PBJ320 STATE BRIEF · OHIO

Nursing homes in Ohio

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.

Ohio nursing homes averaged 3.67 nurse hours per resident day in Q2 2026, below the U.S. (3.79) and below its CMS region, Region 5 – Chicago (3.71). Over the year Ohio lost ground; the region held steady and the U.S. held steady.

01 · STAFFING OVER TIME

Staffing fell, driven by nurse aides

Among the 912 Ohio nursing homes that reported PBJ staffing in both Q2 2025 and Q2 2026, total nurse hours per resident day went from 3.68 to 3.67 (-0.01). Nurse aide hours moved -0.02 and RN hours +0.009. 144 facilities rose by 0.25 hours or more and 191 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:** 912 Ohio facilities reporting resident days in both quarters.

Contract staff were 4.9% of nurse hours in Q2 2026 (-0.2 points). Quarter over quarter (Q1 2026 → Q2 2026, 916 facilities) the change was +0.03.

Explore: Ohio 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

4 SFF list changes, 31 High Performing changes

4 Ohio facilities changed status on CMS's Special Focus Facility posting between September 2026 and October 2026: Mckinley Nursing (Canton): Not listed → Candidate; Sapphire Rehabilitation And Care Center (Columbus): Candidate → SFF + Candidate; Canfield Healthcare Center (Youngstown): Candidate → Not listed; Divine Rehabilitation And Nursing At Toledo (Toledo): SFF → Graduate. In the same monthly Provider Information update, 15 Ohio facilities gained CMS's High Performing icon and 16 lost it.

Compared: September 2026 → October 2026 postings. **Population:** All Ohio facilities on either posting; the October 2026 posting lists 4 current SFF and 25 candidate facilities in Ohio.

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: Ohio 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

695 of 924 homes belong to a chain

695 of 924 Ohio 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: Foundations Health Solutions (64 facilities; 62 matched: 3.54 → 3.49); Communicare Health (37 facilities; 37 matched: 3.28 → 3.34); Trilogy Health Services (35 facilities; 35 matched: 3.97 → 3.88).

Compared: Chain membership as of October 2026; staffing Q2 2025 → Q2 2026. **Population:** 924 Ohio 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 Ohio owners and operators · Source: CMS Provider Information, October 2026 release, Chain Name field

STATE POLICY

The rules behind the numbers

2 verified rules (OAC 3701-17-08 Personnel requirements, as FINAL FILED 06/03/2013, Ohio authenticated nursing personnel rule January 1, 2018). None of them sets an hours-per-resident minimum; none can be checked directly with PBJ data.

Requirement (quoted)	Citation	PBJ test
Ohio resident-needs staffing adjustment with medical director and DON input. "(G) With input from the medical director and the director of nursing, the nursing home may adjust the staffing levels based on the needs and acuity levels of the residents, but in no event shall the staffing fail to meet the requirements of this rule. (H) The nursing home shall establish a protocol for staff coverage that includes coverage during vacations, emergency situations, and long-term absences due to illness and unexpected absences and a contingency plan for back-up coverage. (I) A nursing home that is physically located in the same building or on the same lot as a licensed residential care facility, or a home certified as a intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities that are owned and operated by the same entity, or that provides an adult day care program in the nursing home, may use staff from the nursing home to provide services in the licensed residential care facility, certified intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities, or adult day care program or use appropriate and qualified staff from the licensed residential care facility, certified intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities, or adult day care program to meet part or all of the staffing requirements of this rule, if"	Ohio authenticated nursing personnel rule January 1, 2018	not testable
Ohio resident-needs staffing adjustment with medical director and DON input. "(H) With input from the medical director and the director of nursing, the nursing home shall adjust the staffing levels based on the needs and acuity levels of the residents, but in no event shall the staffing fail to meet the requirements of this rule."	OAC 3701-17-08 Personnel requirements, as FINAL FILED 06/03/2013 (Register of Ohio rule-filing PDF), effective 06/13/2013	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/ohio. Expert comment: pbj320.com/press.