

HOSPITALS SUPPORT COMMUNITIES

Communities prosper when they can offer affordable energy, transportation, good schools and a range of health care services.

Access to high-quality health care is an important part of a healthy local economy. Hospitals support communities by providing direct medical care, jobs, health education, disaster response, and financial support for community agencies.

Hospitals in Washington State are also working to reduce the cost of health care and make patients healthier and safer-- in and outside of the hospital.



In 2013, hospitals in Washington State:

Cared for people during 630,000 inpatient and 12 million outpatient visits



Provided over \$422 million in charity care to patients (actual costs - not charges)**



Employed more than 115,000 people across the state and paid more than \$6 billion in salaries and wages*



Absorbed \$606 million in unpaid Medicare costs and \$1.3 billion in unpaid Medicaid costs



Saved \$235 million in health care spending through improved quality and more than \$33 million through ER is for Emergencies (2012 -2014)#



Provided more than \$376 million in community-building activity*** such as:

- Medical research
- Ongoing education for physicians and nurses
- Community health activities (eg., breast cancer screenings, nutrition and diabetes education)
- Support for local organizations



Every direct dollar in health care spending creates \$1.40 in business activity for Washington State communities. Hospitals and health care systems are also significant parts of our state's growing biotech industry.

*2013 Employment data from American Hospital Association includes full-time and part-time; wage and salary information is from FY 2013 WA DOH Year-end financial statements for 80 out of 99 Washington State hospitals.

\$235M based on AHRQ estimates; \$33M from Washington State Health Care Authority

**Charity care costs from the 2013 Medicare Cost Report. According to state DOH/Databank data, charity care charges for the first three quarters of 2014 dropped due to successful implementation of the Affordable Care Act in Washington State.

***Community benefit data from 2013 IRS Form 990, reported by 29 non-profit hospitals and systems. All other data included in this publication comes from Databank and DOH/CHARS year end reports.

