Racial Disparities in Nursing Homes:

A Collaborative Approach
Community Renewal Society

- 127-year-old faith-based organization

- *The Chicago Reporter, Catalyst-Chicago* and the Civic Action Network

- Units work collaboratively
The Chicago Reporter

- Founded in 1972 out of the civil rights movement
- Investigates race and poverty issues in the City of Chicago, the metropolitan region, state and nation
- Projects impact policy: Illinois State Police, subprime lending and nursing homes
Background on Project

• Nursing home investigation initiated in late fall 2008

• Analyzed Nursing Home Compare data and racial composition data from Brown University Professor Vincent Mor

• Bennie Saxon falls out of a four-story window
Key Findings

Major disparities between black and white nursing homes:

- Quantity of homes
- Quality of homes
- Staffing levels
Unequal supply

There are two more nursing homes in the Rogers Park, Edgewater and Uptown neighborhoods than on the entire South and West sides, which in 2007 had close to six times the number of seniors in these three Northeast Side neighborhoods.

Nursing homes in:
- Edgewater, Rogers Park and Uptown
- Predominantly black South and West side neighborhoods
- All other areas

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Nursing Home Compare; analyzed by The Chicago Reporter
Disparate Quality

• Illinois has the most poorly-rated black nursing homes in the U.S.

• 32 out of 51 homes received the lowest rating from Nursing Home Compare, 63 percent. This is the highest percentage of all states with more than two black homes.
Excellence lacking

In Chicago, more than 55 percent of the nursing homes where a majority of the residents are black received the lowest federal rating, compared with 11 percent for white homes. No black home received an excellent rating.
Illinois leads nation

Illinois has the highest number and highest percentage of poorly rated black nursing homes, of the states with at least three black facilities. To see how all of the states compare, go to www.chicagoreporter.com.

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<th>Rating:</th>
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<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
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<td>Illinois</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>61%</td>
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<td>Ohio</td>
<td>22</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>Georgia</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>11</td>
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Violations & Court Case Disparities

• The Chicago Reporter built databases of state and county cases filed against nursing homes

• Disparities were consistent here, too
The story continues...
Staffing quality inequities

Staffing may play a significant role in nursing home disparities. Nearly 85 percent of homes where a majority of residents are black got the lowest rating for nurse staffing, compared with just 21 percent of white homes.

Rating for nursing staff in homes where the majority of residents are:

- Black
- White

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Inequities, despite poverty

Some say people get poor care because they’re poor. But The Chicago Reporter found that even when controlling for poverty—by looking at homes where more than 75 percent of resident care is paid for by Medicaid—significant racial disparities remained.

Rating for nursing homes where more than 75% of resident care is paid for by Medicaid and the majority of residents are:
- Black
- White

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Engaging the Community

• Nursing home action plan begins
• Planned Alden Wentworth action
• Action held at Alden Nursing Home
Press Acknowledgment

• Rally coverage

• ABC, Chicago Tribune
Coalition Building Continues…

• Jane Addams Senior Caucus
• Illinois Citizens for Better Care
• Access Living
• Local unions
Civic Action Persists…

- Registered letter sent to Alden Network owner requesting meeting, no response
- Community forum
More Action...
Civic Action Keeps Marching
Legislative Action
Civic Action Keeps Marching

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## Other Resources

**Community Renewal Society:**
- [www.communityrenewalsociety.org](http://www.communityrenewalsociety.org)

**The Chicago Reporter**
- [www.chicagoreporter.com](http://www.chicagoreporter.com)

**Brown University:**
- [http://research.brown.edu/research/profile.php?id=1100924788](http://research.brown.edu/research/profile.php?id=1100924788)
Questions?
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