

# MSU study on nursing homes reveals dissatisfaction

Results of a new survey released by Michigan State University's Institute for Public Policy and Social Research show that public perceptions regarding nursing home quality have become consistently more negative since 1987, despite increased satisfaction with the state's role in ensuring good quality care.

More than 80 percent of Michigan residents polled believe that withholding payment for care would be effective in improving quality of care. There is widespread support for a state bill that would allow a nursing home resident the right to withhold payment of care if a nursing home fails to meet public standards. Some 82 percent of adults surveyed believe withholding payment for care — funds would be held in an escrow account — would be either "very" or "somewhat" effective in improving the quality for long-term residents.

Persons living in southeastern Michigan are significantly more dissatisfied with the quality of nursing home care than are individuals from other parts of the state.

The survey was directed by Maureen Mickus, assistant professor of psychiatry, and Andrew Hogan, associate professor of medicine. More than 1,400 residents were asked their opinion about nursing home quality and their support of a number of different reform options.

The survey was one in a series of "State of the State" surveys

conducted by the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research. The overall sampling error is plus or minus 3 percent.

The researchers found that concern about the quality of care is higher in some parts of the state than in others.

"The relatively high level of concern shown by Michigan residents living in the Thumb area may be a result of a number of criminal and civil charges against nursing home providers there," Mickus said. "We also

found that residents of southeastern Michigan are relatively more concerned about the quality of nursing home care, perhaps because of some of the highly publicized nursing home closings in the greater Detroit area over the past few years.

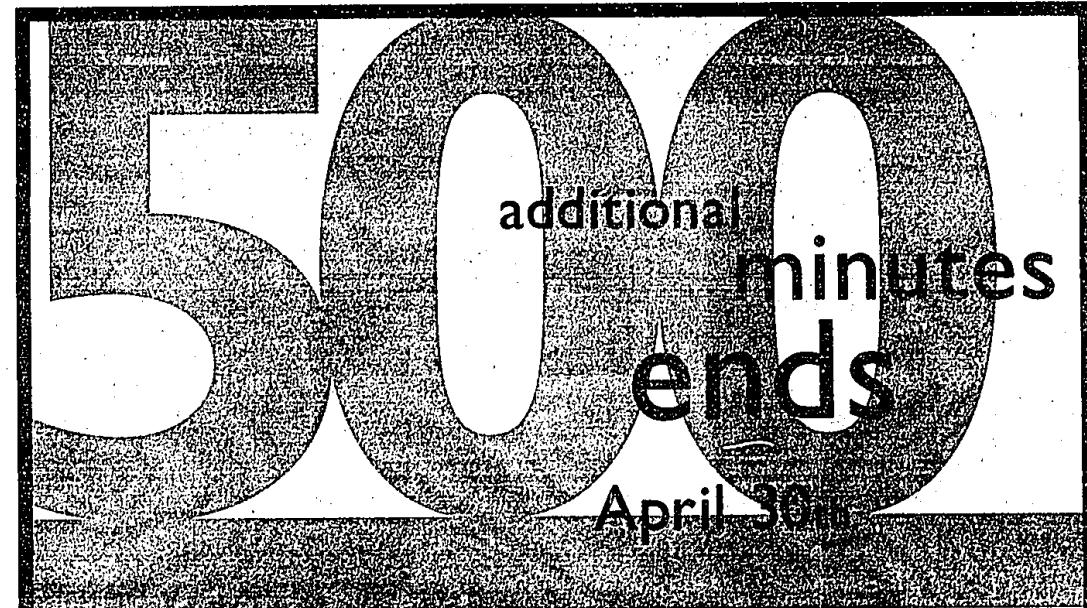
"Women under 65 living in southeastern Michigan have the least favorable views of quality," she continued. "Given our understanding of the typical family caregiver, we speculate that this survey group probably represents adult daughters concerned about the care their aging parents receive or may receive in the future."

The survey revealed that Michigan residents are broadly supportive of measures to improve the quality of nursing home care. While a moderate level of support exists for increasing the state sales tax for this purpose, a large number of citizens expect nursing home owners to pay for, or at least share, the financing of improvements.

Efforts to improve care in Michigan's 460 nursing homes have met with heated controversy. Advocates claim that care for nursing home residents is far less than adequate, citing a recent report by the U.S. General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress. The GAO report concluded that one-fourth of the nation's nursing homes have serious deficiencies that place residents at high risk of severe injury or death. The

report also concluded that efforts by state governments designed to correct deficiencies within facilities are currently ineffective.

