



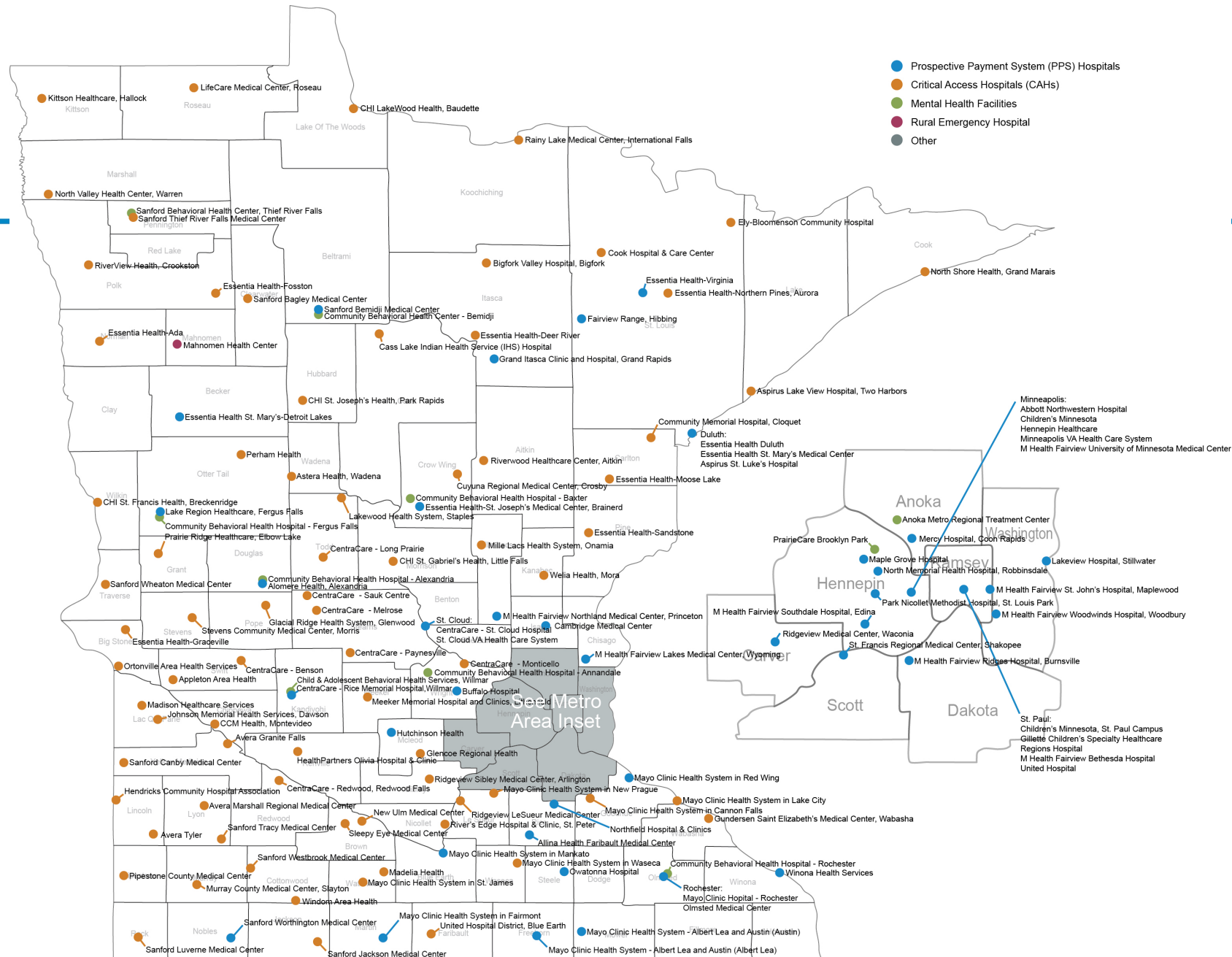
Minnesota Hospital Association

A Closer Look at Minnesota's Hospitals and Health Systems

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Hospitals in Minnesota

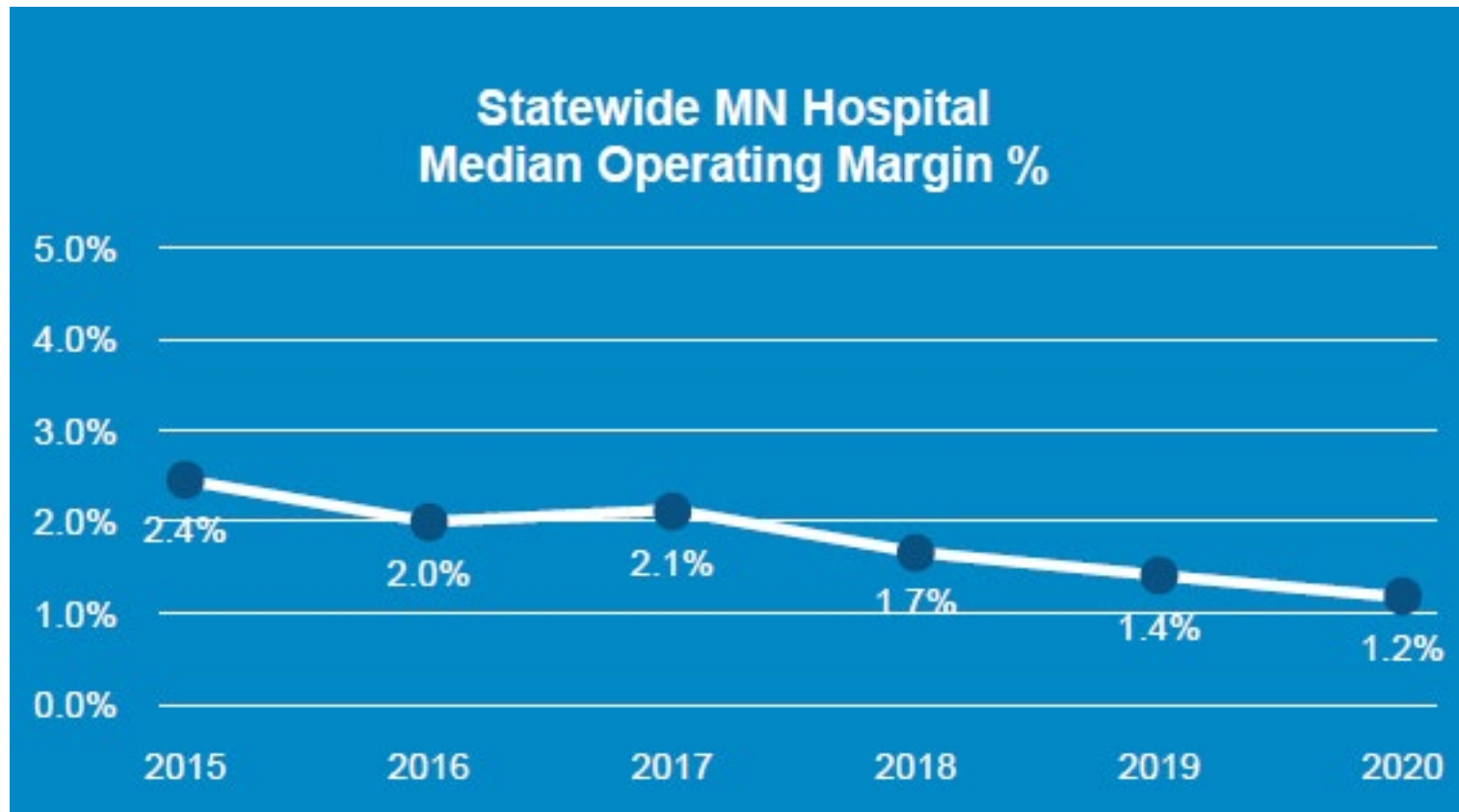
History of government & non-profit entities

- MHA represents 140 hospitals
- 77 are rural Critical Access Hospitals (less than 25 beds)
- 54 PPS hospitals (Prospective Payment System)
- 7 state operated hospitals (Anoka Metro Regional Treatment Center & 6 Community Behavioral Health Hospitals)
- 2 Veterans Hospitals
- 34 are independent hospitals (28 CAHs & 6 PPS Hospitals)
- 19 District, County or City owned – government affiliated
- 109 (78%) hospitals are classified as rural

