



## 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.

### 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 2020, Minnesota's hospitals and health systems provided \$649 million in health care services to patients who did not have health insurance or the means to pay for their care.
- Minnesota's hospitals and health systems provide essential health care services, including preventive care, mental health care, routine screenings, and other health care needs.
- There are 123 24-hour emergency rooms in the state. All of Minnesota hospitals' emergency rooms treat anyone who enters.
- Minnesota's hospitals and health systems provide care for over 457,000 acute inpatient admissions, nearly 11.4 million outpatient visits, and 1.6 million emergency room visits each year.
- Maintaining quality care is of critical importance to the health of rural Minnesotans. There are 77 rural hospitals with the federal critical access hospital (CAH) designation to preserve access to care in rural areas of Minnesota.
- In 2020, Minnesota hospitals and health systems contributed nearly \$3.3 billion in programs and services to benefit the health of their communities, ranging from employment and housing support to vaccination clinics and accessible dental care.
- Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Minnesota's hospitals collectively treated 78,690 COVID-19 hospitalizations, including 11,937 ICU stays.



### Minnesota's hospitals and health systems at a glance\*

**123 24-hour emergency rooms**  
providing **1.6 million ER visits per year**

**457,000 acute inpatient and**  
**11.4 million outpatient visits per year**

**77 rural Critical Access Hospitals**

**\$3.3 billion contributed towards**  
**community support and benefits in 2020**  
**alone**

**78,690 total COVID-19**  
**hospitalizations, including 11,937 ICU**  
**stays since beginning of the pandemic**

*\*Based on 2020 data*

### Minnesota's hospitals and health systems are experiencing significant financial distress

- The median operating margin fell in 2020 to 1.2% from 1.4% in 2019 — a signal that Minnesota's hospitals and health systems are continuing to experience 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 due to inflation.
- Despite federal and state investments providing financial stability to Minnesota hospitals and health systems during the COVID-19 pandemic, unprecedented COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 related challenges in workforce and ongoing financial health will continue to stress consistent access to patient care for years to come.

## Minnesota's hospitals and health systems are working hard to address the mental health crisis among adults and children

- Rising to meet our state's growing mental health crisis, Minnesota's hospitals and health systems provide mental 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. For those patients that need hospital level of care, Minnesota's hospitals have 1,341 inpatient mental health beds statewide: 1,128 for adults, 183 for children/adolescents, and another 30 beds that are not specific to any patient type.
- Minnesota's hospitals and health systems are committed to continually strengthening partnerships at the federal, state, and local level to increase capacity of non-hospital residential and community-based mental and behavioral health care services to ensure that all patients are able to get the appropriate care when they need it.
- Minnesota's hospitals and health systems appreciate the attention our state legislature has given to this important issue, especially in the 2022 session by passing a significant mental health bill with bipartisan and bicameral leadership. Given the increasing mental health needs in our country, much more will be needed from both state and federal lawmakers in the years to come.

## Minnesota's hospitals and health systems are facing unparalleled workforce challenges

- Hospitals and health systems employ 52,263 health care workers in Minnesota in a wide range of professions including but not limited to nursing assistants, registered nurses, lab technicians, pharmacists, physical therapists, physicians, and respiratory therapists.
- Minnesota's hospitals and health systems also employ thousands of Minnesotans who provide critical support to the delivery of patient care through multiple roles in food and dietary services, environmental and janitorial services, and plant/maintenance services.

- 1 in 5 total job vacancies in Minnesota are currently in health care. The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) estimates that there are currently 40,000 total health care job vacancies in the state, including 6,000 vacancies in allied health occupations.
- The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) documented in a 2022 health care workforce survey that since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic health care job vacancies are increasing, with the largest increases in mental health and substance abuse counseling. The share of providers planning to leave their jobs in the next five years is also increasing, specifically in rural areas.

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

- The federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has ranked Minnesota among the best states overall for health care quality in the nation in 2021. This report is considered the gold standard for measuring the health care quality performance of states.
- Minnesota ranks ninth in the nation overall in health system performance, including measures of health care access and quality. Minnesota also ranks ninth in the nation in terms of responding and managing the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 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, continuously works to help hospitals and health systems create a culture of safety through the implementation of evidence-based best practices across health care settings and as a foundation for successful patient safety and quality improvement efforts.