

# Using Research to Inform Aging Services: Highlights from Scripps Research

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SCRIPPS GERONTOLOGY CENTER

# Session Agenda

- Importance of research and data to inform advocacy
- Scripps and what we do
- Ohio's changing demographics
- Ohio Long-Term Care Research Project
- State-mandated data collection
- Recent Scripps research to inform advocacy efforts for better public policy for aging



# Why are research and data important for advocacy?

- **Knowing about the population of interest**
- **Evidence-based decision making**
- **Identifying disparities and gaps**
- **Monitoring quality improvement efforts**
- **Public awareness and transparency**



# Scripps - Over 100 years of Population Work at Miami University

- **1922** - E.W. Scripps endowment to open the Scripps Foundation for Research in Population Problems at Miami University.
- **1972** - became the Scripps Gerontology Center
- **2022** – Celebrated 100 years at Miami



# Ohio's Older Adult Population

Table 1. Ohio's Older Population 2020-2050

Category	2020	2030	2040	2050	% Change 2020-2050
Total Population of Ohio	11.8 million	11.7 million	11.43 million	11.1 million	-5.7%
60 and older	2.86 million (24.2%)	2.94 million (25.1%)	2.72 million (23.8%)	2.62 million (23.5%)	-0.08%
65 and older	2.1 million (17.4%)	2.3 million (19.5%)	2.1 million (18.6%)	2.0 million (17.6%)	-0.04%
85 and older	232,830 (2.0%)	213,800 (1.83%)	261,400 (2.3%)	288,630 (2.6%)	+24.0%



# Ohio's 65+ Population: Percentage Age 85 or Older



# Characteristics of Ohio's Older Population

Table 2. Characteristics of Ohio's Older Population, 2020

Ohioans 65 and Over	Mean
Percent married	55.3
Percent living alone	28.9
Percent with high school diploma	87.4
Percent below poverty	9.2
Percent white, non-Hispanic	93.9
Percent veterans	16.0
Percent without internet access	21.0
Median household income (dollars)	\$47,840
Life expectancy at birth (years)	76.6
Life expectancy at age 65 (years)	18.5



# Disability Estimates for Older Ohioans: High Need for Long-Term Services

**Table 3. High Need for Long-Term Services: 2020 and 2050**

	2020	2020	2050	% Change 2020-2050
Age Group	% High Need	# High Need	# High Need	% Change High Need
65-69	7.3%	49,933	42,012	-15.9%
70-74	8.1%	44,158	37,138	-15.9%
75-79	10.1%	35,473	38,178	+7.6%
80-84	14.7%	34,372	37,991	+10.5%
85+	43.9%	102,290	126,379	+23.5%
<b>Total 65+ High Need</b>	13.0%	266,226	281,698	+5.8%





