from each fund (Source: P.A. 98-85, eff. 7-15-13). The amounts shown are for federal funds (063) and state funds (371), which are split 50/50.

- *FY23 FINES (7/1/22 – 6/30/23)*
 - Long-Term Care Monitor/Receivership: \$2,328,075.33 (Fund 285, 210 ILCS 45/3-501)
 - Federal Medicaid/Medicare Fines Received: \$1,479,914.58 (Fund 063/371)

- *Y23 EXPENDITURES (7/1/22 – 6/30/23)*
 - Civil Monetary Penalties: \$0
 - Long-Term Care Monitor/Receivership: \$24,879,874.16 (IDPH staff salaries, fringe benefits, and travel)
 - Equity and LTC Quality Fund: \$0 (Fund 371)

- *FY22 FINES (7/1/21 – 6/30/22)*
 - Long-Term Care Monitor/Receivership: \$4,277,821.53 (Fund 285, 210 ILCS 45/3-501)
 - Federal Medicaid/Medicare Fines Received: \$1,479,914.58 (Fund 063/371)

- *FY22 EXPENDITURES (7/1/21 – 6/30/22)*
 - Civil Monetary Penalties: \$0
 - Long-Term Care Monitor/Receivership: \$22,018,300.79 (IDPH staff salaries, fringe benefits, and travel)
 - Equity and LTC Quality Fund: \$0 (Fund 371)

DIVISION OF LONG-TERM CARE: ASSISTED LIVING

The division has regulatory authority for 531 licensed establishments under the Assisted Living and Shared Housing Act (210 ILCS 9). Assisted living establishments provide community-based residential care for at least three unrelated adults (at least 80% of whom are 55 years of age or older) who need assistance with activities of daily living, including personal, supportive, and intermittent health-related services available 24 hours per day to meet the scheduled and unscheduled needs of each resident.

Division staff conduct annual licensure surveys, complaint surveys, incident report investigations, and follow-up surveys. This is a state licensure program with no federal oversight as the residents of these establishments are private pay through a contractual agreement between the resident and the facility. Renewal applications and licensure fees are required annually for these providers. The number of establishments has continued to increase yearly to meet the needs of aging baby boomers and oversight in anticipation of their need for care.

In 2023, 574 complaints alleging failure to comply with regulatory requirements were received and investigated; 116 were substantiated and 458 were unsubstantiated. There were 34,412 incident and accident reports submitted and reviewed by IDPH. The total fines collected due to non-compliance with code rules for annual and complaint surveys was \$249,250, which reflects a more aggressive use of enforcement activities aimed at ensuring sustained regulatory compliance and quality of care.

DIVISION OF LIFE SAFETY AND CONSTRUCTION (LSC)

The Division of Life Safety and Construction is made up of two sections, Design and Construction and the Field Services Section. The Design and Construction Section conducts plan reviews and project inspections of licensed and certified health care facilities, which includes investigations regarding complaints or incidents. This section also conducts federal surveys for CMS for non-long-term care facilities. The Field Services Section conducts annual life safety code surveys of certified long-term care facilities for CMS as well as initial certification surveys and complaint/incident investigations.

The division's web page contains information on forms and rules for the licensure of ambulatory surgical treatment centers (ASTCs), hospitals, and nursing homes. Frequently asked questions and policies and procedures can be found under the following link: <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/health-care-regulation/life-safety-construction.html>

Accomplishments

During the past year, the division was able to conduct several in-person and virtual presentations to providers and association groups. Presentations regarding life safety code updates and emerging trends are an asset to providers and to associations that help keep the industry informed.

The division chief for Life Safety and Construction is currently a principal voting member on five National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) code committees. The NFPA committee appointments

are vital in developing policy for upcoming code cycles, which have been adopted by CMS and state health care facilities. IDPH has had representation on these committees for more than 17 years.

The division is continuing to conduct life safety code surveys for licensed-only facilities, such as specialized mental health rehabilitation establishments, assisted living, and shared housing facilities.

Design and Construction Section

Long-term care construction and renovation projects for calendar year 2023 increased slightly from the previous year.

Long-term care project breakdown

Forty-three long-term care projects with fees totaling \$258,430.72 were received. Over the last year, non-long-term care construction and renovation projects, which include hospitals, critical access hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, and other provider types increased from the previous year. Although the number of projects increased, the fees received for those projects decreased substantially from the previous year.

