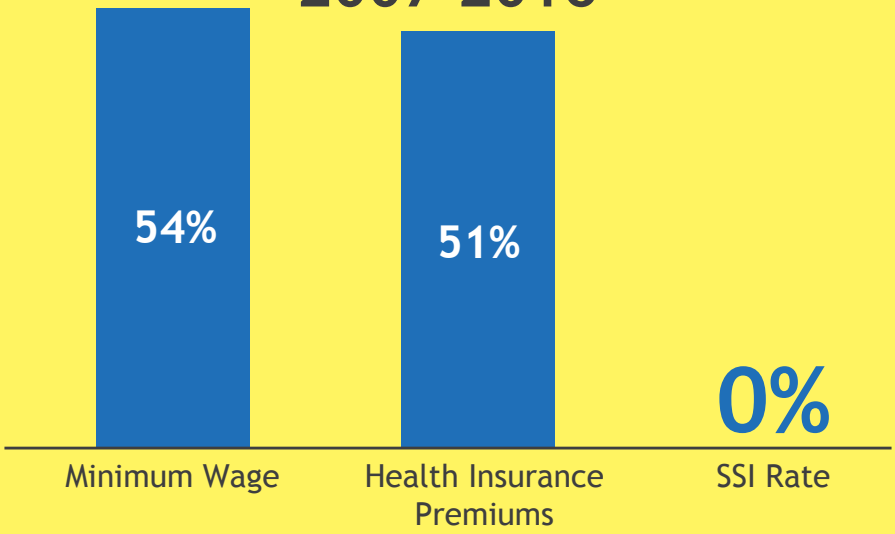
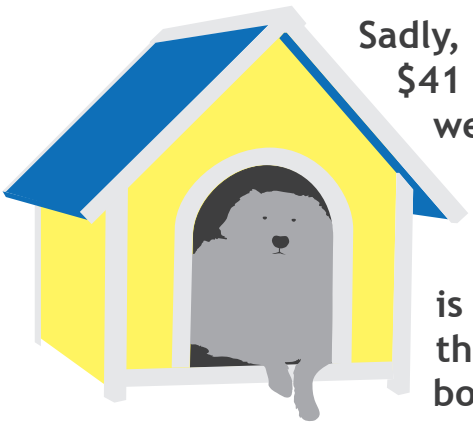
Facts About New York State's 10-Year SSI Rate Freeze

As adult care facilities (ACFs) across New York continue to struggle with the rising costs of caring for New York's rapidly growing elderly population, the SSI (Supplemental Security Income) rate has remain frozen for the past 10 years at $41 per day.

Percentage Increase Cost of Care vs. SSI Rate, 2007-2016



Sources: New York State Department of Labor; Kaiser Family Foundation



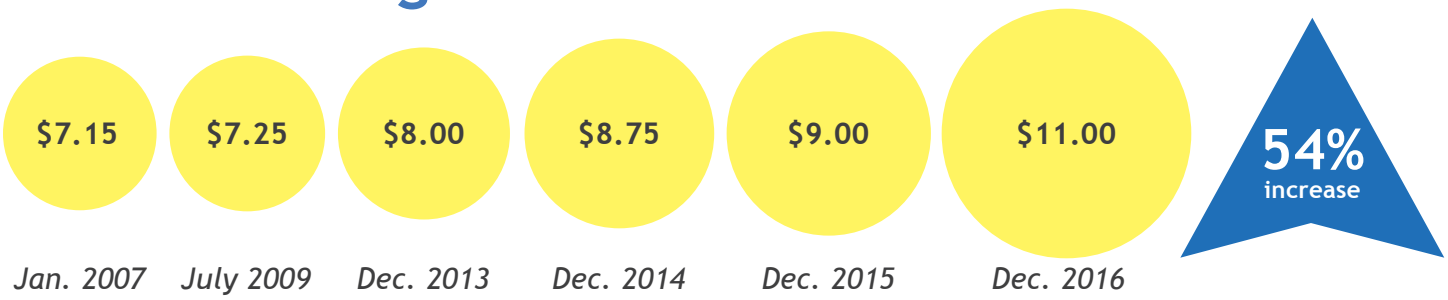
Sadly, the SSI rate of $41 per day that we spend on housing and caring for low-income seniors is comparable to the daily cost of boarding a dog.

