

# Aging Services in Minnesota

The Long-Term Care Imperative

# What are Minnesotans' Values & Expectations?

## Access

- 87% of Minnesotans believe that seniors have a right to basic housing, care and support.
- 79% believe Minnesota is not prepared for aging boom.
- 79% of Minnesotans expect care within 30-40 minutes of their home community.
- Nearly half of Minnesotans say they would rely on volunteer caregiving or reduce work schedule to care for an aging parent if professional care was not available in home community.

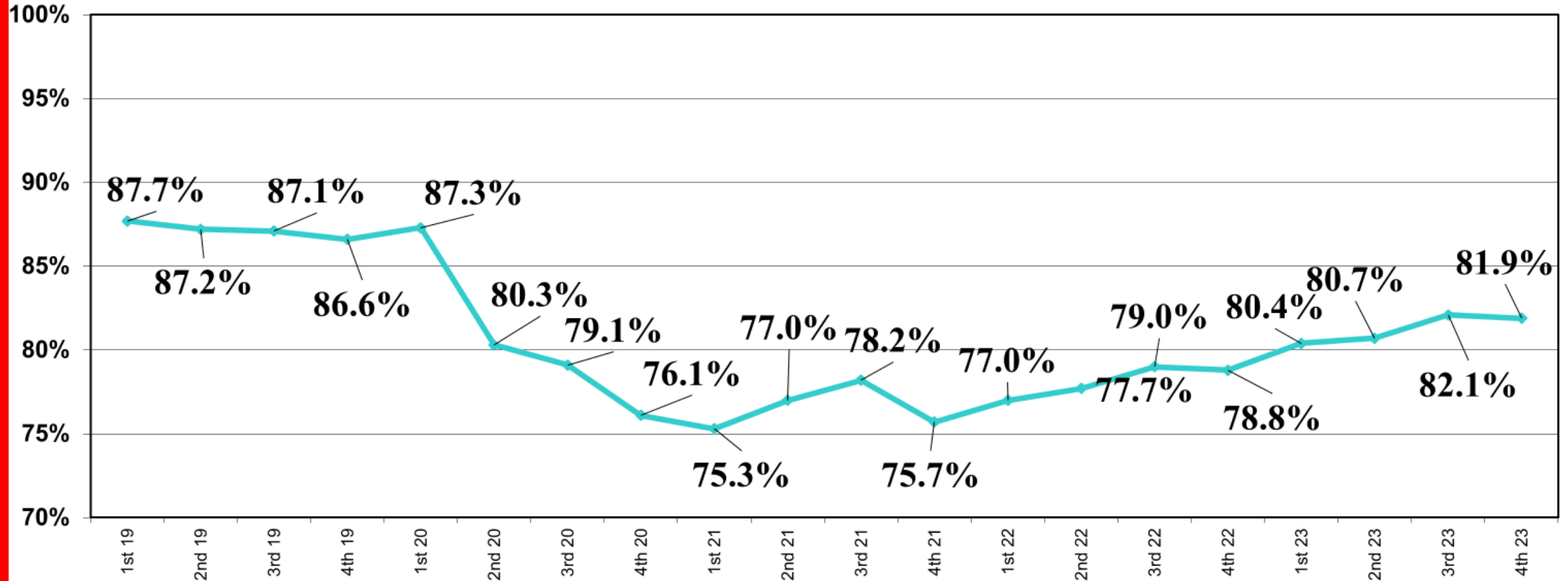
## Quality & Safety

- Nearly 70% of Minnesotans who have a family member use or need LTC rate quality and safety as “excellent”.

## Workforce

- 4 in 5 Minnesotans believe that people who care for the elderly deserve wages comparable to working in other healthcare sectors.

