

# Health Care Under the Gold Dome

Review of the 2025 Legislative Session

May 14, 2025



# Today's Webinar



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## Quick!

- Slides with this logo indicate CHA has an in-depth issue brief available

## Questions?

- Please type your question into the chat at anytime throughout the presentation



## Visit [www.cha.com](http://www.cha.com)

- Today's slide and recording of the webinar, along with in-depth issue briefs, our annual legislative report, and other helpful resources are all available

# Today's Agenda



Legislative Session by the Numbers



2025 Headwinds and Health System Pressures



Top Legislative Themes



CHA's 2025 Legislative Agenda



New Laws Impacting Hospitals



What to Expect in 2026



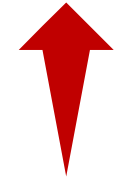
CHA Member Resources



# Legislative Session by the Numbers

- The General Assembly introduced 657 pieces of legislation and passed 74%
  - 171 were killed
  - 486 are headed to the governor
- On behalf of its members, CHA:
  - Tracked 52 bills
  - Testified 25 times in committee hearings
  - Negotiated nearly 100 amendments
- CHA's work to protect the 340B program saves Colorado hospitals \$700M

# Navigating 2025: Heavy Headwinds



Labor and supply costs up 40% since 2019



Only 1 in 4 Colorado hospitals has margins needed for long-term sustainability



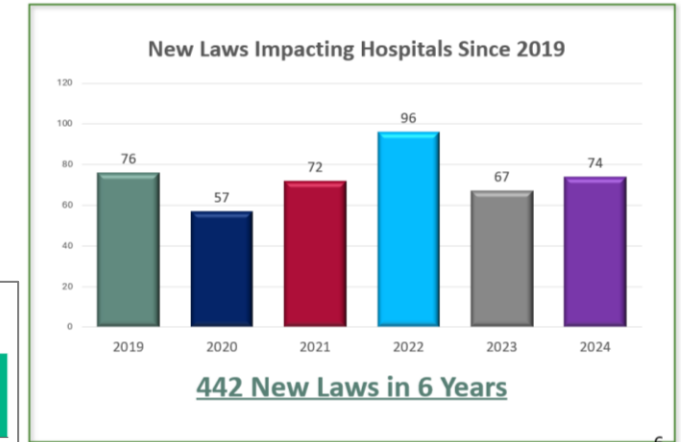
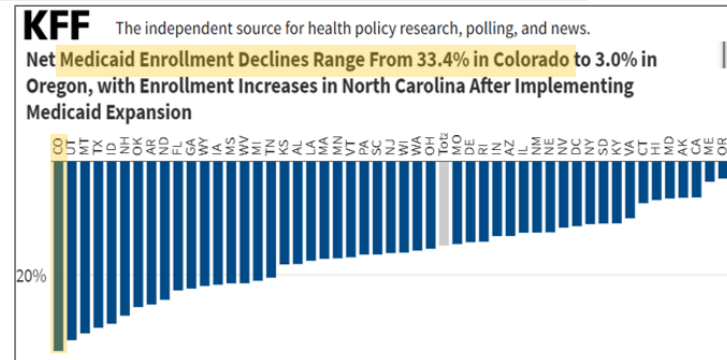
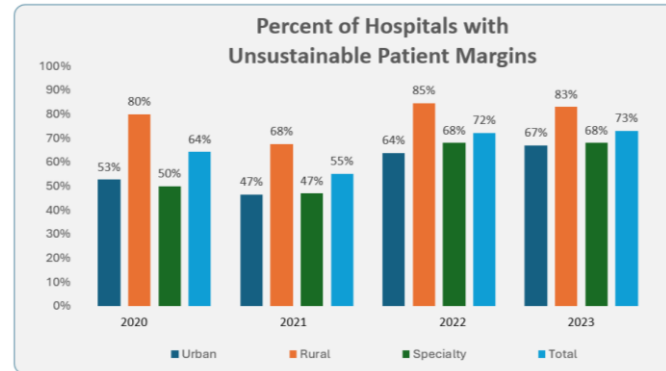
Costly burden of implementing 442 state laws impacting hospitals over last 6 years



500k+ Coloradans lost Medicaid coverage due to state failures on post-COVID re-enrollment



Major federal uncertainty on supply cost, funding, culture war issues impacting health and health care



**These major pressures have real consequences for our employees, patients, and communities**



Hospital Closures



Discharge Backlogs



Reduced Access to Care



Increased Costs



Reduced Services Lines



Further Distance to Care

A black and white photograph of the Colorado State Capitol building, featuring its prominent dome and classical architecture. The building is partially framed by bare trees on the left and a large evergreen on the right. A dark blue horizontal bar is superimposed over the lower portion of the image, containing the text 'Major Themes This Session'.

