

LIFE AFTER STEWARD:



MASSACHUSETTS
Health & Hospital
ASSOCIATION

Where Massachusetts Hospitals Stand Now

NOVEMBER 2024

As Massachusetts emerges from the Steward Health Care crisis, now is the time to evaluate the state of the broader healthcare system — and the larger issues it has been facing all along. This sector snapshot highlights key factors, trends, and metrics that are shaping the reality of today's hospitals and healthcare organizations. It also shows what's at stake: an interconnected group of institutions that prop up our communities, economy, and health.

PATIENTS



10% INCREASE IN LENGTH OF STAY

Patients are sicker and older than before, leading to longer hospital stays.

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CAPACITY



UP TO 2,000 STUCK PATIENTS

People cannot access post-hospital and behavioral healthcare, further fueling wait times and bottlenecks.

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SAFETY NET



\$200 MILLION SHORTFALL

Hospitals are the only part of the healthcare system funding the deficit for uninsured patients.

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WORKFORCE



15,000+ VACANCIES

Fewer workers means fewer care beds, worsening the strain on caregivers.

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FINANCIAL PERIL



THE LAST SECTOR TO RECOVER

The median operating margin for all hospitals stands at negative -0.9%.



GROWING COST PRESSURES

New costs driven by insurance, resources, and regulations are adding up.



WHAT'S AT STAKE: A PILLAR OF MASSACHUSETTS LIFE



#1 IN ACCESS & AFFORDABILITY

Massachusetts healthcare sets the national standard for access, innovation, and equitable care.



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Hospitals are the largest employer, economic engine, and charitable partners for their communities.



OPEN 24/7. OPEN TO ALL.

No matter who you are. No matter what you need.

Hospitals are an essential lifeline.



A System Suffocating:

One by one, a growing set of demands are eroding hospitals' stability, driving caregiver burnout, and increasing costs for all.