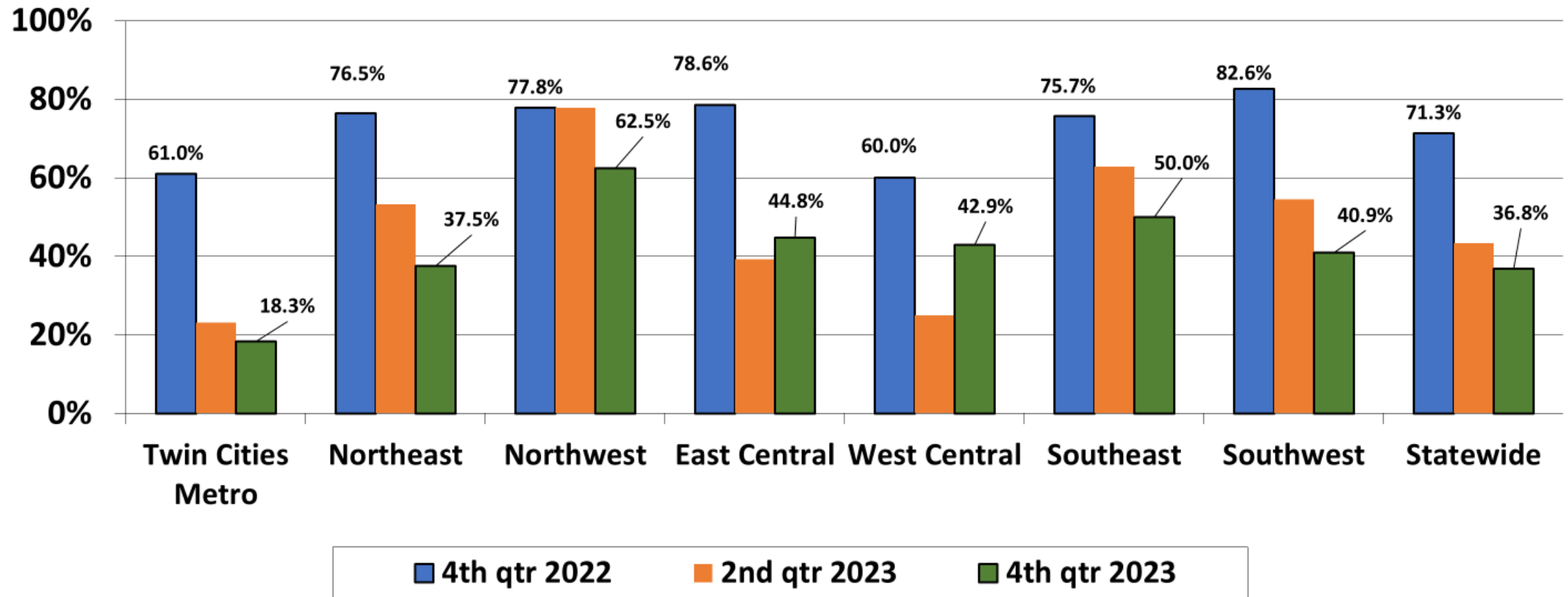
# Nursing Home Occupancy in 2023 Inching Toward Pre-Pandemic Levels