Non-long-term care project breakdown

One hundred sixty-seven non-long-term care projects with plan review fees totaling \$880,103.59 were received. The Facility Plan Review Fund allows IDPH to charge a fee for facility plan reviews. The Nursing Home Care Act (NHCA) and the Ambulatory Surgical Treatment Center Act (ASTCA) require a fee for construction projects with an estimated cost greater than \$100,000; while the Hospital Licensing Act (HLA) requires a fee for construction projects with an estimated cost greater than \$500,000.

The amount of fees collected for project reviews along with General Revenue Funds contribute to the cost of running the Division of Life Safety and Construction. Based on the NHCA, Hospital Licensing Act, and the Ambulatory Surgical Treatment Center Act, the Design and Construction Section is required to complete plan reviews within 30 days for design development drawings and within 60 days for working drawings.

Upon a project's completion, IDPH requires the providers' project architect or engineer to submit final occupancy certifications for review. Once the occupancy documentation is reviewed and deemed complete, a determination is made if an onsite inspection is required. If an onsite inspection is required, IDPH is mandated by statute to be onsite within 15 to 30 days, depending on the type of facility. Mandated time frames are subject to change based on federally mandated CMS life safety code surveys.

FIELD SERVICES SECTION

The Field Services Section (FSS) is responsible for conducting the required life safety code portion of the annual nursing home certification surveys and life safety code complaint surveys on behalf of CMS.

The FSS section conducted more than 1,000 annual surveys for CMS and completed more than 825 federal revisits.

During 2023, the FSS, along with the Design and Construction Section, completed 84 life safety code inspections at existing assisted living facilities and conducted 13 new assisted living and eight shared housing facility openings.

In 2023, there were three complaint/incident investigations: cause of fire, detection type, and extinguishment type.

S SECTION COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS 2023			
	Cause of Fire/Smoke	Detection Type	Extinguishment
1	Above the resident room ceiling co-ax cable	Family Member	Fire Department
2	Laundry room dryer fire	Staff	Fire Extinguisher Staff
3	Activity Room extension Cord and Plastic Cart	Fire Alarm	Sprinkler System

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL DIRECTION UNIT

The Training and Technical Direction Unit assists surveyors to attain the knowledge, skills, and abilities to carry out survey functions. This includes assessing training needs, coordinating training, creating curriculum and educational material, evaluating learning outcomes, and maintaining training records for long-term care surveyors. A new Training and Technical Direction Unit section chief and a new long-term care regional trainer were hired in 2023.

Federal CMS requires each state survey agency (SSA) to identify a state training coordinator and backup coordinator to be liaisons with the regional training administrator and the CMS central office. The state training coordinator oversees training concerns, logistics, scheduling, and oversight of the CMS Surveyor Training website. The unit is dedicated to ensuring the surveyors and compliance assurance team are provided with the training and resources necessary to ensure timely, consistent surveys, and swift enforcement action as these activities translate to improved regulatory compliance and resident outcomes.

NEW SURVEYORS

IDPH continues to strive towards hiring additional long-term care surveyors to comply with Senate Bill 326 (Public Act 096-1372) and a goal of 300 long-term care beds per surveyor. Training materials are continuously revised to ensure the most up-to-date compliance information is made available to surveyors on a variety of platforms. Additionally, each newly hired surveyor is provided training tools to include webcast course listings, website access information, links to documents, attestation of survey observations, requirements for submission of the training documentation, and access to regulations.

Before attending state Basic Surveyor Orientation (BSO), a newly hired long-term care surveyor completes more than 75 hours of mandated webcasts related to the long-term care survey process and regulations and participates in at least three onsite annual certification surveys. A minimum of 6 to 12 months of orientation time is required for a newly hired long-term care surveyor to become knowledgeable in the survey process. The time may vary depending on the learning needs of the new hire. To survey independently in certified facilities, surveyors must have completed all training modules, the BSO, and passed the CMS certification examination (SMQT).

In 2023, the State Basic Surveyor Orientation was brought back to in-person sessions in both the spring and the fall. Fifty-eight new surveyors completed the state BSO in 2023. Topics covered in the BSO include complaint and investigation procedures training, immediate jeopardy, principles of documentation, infection control, involuntary discharges, surveyor basics, and deficiency determination. The surveyor is also orientated on the Automated Survey Processing Environment (ASPEN), which is a federal survey database/platform.

When state and federal courses are completed, surveyors are registered to complete the Surveyor Minimum Qualifications Test (SMQT). In 2023, 14 surveyors completed the SMQT. Following SMQT, surveyor training continues in the form of webinars, computer-based training, face-to-face instruction, and educational emails to further the foundational skills and to provide the most up-to-date changes from CMS related to rule revisions and clarifications.

