

Reshaping Long-Term Care

*Historic changes underway in services
for older Minnesotans*

*Consumer demand for
long-term care is
changing.*

- The use of home care and assisted living is growing, while nursing home use is declining.

*Minnesota's system no
longer meets consumer
needs and preferences.*

- Minnesota is heavily reliant on nursing homes. We have more beds than most states.

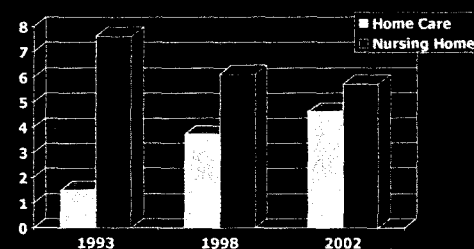
*We need to reshape our
system to better match
current and future needs.*

- Minnesota's Long-Term Care Task Force developed six policy directions for reshaping the system. Many of these were enacted in the 2001 legislative session.

*Turn the page for a summary of these policy
directions.*

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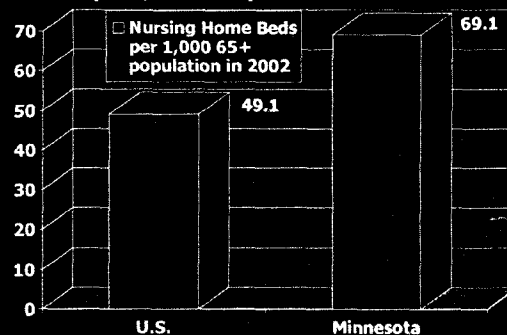
*Percent of elderly using home care is growing
while nursing home use is declining.*



Source: "1999 Distribution of Nursing Home Beds in Minnesota," Minnesota Department of Human Services, Minnesota Department of Health, January, 2000

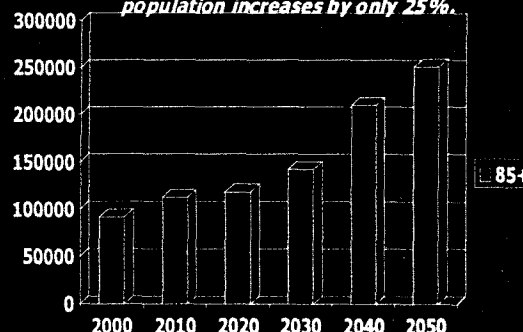
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*Minnesota has more nursing home beds
per 1,000 elderly than most states.*



Reshaping Long-Term Care

*Minnesota's 85+ population will nearly triple
in the next 50 years, while the rest of the
population increases by only 25%.*



Reshaping Long-Term Care Task Force Recommendations

Policy Direction #1

Maximize people's ability to meet their own long-term care needs.

Examples:

- Improve consumer access to information and assistance, through implementation of 211 and tie-in to Senior LinkAge Line.
- Encourage people to purchase long-term care insurance.
- Make it easier to modify and adapt homes, to "age in place."

Policy Direction #2

Expand capacity of community options throughout the state.

Examples:

- Strengthen Elderly Waiver and Alternative Care programs.
- Develop more affordable housing and service options.
- Help communities support their older residents.

Policy Direction #3

Reduce Minnesota's reliance on the institutional model of long-term care.

Examples:

- Provide incentives for voluntary closure of beds where excess capacity exists.
- Stabilize remaining industry through better rates and quality systems to meet changing customer needs.

Policy Direction #4

Align systems to support high quality and good outcomes.

Examples:

- Seek federal waivers for more state control of quality-related regulations.
- Provide quality profiles on all long-term care providers to consumers.

Policy Directions #5

Support the informal network of families, friends and neighbors.

Examples:

- Provide education, training and information to caregivers.
- Provide wider variety of respite in all parts of the state.

Policy Directions #6

Recruit and retain a stable work force.

Examples:

- Improve compensation and benefits for workers.
- Reduce paperwork so workers can do more hands-on care.
- Improve training and career ladders for direct support workers.

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<http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/agingint/>

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