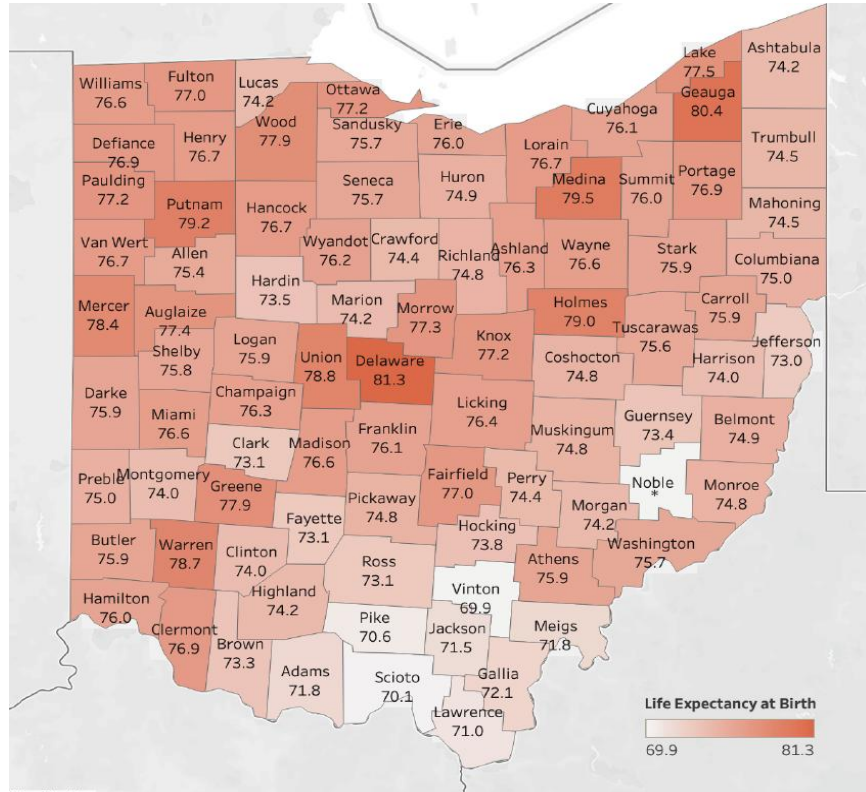
# Disability Estimates for Older Ohioans: Moderate Need for Long-Term Services

**Table 4. Moderate Need for Long-Term Services: 2020 and 2050**

	2020	2020	2050	% Change 2020-2050
Age Group	% Moderate Need	# Moderate Need	# Moderate Need	% Change Moderate Need
65-69	9.7%	66,731	55,771	-16.4%
70-74	8.5%	46,356	38,561	-16.8%
75-79	9.7%	34,109	36,868	+8.0%
80-84	8.2%	19,166	21,080	+10.0%
85+	10.8%	25,160	31,015	+23.3%
<b>Total 65+ Moderate Need</b>	9.4%	191,522	183,295	-4.3%
<b>Total Disability (High and Moderate combined)</b>	22.4%	457,748	464,993	+1.5%