# Major Themes This Session



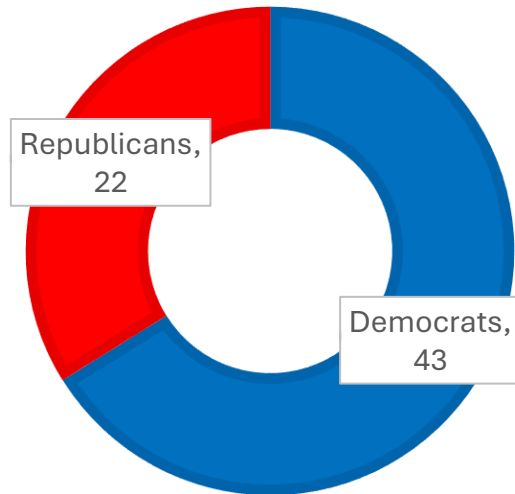
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# One Party Domination



## HOUSE

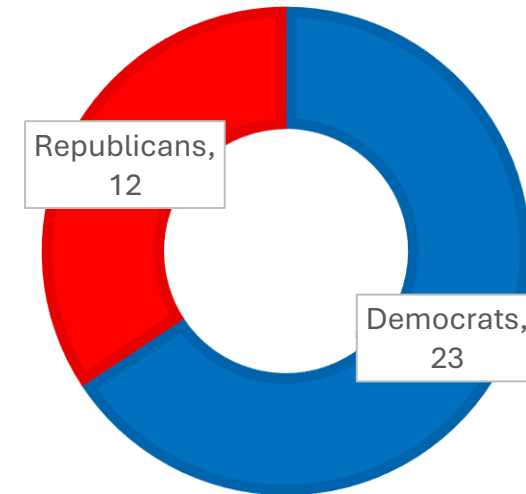
■ Democrats ■ Republicans



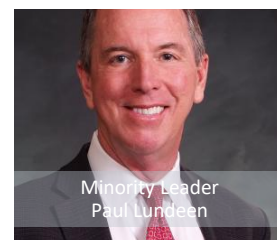
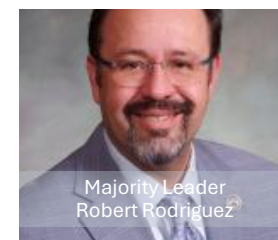
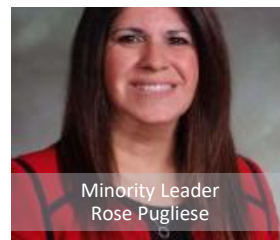
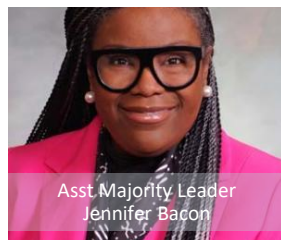
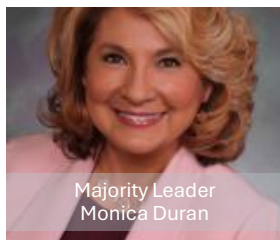
22 members of the Colorado General Assembly this year were appointed via a vacancy committee (that's more than 1 in 5 state lawmakers)

## SENATE

■ Democrats ■ Republicans



## Leadership



# Major Themes



Federal  
Uncertainty



Budget  
Shortfall



Consumer  
Protections



Labor and  
Employment



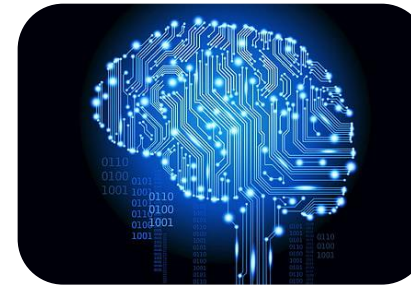
Health Care



Housing



Environmental



Technology



# Big Fights Took Center Stage



New Ride  
Share  
Regulations

Firearms  
Regulation

Labor Peace  
Act

Construction  
Defects  
Reform

Artificial  
Intelligence

Transgender  
Rights

Immigration

340B

*"So prolonged has the hospital and pharma lobbying been that if you as a legislator about the 340B drug discount program, you can practically see the light slowly leave their eyes." (The Denver Post, May 1)*

