WHEN THE NATION SUPPORTS OUR WORK, AMERICA WORKS

Members of America’s Essential Hospitals deliver high-quality care to all people, including those who face systemic and structural barriers to care. Our more than 300 members provide primary care through trauma care, disaster response, health professionals training, research, public and population health programs, and extensive ambulatory services on which communities—and our nation—depend.

Essential hospitals face continued cuts to federal funding. These hospitals operate with only a 3.2 percent margin, compared with an average 7.7 percent margin for other hospitals nationwide. Without Medicaid disproportionate share hospital payments, a vital source of support, our hospitals would suffer an average 0.1 percent loss.

These narrow margins likely will persist. North, south, east, west, urban, suburban, and rural—the health of the nation is only as strong as the support for our work to increase access to affordable care and reduce disparities in marginalized communities. Essential access, care, and solutions—that’s how we build a healthy country for all.

ABOUT AMERICA’S ESSENTIAL HOSPITALS

America’s Essential Hospitals is the nation’s leading advocate for hospitals with a mission to provide high-quality, equitable care to all people, regardless of their financial means and social challenges.
ESSENTIAL HOSPITALS FILL FIVE KEY ROLES:

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN CARE FOR UNDERREPRESENTED POPULATIONS

Foremost, essential hospitals commit to serving people who face systemic and structural barriers to care. People of color accounted for more than half of member discharges in 2020.

Essential hospitals also have these roles:

TRAINING THE FUTURE HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE

Our members train about three times as many physicians as other U.S. hospitals, including 59 above federal funding caps, on average.

PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE, COORDINATED CARE

In 2020, our members averaged 17,022 inpatient discharges and 375,005 outpatient visits, including 62,793 emergency visits.

PROVIDING SPECIALIZED, LIFESAVING SERVICES

Our members operate a third of all level I trauma centers and provide 40 percent of the nation’s burn care beds and more than a quarter of pediatric intensive care beds.

ADVANCING PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH EQUITY

About 99 percent of our members have a relationship with their local health department and 84 percent provide linguistic services.

In 2020, three-quarters of essential hospitals’ patients were uninsured or covered by Medicaid or Medicare. With only one in four patients commercially insured, essential hospitals have limited opportunities to offset losses from Medicaid and Medicare underpayments with better commercial rates.


Contact Jason Pray, vice president of legislative affairs, at jpray@essentialhospitals.org or 202-412-2491. Visit essentialhospitals.org to learn more about essential hospitals.

Source: America’s Essential Hospitals. 2022 Characteristics Survey. See essentialdata.info.