As a result of financial losses, SSI facilities are closing. More than two dozen SSI facilities have shut their doors in the past decade - forcing low-income seniors to search for other care options.

Facts About Cost Drivers for Adult Care Facilities

Every Adult Care Facility (ACF) in New York has been impacted by large increases in cost drivers. As these cost drivers continue to rise, more ACFs are forced to close their doors; leaving thousands of seniors without adequate, affordable care.

Minimum Wage

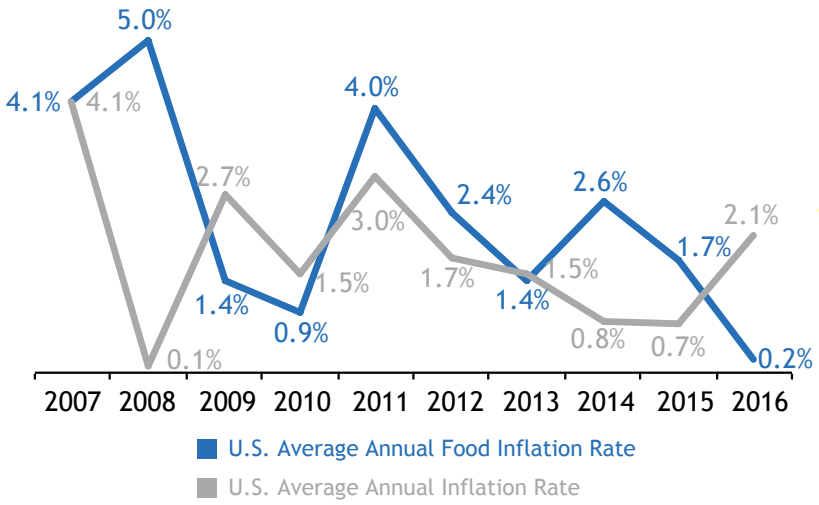


Source: New York State Department of Labor

Health Insurance Premiums*

**Premium figures for families residing in the Northeast*
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation, www.kff.org/interactive/premiums-and-worker-contributions/

