



# APIC

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## NURSING HOME INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC)

### 34%

At the peak of COVID-19, more than one-third of all deaths were associated with nursing homes. Deaths were not limited to residents, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and Bureau of Labor and Statistics labeled nurses working in nursing homes as one of the deadliest jobs of 2020.

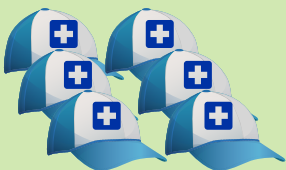


### 1.6–3.8 MILLION

There are between 1.6 to 3.8 million healthcare-associated infections in nursing homes annually with as many as 380,000 deaths each year.

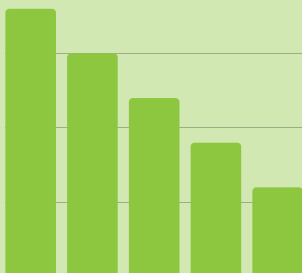
## Why are nursing homes struggling with their IPC programs?

### RESOURCES



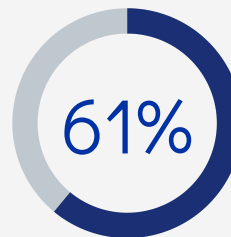
IPC departments usually do not have a dedicated IP. Departments are staffed by individuals wearing many different hats.

As a result, nursing homes have 1/3 of an FTE designated to cover IPC responsibilities



Resources continue to be an issue. From 2014-2018, for-profit nursing homes saw a reduction in the number of IPs.

### TRAINING



Of nursing homes DO NOT have an IP with specialized training.

Less than 10% of nursing home IPs are certified in IPC.



40% of IPs are retiring or will be of retirement age within the next ten years. Many of these pioneered the field.

# GAO REPORT: Infection Prevention and Control in Nursing Homes

## GAO Recommendations to CMS



Establish minimum infection preventionist training standards.



Collect IP staffing data and determine whether the current IP staffing requirement is sufficient.



Provide additional guidance in the State Operations Manual on making scope and severity determinations for IPC-related deficiencies.

## APIC Recommendations to CMS



Require a minimum of one full-time dedicated infection preventionist.



Ensure that infection prevention personnel in nursing homes are trained and certified in their field of expertise.



Require nursing homes to collect data on certain healthcare-associated infections.



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