

## **New York State's Older Adults in Assisted Living Facilities Need All of Us to Help Them Avoid the Coronavirus**

**Mary E. Helander and Claire Pendergrast**

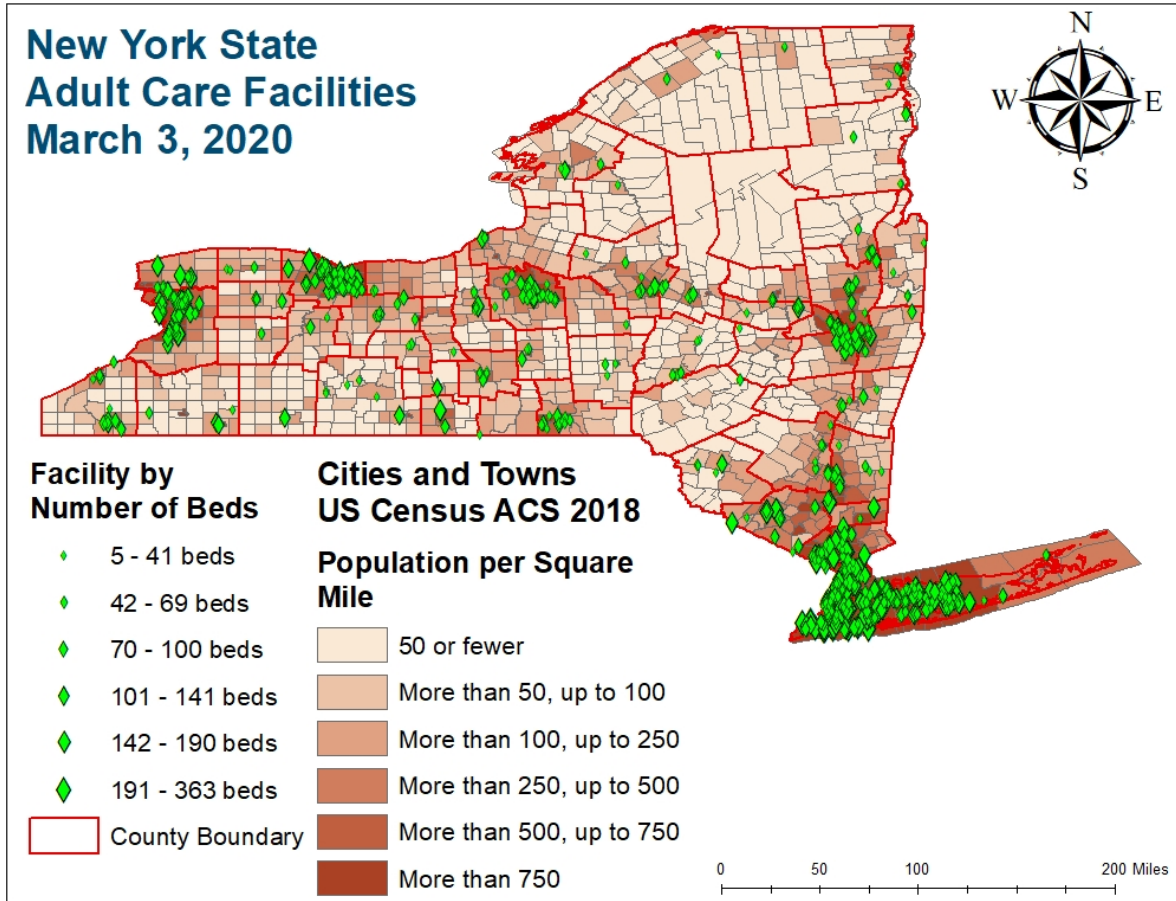
There are 50,308 beds in licensed assisted living facilities<sup>1</sup> and 114,988 certified nursing home beds (with 90% average occupancy) in New York State.<sup>2</sup> Yet, assisted living facilities receive disproportionately less media coverage and policy attention than nursing homes with respect to coronavirus risks and consequences for older adults. Recent deaths in a Florida assisted living facility demonstrate that we need to be paying much more attention to coronavirus risks in these facilities.<sup>3</sup>

An [interactive map](#) and the static map in Figure 1 show the locations for all 547 licensed assisted living facilities in New York State and the population demographics nearby them. Preventing the spread of coronavirus in the communities in proximity to these facilities should be paramount.

Many states including New York recently issued restrictions on visitors to nursing homes to reduce risk of coronavirus exposure.<sup>4</sup> In New York, licensed assisted living and adult care facilities are also required to adhere to strict protective measures, including visitor restrictions, to prevent coronavirus exposure.<sup>5</sup>

Older adults in communal living environments such as assisted living facilities are especially vulnerable to coronavirus because infection can spread easily in these settings.<sup>6,7</sup> To protect vulnerable individuals in these environments, ensuring that individuals, institutions, and policymakers take steps to prevent direct and indirect exposures for residents is of extreme importance.

Let's all work together to keep our older adults healthy and safe.



<https://arcg.is/1fGfiS>

Figure 1: New York State Assisted Living and Adult Care Facilities, 2020

Maps: Mary E. Helander; Data Sources: US Census Bureau<sup>8,9</sup>, and the New York State Department of Health Adult Care Facility Directory<sup>1</sup>.

## References

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#### **About the Authors**

Mary Helander ([meheland@syr.edu](mailto:meheland@syr.edu)) is a PhD student in the Department of Social Sciences in the Maxwell School and an MPH student in Falk College at Syracuse University. Both authors are graduate research affiliates of the Lerner Center and the Center for Policy Research at Syracuse University. Claire Pendergrast ([cpenderg@syr.edu](mailto:cpenderg@syr.edu)) is a PhD student in the Department of Sociology in the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

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