



Pet Therapy in Florida's Assisted Living Communities

BACKGROUND

Over 3,000 assisted living communities (ALCs) operate in the state of Florida and offer a variety of therapeutic options. Pet therapy is one such program, designed to promote physical activity, encourage socialization, and enhance well-being in residents.¹ Interacting with an animal, such as a dog, cat, or even a horse, may help alleviate loneliness, depression, and age-related physical conditions (e.g. cardiovascular disease).²⁻³ It is unclear how the availability of pet therapy varies by ALC characteristic (e.g. profit status, location). Therefore, this brief aims to identify the proportion of ALCs in Florida that offer pet therapy and how this varies by key ALC characteristics.

STUDY METHOD

Data on pet therapy services and ALC profit status, license type, size, and location were retrieved from the Agency for Health Care Administration.* License type was categorized as a standard license,

*Data was collected on February 6, 2020