Source: Combined Association Occupancy Surveys

# Limiting Census Due to Staffing Became Less Common in 2023

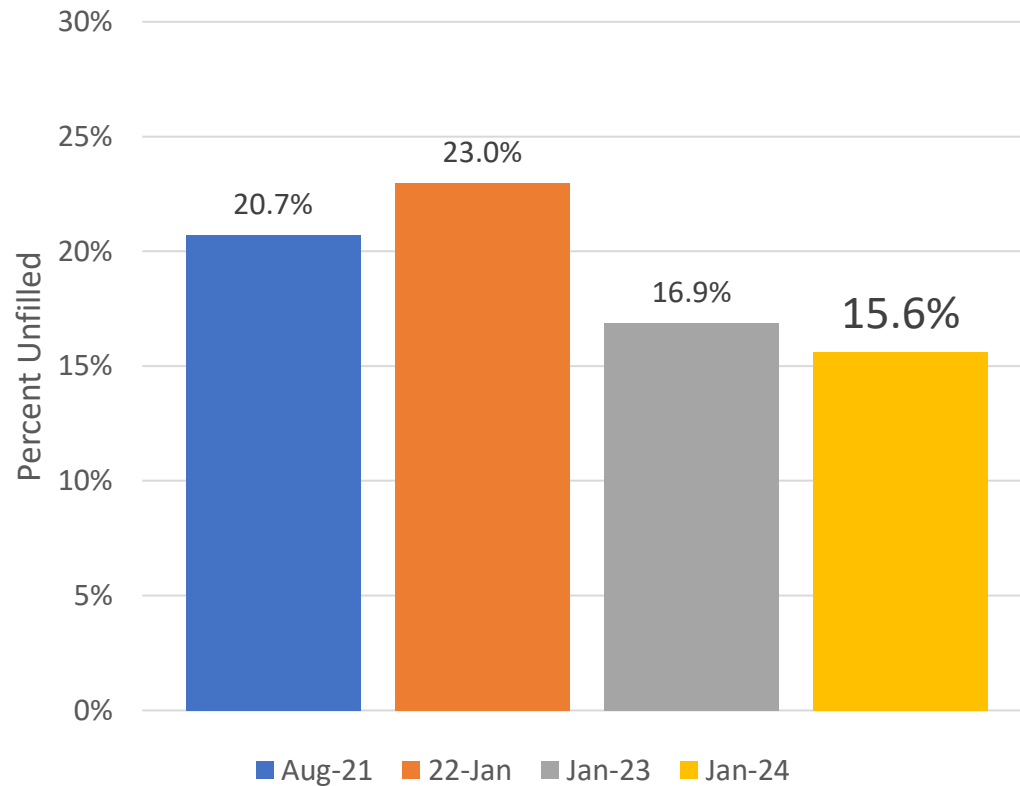
Most of the Improvement in Staffing was in the Metro Area but all Regions Improved



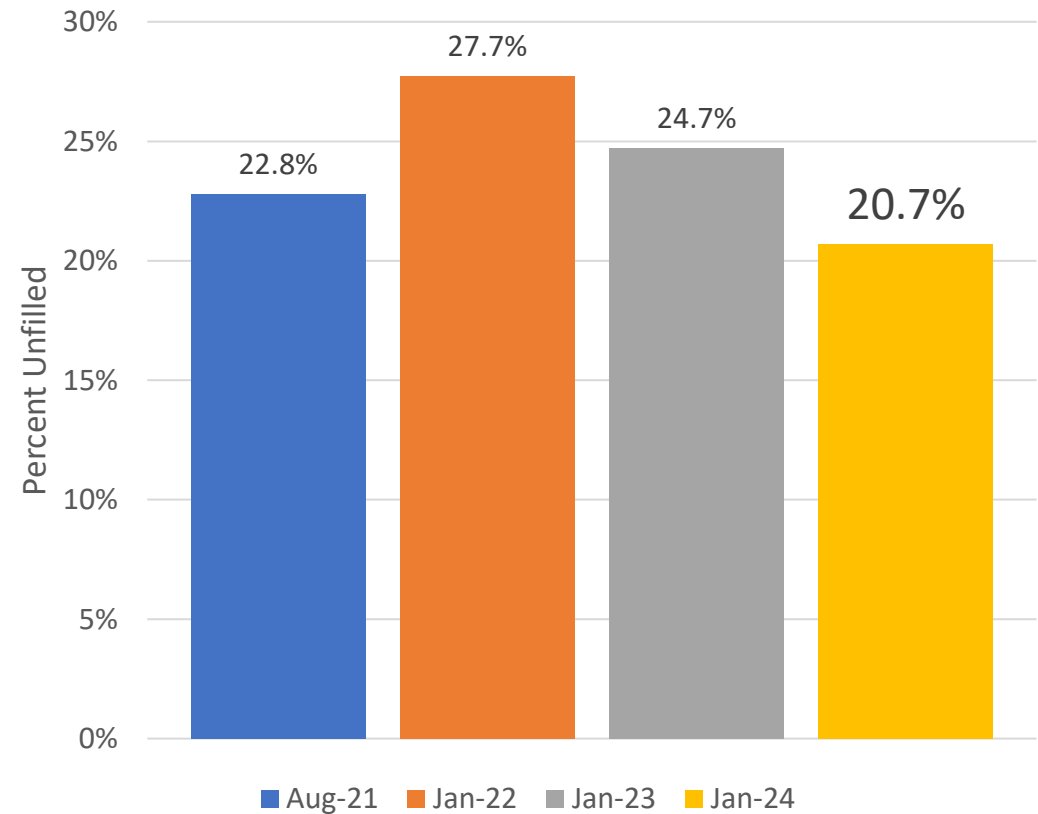
Source: Combined Association Occupancy Surveys