# Life Expectancies at Birth by County

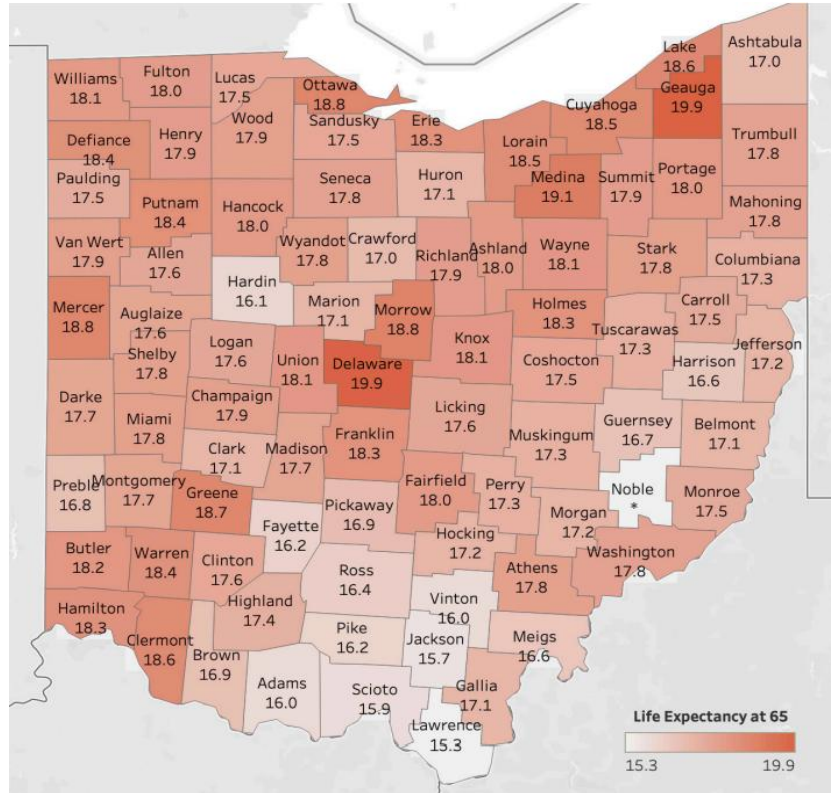


Ohio's average LE = 75.9 years

Counties with Highest Average LE at Birth		Counties with Lowest Average LE at Birth	
County	LE at Birth	County	LE at Birth
Delaware	81.3	Vinton	69.9
Geauga	80.4	Scioto	70.1
Medina	79.5	Pike	70.6
Putnam	79.2	Lawrence	71
Holmes	79	Jackson	71.5



# Life Expectancies at Age 65 by County

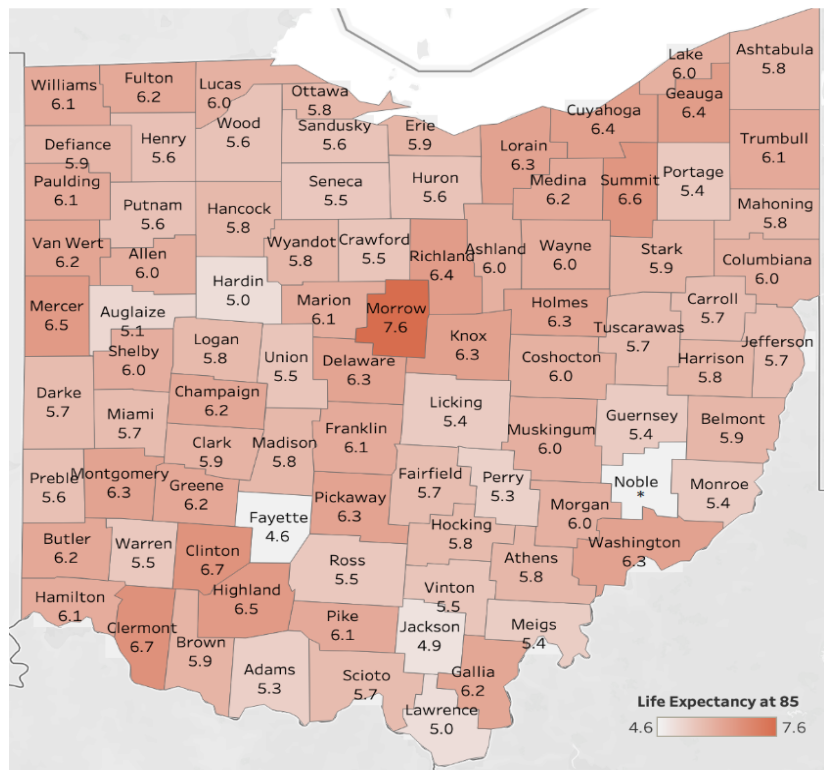


Ohio's average = 18 additional years

Counties with Highest Average LE at 65		Counties with Lowest Average LE at 65	
County	LE at 65	County	LE at 65
Delaware	19.9	Lawrence	15.3
Geauga	19.9	Jackson	15.7
Medina	19.1	Scioto	15.9
Ottawa	18.8	Adams	16.0
Mercer	18.8	Vinton	16.0



# Life Expectancies at Age 85 by County



Ohio's average = 6 additional years

Counties with Highest Average LE at 85		Counties with Lowest Average LE at 85	
County	LE at 85	County	LE at 85
Morrow	7.6	Fayette	4.6
Clinton	6.7	Jackson	4.9
Clermont	6.7	Lawrence	5.0
Summit	6.6	Hardin	5.0
Mercer	6.5	Auglaize	5.1



# Ohio Population Website

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## Ohio's Changing Population

Ohio is the seventh most populous state, but its population is projected to decline by nearly 6% over the next 30 years. The population composition of the state is shifting older: by 2030, more than 1 in 4 Ohioans will be age 60 and older.

