

A Closer Look at the Claims Supporting Limiting Capacity in Long-Term Care: The Denmark Experience

In recent speeches, Ontario's Health Minister has cited Denmark as an example to support her plans to close hospital beds and continue the rationing of long-term care home beds:

"We could borrow a page from Denmark...where, as a matter of public policy, community care takes precedence over residential care and long-term care."¹

"Matthews cited examples of other jurisdictions, such as Denmark, which have actually decreased the number of long term care beds and established strong home-based care systems."²

Denmark Compared to Ontario: The Facts Do Not Support the Case for More Hospital and Long-Term Care Bed Cuts/Rationing

Denmark has 14,000 more hospital beds on an aggregate per capita basis than Ontario.

Denmark has more than double Ontario's number of long-term care beds.

Denmark is 43,000 square kilometers with a population density of 128 per square kilometre.

Ontario is more than 1 million square kilometres with a population density of 12 people per square kilometre.

¹ Deb Matthews speech at Leading Healthcare Quality Summit and Innovations Expo, November 9, 2011.

² Fantoni, Beatrice, "Health minister pitches Ontario action plan: funding for hospitals may shrink" Windsor Star, February 4, 2012.