# Navigating Another Difficult Budget Year



\$43.9B  
budget  
passed

**\$1.2B  
shortfall = 7%  
cut to \$17B  
General Fund**

CHASE fund  
held harmless

Cuts to  
transportation  
funding, social  
programs, and  
local agencies

1.6%  
Medicaid  
provider rate  
increase





# CHA 2025 Legislative Agenda



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# 2025 Legislative Agenda At-A-Glance



## Medicaid Optimization and Accountability



1

### **CHASE Program:**

Maximize Federal Funding

2

### **RAC Audits:**

Improve Efficiency & Decrease Provider Burden

3

### **Medicaid Enrollment:**

Correct Colorado's Coverage Trajectory

## Hospital Sustainability and Patient Care



4

### **Facility Fees:**

Protect Access Throughout the State

5

### **340B Program:**

Safeguard Availability of Life-Saving Treatment

6

### **Rural Health:**

Strengthen Facilities & Communities

# Rate Setting Defeated → Funding for Safety Net



## Rate Setting (HB 25-1174)

- Sets limits on how much insurance carriers must reimburse health care providers
- Restricts facilities from billing any outstanding balance not paid by the carrier other than application in-network coinsurance

**FAIL**

## Funding for Safety Net (SB 25-290)

- Creates the Provider Stabilization Fund
- Funded by a loan from the Unclaimed Property Trust Fund
- Provides provider stabilization payments to safety net providers

## State Directed Payment Program (HB 25-1213)

- CHA amendment gives CHASE/HCPF the authority to:
  - Receive IGTs into the Hospital Provider Fee cash fund
  - Continue development of SDP pre-print
- CHASE is now an umbrella with distinct programs within it:
  - Hospital Provider Fee
  - Nursing Home Fee
  - Intermediate Care Facility Fee
  - Disability Buy-In Premiums
- No Changes to the CHASE Board

**PASSED**



# 340B Program: Safeguard Availability of Life-Saving Treatment



This year, legislators face a crucial choice that will impact the future of the 340B Drug Pricing Program in Colorado and the benefits it provides to patients.

Vote **YES**  
on SB 25-071

**PASSED**

## Keeps money in Colorado:

- Stops the national effort from Big Pharma to weaken 340B
- Keeps drug companies from restricting the benefits to hospitals and their communities
- Maintains important benefits that improve access to care, reduce costs, and help keep local hospitals and health centers viable

## Increases transparency:

- Requires annual reporting of a hospital's aggregate 340B benefit
- Details how the program money is spent by 340B entities to help their patients and communities
- Ensures that 340B savings continue to be used for patient care

Vote **NO**  
on SB 25-124

**FAIL**

## Takes needed funds from Colorado:

- Threatens the \$700 million currently available for charity care and health care services
- Limits access for low-income patients to lifesaving, highly specialized care

## Gives money to Big Pharma:

- Places reporting requirements on care providers that are incredibly burdensome
- Will make participation in 340B program untenable
- With fewer communities benefitting from 340B, all savings go back to Big Pharma's pockets



# RAC Audits: Improve Efficiency & Decrease Provider Burden



## CHA secured major reforms to Colorado's Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) Program through SB 25-314:

- Set clear limits on how many audits can happen — and include safeguards against overly aggressive tactics
- Shorten how far back auditors can go when reviewing past claims
- Improve accuracy by involving clinical experts in the audit process
- Prevent audits on hospital claims that Medicare already says must be inpatient
- Make audit rules and procedures easier to understand and follow
- Improve communication between auditors and providers
- Give hospitals more opportunities to engage and increase transparency
- Reduce incentives that encourage unnecessary or excessive audits

**PASSED**



# Rural Health: Strengthen Facilities & Communities



Rural hospitals are the economic engines of their communities and are constantly forced to do more with less. 85% of Colorado's rural hospitals provide care without sustainable operating margins.