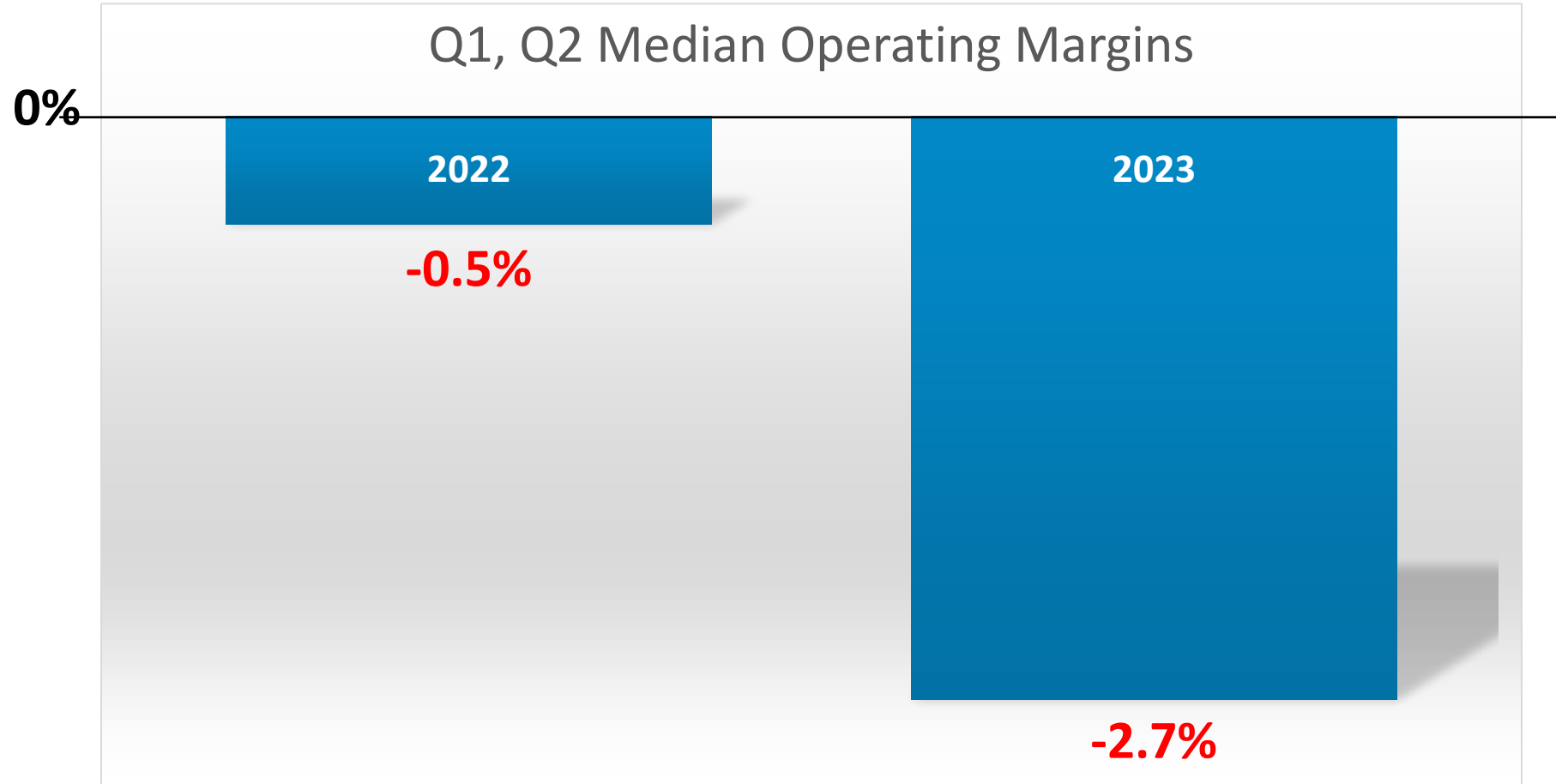
Minnesota's Nonprofit Hospitals: Providing Health and an Economic Engine

- **\$67.6 Billion in Economic Output:** Nonprofit hospitals and health systems generate a massive economic impact statewide.
- **\$39.3 Billion Added to Minnesota's GDP:** A significant contribution to the state's economic stability and growth.
- **\$31 Billion in Labor Income:** Providing stable, well-paying jobs that sustain families and local economies.
- **388,741 Jobs Supported:** Directly employing 186,144 workers and supporting 202,597 additional jobs through related industries.