The Scripps Gerontology Center researches aging and disability-related population trends in Ohio to inform planning, policy, and economic development at the state and county level. We're here to help you understand and visualize how Ohio's older population will change over the next several decades at the state and county levels. With good information, communities can plan for their projected populations of older persons and persons with a disability.

Resources on this website include:

- ◉ State and county-level population data and projections
- ◉ Maps of Ohio's projected older population from 2020-2050
- ◉ Reports on the 65+ population for each of Ohio's 88 counties
- ◉ Frequently asked questions about Ohio's population trends, projection data, and methodology

[www.ohio-population.org](http://www.ohio-population.org)



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# Ohio Long-Term Care Research Project

- Established by the Ohio legislature in 1988
- Applied research
- Policy analysis
- Technical assistance, training, and education for Ohio legislators, public administrators, service providers, and the community at large
- Advisory Council

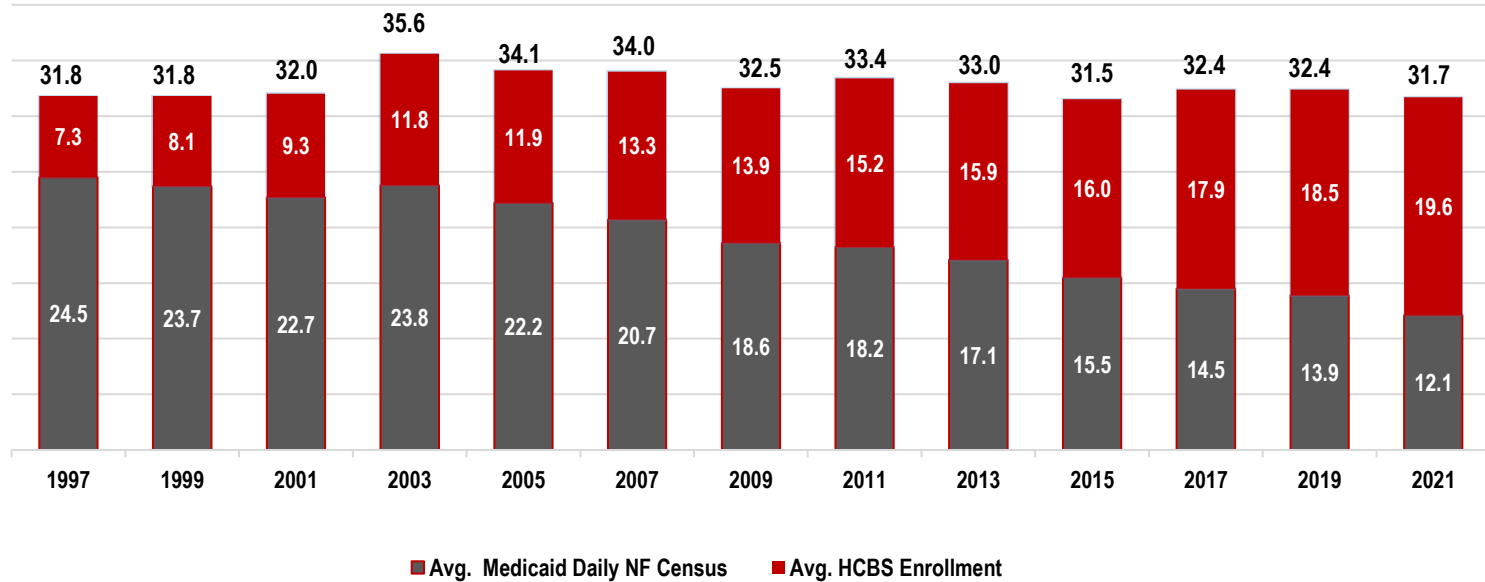


# State-mandated Data Collection

- Biennial Survey of Long-Term Care Facilities
- Ohio Long-Term Care Satisfaction Surveys
  - Resident
  - Family



