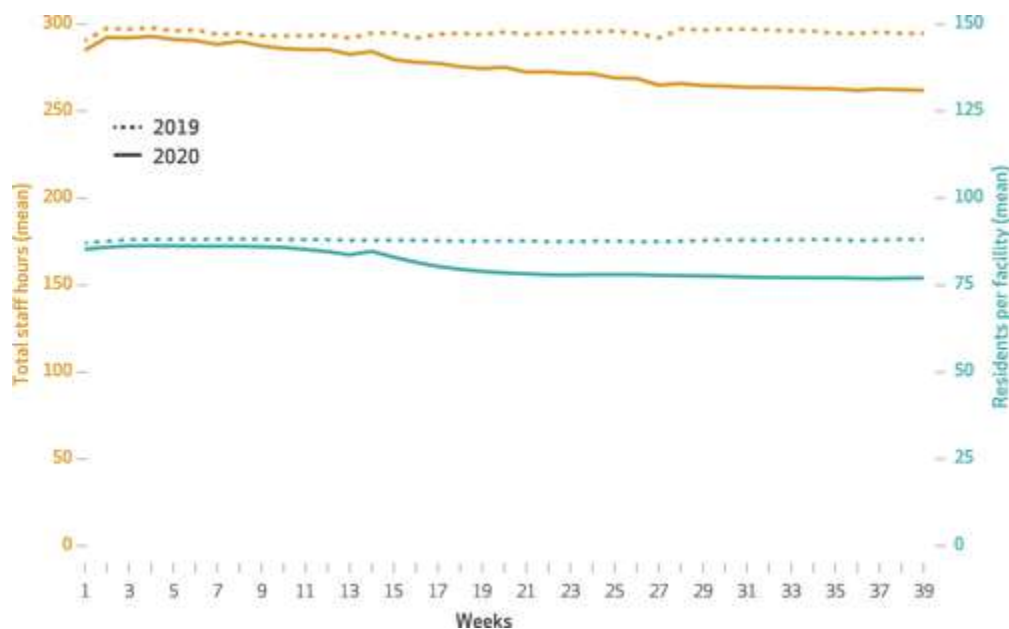


## Difficult workload created 'perception' of nursing home staffing shortages during pandemic: study. Danielle Brown



### Numbers of total staff hours and nursing home residents in US nursing homes during the first 39 weeks of 2019 and 2020 (Exhibit 1)

A newly published study in the "Health Affairs" indicates that the widespread reports of a severe shortage of staff in the long-term industry are not due to a decrease in the number of staff who works at the long-term facilities, but instead due to an increase in time spent (5.3 minutes) rendering nursing care to each patient; This is due to the complexities imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic especially in the counties heavily impacted by the pandemic.

"These findings raise concerns that although the number of staff hours in nursing homes did not decline, the perception of shortages has been driven by increased stresses and demands on staff time due to the pandemic, which are harder to quantify," wrote Werner and co-author Norma B. "Even if there wasn't a true shortage of staff in the sense that the number of hours being worked went down, the amount of work that staff had to do went up, so it felt like a shortage," said Werner.

The authors assert that it is likely that the volume of work performed per hour by the nursing staff during the pandemic was significantly higher than that worked per hour before the pandemic. Losing family-members caregivers due to visitors ban and the cancellation of social activities & gathering increased the nurses time-spent per patient demand. The study suggested that administrators should enact policies that focus on improving support to nursing home staff, such as increasing pay and treating staff with respect and importance that they have long deserved.

To access the full article visit:- <https://www.mcknights.com/news/difficult-workload-created-perception-of-nursing-home-staffing-shortages-during-pandemic-study/>

To view the study, visit <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/full/10.1377/hlthaff.2020.02351>