SUBPART S

Nursing facilities must comply with 77 Illinois Administrative Code 300, Subpart S Providing Services to Persons with Serious Mental Illness, which allows for the admission of individuals under the age of 65 with a diagnosis of severe mental illness (SMI). The Training and Technical Direction Unit did not receive any applications for Subpart S waivers in 2023.

FEDERAL SURVEYS

The Training and Technical Direction Unit utilizes Federal Oversight and Support Survey (FOSS) results to determine surveyor training needs. Federal comparative surveys are independently conducted by regional office surveyors or CMS surveyor contractors within 60 days (usually) of the state's survey. CMS completes the surveys to assess survey agency performance in the interpretation, application, and enforcement of federal requirements. When CMS surveyors identify a deficiency not cited by IDPH surveyors, there is a determination of whether the deficiency existed at the time of the state survey and if it should have been cited by the IDPH survey team.

Resource Support Surveys (RSS) are another type of survey conducted by CMS. The RSS provides guidance and direction to the state survey team by the regional office surveyor(s). Upon completion of the RSS, CMS compiles a report that contains an analysis of the deficiencies cited by the survey team to be used for educational purposes. The unit analyzes the Federal Monitoring Survey (FMS)/RSS report(s) to identify training needs and to develop training tools to enhance surveyors' knowledge.

RESIDENT ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT /MINIMUM DATA SET

Training and Technical Direction (TTD) staff provide Resident Assessment Instrument (RAI)/Minimum Data Set (MDS) education, technical direction, and support to long-term care survey staff and providers on an ongoing individual case basis. TTD staff also provide group opportunities for RAI/MDS education and direction in person and by Webex.

The RAI/MDS is an assessment tool used in long-term care to identify residents' needs and is used to create and to update the plan of care for each resident. The RAI/MDS is required by CMS for residents in Medicare and/or Medicaid-certified nursing homes and is used for reimbursement determination.

On October 1, 2023, CMS put forth significant changes to the MDS Assessment Item Sets that affected all Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements in Illinois. Information regarding these changes was sent out by Siren from the state RAI coordinator to facilities, as well as, answered in emails and phone calls from facility staff. The state RAI coordinator met with the Medicaid Team at HFS to determine requirements needed for specific reimbursement and possible changes to the administrative code in the future. Education and direction were also provided to survey staff who will review MDS assessments during survey activities in long-term care facilities. This communication and education are ongoing to both facilities and survey staff.

DEMENTIA COALITION

CMS implemented a National Dementia Partnership Program "with the mission to improve quality of care for nursing home residents living with dementia." The partnership consists of federal and

state agencies, nursing homes, providers, advocacy groups, and caregivers. It focuses on the delivery of health care to individuals with dementia that is person-centered, comprehensive, and interdisciplinary. It also focuses on protecting residents from being prescribed antipsychotic medications unless there is a valid, clinical indication, and a systematic process to evaluate individuals. Utilizing a multidimensional strategy, the partnership promotes developing new approaches in dementia care, reconnecting with people using person-centered care approaches, and restoring good health and quality of life in nursing homes.

IDPH, the Quality Improvement Association (Telligon), and the Illinois Health Care Association are co-team leaders in the partnership to improve dementia care. Coalition meetings are conducted a minimum of four times a year. Participants include representatives from provider and Alzheimer's associations, activity directors, physicians, pharmacists, and social workers. During the meetings, current data are reviewed and analyzed related to antipsychotic use, trends, and training needs.

STATE SURVEY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

In 2001, CMS established a set of state survey performance standards (SPSS) to determine whether the state survey agencies (SSAs) were meeting the requirements for the survey and certification program. These standards were revised in 2006 and 2016. This evaluation does not restrict the CMS Regional Office (RO) from performing other oversight activities to ensure that the SSAs are meeting the terms of their agreement. Furthermore, the SPSS neither creates new policy for the SSAs, nor does it nullify federal law, regulations, the State Operations Manual, or formal policy provided by CMS. In 2023, the OHCR met each of the scoring dimensions.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND PROCEDURES

The long-term care administrative rules (see Appendix A), which are maintained by the Division of Administrative Rules and Procedures (ARP), fall under the authority of 11 acts including the following: Nursing Home Care Act, ID/DD Community Care Act, MC/DD Act, Specialized Mental Health and Rehabilitation Act, Community Living Facilities Act, Assisted Living and Shared Housing Act, and the Abused and Neglected Long-Term Care Facility Residents Reporting Act.

