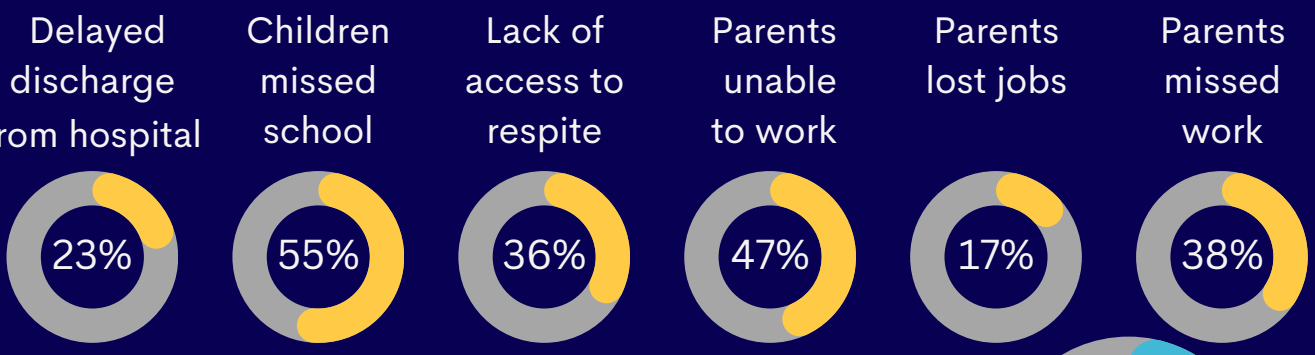
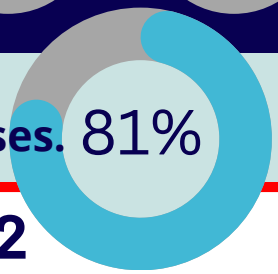
The shortage of long-term in-home nurses is hurting North Carolina families

In August 2022, 54 NC families receiving Private Duty Nursing (PDN) services were surveyed.1 They reported (by



81% of families said the most common reason for unfilled PDN hours was thelack of available home health nurses.

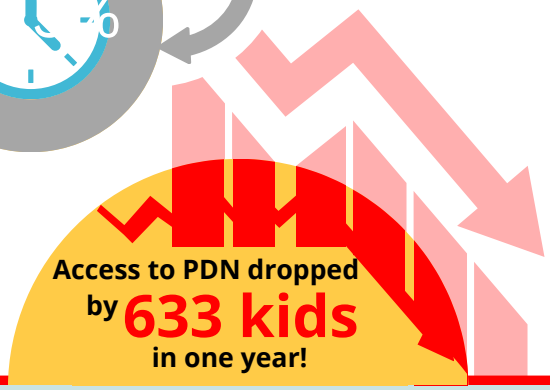


Are families getting their services?2

38.5% of approved hours were not staffed

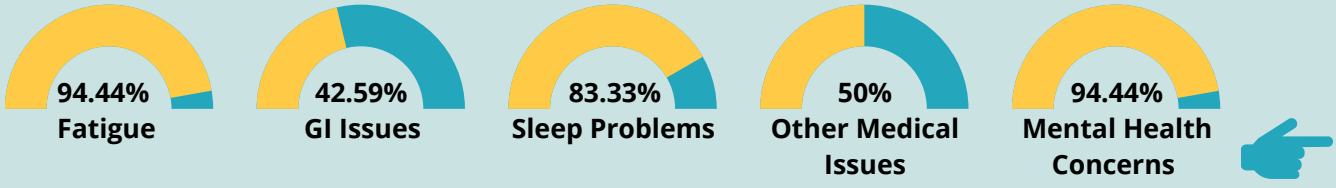
61.5% of approved hours were staffed

SFY 2023 data reported by NC DHHS
DR# 2024.2475



Impacts on Families due to lack of staffed nursing hours1

Harm to the child from poor care • Financial loss • Anxiety, constant burden & stress



What issues did families report?

"We have had nurses make significant med errors as well as cause decannulations that led to the child requiring emergency intervention."

"I don't feel like [the agency] always has our best interest at heart and listens to what our family specifically needs. They will send nurses who are underqualified, unskilled, and disinterested in my child."

"I wish that if a nurse called out or a shift wasn't covered, that I could get paid for covering the shift. Because then I no longer get to be my child's parent and now have to be his nurse. It also means that now I have to stay up all night and then go to my actual job the following day."

What solutions did they identify?

Pay and Benefits

- Offer more benefits and pay to attract quality nursing staff

Flexible Policies

- Allow families to hire nurses
- Be more flexible with hiring criteria
- Allow parents to be paid caregivers

Improve Oversight and Communication

- More oversight of home health agencies
- Better communication with families

Focus on Families

- Center families when making policy decisions
- Make the PDN program more family-focused
- Provide more efficient & effective service

Advocates for Medically Fragile Kids NC

[1] August 2022 Survey by Advocates for Medically Fragile Kids NC

[2] SFY 2023 Data from Medicaid reported by NC DHHS DR# 2024.2475

Additional data provided by Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Brenner Children's Hospital

Infographic by nthdegree-id.com