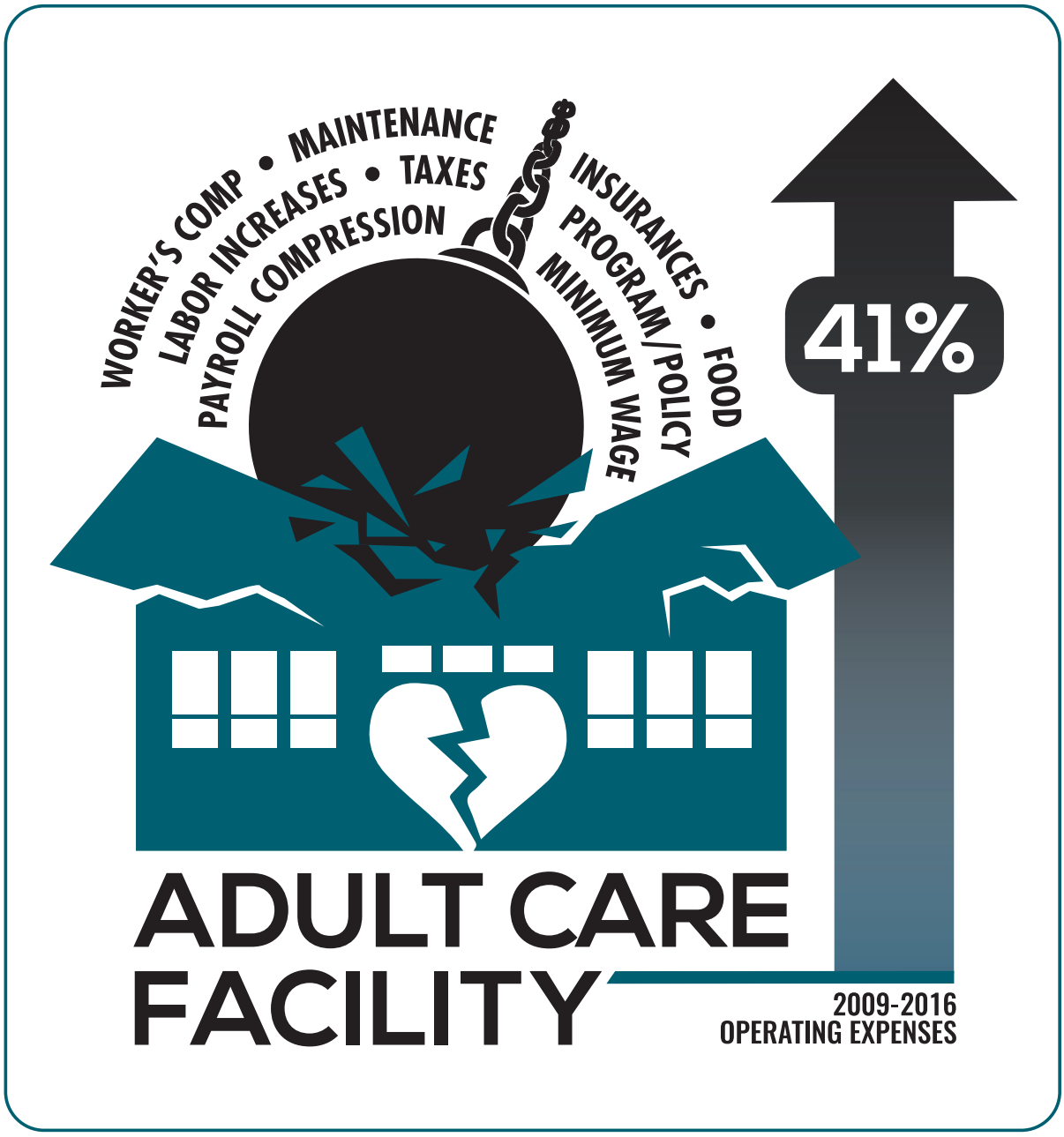
Food Inflation Rate vs. Annual Inflation Rate



Souce: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, www.bls.gov

Over the last decade, the rate of food inflation outpaced annual inflation by

60%



SSI INCREASE IS URGENT!

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SSI Rate Increase

The SSI Rate Must Be Increased so that ACFs can Continue Delivering Quality Care & Services to Low-Income SSI Recipients

Background:

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Adult Care Facilities care for over 12,000 seniors across the state.
- In the past 25 years, the state has increased the SSI rate for the low-income elderly and disabled individuals just once, in 2007.
- The State has not authorized a cost of living adjustment (COLA) during that time.

Reimbursement vs. real cost

- SSI Adult Care Facilities offer a lower cost of care setting than comparable settings. The current daily SSI rate of **$41 per day** is grossly insufficient to provide residents with the care & services that they need, including:

  - Food
  - housing
  - case management services
  - medication assistance
  - housekeeping
  - activities
  - personal care

- The actual average cost of care for an SSI resident is far costlier at **$70 per day**. Each SSI resident is at a Nursing Home Level of Care. When SSI facilities close due to lack of funding, those residents are either: A) homeless or B) moved to Nursing Homes where the State pays a much higher rate for care, $150-250 per day.

Impact

- The industry has been hit hard by rising costs in minimum wage, health care for staff, worker's compensation, and food costs. The estimated impact of minimum wage alone is $170M annually on the industry
- SSI facilities that can no longer sustain these operating losses are closing.

ESAAL Position

- For SSI facilities in the state to continue providing quality care and services to our frail elderly and disabled SSI recipients, it is imperative that the State increase the SSI rate to a level sufficient to meet rising facility costs.

- We are requesting a $20 increase in the SSI payment to $61 per day per resident in the 2017-18 State Budget. This will help avoid additional nursing home placements and significant Medicaid costs.

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