ARP also administers the Long-Term Care Assistants and Aides Training Programs Code, which is under the authority of the Nursing Home Care Act, the MC/DD Act, and the ID/DD Community Care Act; the Authorized Electronic Monitoring in Long-Term Care Facilities Act and its set of rules; the Civil Money Penalty Reinvestment Program rules, which are under the authority of the Nursing Home Care Act; the Equity in Long-Term Care Quality Act; Section 195 of the Department of Public Health Powers and Duties Law; and the Health Care Worker Background Check Act and its set of rules and the Health Care Worker Registry (Registry).

SELECT ACTIVITIES

- Responded to more than 62,000 telephone and email requests for assistance and information regarding the Health Care Worker Registry.
- Added 189,597 new criminal background checks to the registry.
- Added 13,788 certified nursing assistants (CNAs) to the registry.
- Added 4,986 direct service personnel (DSP) to the registry.
- Added administrative findings for 30 health care workers to the registry for abuse, neglect, or theft.
- Processed 2,862 requests for the waiver of criminal convictions.
- Entered Livescan Vendor Authorization Contracts with two new Livescan vendors. These vendors will be able to scan fingerprints for health care workers. The addition of the two new vendors brought to 38 the number of statewide vendors that scan fingerprints for the HCWR.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES ACTIONS

The Division of Administrative Rules and Procedures (ARP) staff works with program staff to identify necessary amendments for long-term care administrative rules, to address new or revised statutory requirements, to identify best practices and current IDPH procedures, and to address industry requests that have been proposed through the Long-Term Care Facility or DD Facility Advisory boards. During 2023, ARP staff proposed and adopted numerous amendments to various long-term care administrative rules to implement new statutory requirements and to update codes to align with current IDPH procedures. A listing of these rulemakings is provided below.

- The final set of emergency rules adopted in December 2022 for infection control and staff vaccination requirements in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, were allowed to expire in May 2023, without being renewed due to the expiration of the federal public health emergency.
- Adopted amendments to the Community Living Facilities Code to implement Public Act 101-0116 (closed captioning on television sets).

- Adopted amendments to the Incorporated and Referenced Materials Sections for seven long-term care codes.
- Adopted amendments to the Assisted Living and Shared Housing Establishment Code to clarify requirements related to complaint procedures and other IDPH procedures. This rulemaking also includes updates to life safety requirements and statutory requirements pursuant to Public Act 102-1007.
- Proposed amendments to the Intermediate Care for the Developmentally Disabled Facilities Code to align it with numerous statutory updates and with current IDPH procedures.
- Proposed amendments to the Skilled Nursing and Intermediate Care Facilities Code to implement P.A. 102-0646 (informed consent for prescribing psychotropic medications), P.A. 103-001 (flexibility in statutorily mandated inspections), and P.A. 102-1007 (employee assistance programs).
- Proposed amendments to the Sheltered Care Facilities Code to align it with numerous statutory updates and with current IDPH procedures.
- Proposed amendments to the Health Care Worker Background Check Code to implement Public Acts 103-0303 and 103-0428 and to align with current IDPH procedures.
- Adopted amendments to the Health Care Worker Background Check Code implementing Public Act 102-1063 (federal taxpayer id).
- Proposed amendments to the Medically Complex for the Developmentally Disabled Facilities Code implementing Public Act 102-1007 (employee assistance programs).

HEALTH CARE WORKER REGISTRY

The Health Care Worker Registry (HCWR) Section's principal responsibility is to provide information to health care employers about unlicensed health care workers, including certified nursing assistant (CNA) certification; CNA administrative findings of abuse, neglect, or theft; criminal background checks; disqualifying convictions; waivers that allow an exception to the prohibition of employment when there is a disqualifying conviction; and developmentally disabled aide training. The HCWR Section provides application forms and instructions needed to assist health care workers seeking to be a nurse aide in Illinois or who are seeking to be granted a waiver for disqualifying convictions that are revealed on an Illinois background check. The HCWR Section further supports the registry, which has a public and a private website, by staffing a call center and responding to email inquiries.

In 2023, the staff handled more than 21,000 telephone calls and almost 41,000 email requests for assistance and information regarding the HCWR. Health care employers who operate licensed long-term care facilities must check the registry before employing a non-licensed individual who will have or may have contact with residents or have access to the residents' living quarters and access to residents' financial, medical, or personal records. For the facility to hire the individual, a fingerprint-based fee applicant (Fee-App) background check must be conducted by an approved

IDPH Livescan vendor. The individual may not work with disqualifying convictions unless the individual has been granted a waiver of those convictions. If the individual is to be hired as a CNA, the facility must verify the individual has met proper training and competency test requirements. The individual cannot have any administrative findings of abuse, neglect, or theft.

