Rural and Urban Assisted Living Communities in Florida

BACKGROUND

Currently, over 4 million older adults live in Florida, and this population is projected to grow significantly over the next two decades.[1] With this

*Data was collected on November 4, 2019

Baker, Hamilton, and Madison, as well as the urban county of Miami-Dade (range: 5-13).

Out of the ALCs in Florida, 3,183 (94%) were for-profit communities. For-profit communities were more common in Miami-Dade (833), Hillsborough (297), Broward (289), and Palm Beach (205), whereas non-profit communities were more common in Pinellas (14), Hillsborough (14), Miami-Dade (13), and Palm Beach (13).

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The findings of this policy brief indicate that rural ALCs were more likely to hold a specialty license. Although there were many fewer ALCs in the rural counties   a problem in and of itself - those that do exist are more likely to provide higher levels of care to their residents. Additionally, this implies that older adults in urban ALCs may be less able to age in place due to the relatively low number of urban-county ALCs with specialty licenses.

Also, while bed count did not vary between rural and urban settings, there were significant differences among individual counties. For-profit ALCs made up the bulk of ALCs throughout the state. These for-profit ALCs were more prevalent in urban counties compared to rural counties. Profit status is important because it may determine the size of the ALC, as well as what services, activities, and other resources are available to resident.[6] This information is useful to individuals who are seeking out an ALC that is of a particular size, with a specific type of licensure, and/or in a specific location (rural or urban).

Overall, the findings of this brief highlight the need to improve the availability of ALCs in the rural parts of Florida in order to better serve residents of these counties, and to increase the number of ALCs with specialty licenses across the state.

REFERENCES

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