PBJ320 STATE BRIEF · NORTH DAKOTA

Nursing homes in North Dakota

What changed in Q2 2026 staffing data and this month's CMS postings, and where to look next.

PBJ staffing Q2 2026 · CMS Provider Information October 2026 (released 2026-10-28) · SFF posting October 2026 (published 2026-10-28). Each source is dated separately.

North Dakota nursing homes averaged 4.62 nurse hours per resident day in Q2 2026, above the U.S. (3.79) and above its CMS region, Region 8 – Denver (3.82). Over the year North Dakota lost ground; the region held steady and the U.S. held steady.

01 · STAFFING OVER TIME

Staffing fell, driven by nurse aides

Among the 72 North Dakota nursing homes that reported PBJ staffing in both Q2 2025 and Q2 2026, total nurse hours per resident day went from 4.65 to 4.62 (-0.03). Nurse aide hours moved -0.03 and RN hours +0.008. 18 facilities rose by 0.25 hours or more and 22 fell by that much. Nationally, the same matched comparison moved +0.004 (3.779 to 3.783).

Compared: Q2 2025 → Q2 2026 (same quarter, one year apart). **Population:** 72 North Dakota facilities reporting resident days in both quarters. Contract staff were 12.1% of nurse hours in Q2 2026 (-0.4 points). Quarter over quarter (Q1 2026 → Q2 2026, 70 facilities) the change was +0.06.

Explore: North Dakota staffing and facility history · Source: CMS PBJ Daily Nurse Staffing, Q2 2025 and Q2 2026 files (PBJ_dailynursestaffing_CY2025Q2.csv, PBJ_dailynursestaffing_CY2026Q2.csv)

02 · FEDERAL WATCH-LIST AND DESIGNATION CHANGES

2 SFF list changes, 3 High Performing changes

2 North Dakota facilities changed status on CMS's Special Focus Facility posting between September 2026 and October 2026: Golden Acres Manor (Carrington): Not listed → Candidate; Wedgewood Manor (Cavalier): Candidate → Not listed. In the same monthly Provider Information update, 2 North Dakota facilities gained CMS's High Performing icon and 1 lost it.

Compared: September 2026 → October 2026 postings. **Population:** All North Dakota facilities on either posting; the October 2026 posting lists 1 current SFF and 5 candidate facilities in North Dakota.

A listing change compares two dated CMS documents; it does not say why CMS moved a facility. The High Performing icon is CMS's own designation; it is not the same thing as a risk-based survey.

Explore: North Dakota SFF records · Source: CMS SFF posting, October 2026 (published 2026-10-28) · CMS SFF posting, September 2026 · CMS Provider Information, October 2026 release, High Performing Icon field

03 · OWNERSHIP AND OPERATORS

27 of 72 homes belong to a chain

27 of 72 North Dakota facilities in CMS's October 2026 Provider Information file are linked to a chain. The 3 largest, with year-over-year total nurse staffing for their matched facilities: Good Samaritan Society (10 facilities; 10 matched: 3.87 → 3.89); Benedictine Health System (6 facilities; 6 matched: 3.70 → 3.63); Smp Health (5 facilities; 5 matched: 5.10 → 4.91).

Compared: Chain membership as of October 2026; staffing Q2 2025 → Q2 2026. **Population:** 72 North Dakota facilities in Provider Information.

CMS's chain field groups facilities by common ownership or management. It is not the same as the legal operator (CCN), the CMS affiliated entity, or each individual owner listed in CMS ownership files, and chain membership today may differ from ownership during earlier quarters.

Explore: Research North Dakota owners and operators · Source: CMS Provider Information, October 2026 release, Chain Name field

STATE POLICY

The rules behind the numbers

4 verified rules (NDAC 33-07-03.2-14). None of them sets an hours-per-resident minimum; none can be checked directly with PBJ data.

Requirement (quoted)	Citation	PBJ test
Facility-employed registered nurse director of nursing. “1. Nursing services must be under the direction of a nurse executive (director of nursing) who is employed by the facility and is a registered nurse licensed to practice in North Dakota.”	NDAC 33-07-03.2-14(1)	not testable
Sufficient qualified nursing personnel continuously. “3. The facility shall have sufficient qualified nursing personnel on duty at all times to meet the nursing care needs of the residents including: a. At least one registered nurse on duty eight consecutive hours per day, seven days a week; and b. At least one licensed nurse on duty and designated to work charge twenty -four hours a day seven days a week.”	NDAC 33-07-03.2-14(3)	not testable
RN coverage eight consecutive hours daily. “a. At least one registered nurse on duty eight consecutive hours per day, seven days a week; and”	NDAC 33-07-03.2-14(3)(a)	not testable
Licensed charge nurse continuously. “b. At least one licensed nurse on duty and designated to work charge twenty -four hours a day seven days a week.”	NDAC 33-07-03.2-14(3)(b)	not testable

Federal baseline: 42 CFR 483.35, Nursing services (eCFR, current). Ledger completeness: partial uncertified. A facility below any benchmark has not been shown to violate a law.

SOURCE TRAIL

Original sources

- CMS PBJ Daily Nurse Staffing, Q2 2025 and Q2 2026 files (PBJ_dailynursestaffing_CY2025Q2.csv, PBJ_dailynursestaffing_CY2026Q2.csv)
- CMS SFF posting, October 2026 (published 2026-10-28)
- CMS SFF posting, September 2026
- CMS Provider Information, October 2026 release, High Performing Icon field
- CMS Provider Information, October 2026 release, Chain Name field

METHOD

How the figures were built

Hours per resident day = paid nurse hours / resident days for the quarter, summed across facilities. Changes use matched cohorts: only facilities that reported in both quarters. SFF changes compare category sets on two dated CMS postings and say nothing about why CMS moved a facility. Counties come from TIGER/Line 2024 point-in-polygon of CMS coordinates. The full method, data dictionary and SHA-256 manifest are in the reporter kit ZIP.

Facility search, owner research and county map: pbj320.com/press/state/north-dakota. Expert comment: pbj320.com/press.