Once a Fee-App background check is in place for an individual on the registry, the Illinois State Police automatically sends any new convictions to the registry. If a new disqualifying conviction is received for an individual working on a waiver, the waiver is automatically revoked, and the facility is notified that the person must be terminated.

The public can check the registry at <https://hcwrpub.dph.illinois.gov/Search.aspx> or by calling the toll-free number (1-844-789-3676). Health care employers can access IDPH’s HCWR Web Portal at <http://portalhome.dph.illinois.gov>.

HEALTH CARE WORKER REGISTRY STATISTICS	
Active Basic Nursing Assistant Training Programs	375
Direct Service Personnel (DSP) Added	4,986
Total number of CNAs on the Registry as of 12/31/2023	376,803
Total number of DSPs on the Registry as of 12/31/2023	139,958

ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS OF ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND THEFT

The Nursing Home Care Act and the Abused and Neglected Long-term Care Facility Residents Reporting Act require allegations of suspected abuse, neglect, or misappropriation of a resident’s property by CNAs, DD aides, and habilitation aides be reported to IDPH. After these allegations have been investigated and processed through an administrative hearing, those who have a final order of abuse, neglect, or theft are published on the registry. For 2023, there was a total of 30 administrative findings – 19 abuse, two neglect, zero misappropriation of property, and nine financial exploitation.

BACKGROUND CHECKS AND DISQUALIFYING CONVICTIONS

IDPH licenses the following health care employers:

- Community living facilities.
- Life care facilities
- Long-term care facilities
- Home health agencies, home services agencies, or home nursing agencies
- Hospice care programs or volunteer hospice programs
- Sub-acute care facilities
- Post-surgical recovery care facilities
- Children’s respite homes
- Freestanding emergency centers

- Hospitals
- Assisted living and shared housing establishments

The Health Care Worker Background Check Act requires unlicensed direct care employees hired by health care employers to have a fingerprint-based criminal history records check.

In addition, each long-term care facility must initiate a fingerprint-based criminal history records check for unlicensed employees with duties that involve or may involve contact with residents or access to the residents’ living quarters, or the financial, medical, or personal records of residents.

If a criminal history records check indicates a conviction of one or more of the offenses enumerated in Section 25 of the act, the individual shall not be employed from the time the employer receives the results of the background check until the time the individual receives a waiver if one is granted by IDPH. An individual may request a waiver by completing a waiver application, providing a written explanation of each disqualifying conviction, providing documentation relating to payment of fines or completion of probation, and providing other relevant information.

IDPH will evaluate the information submitted with the waiver application and decide whether to grant or deny the waiver. The goal in evaluating waivers is to continue the prohibition of employment, imposed by the act, of those individuals who might pose a threat to the state’s most vulnerable citizens. When specific criteria are met, the individual may be granted a rehabilitation waiver automatically without submitting a waiver application. A waiver is revoked if an individual is convicted of a new disqualifying offense.

The following table depicts the number of background checks and waiver requests performed and/or granted in 2023.

BACKGROUND CHECKS AND WAIVER REQUESTS	
Background Checks Added to the Registry	186,112
Total Background Checks on the Registry	1,442,275
Waivers Granted	1,929
Waivers Denied	148
Total Waivers Processed	3,032
Waivers Revoked	121

Beyond ensuring the ongoing educational needs of the BLTC are met, the unit plays a crucial role in overseeing the training of nursing assistant programs throughout all skilled nursing facilities. Responsibilities include:

- Approval of and daily administration of all advanced nursing assistant training programs (ANATP) and basic nursing assistant training programs (BNATP), instructors, and evaluators.

- Approval of and daily administration of resident attendant (RA) programs and review of RA program submissions.
- Monitoring and implementation of CMS-updated guidance regarding nursing assistant training programs.
- Identification and notification of nurse aide training site restrictions imposed because of serious regulatory deficiencies.
- Responding to the Nurse Assistant Training and Competency Evaluation Program (NATCEP) waiver requests.

NURSE ASSISTANT TRAINING AND COMPETENCY EVALUATION PROGRAM

Competency testing for nursing assistants is achieved primarily by the completion of an IDPH-approved BNATP. BNATPs are offered in a variety of settings throughout the state, including community colleges, other educational institutions, and health care providers. Advanced nursing assistant training program sponsors are currently supported by three community colleges and two hospitals.