## Number of People Age 60 and Older on Medicaid Residing in Nursing Facility or Enrolled in HCBS (including MyCare) per 1000 Persons in Population, 1997-2021





# Recent Scripps Research

## FACILITATORS, BARRIERS, SOLUTIONS, AND STRATEGIES: 2024 LANDSCAPE OF ADULT DAY SERVICES IN OHIO



Heather L. Menne, Sara J. McLaughlin,  
Molly E. Noble, and Kingsley C. Udeh

January 2025

### INTRODUCTION

Adult day services (ADS) provide participating adult care, or therapeutic activities. In Ohio, ADS were growing concerns about access to ADS, the Ohio E grant funds to bolster these needed services in 2022 Ohio and highlights the challenges faced by providers.

**Methods:** This mixed methods project involved five survey completed by 34 ADS providers. Focus groups gain (1) in-depth understanding of the barriers and Ohio and (2) better understand potential solutions. It was to gain a better understanding of the character provided, the participants served, and the challenge.

### FINDINGS

**Description of Adult Day Services Center:** Of the 68 ADS providers invited to complete the full sample numbers (n) vary across items. For maximum, with corresponding sample numbers in Table 1. The typical day was 21, with a range of 4 to 100. All of designed to meet at least some social/recreational arts, physical activities, animal-related activities such. Many also offered outings, intergenerational activities.

**Table 1. Description of ADS**

Characteristic
Number of years center in operation (n = 34)
Less than 10 years
10 to 19 years
20 or more years
Ownership type (n = 34)
Private, nonprofit organization
Private, for-profit organization

## UNDERSTANDING THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF OHIO'S NURSING HOMES DURING AND AFTER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



John R. Bowblis, Christopher S. Brunt,  
Robert Applebaum

January 2025

### BACKGROUND

Many businesses in Ohio were hit hard by the pandemic. Restaurants, travel and leisure, retail, and a host of other industries experienced financial impacts that in some cases continue today. Nursing homes were one of the most severely affected sectors of the economy. Occupancy rates plummeted as a result of individual and family concerns about the spread of COVID-19 and facility lock-downs limiting family and friend visitation. With many potential caregivers working remotely, care availability at home increased, even for those experiencing high levels of physical and cognitive disability. The pandemic also included a time period when hospital elective procedures were curtailed, and the number of referrals to nursing homes for rehabilitation services dropped dramatically. At the height of the pandemic Ohio's nursing home occupancy rates fell to the mid-sixties, down from 81% prior to the pandemic. At the same time, a profound shortage of direct care workers, both nurse aides and nurses, increased the cost of operations. In combination, the industry faced major financial challenges. In response, the federal government included the nursing home industry in its COVID-19 financial rescue plan. In this brief, we examine the financial performance of nursing homes during and after the pandemic and discuss and what these results mean for the industry moving forward.

Using data from the Medicare Cost Reports from all payment sources (e.g. Medicaid, Medicare, and private) from fiscal year 2018 to 2023, we analyzed 5,210 full-year cost reports for Ohio's non-hospital-based nursing homes. For each nursing home, we calculated three measures of financial viability: net operating income, overall net income, and overall net income excluding COVID-19 Public Health Emergency funds. To account for the size of each nursing home, the financial viability measures were converted to income per resident day by dividing the measure by the number of residents.

Net operating income reflects the amount of money a nursing home makes solely from patient/resident care and is defined as total patient revenue (after discounts) minus total operating expenses. Nationally, nursing homes experienced a median net operating income loss of \$3.84 per resident day in 2018 (Table 1). Nursing homes in Ohio followed a similar trend, starting with a median net operating loss of \$2.99 per resident day in 2018, which increased to a loss of \$31.84 per resident day in 2022, but then went to a loss of \$16.90 in 2023. Compared to neighboring states in 2023, Ohio nursing homes' net operating income losses place them in a better financial position than Pennsylvania and Michigan nursing homes and a worse financial position relative to West Virginia, Indiana, and Kentucky nursing homes.

## SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS AMONG OLDER OHIOANS – THE NEED FOR POLICY CHANGE

April 2024

Bailee Brekke  
Heather L. Menne

## EMBRACING THE SHIFT: THE IMPACT OF HEALTH CARE CONTRACTING ON COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

December 2024

Suzanne R. Kunkel  
Abbe E. Lackmeyer  
Isha Karmacharya

## A PROFILE OF HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES IN OHIO

March 2024

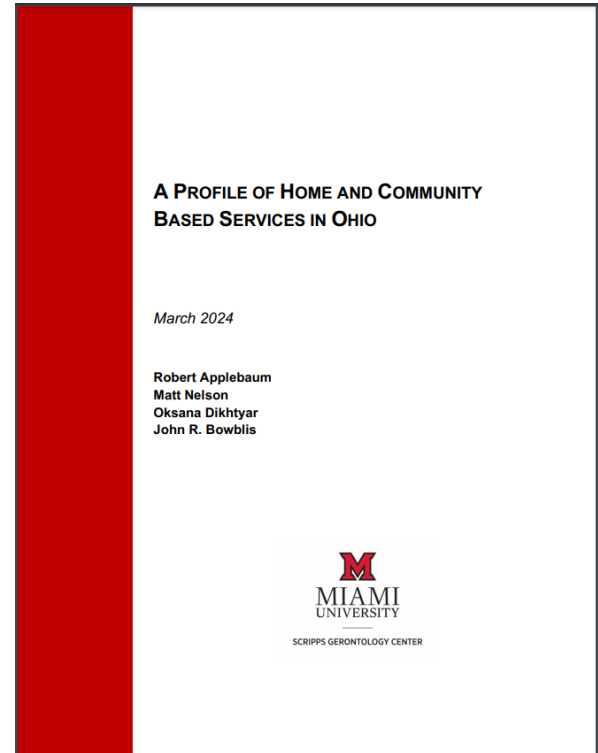
Robert Applebaum  
Matt Nelson  
Oksana Dikhtyar  
John R. Bowblis



# A Profile of Home and Community-Based Services in Ohio

- Tracks the changes in home care use in the state over the past 30 years and includes an overview of Ohio's residential care facilities

Nelson, Applebaum, Dikhtyar, & Bowblis (2024)



# Facilitators, Barriers, Solutions, and Strategies: 2024 Landscape of Adult Day Services in Ohio

- Examines the landscape of ADS in Ohio and highlights challenges faced by providers and potential solutions

Menne, McLaughlin, Noble, & Udeh. (2025)



**FACILITATORS, BARRIERS, SOLUTIONS, AND STRATEGIES: 2024 LANDSCAPE OF ADULT DAY SERVICES IN OHIO**

Heather L. Menne, Sara J. McLaughlin, Molly E. Noble, and Kingsley C. Udeh

January 2025

**INTRODUCTION**

Adult day services (ADS) provide participating adults with social activities, meals or snacks, personal care, or therapeutic activities. In Ohio, ADS were greatly impacted by the pandemic. In response to growing concerns about access to ADS, the Ohio Department of Aging made available \$6 million in grant funds to bolster these needed services in 2024. This project examines the landscape of ADS in Ohio and highlights the challenges faced by providers as well as potential solutions.

**Methods:** This mixed methods project involved five focus groups ( $n = 24$  ADS providers) and a survey completed by 34 ADS providers. Focus groups were conducted with ADS providers in Ohio to gain (1) in-depth understanding of the barriers and facilitators experienced by those providing ADS in Ohio and (2) better understand potential solutions to identified challenges. The purpose of the survey was to gain a better understanding of the characteristics of ADS centers, the types of services provided, the participants served, and the challenges faced by providers.