Your zip code should not determine your health. By providing support for rural hospitals, Colorado can ensure that our rural health care system is strong, available, and sustainable.



**CHA-led HB 25-1085 was signed by the governor**

- Revises County Hospital Statutes to improve county hospital operations and governance

**PASSED**



A black and white photograph of the Colorado State Capitol building, featuring its prominent dome and classical architecture. The image is partially obscured by a dark blue horizontal band across the middle. Bare trees are visible on the left, and a large evergreen stands on the right. An American flag and the Colorado state flag fly on a tall pole to the right of the dome. The foreground shows a street with parked cars and a sidewalk.

# New Laws Impacting Hospitals



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# Response to Federal Uncertainty



## EMTALA

SB 25-130 – Aligns state law with EMTALA by requiring emergency facilities to provide non-discriminatory, timely care, and sets standards for patient transfer and discharge



## Immigration

SB 25-276 – Expands guardrails for disclosing personal identifying information unless required by state or federal law



## Legal Protections for Transgender Individuals

HB 25-1312 – Expands the definition of gender to include chosen name and how an individual chooses to be addressed



# Hospital Operations



**Pushed to 2026**

Antitrust  
SB 25-198

Expands notice requirements for mergers, acquisitions, and other material transactions involving hospitals and health care entities

Statute of Limitations  
HB 25-1226

Consider legislative changes that determine if patients are receiving timely billing for health care services

Physician Non-competes  
SB 25-083

Restricts the use of non-compete agreements for the practice of medicine, APRNs, midwives, and dentistry, and allows providers to disclose information



# Increase Consumer Protections



## Junk Fees

HB 25-1090

Requires sellers to clearly disclose the total price of goods and services



## Price Gouging

HB 25-1010

Creates new protections against price gouging during declared disaster emergencies



## Significant Impact

SB 25-157

Eliminates the significant public impact test



## Artificial Intelligence

SB 25-318

Would've delayed implementation of SB 24-205 to Jan. 1, 2027 and redefined "high-risk AI"



# Business and Labor



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## **Regulatory Reform (SB 25-306)**

Requires the state Auditor's Office to conduct performance audits in the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division and the Division of Labor Standards and Statistics

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## **Workers' Compensation (HB 25-1300)**

Expands patients' choice of doctors in the workers' compensation system

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## **Labor Peace Act (SB 25-005)**

Removes the requirement in the Colorado Labor Peace Act that 75% of workers must agree before unions can negotiate union security agreements



# Insurance Carrier Oversight and Reform



## Electronic Communications (SB 25-010)

- Allows insurance documents to be shared electronically with patient consent

## HAIE Update (HB 25-1297)

- Increases the fee cap and adjusts how funds are distributed within the Health Insurance Affordability Enterprise

**FAIL**

## Arbitration of Claims (HB 25-1151)

- Directs DORA to create rules to allow multiple health insurance claims to be grouped together in arbitration

**FAIL**

## EMS Reimbursement (HB 25-1088)

- Establishes a regulatory framework for ground ambulance service billing to allow political subdivisions to submit rates, sets reimbursement limits for OON, and prohibits balance billing

## Medical Necessity (HB 25-1002)

- Requires insurance plans to offer behavioral health, mental health, and substance use disorder coverage that is medically necessary

## Single Payer (SB 25-045)

- Directs the Colorado School of Public Health to review and analyze proposed legislation to create a single-payer, nonprofit health care system



# Care Delivery & Disease Response



## Workplace Violence Prevention (SB 25-166)

- Adds a workplace violence metric to HQIP and establishes a stakeholder group

## Badging Requirements (SB 25-152)

- Requires practitioners wear a visible badge and communicate their license or certificate upon first patient encounter

## 14-day Blood Retention (SB 25-273)

- Requires hospitals to retain blood samples for 14 days following a coroner's request

## Death Certificates (HB 25-1082)

- Allows PAs and APRNs to complete death certificates

## CDPHE Disease Control (HB 25-1027)

- Updates several public health laws related to emergency preparedness, school immunizations, agency reporting, and access to Hep C testing



# Behavioral Health Support



## Behavioral Health Crisis Response

(SB 25-042)