BASIC NURSE ASSISTANT TRAINING PROGRAM SPONSORS – 2023			
Community Colleges	117	Nursing Homes	47
Vocational Schools	86	Hospitals	7
High Schools	114	Home Health Agencies	2
TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVE BASIC NURSING ASSISTANT TRAINING PROGRAMS			375

ADVANCED NURSE ASSISTANT TRAINING PROGRAM SPONSORS – 2023			
Community Colleges	4	Nursing Homes	0
Vocational Schools	1	Hospitals	2
High Schools	0	Home Health Agencies	0
TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVE ADVANCED NURSING ASSISTANT TRAINING PROGRAMS			7

In 2023, of the 17,182 students eligible to sit for the competency/certification examination, 13,788 (80%) passed; 2,468 (14% failed); and 926 (5.4%) were counted as “no-shows.”

NATCEP RESTRICTIONS

Long-term care facilities are utilized as clinical practice sites for nurse aide training program students. Students learn related skills and apply that knowledge in providing care to residents in a facility. When a facility has certain sanctions imposed by CMS due to serious regulatory deficiencies, the facility is prohibited from serving as a clinical practice site. Further, the facility may also be restricted from conducting its own nurse aide training program (NATCEP). In 2023, 368 clinical practice site restriction notices were issued to facilities.

Facilities may request a waiver from IDPH of the NATCEP restrictions. The waivers are reviewed according to the guidelines set forth by CMS. In 2023, 32 waiver requests were received and approved.

RESIDENT ATTENDANT PROGRAMS

Resident attendant (RA) programs train individuals to assist residents in a facility with eating, drinking, and limited personal hygiene. In 2023, IDPH approved two new programs submitted by a skilled care facility. Requirements for RA programs are found in the 77 Illinois Administrative Code, Section 300.662. Currently, there are 96 active programs in the state.

INSTRUCTOR TRAINING PROGRAMS

Part 395 Long-Term Care Assistants and Aides Training Programs Code requires instructors and evaluators teaching in NATCEP to be approved by IDPH before instructing students. In 2023, 286 instructors and evaluators were approved. In 2023, community colleges conducted 21 “Train-the-Trainer” courses which 95 instructors and evaluators completed. IDPH approved 286 additional instructors based on the requirements under the applicable administrative code.

APPENDIX A: ANNUAL REPORT STATUTORY AUTHORITY

NURSING HOME CARE ACT, (210 ILCS 45/3-804) (SEC. 3-804)

IDPH shall report to the General Assembly by July 1 of each year upon the performance of its inspection, survey, and evaluation duties under this act, including the number and needs of IDPH personnel engaged in such activities. The report also shall describe IDPH's actions in the enforcement of this act, including the number and needs of personnel so engaged, and include the number of valid and invalid complaints filed with IDPH within the last calendar year. (Source: P.A. 97-135, eff. 7-14-11.)

ABUSED AND NEGLECTED LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY RESIDENTS REPORTING ACT

(210 ILCS 30/6) (SEC. 6)

IDPH shall report annually to the General Assembly on the incidence of abuse and neglect of long-term care facility residents with special attention to residents who have mental disabilities. The report shall include, but not be limited to, data on the number and source of reports of suspected abuse or neglect filed under this act, the nature of any injuries to residents, the final determination of investigations, the type and number of cases where abuse or neglect is determined to exist, and the final disposition of cases. (Source: P.A. 97-38, eff. 6-28-11; 97-227, eff. 1-1-12; P.A. 97-813, eff. 7-13-12; P.A. 98-104, eff. 7-22-13, and P.A. 99-642, eff. 7-28-16.)

ID/DD COMMUNITY CARE ACT, (210 ILCS 47/3-804) (SEC. 3-804)

IDPH shall report to the General Assembly by April 1 of each year upon the performance of its inspection, survey, and evaluation duties under this act, including the number and needs of IDPH personnel engaged in such activities. The report shall also describe IDPH's enforcement actions, including the number and needs of personnel so engaged, and the number of valid and invalid complaints filed with IDPH within the last calendar year. (Source: P.A. 96-339, eff. 7-1-10.)

(MC/DD) ACT, (210 ILCS 46/3-804) (SEC. 3-804)

IDPH shall report to the General Assembly by April 1 of each year upon the performance of its inspection, survey, and evaluation duties under this act, including the number and needs of IDPH personnel engaged in such activities. The report shall also describe IDPH's enforcement actions, including the number and needs of personnel so engaged, and the number of valid and invalid complaints filed with IDPH within the last calendar year. (Source: P.A. 99-180, eff. 7-29-15.)