**FINDINGS**

**Description of Adult Day Services Centers in Ohio**

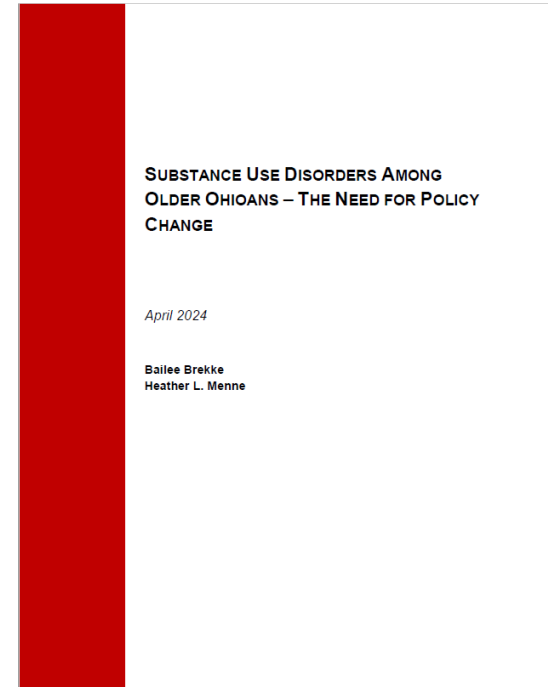
Of the 68 ADS providers invited to complete the survey, 34 responded (50%). Due to non-response, sample numbers ( $n$ ) vary across items. For maximum transparency, percentages are reported along with corresponding sample numbers in Table 1. The average number of participants served on a typical day was 21, with a range of 4 to 100. All of the providers indicated that their centers were designed to meet at least some social/recreational needs. The vast majority reported offering creative arts, physical activities, animal-related activities such as pet visits, and religious or spiritual activities. Many also offered outings, intergenerational activities, and salon or barbershop services for their participants.

Characteristic	Percent of centers	Number of centers
<b>Number of years center in operation (<math>n = 34</math>)</b>		
Less than 10 years	23.5	8
10 to 19 years	14.7	5
20 or more years	61.8	21
<b>Ownership type (<math>n = 34</math>)</b>		
Private, nonprofit organization	73.5	25
Private, for-profit organization	20.6	7

# Substance Use Disorders Among Older Ohioans – The Need for Policy Change

- Examines the federal and state political landscape of substance use and substance use disorders relative to older adults and provides recommendations

Menne & Brekke. (2024)



# Understanding the Financial Performance of Ohio's Nursing Homes During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Examines the financial performance of nursing homes during and after the pandemic and what the results mean for the industry moving forward

Bowblis, Applebaum, & Brunt. (2025)



**UNDERSTANDING THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF OHIO'S NURSING HOMES DURING AND AFTER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**MIAMI UNIVERSITY**  
SCRIPPS GERONTOLOGY CENTER

John R. Bowblis, Christopher S. Brunt,  
Robert Applebaum

January 2025

**BACKGROUND**

Many businesses in Ohio were hit hard by the pandemic. Restaurants, travel and leisure, retail, and a host of other industries experienced financial impacts that in some cases continue today. Nursing homes were one of the most severely affected sectors of the economy. Occupancy rates plummeted as a result of individual and family concerns about the spread of COVID-19 and facility lock downs limiting family and friend visitation. With many potential caregivers working remotely, care availability at home increased, even for those experiencing high levels of physical and cognitive disability. The pandemic also included a time period when hospital elective procedures were curtailed, and the number of referrals to nursing homes for rehabilitation services dropped dramatically. At the height of the pandemic Ohio's nursing home occupancy rates fell to the mid-sixties, down from 81% prior to the pandemic. At the same time, a profound shortage of direct care workers, both nurse aides and nurses, increased the cost of operations. In combination, the industry faced major financial challenges. In response, the federal government included the nursing home industry in its COVID-19 financial rescue plan. In this brief, we examine the financial performance of nursing homes during and after the pandemic and discuss and what these results mean for the industry moving forward.

