



AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY



AHRQ's Role in Nursing Home COVID-19 Response

BACKGROUND

Nearly 20 percent of the known COVID-19 deaths in the United States have been nursing home residents and staff. Advanced age, underlying frailty, and communal living conditions make nursing home residents especially vulnerable, and their reliance on nursing home staff put these essential workers at high risk.

AHRQ'S RESPONSE

AHRQ invested \$237 million of the Provider Relief Fund to launch the **AHRQ ECHO National Nursing Home COVID-19 Action Network (the Network)**—a partnership between AHRQ, the University of New Mexico's ECHO Institute, and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement.

THE NETWORK'S IMPACT

The Network established 99 training centers including leading academic medical centers, large healthcare delivery systems, and quality improvement organizations across the Nation. These training centers provided training and mentorship to more than **9,000 nursing homes** and **31,000 nursing home staff** in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Though the Network concluded in August 2021, AHRQ continues to develop tools and resources for nursing homes.

This effort harnesses AHRQ's experience in patient safety and quality improvement. The Network is a scalable practice improvement solution that can be applied to other healthcare issues and settings.

For more information, visit <https://www.ahrq.gov/nursing-home/index.html>.



The Network's Goals

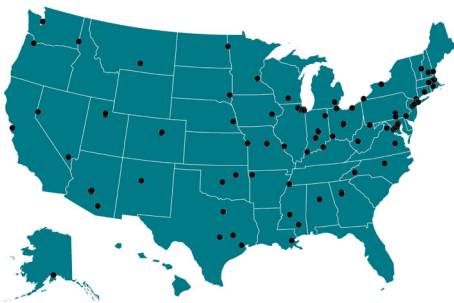
1. Keep SARS-COV 2 out of nursing homes
2. Early identification among residents and staff
3. Prevent spread between staff, residents, and visitors
4. Provide safe and appropriate care to residents with COVID-19
5. Help nursing home staff implement best-practice safety measures
6. Reduce social isolation for residents, families, and staff



Staff members applied the lessons they learned on addressing vaccine hesitancy among staff. By the end of January, the center had achieved an 82 percent staff vaccination rate.

– Teays Valley Center, Hurricane, WV

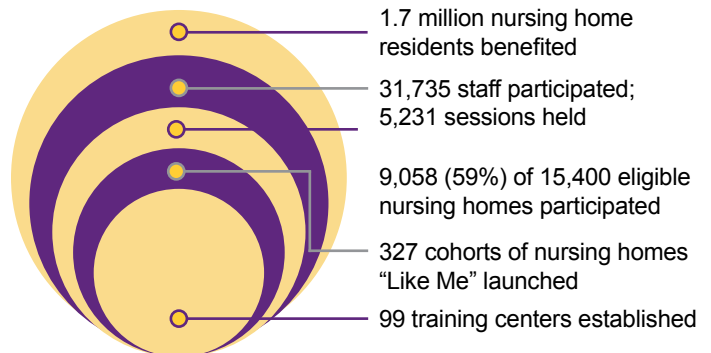
The Network's 99 Training Centers



Nursing Homes Reported Making a Change

Over 4,500 of approximately 9,000 participating nursing homes provided feedback.

Impact of the Network's 16-Week Training and Mentorship Program



Nursing homes had the option to continue participating in the Network through August 2021. In the continuation phase, 1,801 sessions were held with 1,243 additional nursing home staff participating.

