Nursing homes here face staffing shortages; several cited for neglect

BY BLYTHE BERNHARD
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

A nursing shortage and aging population have combined to create a serious situation in skilled nursing homes, where residents need high levels of around-the-clock care.

The shortage of nurses nationwide has inadequate staffing levels, according to payroll data collected by Medica and analyzed by Kaiser Health News. In Missouri, 146 skilled nursing homes have staff levels below or well below the national average. There are facilities with low staff levels in 29 St. Louis-area ZIP codes.

Federal inspection reports show several local nursing homes with low staffing rates have been cited recently for neglect, putting their Medicare funding at risk:

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