

Hospital Markets in Massachusetts *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 Massachusetts, hospital market concentration increased as 11 hospitals closed and health systems acquired independent hospitals.

WHAT THIS ANALYSIS COVERS

This analysis focuses on the state's 71 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 (71)

● VA / Military

● Psychiatric / Behavioral

● Rehabilitation

● Children's Specialty

Market Concentration

Since 2000, Massachusetts's average HHI has risen 22% from 3,679 to 4,503, and 11 hospitals closed. In 2000, 22 hospitals operated in “moderately concentrated” markets. By 2026, all 71 hospitals are in markets with an HHI above 1,800, the threshold the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and Department of Justice (DOJ) consider “highly concentrated.” Approximately three in ten hospitals in Massachusetts (21 of 71) operate in duopoly or monopoly markets. Sixteen of the 30 transactions in Massachusetts since 2000 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 | 81 hospitals overall

2026 | 71 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 MA Hospitals

Hospital Markets in Massachusetts

October 2026

Key Stats

RED ZONE TRANSACTIONS

16 of **30**

53% in Red Zone

HOSPITALS CLOSED

11

11 closed, 1 opened

4 LARGEST SYSTEMS

35 of **71**

49% · BILH + UMass + MGB + Tufts

AVERAGE HHI INCREASE

+824

3,679 → 4,503

9 in 10 Hospitals Owned by Systems

System ownership in Massachusetts rose from 68% to 92%. Over the past 26 years, multiple hospitals were acquired by systems, reducing the number of independent hospitals from 26 in 2000 down to 6 in 2026. Beth Israel Lahey Health leads with 12 hospitals, followed by Mass General Brigham (9) and UMass Memorial (9). These three systems alone control 30 of the state's 71 hospitals.

2000 | 81 hospitals overall

■ 55 in 16 systems ■ 26 independents



2026 | 71 hospitals overall

■ 65 in 15 systems ■ 6 independents



Massachusetts's Largest Systems

Together, these systems control 30 of 71 hospitals.

SYSTEM	HOSPITALS IN STATE	AVERAGE MARKET HHI	HOSPITALS WITH CONCENTRATION ABOVE 1,800 HHI
Beth Israel Lahey Health	12	3,454	12 of 12
UMass Memorial Health Care	9	5,760	9 of 9
Mass General Brigham	9	4,727	9 of 9

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.

Over Half of All Transactions in the Red Zone

Over half of Massachusetts's transactions, or 16 of 30, qualified as Red Zone mergers, and 10 of them occurred between 2011 and 2016, a period of rapid system formation. This is reflected in rising levels of concentration in hospital markets. By 2026, every Massachusetts hospital operates in a highly concentrated market, up from roughly seven in ten in 2000.

