

Hospital Markets in Kansas *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 Kansas, the share of hospitals owned by a hospital system remained relatively steady at 37% in 2000 and 36% in 2026. Seven of the state's 25 transactions qualified as “Red Zone” mergers.

WHAT THIS ANALYSIS COVERS

This analysis focuses on the state's 122 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 (122)
 ☐ VA / Military
 ☐ Psychiatric / Behavioral
 ☐ Rehabilitation
 ☐ Children's Specialty

Market Concentration

Kansas's average hospital market HHI remained relatively steady, from 5,393 in 2000 to 5,401 in 2026. 93% of hospitals operate in markets with an HHI above 1,800, the threshold the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and Department of Justice (DOJ) consider “highly concentrated.” The number of monopoly hospitals remained relatively steady, from 20 in 2000 to 19 in 2026. Over the period, 18 hospitals closed and 10 opened, leading to a net loss of 8 hospitals. Twenty-five transactions reshaped ownership. Seven of those transactions (28%) qualified as “Red Zone” mergers. 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.

2000 | 130 hospitals overall

2026 | 122 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 KS Hospitals

Hospital Markets in Kansas

October 2026

Key Stats

INDEPENDENT HOSPITALS

78 of 122
64% remain independent

AVG HHI CHANGE

+8
5,393 → 5,401

SYSTEM OWNERSHIP

37% → 36%
48/130 → 44/122 part of system

RED ZONE TRANSACTIONS

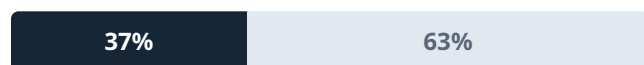
7 of 25
28% in Red Zone

Relatively High Share of Independent Hospitals

Kansas has one of the highest shares of independent hospitals in the country (64%, against 30% nationally). In 2026, 78 of its 122 hospitals (64%) were independent, a small change from 82 (63%) in 2000. The number of system-owned hospitals fell from 48 to 44. The largest system in Kansas is Great Plains Health Alliance (16 hospitals), a rural hospital network, followed by Ascension (4).

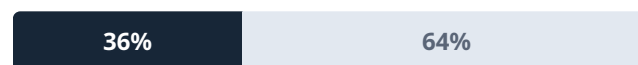
2000 | 130 hospitals overall

■ 48 in 11 systems ■ 82 independents



2026 | 122 hospitals overall

■ 44 in 11 systems ■ 78 independents



Kansas's Largest Systems

Eleven systems own 44 of Kansas's 122 hospitals; most hospitals are independent.

SYSTEM	HOSPITALS IN STATE	AVERAGE MARKET HHI	HOSPITALS WITH CONCENTRATION ABOVE 1,800 HHI
Great Plains Health Alliance	16	5,602	16 of 16
Ascension Healthcare	4	4,575	4 of 4
Saint Luke's Health System	4	3,523	2 of 4

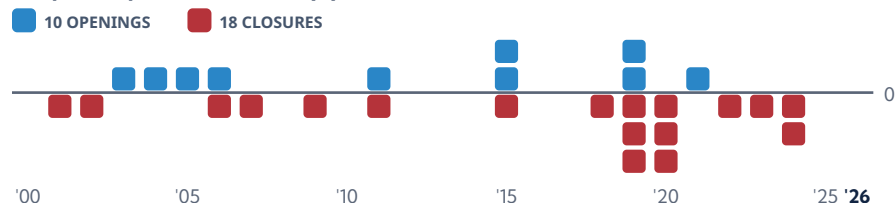
Average market HHI reflects the mean HHI across each system's hospitals within the state. HHI is calculated within a 30-minute travel radius of each facility. National hospital data typically lags by one to two years for new openings and recent ownership changes, so figures for 2024–2026 are preliminary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

Concentration Holding Steady

Kansas's average concentration remained relatively steady from 2000 to 2026, with average market HHI rising just 8 points. Still, average market HHI remained relatively high at 5,401 in 2026, reflecting in part Kansas' rural geography and far distances between hospitals.

Of the state's 25 transactions, 7 qualified as "Red Zone" mergers.

Hospitals opened & closed by year



Transactions by year