AUTHORIZED ELECTRONIC MONITORING IN LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES ACT

(210 ILCS 32/55)

IDPH shall annually report the total number of authorized electronic monitoring notifications and consent forms received by facilities to the Office of the Attorney General. (Source: P.A. 99-430, eff. 1-1-16)

Equity in Long-Term Care Quality Act

(30 ILCS 772/25)

IDPH shall report to the General Assembly on January 1 each year, the number of scholarships awarded during the preceding year and the demographics of the awardees. (Source: P.A. 101-0559, eff. 8-23-19)

APPENDIX B: ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

Administrative Rules Promulgated Under the Authority of the Nursing Home Care Act [210 ILCS 45] and Administrative Rules Promulgated Under the Authority of the Abused and Neglected Long-Term Care Facility Residents Reporting Act [210 ILCS 30]

- *Skilled Nursing and Intermediate Care Facilities Code, (77 Ill. Adm. Code 300)*
- *Sheltered Care Facilities Code, (77 Ill. Adm. Code 330)*
- *Illinois Veterans' Homes Code, (77 Ill. Adm. Code 340)*
- *Central Complaint Registry, (77 Ill. Adm. Code 400)*

Administrative Rules Promulgated Under the Authority of the MC/DD Act [210 ILCS 46]

- *Medically Complex for the Developmentally Disabled Facilities Code, (77 Ill. Adm. Code 390)*

Administrative Rules Promulgated Under the Authority of the ID/DD Community Care Act [210 ILCS 47]

- *Intermediate Care for the Developmentally Disabled Facilities Code, (77 Ill. Adm. Code 350)*

Administrative Rules Promulgated Under the Authority of the Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitation Act of 2013 [210 ILCS 49]

- *Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitation Facilities Code, (77 Ill. Adm. Code 380)*

Administrative Rules Promulgated Under the Authority of the Assisted Living and Shared Housing Act [210 ILCS 9]

- *Assisted Living and Shared Housing Establishment Code, (77 Ill. Adm. Code 295)*

Administrative Rules Promulgated Under the Authority of the Health Care Worker Background Check Act [225 ILCS 46]

- *Health Care Worker Background Check Code, (77 Ill. Adm. Code 955)*

Administrative Rules Promulgated under the Authority of the Community Living Facility Licensing Act [210 ILCS 35]

- *Community Living Facilities Code, (77 Ill. Adm. Code 370)*

Administrative Rules Promulgated under the Authority of the Nursing Home Care Act, the MC/DD Act, and the ID/DD Community Care Act

- *Long-Term Care Assistants and Aides Training Programs Code, (77 Ill. Adm. Code 395)*

Administrative Rules Promulgated Under the Authority of the Authorized Electronic Monitoring in Long-Term Care Facilities Act, [210 ILCS 32]

- *Authorized Electronic Monitoring in Long-Term Care Facilities Code, (77 Ill. Adm. Code 389)*

Administrative Rules Promulgated Under the Authority of the Nursing Home Care Act, the Equity in Long-Term Care Quality Act, and Section 195 of the Department of Public Health Powers and Duties Law

- *Civil Money Penalty Reinvestment Program (77 Ill. Adm. Code 425)*
- *Freedom of Information Act, [5 ILCS 140/1]*

APPENDIX C: STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR ADVISORY BOARDS

DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED FACILITY ADVISORY BOARD

The Developmentally Disabled (DD) Facility Advisory Board is mandated by Section 2-204 of the ID/DD Community Care Act (210 ILCS 47), which authorizes the IDPH director to appoint a DD Facility Advisory Board to consult with IDPH and the residents' advisory councils created under Section 2-203 of the act.

Section 2-204 (c): "The Advisory Board shall advise the Department of Public Health on all aspects of its responsibilities under this Act, including the format and content of any rules promulgated by the Department of Public Health. Any such rules, except emergency rules promulgated pursuant to Section 5-45 of the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act, promulgated without obtaining the advice of the Advisory Board are null and void. If the Department fails to follow the advice of the Advisory Board, the Department shall, prior to the promulgation of such rules, transmit a written explanation of the reason therefore to the Advisory Board. During its review of the rules, the Advisory Board shall analyze the economic and regulatory impact of those rules. If the Advisory Board, having been asked for its advice, fails to advise the Department within 90 days, the rules shall be considered acted upon." (Source: P.A. 96-339, eff. 7-1-10; 96-1146, eff. 7-21-10.)

LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY ADVISORY BOARD

The Long-Term Care Facility Advisory Board is mandated by Section 2-204 of the Nursing Home Care Act (210 ILCS 45), which authorizes the IDPH director to appoint a Long-Term Care Facility Advisory Board to consult with IDPH and residents' advisory councils created under Section 2-203 of the act.