# Caregiver (CNA and ULP) Vacancy Rate Drops to Lowest in at Least Four Years for AL and Nursing Homes

## Assisted Living

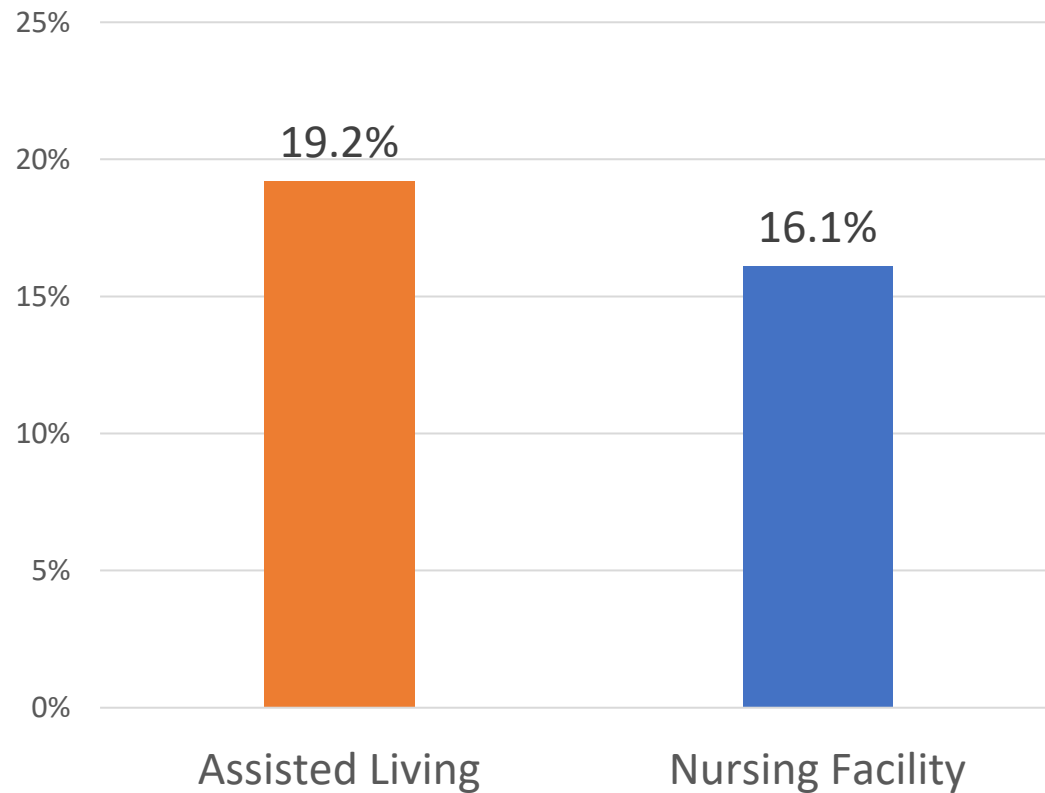


## Nursing Facilities

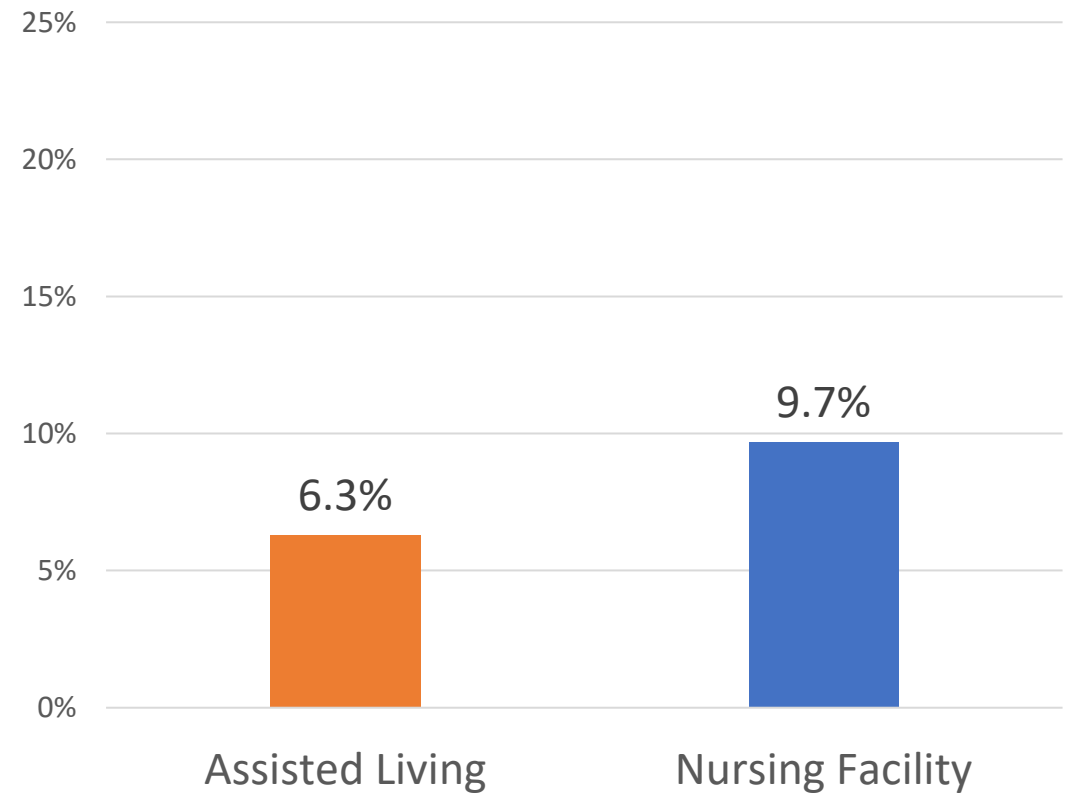


# Many LTC Facilities Considering Sale with about 30 Nursing Facilities still Considering Closure

### Considering Sale

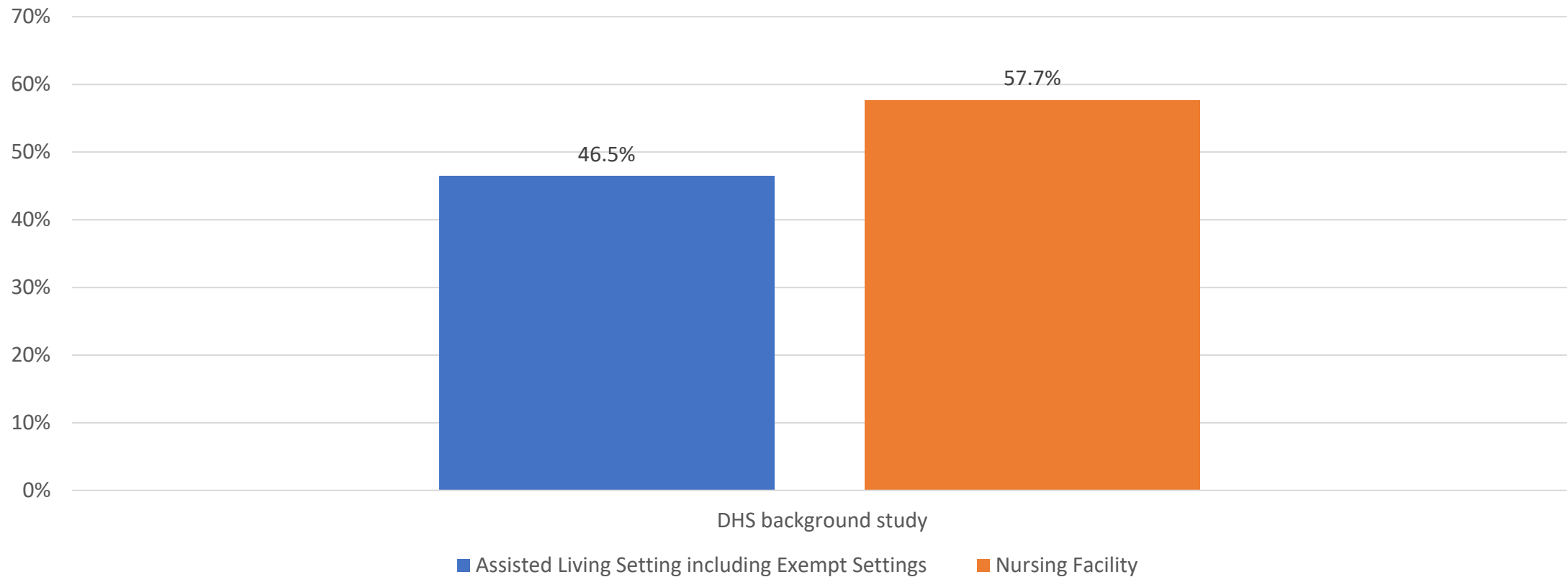


### Considering Closure



# Providers Report the Delay in Onboarding New Staff Due to DHS Background Study Issues

Provider Experiencing Delays in the Previous 12-months with the Onboarding of New Employees



# 2023 Legislative Investments for LTC Workers & Access to Care for Older Adults

- \$300 million in one-time funding was invested in nursing homes with debt consolidation grants, workforce incentives and leveraging federal Medicaid funds for temporary increased daily rate reimbursement.
- \$412 million was committed to the Elderly Waiver program for community-based services for low-income seniors in assisted living.
- An actuarial study and implementation plan for Program for All Inclusive Care for the Elderly, due by March 2024 and September 2024, respectively.
- A law passed incentivizing high school students to work in long-term care by allowing them to earn high school elective credits for hours worked.