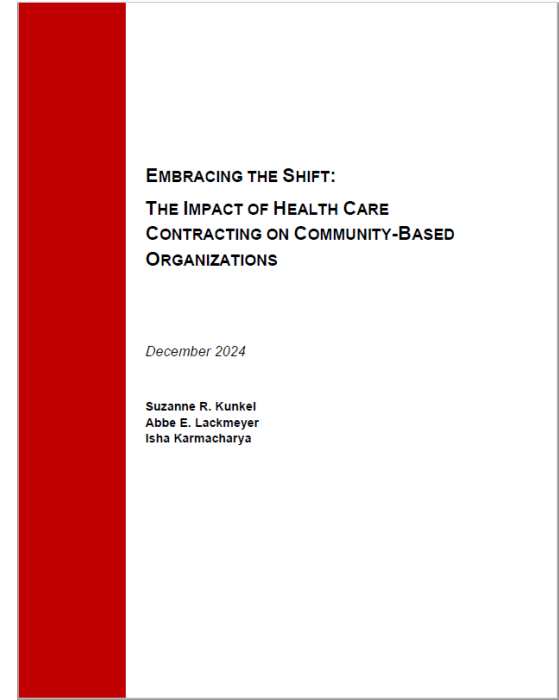
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# Embracing the Shift: The Impact of Health Care Contracting on Community-Based Organizations

- Explores how contracting between community-based organizations (e.g., AAAs, CILs) and health care entities (e.g., hospital systems, managed care plans) impacts the organizational operations and culture of a community-based organization

Lackmeyer, Kunkel, & Karmacharya. (2025)



# Scripps Publications

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**2024 Landscape of Adult Day Services in Ohio >**

2024 Landscape of Adult Day Services in Ohio

January 27, 2025

Author(s): Heather L. Menne, Sara J. McLaughlin, Molly Noble, and Kingsley C. Udeh

[Caregiving](#) • [Program Evaluation](#) • [Home and Community-Based Services](#) • [Long-Term Care Policy and Financing](#)

**Embracing the Shift >**

The Impact of Health Care Contracting on Community-Based Organizations

January 12, 2025

Author(s): Abbe E. Lackmeyer (Abbe Linscott); Suzanne R. Kunkel; Isha Karmacharya

[Business/Economics of Aging](#) • [Long-Term Care](#) • [Home and Community-Based Services](#) • [Qualitative Research](#) • [Aging and Developmental Disabilities](#) • [Case Studies](#) • [Aging Network](#) • [Long-Term Care Policy and Financing](#)

**At The Nexus of Social Care >**

Successful Contracting Between CBOs and Health Care Entities

August 01, 2024

Author(s): Suzanne R. Kunkel; Abbe E. Lackmeyer (Abbe Linscott)

[Long-Term Care Policy and Financing](#) • [Home and Community-Based Services](#) • [Business/Economics of Aging](#) • [Aging Network](#) • [Health](#)



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# Coming Soon...



Resources that make a positive difference for our aging population from Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University.



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**Matt Nelson**  
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Contact Us

# References

- Bowblis, Applebaum, & Brunt. (2025). Understanding the Financial Performance of Ohio's Nursing Homes During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic. [Research Brief]. Scripps Gerontology Center, Miami University. Available at [Scripps.MiamiOH.edu/publications](https://scripps.miamiOH.edu/publications)
- Lackmeyer, Kunkel, & Karmacharya. (2025). Embracing the Shift: The Impact of Health Care Contracting on Community-Based Organizations. [Full Report]. Scripps Gerontology Center, Miami University. Available at [Scripps.MiamiOH.edu/publications](https://scripps.miamiOH.edu/publications)
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- Nelson, Applebaum, Dikhtyar, & Bowblis (2024). A Profile of Home and Community-Based Services in Ohio. [Research Brief] Scripps Gerontology Center, Miami University. Available at [Scripps.MiamiOH.edu/publications](https://scripps.miamiOH.edu/publications)



# Thank you!



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