- Expands support for co-responder teams and mobile crisis units

## Voluntary Do Not Sell List

(SB 25-034)

- Creates a voluntary process for individuals to temporarily give up their right to buy a firearm



# Accountability in Climate Impact



## Building Decarbonization

HB 25-1269

- Sets new building performance standards for 2040 and creates a state-led program to support emissions reduction and energy efficiency



## Require Disclosure of Climate Emissions

HB 25-1119

- Requires large companies operating in Colorado with over \$1 billion in annual revenue to publicly report their greenhouse gas emissions



# Veto & Potential Vetoes



NEWS: POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Jared Polis plans to veto Labor Peace Act bill, a priority for Colorado unions

TRANSPORTATION | POLITICS | TECH

Colorado Lawmakers "Beg" Governor to Sign Rideshare Safety Bill Despite Threats From Uber  
Uber says it will leave Colorado if the governor doesn't veto a bill intended to help prevent sexual assaults in rideshares.

Labor Peace Act

Uber/Lyft

Workers' Comp

Veto?

LOCAL NEWS  
Colorado legislature will not vote to overturn Polis's veto of an open records bill

TOP STORY

Colorado Senate overrides Gov. Jared Polis veto of social media bill

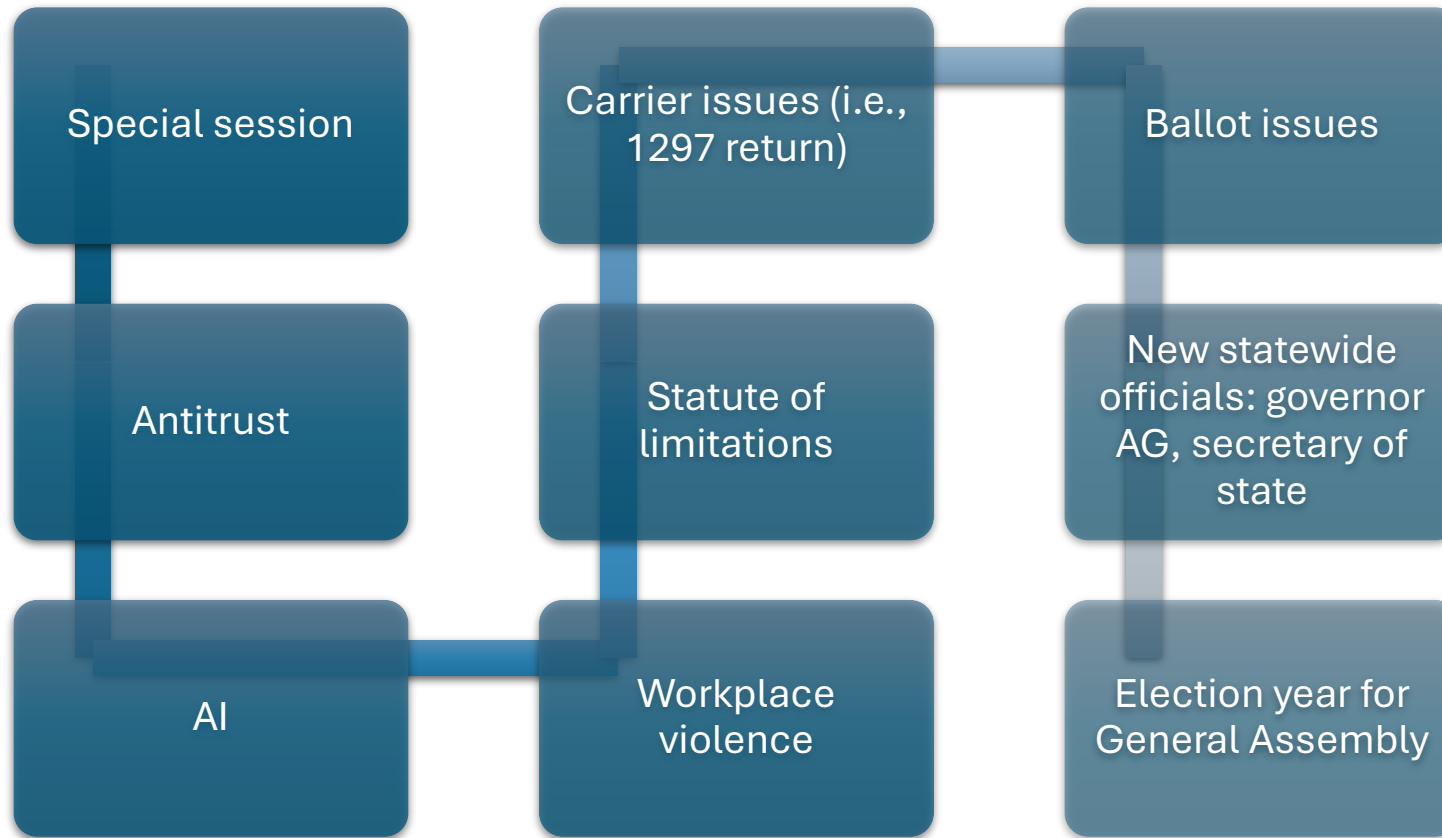
CORA

Social Media Restrictions

VETOED!

VETOED!

# What to Expect Heading into 2026



# CHA Resources Available to You



## *Additional Resources:*

2025 Annual  
Legislative  
Report

CHA  
Regulatory  
Issue Briefs

Hospital  
Community  
Data  
Dashboard are  
available at  
[www.cha.com](http://www.cha.com)

*Please let us  
know if  
you'd like to  
be added to  
the monthly  
CHA  
Regulatory  
Update  
newsletter  
and call*



# Interactive Data Dashboards

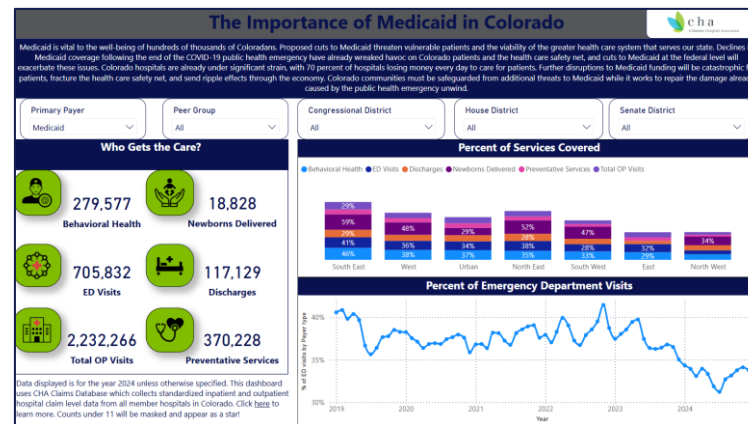
## By Hospital

*Details on patient visits, payer mix, community support*



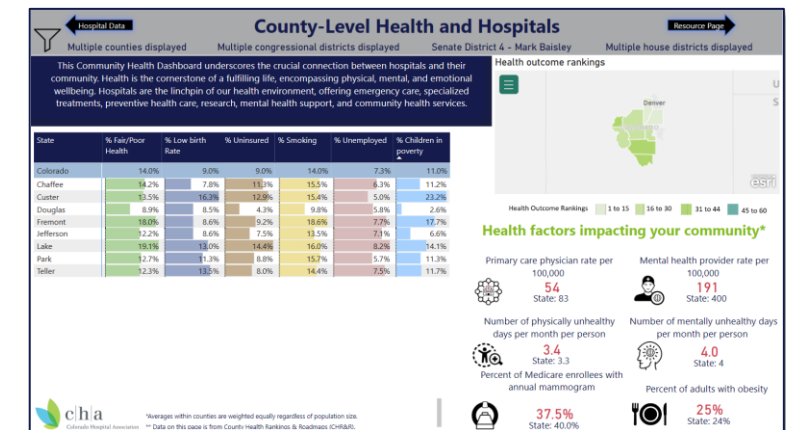
## Medicaid Impact

*Details on care for patients with Medicaid and uninsured*



## By Community

*Community-level health and health care details*



*Dashboards are searchable by county, Congressional District, and state House and Senate districts*

# Questions?

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# Thank You for Your Advocacy & Partnership!



## Hospitals Answered CHA's Call:

Between the 340B and rate setting campaigns,  
advocates sent 2,740 messages to legislators:



1,648



822

