**2019 Nursing Home Bed Utilization Observations and Methodology**

The attached spreadsheet is DCOPN's calculation and presentation of occupancy of Virginia nursing homes for facility fiscal years ending in 2019, based on data reported to us by Virginia Health Information (VHI).  A very few facilities--but none that would be included in RFA (Request for Applications)-related occupancy calculations--failed to report their 2019 data to Virginia Health Information (VHI).  For these facilities, we entered their 2019 number of licensed beds and number of Medicaid-certified beds into the attached spreadsheet, but no occupancy data can be provided for them.

As said in the "Notes" sheet following the attached "Utilization" sheet, the primary source of this data is the “ALSD” spreadsheet of nursing home utilization provided to DCOPN by VHI, with data as of March 12, 2021.  DCOPN organized the data into planning districts and health planning regions and calculated the statistics shown for those areas and for the state as a whole.

We made corrections to the VHI data in those cases where a facility incorrectly reported its number of licensed beds to VHI, and we recalculated available days of care and occupancy percentage accordingly.  We also recalculated available days of care and occupancy percentage to take into account changes in a facility’s number of licensed beds during its reporting period, because this intra-year bed-change information isn’t available to VHI.  These changes made by DCOPN to VHI’s data are noted by entries in the “Comments” column.

We’ve omitted from the *RFA-related* occupancy calculations *all* nursing home units that were established as part of a CCRC, even if the CCRC nursing home unit is partly or completely Medicaid-certified, and even if it’s *not* restricted from admitting persons who aren’t existing contract-holding residents of the CCRC, which is true for some older CCRCs.  The reason for this is that we believe even Medicaid-certified beds in CCRC nursing home units are used very largely by persons who are contract-holding residents of the CCRC and that in most cases CCRC nursing home beds don’t provide a large amount of service to the general, non-CCRC population.

Furthermore, analysis of a recent year's nursing home utilization data found that removing Medicaid-certified CCRC nursing home units from the *RFA-related* occupancy calculations made almost no difference in any PD’s RFA-related occupancy calculation.  In some PDs, removing the Medicaid-certified CCRC nursing home units from the PD's occupancy calculation *raised* the PD’s RFA-related occupancy percentage by a tiny amount; while in some PDs removing the CCRC nursing home units from the calculation *lowered* the PD’s RFA-related occupancy percentage by a tiny amount.

A very few nursing homes that are now part of a CCRC organization were established prior to becoming part of the CCRC organization, and we believe they continue to serve the general community population in the same way as non-CCRC-related nursing homes.  These nursing homes *are* included in the RFA-related occupancy calculations.

Observations on the data:

 - This spreadsheet for nursing home 2019 fiscal years provides data on 290 nursing home units, including nursing home units of CCRCs and hospital long-term care units that have Medicare or Medicaid certification for nursing home care.  For *2018*, there were 291 facilities.

 - Statewide occupancy of *all* (reporting) nursing home facilities in 2019 was 85.8%; it was 85.2% for 2018 and 85.7% for 2017.  Over at least the past five years, there has been no meaningful or even really noticeable trend in the occupancy percentage of all nursing home facilities in Virginia, in spite of the well-known and substantial increase in the state's nursing-home-age population over this period and for many prior years.

 - Statewide *RFA-related occupancy*, i.e., *excluding*facilities with no or very few Medicaid-certified beds and *excluding*nearly all CCRC-related facilities (per "comments" column on the attached spreadsheet) was 86.8% for 2019; it was 86.0% for 2018 and 86.5% for 2017.  As is the case for *all*nursing home facilities, the statewide occupancy of RFA-related nursing homes has shown no meaningful trend over at least the past five years, in spite of the substantial increase in the state's nursing-home-age population during this period.

 -Thirteen PDs had *higher* overall occupancy of *all*their nursing homes in 2019 than in 2018; seven had lower occupancy, and two had no change.  Results by PD for the *RFA-related* nursing homes were generally similar.  Among the *HPRs*, only Eastern Virginia had *lower* overall occupancy in 2019 than in 2018.  In nearly all cases, a PD's or an HPR's year-to-year change in its occupancy percentage was very small--seldom greater than 0.3 percentage points in either direction.

 - The number of *all* nursing home beds (including hospital LTCU beds certified for nursing home care) in Virginia at the end of 2019 was 32,379 vs. 32,613 at the end of 2018 and 32,680 at the end of 2017.  The number of *Medicaid-certified* beds statewide was 29,732 at the end of 2019 vs. 29,896 at the end of 2018 and 29,994 at the end of 2017.  There is no meaningful trend over the past three years (or longer) in the number of all nursing home beds in Virginia or in the number of Medicaid-certified beds.  The small decline in Medicaid-certified beds between 2017 and 2019 results mainly from one or two anomalous situations that likely were corrected in 2020.

 - There were 41 CCRC nursing home units at the end of 2019 containing 2,597 beds, with a statewide CCRC nursing home occupancy of 79.1%.  Twenty-three of these CCRC nursing home units had some Medicaid-certified beds, totaling 1,172.

This message and its attachment are being sent to many addressees (most as “bcc”), based on their indicated interest in data of this type and/or their involvement in nursing-home-related COPN activities in recent years.  You are welcome to retransmit this material to other persons.  The spreadsheet has been left in Excel form, rather than converted to a PDF, to increase its potential usefulness to recipients.  If you alter the spreadsheet before retransmitting it, we ask that the fact of such alteration be made known to your addressee.

I’ll be glad to respond to questions on this material and would appreciate any apparent errors being reported back to me, preferably by e-mail to my VDH address.  For telephone contact, please use my personal phone number, 804 317-2750.

We very much appreciate VHI’s work in collecting this data and providing it to us.  We also note and appreciate the cooperation of Virginia’s nursing homes in providing their utilization data to VHI, as well as their responses to VHI's and DCOPN’s occasional follow-up questions on the data they reported.