Historical look at statewide Hospital Operating Margin Trend



2023 vs 2022 margins



Negative margin drivers

1. Gov't payer mix for hospitals increased to 64%.
 - Medicare (est. 20% below cost)
 - Medicaid (est. 27% below cost)
 - Inpatient FFS 68% of 2019 costs
2. Math problem: 2023 revenues grew 5.3%. But... employee costs grew 6.0% & supply costs grew 6.1%.
3. Uncompensated discharge delays & ED boarding

Hospitals in financial distress

Revenue constraints:

- Medicare & Medicaid reimbursements below cost
- Uncompensated care; discharge barriers
- Services whose reimbursement is below cost

Expense realities:

- Workforce costs: Wage hikes, premium pay, agency staffing costs
- Cost inflation of patient care supplies, pharmaceuticals, EHR, utilities, high-tech equipment, technology, etc.
- Emergency Departments: EMTALA, costs of 24-hour readiness, demand peaks – like now with seasonal flu, COVID, RSV, Norovirus, etc.

Underlying principles of hospital financing

Cost Shifting: Hospitals shift costs to commercial payers to compensate for underpayments from government payers. The problem is the pool of patients with commercial insurance is shrinking. (36%)

- How much is still possible? Percent amount over costs?

Cross Subsidization: Hospitals use positive margin services to support hospital service lines that lose money. This too is shrinking.

- Growth in free standing services. Traditionally, the margin generating services for hospitals.

Example: Surgical services offered in many locations

- Not bad for patients – but, has impacted hospitals.
- Frequently located in more affluent and younger communities.



Hospital discharge delays

Problem #1

- Hospitalized patients who have had their acute care needs met, are stuck in hospital beds awaiting discharge to alternative sites of care.

Problem #2

- Individuals stuck (or boarding) in a hospital emergency department. Frequently do not meet the inpatient criteria. No place else to go.
- Some are children who have been “dropped” of at an Emergency Departments -- due to lack of staffing, complexity of patient, costs. Some are from foster care and group homes.

