Nursing homes (NH) are a long-term care option for people who require assistance with daily living and care for chronic health conditions. While a significant portion of older adults residing in NHs have dementia, a growing proportion of residents have a serious mental illness (SMI) such as schizophrenia or bipolar disorder. More specifically, previous research has indicated that 40% of NH residents on Medicaid under 65 years-old and 20% over the age of 65 have an SMI diagnosis. According to the American Health Care Association (AHCA), Medicaid payouts rarely cover the full cost of long-term care, even before considering special services for SMI. These conditions potentially lead to a cycle of poorer quality of care and higher staff turnover. The goal of this research was to further understand what factors were associated with a NH having a high proportion of residents with SMI and whether these NHs were of low or high quality.

This study utilized data from the Certification and Survey Provider for Enhanced Reports (CASPER) to identify 14,460 NHs across the continental U.S in 2016. Each NH was defined as either low-SMI or high-SMI by comparing the number of residents with SMI to the number of total residents. Residents were said to have SMI if they had a diagnosis of schizophren