



About Minnesota’s hospitals and health systems

- MHA’s member hospitals and health systems have earned a national reputation for delivering safe, high-quality care and for meeting the needs of our communities.
- Minnesota’s hospitals and health systems work to ensure that Minnesotans are healthy and have access to the right care at the right time in the right place.

Multiple independent quality organizations rank Minnesota among the top for health care quality

- **The federal Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research (AHRQ) has ranked Minnesota among the best states overall for health care quality in the nation.** This report is considered the gold standard for measuring the health care quality performance of states.
- **Minnesota ranks third in the nation overall** in health system performance on dimensions that measure residents’ health. Minnesota ranks in the top quartile



in four of the five dimensions measured – access and affordability, prevention and treatment, healthy lives and disparity. Minnesota ranks in the second quartile for avoidable hospital use and cost. The state ranks third in the nation in the category of prevention and treatment and fourth in the nation in the category of healthy lives. If all states performed as well as Minnesota, there would be approximately 91,000 fewer premature deaths before age 75 for conditions that can be detected early and effectively treated with good follow-up care.

- A report from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) shows that Minnesota is among the lowest-cost states for hospital care. Adding these quality and cost factors together, **Minnesota offers among the best health care value of any state in the nation.**
- According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, on average, Minnesota health care spending is 9% less costly per beneficiary than the national average, while maintaining high quality.

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Minnesota's hospitals and health systems are leaders in quality and safety

- Since 2011, MHA has been a leader on national health care quality improvement efforts guided by CMS. Over the past five years, **MHA's quality improvement work has prevented 2,038 patients from harm, prevented 318 readmissions and saved \$19.9 million in cost savings.**
- In 2019, MHA and partners from Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin formed a new quality improvement organization, Superior Health Quality Alliance, that aims to improve the quality of health and health care for health care consumers, patients, clinicians, health care organizations and communities. Tania Daniels, vice president, quality and safety, MHA, serves as CEO of Superior Health, and MHA staff members lead and participate in Superior Health quality improvement work.
- **Minnesota was the first state to publicly report adverse health events** by hospital. Minnesota hospitals' and health systems' commitment to transparency, public reporting and collaboratively learning and sharing is making care safer and improving quality.
- MHA, in collaboration with other health care partners, is working to help hospitals and health systems create a culture of safety through the implementation of a road map of best practices across health care settings and serves as a foundation for successful patient safety and quality improvement efforts.

Minnesota's hospitals and health systems provide needed access to health care

- Hospitals and health systems provide high-quality care to all patients regardless of their ability to pay. In 2019, Minnesota's hospitals and health systems provided \$675 million to patients who did not have health insurance or the means to pay for their care.
- Minnesota's hospitals and health systems want Minnesotans to have meaningful insurance coverage for all essential health care services, including preventive care, mental health care, routine screenings and other health care throughout a person's lifetime.

- There are 126 24-hour emergency rooms in the state. All of Minnesota hospitals' emergency rooms treat anyone who enters.
- Minnesota's hospitals and health systems annually provide care for 456,988 acute inpatient admissions and nearly 11.3 million outpatient registrations including 1.77 million emergency room visits.
- In rural Minnesota, maintaining access to quality care is of critical importance to maintaining a healthy state. There are 78 rural hospitals with the federal critical access hospital (CAH) designation to preserve access to care in rural areas of Minnesota.
- Rising to meet a mental health crisis, Minnesota's hospitals and health systems provide mental and behavioral health services across the continuum of care. Hospitals and health systems partner with community-based outpatient services to provide care to patients in their own communities. Minnesota's hospitals have 1,376 inpatient mental health beds statewide: 1,197 for adults, 179 for children/adolescents.
- In 2019, Minnesota hospitals and health systems contributed nearly \$3.3 billion in programs and services to benefit the health of their communities, from smoking cessation to weight loss, and from medical research to educating a future health care workforce.
- MHA members are pioneering accountable care organizations to improve patient health while lowering costs.
- Minnesota's hospitals and health systems are supporting evidence-based care, reducing duplicative, ineffective or unnecessary care while achieving better outcomes for patients.

Minnesota's hospitals and health systems are experiencing financial fragility and declining operating margins

- The median operating margin fell in 2019 to 1.4% — a signal that Minnesota's hospitals and health systems are experiencing challenges including declining reimbursements from both government and commercial payers; health care professional shortages that bring higher staffing costs; and increasing costs of products and supplies such as pharmaceuticals, devices and technology systems for electronic health records.