Not an insignificant problem

And it's on-going

- Data from 2023
- 170,160 inpatient delayed days
- 24,739 ED boarding days

Total = 194,899 DC delayed days

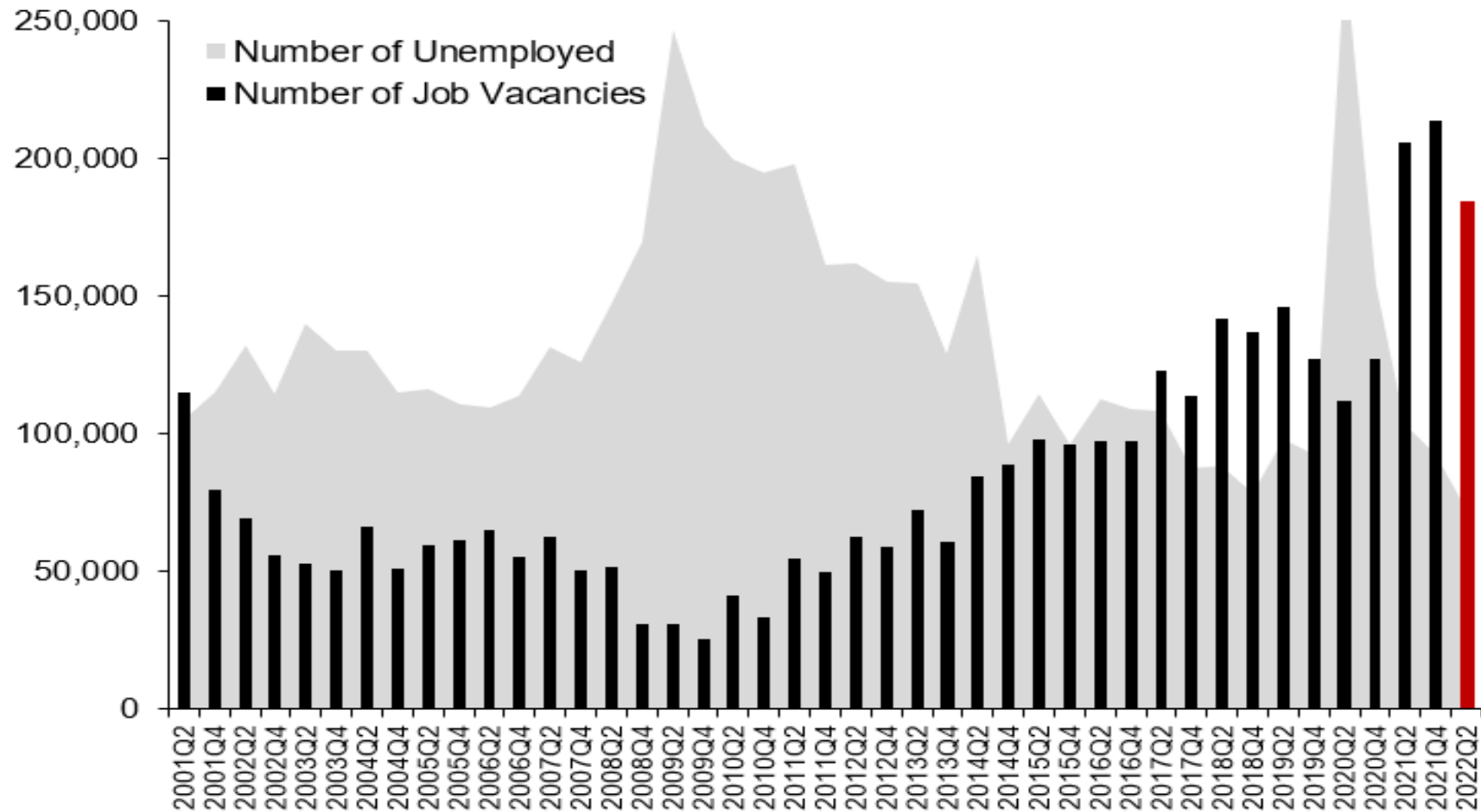
Statewide estimated uncompensated cost:

\$487 million

Job Vacancies and Unemployed, 2001 –2022



Figure 1. Minnesota Job Vacancies and Unemployed, Second Quarter 2001 to Second Quarter 2022



Four major concerns with future workforce

- More workers are preferring to work part-time
- Retirement rates will rise as the Baby Boomers age out of the workforce
- When the economy is soft, care givers find hospital jobs desirable. When the economy is strong, hospitals are in competition with many other food and environmental service employers.
- There are fewer students – which reduces the pool of individuals choosing health care careers.

Hospital community benefit reporting (Passed in the 2024 Session)

- OLA report coming out soon on hospital community benefit.
- Community Health Needs Assessments due to MDH by Jan. 15, 2026.
 - Subsequent updates within 15 days
 - Include description of the community and health needs (separately if not included in CHNA)
- Addendum requirement: Annually submit information about community health improvement services with costs > \$5,000
- Community Benefits implementation strategy
 - Due 1-year after CHNA
 - Identify top 3 health priorities

Hospital Community Contributions

(2024 report with 2023 data)

\$6,208,669,213

Community Contributions

\$1,021,009,159

Uncompensated Care*

\$1,438,324,359

Medicaid Underfunding

\$1,666,807,323

Medicare Underfunding

*Uncompensated care is the combination of
charity care and bad debt.

Pending worries

- The importance of the federal 340B outpatient prescription drug program for all qualifying hospitals.
 - Hospitals are dependent on being able to purchase drugs at a discounted price.
 - Congress intended hospitals to use the money to stretch limited resources.
 - Pharmaceutical companies are trying to turn state and federal lawmakers against the program.
- What changes in the Medicaid program could be forth coming from the federal government?
 - Context: Minnesota receives about \$12.1 billion a year from the federal government for the state's Medicaid program. *(Our percentage of federal dollars in support of our MA program is lower than most states.)*