

ESSENTIAL HOSPITALS: How We Build A Healthy Country for All



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 a -8.6 percent margin, compared with an average -1.4 percent margin for other hospitals nationwide.** Without Medicaid disproportionate share hospital payments, a vital source of support, our hospitals would suffer an average **13 percent loss.**

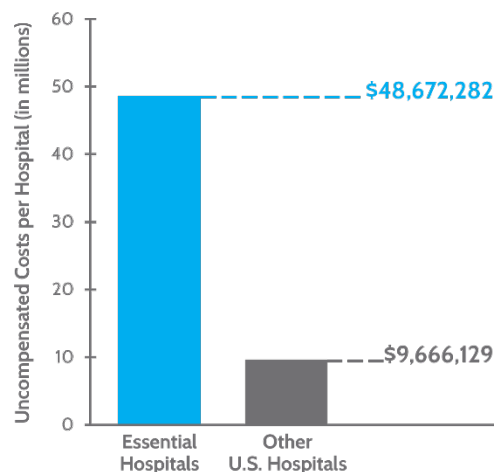
These narrow margins likely will persist. North, south, east, west, urban, suburban, and rural—the health of the nation is only as strong as the support for our work to increase access to affordable care and reduce disparities in disadvantaged communities. **Essential access, care, and solutions—that's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

ABOUT AMERICA'S ESSENTIAL HOSPITALS

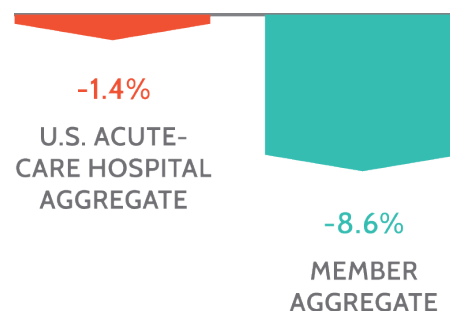
America's Essential Hospitals is the nation's leading advocate for hospitals with a mission to provide high-quality, equitable care to all people, regardless of their financial means and social challenges.

UNCOMPENSATED CARE

Caring for marginalized people—a role central to the mission of essential hospitals—comes at a cost. The average essential hospital provides more than **five times as much uncompensated care** as the average U.S. hospital.



Essential hospitals operate with an average margin **dramatically less than that of other U.S. hospitals.**



Source: America's Essential Hospitals. 2023 Characteristics Survey. See essentialdata.info.



HOW WE BUILD A HEALTHY COUNTRY FOR ALL

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 2021.

Essential hospitals also have these roles:



TRAINING THE FUTURE HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE

Our members train more than three times as many physicians as other U.S. hospitals—246 per hospital, on average.



PROVIDING SPECIALIZED, LIFESAVING SERVICES

Our members operate a third of all level I trauma centers and provide 45 percent of the nation's burn care beds and more than a quarter of pediatric intensive care beds.



PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE, COORDINATED CARE

In 2021, our members averaged 16,689 inpatient admissions and 480,829 outpatient visits, including 59,899 emergency visits.



ADVANCING PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH EQUITY

About 98 percent of our members have a relationship with their local health department and 74 percent participate in a state initiative on social determinants of health.

Sources: America's Essential Hospitals. 2023 Characteristics Survey; American Hospital Association. AHA Annual Survey, 2021.

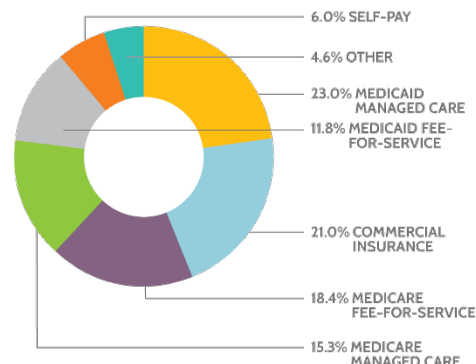
Contact Jason Pray, vice president of legislative affairs, at jpray@essentialhospitals.org or 202-412-2491. Visit essentialhospitals.org to learn more about essential hospitals.

In 2021, 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.

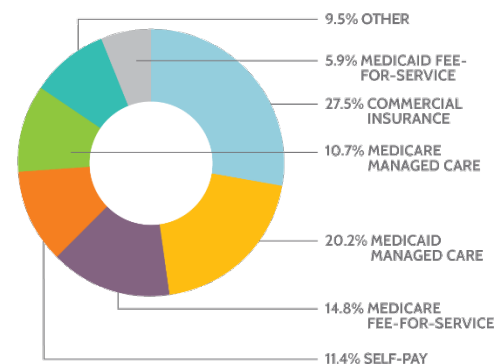
INPATIENT AND OUTPATIENT UTILIZATION BY PAYER MIX

Members of America's Essential Hospitals, 2021

INPATIENT DISCHARGES BY PAYER MIX



OUTPATIENT VISITS BY PAYER MIX



Source: America's Essential Hospitals. 2023 Characteristics Survey. See essentialdata.info.