

Hospitals Are Cornerstones in their Communities

There are over 5,000 community hospitals in the United States. The care they provide for patients is critical and often extends beyond the four walls of the hospital and into the community. As a result, community hospitals provide 24/7 access to needed medical care, support unmet community health needs and serve as economic pillars in their community.

Community hospitals provide care for millions of individuals

The mission of all community hospitals and health systems, regardless of size and type of ownership, is to care for their patients and communities.

In 2023, community hospitals cared for their communities through:



Over **142 million** emergency department visits



Over **3.4 million** babies delivered



Over **32 million** inpatient admissions



Over **28 million** surgeries

Community hospitals are engaged in their communities

Community hospitals lead and support programs that advance overall health and well-being, as well as address the unmet health and social needs of their patients.

Hospitals support:



Training new doctors and medical research



Prevention, wellness and community health improvement



Community hospitals are economic pillars

Community hospitals create jobs and help support their local economy.

In 2023, community hospitals:



Directly employed over **6.6 million** people



Supported **25.9 million** jobs across the nation — or close to **1 in 6** jobs



Purchased over **\$1.3 trillion** in goods and services from businesses



Supported **\$4.8 trillion** in total economic activity nationwide — more than **one-sixth** of the nation's economy

ⁱ Community hospitals are defined as all nonfederal, short-term general, and other special hospitals. Other special hospitals include obstetrics and gynecology; eye, ear, nose, and throat; long term acute-care; rehabilitation; orthopedic; and other individually described specialty services. Community hospitals include academic medical centers or other teaching hospitals if they are nonfederal short-term hospitals. Excluded are hospitals not accessible by the general public, such as prison hospitals or college infirmaries.