



Maryland
Hospital Association

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News Release

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MARYLAND'S HOSPITALS TOP \$1.5 BILLION IN COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Elkridge, Md. – Maryland's hospitals have set a record by providing more than \$1.5 billion in community benefits in the past year. Community benefits are programs and services that address identified health needs and make sure people who can't afford care still receive it.

Community benefits include work that goes beyond traditional care provided in the emergency department, the operating room, or in a hospital bed. According to the Health Services Cost Review Commission's (HSCRC) [*Maryland Hospital Community Benefits Report*](#) released Sept. 10, Maryland's hospitals provided \$1.505 billion (11 percent of operating expenses) in community benefits during fiscal year 2013. In fiscal year 2004, the first year HSCRC reported community benefit data, hospitals provided \$586.4 million (6.9 percent of operating expenses).

Maryland's hospitals provide programs and services that respond to identified needs in their communities for which hospitals receive partial, or no, compensation. Community benefits include:

- Health services for vulnerable or underserved people
- Financial or in-kind support of public health programs, such as management of chronic diseases like asthma and diabetes
- Donations of funds, property, or other resources that contribute to a community priority, such as addressing obesity, preventing substance abuse, or providing health care services for the homeless
- Health care cost containment activities, like free health education programs that can help people manage their conditions without the need for more costly services

- Health screening and prevention services

The way Maryland's hospitals are paid for their services is unique in the nation. The HSCRC sets the rates that hospitals are allowed to charge, and all payers, whether private insurance companies, individuals, or businesses, pay the same amount for the same service at the same hospital. Operating under an agreement with Medicare that allows the system to exist, Maryland's hospitals now have fixed annual budgets to care for all those who need it.

“Maryland's hospitals are working under tight margins to provide care for those in need,” said Carmela Coyle, President & CEO of the Maryland Hospital Association. “The new data on community benefits demonstrate hospitals' commitment to caring for everyone, no matter what their circumstances, and to making all our communities healthier.”

The fiscal year 2013 community benefits report reflects the HSCRC's 10th year of reporting on community benefit data. Each hospital report is submitted via a standard reporting form developed by the HSCRC.

About the Maryland Hospital Association

The Maryland Hospital Association (MHA) is the advocate for Maryland's hospitals, health systems, and their patients before legislative and regulatory bodies. Its membership is comprised of community and teaching hospitals, health systems, specialty hospitals, veterans' hospitals, and long-term care facilities. For more information, visit www.mhaonline.org.