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How Much Does Long Term Care Cost?

- The 2008 national average for a private nursing home room is \$204 a day or \$74,806 a year.
- The average assisted living private room is \$2,714 a month or \$32,572 a year.
- The average for home care providers is \$25.00 an hour and certified care providers average \$36.00 an hour.

The total cost of your long term care will be determined by what it costs where you receive care and how long you receive care. The average length of stay in a nursing home is 875 days¹ (2.4 years). Of those entering a nursing home 55% will stay at least one year and 21% will stay longer than 5 years. The average length of time from Alzheimer's diagnosis to death is 8 to 10 years, though patients may be affected for a duration as short as 1 year and as long as 25 years.²

The average total time spent in care is 3+ years, including home care, assisted living, nursing home.³ After his life-changing equestrian accident, actor Christopher Reeve required 9 years of long term care.

Care in your own home can be even more costly than care in a residential care or nursing facility, depending on the level of care needed and how many hours you pay for care.

In 2008, the cost of a private nursing home room in California averages \$219 a day in Los Angeles and \$300 a day in San Francisco. Care cost less in rural areas and more in urban areas. In New York/New Jersey area the rate is \$314 a day, and in NYC \$372 a day. In South Carolina averages are \$160 a day or \$58,300 a year.

California Average Nursing Home Cost

Year	Annual Cost
1980	\$15,330
1988	\$28,054
1996	\$42,070
1999	\$47,450
2003	\$58,720
2006	\$76,350

1. Virginia Long Term Care Partnership
2. Medscape Alzheimer's Disease (AD)
3. National Clearinghouse for Long Term Care Information