

Hospital Markets in Maryland *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.

Three academic health systems dominate Maryland's hospital markets.

WHAT THIS ANALYSIS COVERS

This analysis focuses on the state's 43 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 (43)** ● VA / Military ● Psychiatric / Behavioral ● Rehabilitation ● Children's Specialty

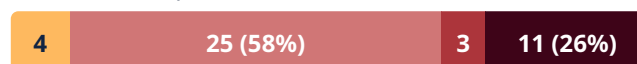
Market Concentration

Since 2000, Maryland's average hospital market HHI has changed little (4,428 in 2000 and 4,595 in 2026). But concentration levels of specific hospital markets have changed. By 2026, 39 of Maryland's 43 hospitals (91%) 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 state now has 15 more hospitals operating in markets with “high” concentration and 16 fewer operating in markets with “moderate” levels of concentration. The number operating in monopoly markets is unchanged, at 11. Of 20 transactions, 4 were “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 | 46 hospitals overall



2026 | 43 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 MD Hospitals

Hospital Markets in Maryland

October 2026

Key Stats

3 LARGEST SYSTEMS

21 of **43**

49% · UMMS + MedStar + Hopkins

HOSPITALS CLOSED

5

Net loss of 3 (2 new opened)

RED ZONE TRANSACTIONS

4 of **20**

20% in Red Zone

AVERAGE HHI INCREASE

+167

4,428 → 4,595

Three systems, half the state

In 2000, no health system in Maryland operated more than four hospitals. By 2026, University of Maryland Medical System's (UMMS) footprint had grown to 10 hospitals, MedStar to 7, and Johns Hopkins Medicine's to 4, making these three systems operators of 21 of the state's 43 hospitals. Five hospitals remain independent, down from 20, as 15 previously independent hospitals were acquired in communities spanning Baltimore, the Eastern Shore, and the suburbs of Washington, D.C.

2000 | 46 hospitals overall

■ 26 in 12 systems ■ 20 independents

57%

43%

2026 | 43 hospitals overall

■ 38 in 12 systems ■ 5 independents

88%

12%

Maryland's Largest Systems

Together, these systems control 21 of 43 hospitals — up from 10 in 2000.

SYSTEM	HOSPITALS IN STATE	AVERAGE MARKET HHI	HOSPITALS WITH CONCENTRATION ABOVE 1,800 HHI
University of Maryland Medical System	10	4,705	9 of 10
MedStar Health	7	3,441	7 of 7
Johns Hopkins Health System	4	1,802	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.

Stable average, diverging markets

Maryland's average market concentration increased modestly since 2000, up 167 points. That average masks sharp movement in opposite directions. Anne Arundel Medical Center, formed by Luminis Health in a 2019 Red Zone merger, sits in a market whose HHI rose 2,564 points, to 5,232. Union Hospital in Elkton, acquired by ChristianaCare, saw its market rise 2,096 points, to 8,683. In Frederick, however, the relocation of Hagerstown hospital (now Meritus Health) brought a second hospital to the market, and the local HHI fell 4,969 points, to 5,031.

MARKET HHI, BEFORE → AFTER EACH TRANSACTION

Anne Arundel

Union Hospital

Frederick Health