Section 2-204: "(c) The Advisory Board shall advise the Department of Public Health on all aspects of its responsibilities under this Act and the Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitation Act of 2013, including the format and content of any rules promulgated by the Department of Public Health. Any such rules, except emergency rules promulgated pursuant to Section 5-45 of the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act, promulgated without obtaining the advice of the Advisory Board are null and void. In the event the Department fails to follow the advice of the Board, IDPH shall, prior to the promulgation of such rules, transmit a written explanation of the reason thereof to the Board. During its review of rules, the Board shall analyze the economic and regulatory impact of those rules. If the Advisory Board, having been asked for its advice, fails to advise the Department within 90 days, the rules shall be considered acted upon." (Source: P.A. 97-38, eff. 6-28-11; P.A. 98-104, eff. 7-22-13; P.A. 98-463, eff. 8-16-13.)

APPENDIX D: WEBSITE ADDRESSES AND USEFUL LINKS

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

<https://www.cms.gov/>

CNA Approved Training Programs

<https://hcwrpub.dph.illinois.gov/Programs.aspx>

Community Living Facilities Licensing Act

<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=1223&ChapAct=2>

Filing a Complaint

<http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/health-care-regulation/complaints>

Health Care Worker Registry

<http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/health-care-regulation/health-care-worker-registry>

Illinois Department of Public Health

<http://dph.illinois.gov/>

Intellectually Disabled/Developmentally Disabled Community Care Act

<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=3127&ChapterID=21>

Life Safety and Construction

<http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/health-care-regulation/life-safety-construction>

Medically Complex for the Developmental Disabilities (MC/DD) Act

<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/99/099-0180.htm>

Nursing Home Care Act

<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs5.asp?ActID=1225&ChapterID=21>

Nursing Homes: Resources, Forms, Laws & Rules, and Publications

<http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/health-care-regulation/nursing-homes>

Office of Health Care Regulation

<http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/health-care-regulation>

Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitation Facility Act

<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs4.asp?DocName=021000490HArt.+1&ActID=3500&ChapterID=21&SeqStart=100000&SeqEnd=700000>

APPENDIX E: OHCR CONTACT INFORMATION

PROGRAM	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
<p>Long-Term Care: Field Operations (LTC: FO) 525 W. Jefferson St., 5th floor Springfield, IL 62761 Tel: 217-785-5180 Fax: 217-785-9182</p>	<p>Violations, survey questions, general long-term care facility issues, survey process, licensure, and federal surveys, state, and federal certification.</p>
<p>Long-Term Care: Compliance Assurance (LTC: CA) 525 W. Jefferson St., 5th floor Springfield, IL 62761 Tel: 217-782-5180 Fax: 217-785-4200</p>	<p>Certification and licensure survey review, federal enforcement, licensure applications, change of ownership, bed changes, hearing requests, FOIA, licensure violations, and facility staffing requirements.</p>
<p>Assisted Living (AL) 525 W. Jefferson St., 5th floor Springfield, IL 62761 Tel: 217-782-2448 Fax: 217-557-2432</p>	<p>Rule interpretation, establishment compliance history, general licensure questions, licensure application processing, and changes of ownership for assisted living facilities.</p>
<p>LTC SIU Central Complaint Registry (CCR) 525 W. Jefferson St., Ground Floor Springfield, IL 62761 Tel: 800-252-4343 Fax: 217-524-8885 Email: DPH.CCR@illinois.gov</p>	<p>Receives complaints from a variety of entities, central reporting location for the Abused and Neglected Long-Term Care Facilities Residents Reporting Act.</p>
<p>Training and Technical Direction Unit (TTU) 525 W. Jefferson St., 4th floor Springfield, IL 62761 Tel: 217-785-5132 Email: DPH.Education@ilinois.gov</p>	<p>Surveyor training; guidance to the long-term care provider industry. Administers the Nurse Aide Training Program, including approvals of instructors and new programs.</p>
<p>Administrative Rules and Procedures (ARP) Health Care Worker Registry (HCWR) 525 W. Jefferson St., 4th floor Springfield, IL 62761 Tel: 844-789-3676 Fax: 217-524-0137</p>	<p>Information on accessing rules or recommendations for rule changes, Health Care Worker Registry Background Check Act, CNA waivers, CNA equivalencies, and Portal Registration Authority (PRA) inquiries.</p>
<p>Life Safety and Construction (LSC) 525 W. Jefferson St., 4th floor Springfield, IL 62761 Tel: 217-785-4264 Fax: 217-782-0382 Email: dph.design.standards@illinois.gov</p>	<p>Physical plant plan reviews, new construction, building modification, Life Safety Code interpretation, licensure, and federal life safety code surveys.</p>