

IN CRITICAL CONDITION

THE FRAGILE STATE OF CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS

58 Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) provide essential medical care to rural communities across the state. Each CAH maintains 25 or fewer beds and directly contributes an average of 265 jobs to the local economy. Unfortunately, recent Congressional proposals could harm CAHs and their continued ability to provide access to care.



BRIDGING GAPS IN ACCESS TO CARE

Wisconsin's 58 CAHs—small, rural hospitals—provide access to care close to home. They serve as a backbone of rural health care in Wisconsin.

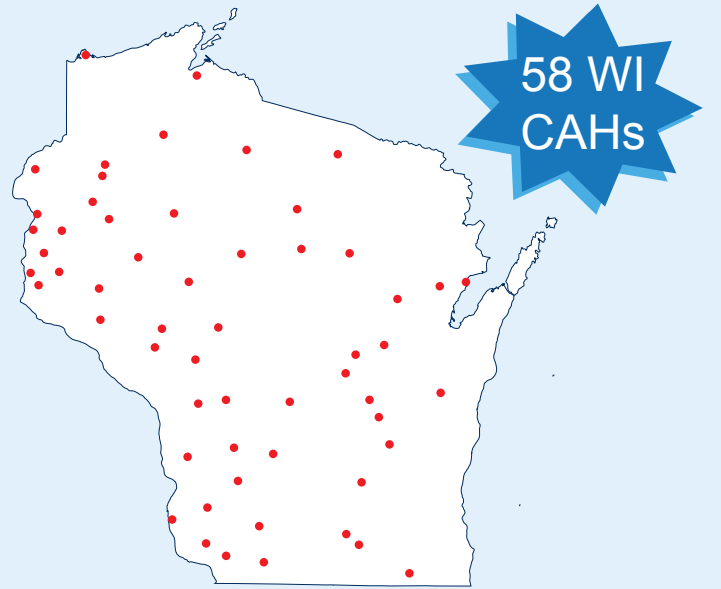
ANNUAL SERVICES PROVIDED TO PATIENTS

383 THOUSAND patients treated in CAH emergency departments.

2.47 MILLION outpatient visits to CAHs.

47 THOUSAND patients admitted to CAHs.

6,090 babies delivered at CAHs.



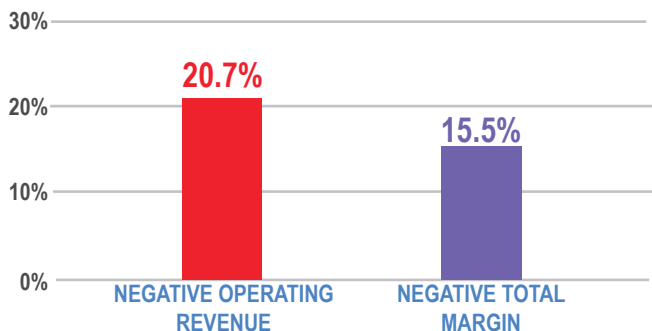
DEDICATED TO RURAL COMMUNITIES

CAHs are located in 43 of Wisconsin's 72 counties. They are often one of, if not the largest, local employers, providing family-supporting wages that ripple throughout rural communities and that generate tax revenue to support state and local services.

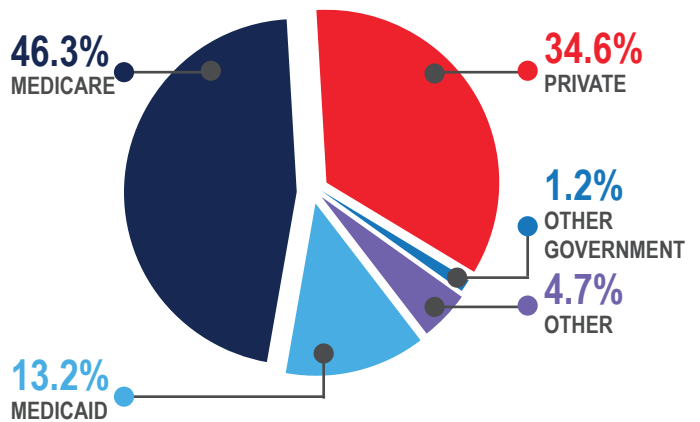
MANY CAHS STILL STRUGGLE

Over 60% of CAH revenue comes from government payers like Medicare or Medicaid which means they do not have the benefit of economies of scale like their larger counterparts. It also means they focus on the most critical care need in their communities. Many CAHs still face difficult operating and/or total margins.

PERCENTAGE OF CAHS WITH NEGATIVE ALL-PAYER MARGINS:



CAH PERCENTAGE OF GROSS REVENUE, BY PAYER:



AN ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT STRUCTURE

The CAH program was enacted by Congress in 1997 to prevent the closure of hundreds of rural hospitals across the country, which, due to their small size and care for disproportionately older, sicker and poorer patients, could not financially survive under Medicare's traditional payment system. Since that time, CAH designation has served Wisconsin's rural communities well.

CAHs make up nearly 45% of acute care hospitals...



...but receive less than 15% of total Medicare payments to hospitals.



FEDERAL ATTACKS ON CAH PAYMENTS WILL DAMAGE A WELL-FUNCTIONING PROGRAM THAT KEEPS ACCESS TO CARE CLOSE TO HOME ACROSS WI.