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Florida Medicaid Recipients Report Increase in Health and Quality of Life

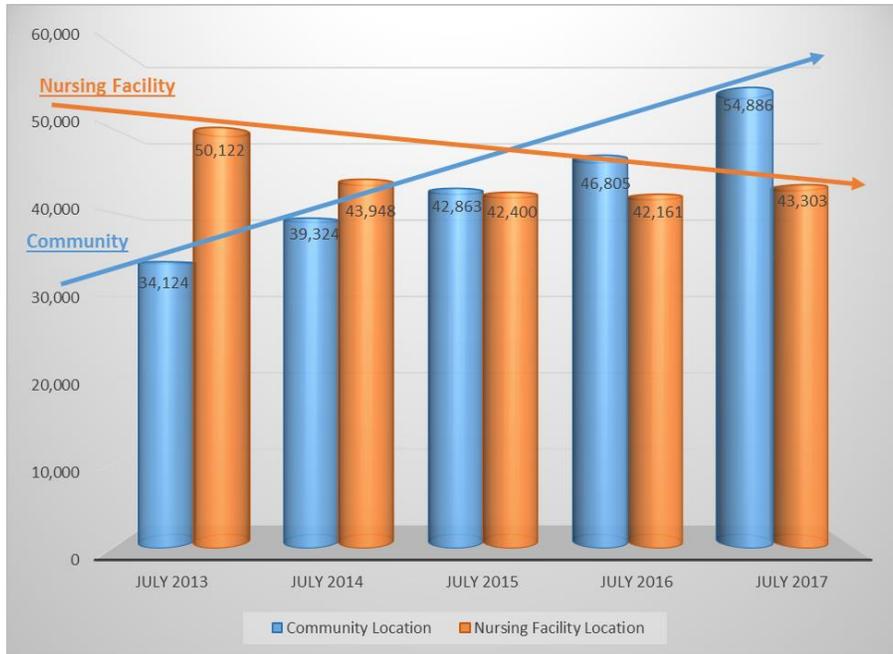
TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Today, the Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) highlighted survey results showing frail Floridians who receive long term care in Medicaid are experiencing an increase in their quality of life and an improvement in their health since joining the program. In the Long-term Care (LTC) program enrollee satisfaction survey conducted by independent survey vendors for the LTC health plans, 77 percent of respondents indicated their quality of life has improved since enrolling in the LTC program while 60 percent reported their overall health had improved.

This announcement comes after a recent [U.S. News & World Report](#) study which also found that Florida out ranks its peer states in nursing home quality, and data from federal CMS that shows Florida nursing homes are achieving higher and higher quality levels, including lower infection rates, fewer falls, and fewer incidents of wandering.

Agency Secretary Justin Senior said, “Our Agency is committed to providing Floridians enrolled in the LTC program with the best possible care. The fact that such a high percentage of recipients are reporting they are in better health and enjoying a higher quality of living is a testament to the hard work and dedication of Florida’s long-term care providers and coordinated care offered by our Medicaid health plans. We know that Florida nursing home residents today are less likely to fall, less likely to wander, less likely to suffer infections, less likely to exhibit unhealed pressure ulcers, and less likely to be chemically restrained than they were at the beginning of the decade. With our stringent standards and regulatory guidelines, we look forward to continuing to help provide access to high quality health care for Florida’s elderly population.”

In addition to recipients reporting improved health, a growing population is receiving care in community locations rather than living in a nursing home. Florida law provides incentives to shift services from nursing facilities to community-based care in effort to provide patients with the least restrictive community setting to meet their health care needs. Since the implementation of the LTC program, there has been a steady progression of patients moving from nursing facilities to community locations, as shown in the chart below.





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The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. The Agency administers Florida's Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 50,000 health care facilities and 47 health plans, and publishes health care data and statistics at www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov. Additional information about Agency initiatives is available via [Facebook \(AHCAFlorida\)](#), [Twitter \(@AHCA_FL\)](#) and [YouTube \(/AHCAFlorida\)](#).