Nursing home providers claim that family members of nursing home residents express high levels of satisfaction with care. They contend that the funds needed to improve care are lacking due to the 1997 Balanced Budget Act, which resulted in serious financial setbacks for nursing homes.



## Nursing home task force to meet here.

A public hearing of the House Democratic Nursing Home task force will be held 7-9 p.m. Friday, April 14 at the Farmington Hills City Hall.

State Rep. Andy Neumann, a Democrat from Alpena, will chair the meeting. He asks that all interested persons attend, whether to give perspective about nursing home issues or just to listen.

The hearing will be in the Farmington Hills city council chambers, 31656 W. 11 Mile Road.

For more information, call Neumann's office, toll-free, at 877-ANDY-106.

## IMAGE choir to perform

The 41-member New Generation Youth Choir will present "I.M.A.G.E.," a high-energy musical featuring toe-tapping music, live accompaniment and a story to appeal to all ages, on Sunday, April 16 at 7 p.m. at Nardin Park Church.

Nardin Park United Methodist Church is on W. 11 Mile Road, just west of Middlebelt. Child care and nursery will be provided.

For more information, call (248)478-8860.

## '10 Commandments' at Civic Theater

The Ten Commandments, an epic motion picture starring Charlton Heston, will be shown at 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 21 at the Farmington Civic Theater. Admission is free.

This movie is being sponsored by Farmington Hills Church of God as an opportunity for the family to enjoy the evening together on Good Friday, a Christian Holy day. Free popcorn for every person. For additional information, contact the church at 477-9144.

## FYA hiring summer staff

Farmington Youth Assistance is currently hiring program staff for its Summer Activities center. General requirements are two years of college or an associate degree with some experience with youth. The starting date is June 19 and runs through Aug. 11. Center hours are 2:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. Monday through Friday. Wages start at \$8 per hour. Call 482-8343 or send current resume and cover letter to: Summer Activities Center Farmington Youth Assistance, 33000 Thomas Street, Ste. 104, Farmington, MI 48336.

qualifying AT&T Digital PCS plan.

AT&T Digital PCS Plans			
CALLING PLAN	INCLUDED MINUTES	ADDT'L. AVAILABLE HRS	TOTAL MINUTES
\$69.99	1000	500	1500
\$49.99	500	500	1000
\$24.99	100	200	300

**1 800-IMAGINE**  
www.att.com/wireless/

PHONES BY **NOKIA**  
CONNECTING PEOPLE



### AT&T Wireless Services Stores

Ann Arbor  
926 W. Eisenhower Pkwy.  
248 372-7901

Ashburn Hills  
3922 Baldwin Rd.  
248 745-3806

Birmingham  
34200 Woodward Ave.  
248 372-7862

Canton  
43241 Ford Rd.  
734 881-2107

Dearborn  
2219 Michigan Ave.  
248 372-7991

Detroit  
2660 E. Jefferson  
313 961-5424

Lathrup Village  
27631 Southfield Rd.  
248 372-7921

Novi  
43267 Novi Rd.  
248 372-7981

Roseville  
31902 Gratiot  
248 372-7911

Utica  
13307 Hall Rd.  
248 372-7931

Business Sales Office  
25877 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 340

888 839-4650

**Important Information:** ©2000 AT&T. Credit approval required. AT&T Digital PCS calling plans require a digital internet, a digital radio-network phone, and a subscription to AT&T Wireless Services long distance Activation. A charge may apply. Promotion is available to new activations on AT&T Digital PCS Calling Plans \$24.99 monthly and above for the first six months of service. Promotional minutes apply only to the first six months of service. Out-of-bucket minutes are available only for airtime only. Out-of-bucket minutes range from 22 to 35 cents each. Wireless long distance and roaming charges may apply and are set forth in your Calling Plan. Coverage is not available in most areas. Other charges, surcharges and taxes may apply. Digital PCS features not available in all areas. Full terms and conditions are contained in the AT&T Wireless Services Guide, Rate Sheet or Calling Plan brochure. Promotional offer expires April 30, 2000 and may not be combined with any other promotional offer. Other restrictions may apply.

Safety  
Your  
Smart  
Telephone  
Smart  
Call

ATT