



Florida currently has the largest older adult population in the United States, with over one-fifth of its residents aged 65 and older.¹ Of these older adults, 580,000 are estimated to be living with Alzheimer's disease (AD).^{1,2} It is believed that in the next five years, this number will increase 24.1% to 720,000.² An increasingly appealing residential option for many older adults with AD, and their loved ones, is assisted living communities (ALCs). In Florida, ALCs can offer memory care services if they comply with state requirements to provide a safe environment, nursing supervision, and AD staff training.³ However, depending on the size of the ALC, the state requirement differs. If the ALC has less than 17 residents, it is not required to have awake staff for 24-hours a day.³ Th

*Data was collected on February 6, 2020

The findings of this study indicate that a majority of the ALCs that offer memory care in rural and urban Florida are large, for-profit facilities, which require awake staff 24 hours a day. Recent research indicates that large ALCs have a smaller proportion of residents with AD when compared to smaller ALCs.⁵ This suggests that memory care services may not be available where the needs are greater, in smaller ALCs, which also are not required to provide 24-hour awake staff.

As Florida's older population continues to grow, there will be an increasing number of individuals

