

**September 5, 2003****Lead Stories****Dot-com lists stats on nation's nursing homes***by CLAUDE SOLNIK*

LAKE SUCCESS - The founding partner of a Long Island elder law practice has launched a Web site that provides statistical comparisons of about 17,000 nursing homes nationwide.

Lake Success-based [MyZiva.net](http://MyZiva.net) is designed to help health care providers, prospective nursing home residents and their families compare nursing homes.

The service it provides is free, although it charges nursing homes for the right to present additional information in a "Facilities Focus" section.

The site, which is accessible at [www.myziva.com](http://www.myziva.com) and [www.myziva.net](http://www.myziva.net), claims more than 1,000 visitors a day.

[Bob Abrams](#), an expert in elder care law who remains of counsel to Abrams, Fensterman, Fensterman, Flowers & Eisman, also in Lake Success, said he named the site for the Greek goddess of health.

"It's a worthwhile resource," said Daniel Curran, a spokesman for the New York Association of Homes and Services for the Aging based in Albany. "It's set up in an interesting structure."

MyZiva.net uses data culled from government sources to provide statistics such as the size of the facility, inspection reports, quality rankings and nurse staffing levels. Among other statistics included are mortality rates and percentages of residents with terminal cancer.

"The good news is that there are many nursing homes that deliver superior care to their residents," Abrams said. "And MyZiva.net is designed to help individuals identify those facilities."

The NYAHSAs, which recently printed its own consumer guide to nursing homes, said the Internet can save time for those needing to make a quick decision on a nursing home.

"Decisions about continuing care often have to be made quickly and without the luxury of time to do research," said Carl Young, NYAHSAs president.

Abrams said he provided the primary funding for the site, although he said its "Facilities Focus" section through links and profiles is paid for by the nursing homes.

The firm so far has about 80 Facility Focus clients, including 35 in New York State. Within a year, it hopes to have more than 2,500 facilities in the section, which would give additional information along with the statistical snapshot the site already provides.