

Bed Sore FAQs

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS FROM A NURSING HOME LAWYER

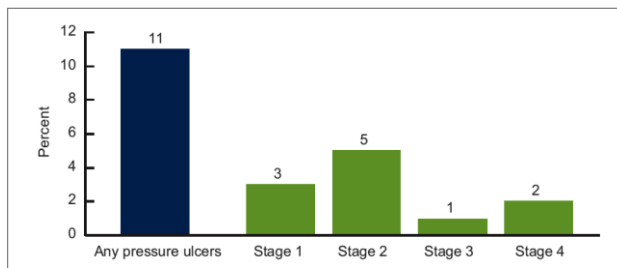
Has any research been done regarding the prevalence of bed sores in nursing homes?

Yes. A report released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed what many nursing home and hospital patients already know— pressure ulcers (also known as bed sores or decubitus ulcer) are a tremendous problem encountered by nursing home residents of all races, sexes and ages. The report, [“Pressure Ulcers Among Nursing Home Resident: United States, 2004”](#) analyzes information from the National Nursing Home Survey which is comprised of more than 14,000 nursing home residents from across the country.

In 2004, more than one in 10 nursing home residents had some form of pressure ulcer within the year. Based on the total number of nursing home residents, that translates to more than 159,000 nursing home residents with pressure ulcers (otherwise known as bed sores, decubitus ulcers, or pressure sores). Stage II pressure ulcers were the most common according to the survey.

Over 35% of the nursing home residents with pressure ulcers had more advanced— stage III or stage IV ulcers that required special wound treatment. Even younger nursing home residents, those commonly thought to be somewhat removed from the problem, are at risk according to the report.

The study demonstrates that while it is important to identify nursing home residents who are at risk for development of pressure ulcers and implement preventative techniques, no nursing home resident is immune from risk of developing pressure ulcers and the nursing home staff need to be tuned in to the factors related to pressure ulcer development and treatment.



SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Nursing Home Survey.