- \$80 million in HCBS for employee bonuses, childcare, transportation or other one-time compensation.





# Caring Careers Start Here

- Centers for Disease Control (CDC) grant funds through the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)
- Care Providers of MN and LeadingAge MN jointly applied
- Initial funding \$409,400 + additional \$324,000 for employer matching system
- Deliverables:
  - Redevelop website: [www.CaringCareersStartHere.com](http://www.CaringCareersStartHere.com)
  - Statewide public relations campaign using digital media, print media, earned media, and other communication channels.
  - Caregiver Advisory Group to inform project initiatives that includes diverse representation from caregivers from around the state.
  - Serve as the 'Hub' for the MDH LTC Workforce Capacity Building Project

## Making Meaningful Moves



### INSPIRATION:

Caregiving is more than a job – it’s a career. As our population ages and their needs increase, the need for committed caregivers continues to rise. How can we support an industry in crisis while inspiring Minnesotans to make a meaningful move toward a career in caregiving?

### STRATEGY:

Let’s tell the stories of caregivers who are **making meaningful moves**—toward a career in caregiving, toward furthering their education, and toward an employer who aligns with their personal values.

# 2024 Long-Term Care Imperative Policy Solutions



## **Aging Services Payment Policy**

Address 21-month delay in payment for nursing homes

Ensure Elderly Waiver rates are indexed to current wage data

Continue advocacy for implementation of PACE



## **Nursing Home Worker Pay**

Provide a \$5/hr average wage increase to nursing home workers

# 2024 LTCI Policy Solutions, continued

- Workforce Development
  - Expand access to Trained Medication Aide training programs
  - Provide language accommodation for Certified Nurse Aide applicant written exams
  - Include assisted living settings in state summer healthcare internship programs and expand grants to cover full cost of student employment for LTC settings.
  - Allow health care facilities to recover penalties attributable to negligent assignment of a supplemental nurse staffing agency
  - Enable LPNs to work in Assisted Living settings to the same scope as they can already do in other health care settings
  - Reinstate MDH-subsidized background studies
- Regulatory Simplification



# Questions?

Angela Garin  
Senior Director of Advocacy  
Care Providers of MN

Contact Information:

[Agarin@careproviders.org](mailto:Agarin@careproviders.org)

(952) 851-2498

Erin Huppert  
VP of Advocacy  
LeadingAge MN

Contact Information:

[Ehuppert@leadingagemn.org](mailto:Ehuppert@leadingagemn.org)

(651) 659-1471