

# Exploring Short Stay Health Care Quality in Skilled Nursing Facilities during the COVID-19 Era

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## Abstract

This study aims to explore the association among occupancy, nurse staffing mix, and government short stay quality metrics in skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) in the United States. This study uses pre-pandemic data from the government public domain database to derive predictive factors of short stay quality. These predictive factors are then used to explore COVID-19 outcomes. The exploratory investigation indicates that a higher number of Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) in relationship to the number of Registered Nurses (RNs) may result in better COVID-19 healthcare outcomes at SNFs. A higher occupancy rate also suggests better COVID-19 outcomes. This research may assist healthcare administrators and policymakers in better understanding the importance of occupancy rates and nurse staff mix in achieving high-quality short-term healthcare stays. This statistical study is unique in that the results of this statistical study based on pre-pandemic data are used to help inform SNFs on COVID-19. SNFs with nurse staff that understands information and communication technologies (ICT) may also help improve short-stay healthcare outcomes.

**Keywords:** COVID-19, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Nurse Staff Mix, Short Stay Quality Measures.

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