Colorado Hospitals at a Glance

Colorado has **108 hospitals and health systems** located in **45 counties**. They represent a mix of general (also called “acute care”), pediatric, long-term acute care, behavioral health and rehabilitation facilities. In 2012, Colorado had more than **12,900 licensed hospitals beds**. The state has **73 designated trauma centers**.

More than half of all Colorado hospitals (57 percent) are in urban areas, with the remaining facilities located in rural parts of the state. Colorado has **29 critical access hospitals**, which have a federal designation allowing them to receive 101 percent of Medicare cost reimbursement.

Hospital ownership type varies widely in Colorado.

### Patient Care at Colorado Hospitals in 2012
- Approximately **420,000** patients received inpatient care at acute care hospitals.
- More than **8.4 million** patients received outpatient care at acute care hospitals.
- Nearly **62,000** babies were delivered in Colorado hospitals.
- More than **1.9 million** patients received care in hospital emergency departments.
- The **top five reasons** for hospital inpatient stays included births, knee joint replacements, pneumonia, septicemia (blood infections) and hip joint replacements.

### Health Care Spending

Colorado hospitals incurred more than **$1.7 billion** in uncompensated care and undercompensated care in 2012. Of this amount, charity care and bad debt represented approximately **$500 million**, while Medicare and Medicaid underpayments accounted for approximately **$1.2 billion**.

Government has historically paid below the cost of care in Colorado. In 2011, Medicare paid only **74 cents for each dollar** hospitals spent caring for Medicare patients; and Medicaid paid only **79 cents for each dollar** hospitals spent caring for Medicaid patients.

### Economic Impact of Colorado Hospitals

Colorado hospitals contribute approximately **$19 billion** to the Colorado economy every year (including calculations for compensation, facilities, spin-off jobs, hospital and employee purchasing, and other parameters). This figure represents **4.2 percent** of the state’s entire economic output.

This translates to **133,000** jobs at hospitals and other businesses (due to hospital and employee spending)—about **one in every 16 Colorado jobs**.

Colorado hospitals directly employ more than **72,000** workers, representing more than **$4.45 billion** in payroll and benefits expenses. During the recent economic downturn, hospitals were one of the few sectors in Colorado that experienced job creation instead of job reductions.

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