

Hospital Markets in Alaska *at a glance*

A snapshot of hospital market structure, concentration, and ownership across the state — and how they've changed since 2000. This analysis reflects data available through May 2026.

In Alaska, the percentage of hospitals owned by a system fell from 59% in 2000 to 29% in 2026. One Red Zone merger has taken place since 2000.

WHAT THIS ANALYSIS COVERS

This analysis focuses on the state's 21 general short-term acute care (GSAC) hospitals — the facilities where most privately insured, Medicare, and Medicaid patients receive inpatient care, and where market concentration most directly affects the prices employers and workers pay. Each hospital's market is defined via a 30-minute travel radius around that facility. Within it, we measure concentration using the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index (HHI) — a standard antitrust metric calculated as the sum of the squared market shares of the owners in a market. HHI ranges from 0 (many small hospitals, low concentration) to 10,000 (a monopoly market, which has a single owner). Our hospital-centric HHI is a consistent analytical proxy for market concentration, not a legally defined antitrust market.

● GSAC Hospitals (21)

● VA / Military

● Psychiatric / Behavioral

● Rehabilitation

● Children's Specialty

Market Concentration

Alaska's hospital markets grew more concentrated between 2000 and 2026; average hospital market HHI increased by 390 points from 8,778 to 9,168. Each of the 21 hospitals in the state has an HHI above 1,800, the threshold the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and Department of Justice (DOJ) consider “highly concentrated.” Over the period, one hospital closed and none opened, a net loss of one hospital. Four transactions, one of which was a “Red Zone” merger, reshaped hospital ownership. A Red Zone merger raises at least one merging hospital's market HHI by over 100 points to above 1,800, which DOJ and FTC guidelines presume is likely to raise prices. Of Alaska's 21 hospitals, 18 now operate in monopoly markets (in 2000, 17 operated in monopoly markets).

2000 | 22 hospitals overall



2026 | 21 hospitals overall



CONCENTRATION SCALE (IN HHI)

● Low (<1,000 HHI) ● Moderate (1,000 to <1,800) ● High (1,800 to <5,000) ● Higher (5,000 to <10,000) ● Monopoly (10,000 HHI)

Explore the data yourself

Our tool has three components. **The Market Explorer** tracks how hospital market concentration has evolved from 2000 to May 2026, drawing on ownership data from the AHA's Annual Survey, validated against state health department filings, SEC disclosures, and public reporting. **The Closures Explorer** tracks hospital closures and openings nationwide, each year since 2000. **The Forecast Lab** uses that same data to model how a proposed merger, closure, or opening would reshape a hospital market as it stood in 2026 — it models the scenarios you specify and does not identify potential mergers.

Note on the data: The tool uses a first-of-its-kind database that we built from scratch. We have done our best to gather and validate the data; however, if you notice an error (e.g., a hospital's name, a merger year) or if you have questions about our methodology, please notify us at HealthCareAffordabilityLab@yale.edu.

Health Care
Affordability Lab
at Yale

Explore Market Concentration at
Markets.HealthCareAffordabilityLab.org



QR code to AK Hospitals

Hospital Markets in Alaska

October 2026

Key Stats

MONOPOLY MARKETS

18 of **21**
86% of hospitals

SYSTEM OWNERSHIP

59% → **29%**
13/22 → 6/21 part of system

RED ZONE TRANSACTIONS

1 of **4**
25% in Red Zone

HOSPITALS LOST (NET)

-1
1 closed, 0 opened

Ownership Shifts

The share of Alaska hospitals owned by a multi-hospital system fell from 59% to 29% between 2000 and 2026, as the number of independently operated hospitals increased from 9 to 15. The largest health system in Alaska is Providence, which operates three hospitals in the state.

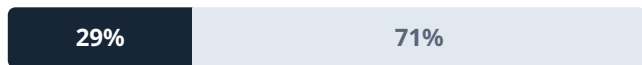
2000 | 22 hospitals overall

13 in 5 systems 9 independents



2026 | 21 hospitals overall

6 in 4 systems 15 independents



Alaska's Largest Systems

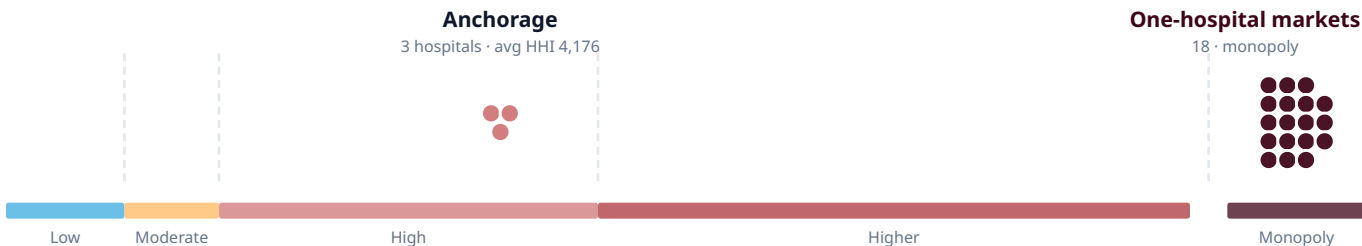
Four systems own 6 of Alaska's 21 hospitals; three of them own one hospital each.

SYSTEM	HOSPITALS IN STATE	AVERAGE MARKET HHI	HOSPITALS WITH CONCENTRATION ABOVE 1,800 HHI
Providence	3	8,059	3 of 3
Community Health Systems	1	10,000	1 of 1
PeaceHealth	1	10,000	1 of 1
HCA Healthcare	1	4,176	1 of 1

Average market HHI reflects the mean HHI across each system's hospitals within the state. HHI is calculated within a 30-minute travel radius of each facility. National hospital data typically lags by one to two years for new openings and recent ownership changes, so figures for 2024–2026 are preliminary and may not yet reflect all recent activity.

Only Anchorage Has More Than One Hospital

Anchorage is the only community in Alaska where more than one hospital operates within a 30-minute drive. Providence Alaska, Alaska Native, and Alaska Regional operate in Anchorage and each have an HHI of 4,176. The other 18 hospitals in Alaska operate in monopoly hospital markets. Just one market changed shape since 2000: when Sitka Community Hospital closed in 2019, Mt. Edgecumbe Medical Center became a monopoly.



Each dot is one of Alaska's 21 hospitals, placed by its 2026 market HHI.