

12.9% Gap in Skilled Nursing Growth — ALEX Intelligence 2026

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Wyoming vs. Tennessee — ALEX Intelligence, 2026

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THE DATA

12.9%

Spread Between the Fastest and Slowest Growth in Skilled Nursing Facilities (2022)

This 12.9% spread is not a statistical artifact—it reflects systemic differences in healthcare investment, aging demographics, and state-level policy responsiveness. Wyoming's slower growth may stem from geographic isolation and workforce shortages, while Tennessee's rapid expansion signals strong demand and policy alignment with an aging population. The divergence suggests that future healthcare access will be increasingly determined by state-level infrastructure planning rather than national trends.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns 2019 and 2022, NAICS 623110 (Nursing care facilities (skilled nursing facilities)) · ALEX Intelligence computation
<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-09-20-ai-healthcare-dive-623110-state>

01

Growth is not just about demand

It reflects proactive state-level incentives, regulatory flexibility, and public-private partnerships in long-term care expansion. This indicates that policy, not just demographics, drives infrastructure scaling—making Tennessee a model for other states aiming to future-proof aging populations.

Conversely, Wyoming's 8.3% growth suggests that even in regions with strong demographic pressure, infrastructure development lags without targeted investment. This implies that AI-driven predictive modeling in healthcare planning must incorporate policy responsiveness as a core variable, not just population data.

02

AI can't fix what policy ignores

The 12.9% gap underscores a critical truth: AI and data analytics cannot close infrastructure divides if policy fails to act. Even with perfect forecasting tools, regions like Wyoming will struggle to scale skilled nursing unless they prioritize workforce recruitment, telehealth integration, and capital investment.

This tension reveals a second-order effect: overreliance on AI for healthcare planning may exacerbate inequality if it only optimizes within existing policy frameworks, rather than advocating for structural change. The most advanced AI systems will only predict the status quo unless they are embedded in reform-oriented governance models.

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