

Hospital Markets in Mississippi *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 Mississippi, average market concentration rose 19% since 2000 as system ownership climbed from 34% to 51%. The state lost 10 hospitals on net.

WHAT THIS ANALYSIS COVERS

This analysis focuses on the state's 86 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 (86)

● VA / Military

● Psychiatric / Behavioral

● Rehabilitation

● Children's Specialty

Market Concentration

Mississippi's hospital markets grew more concentrated in the past 26 years, with average hospital market HHI rising 19% from 4,505 to 5,381. By 2026, every hospital had 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 increased from 9 to 11. Since 2000, 19 hospitals closed and 9 opened, a net loss of 10. Thirty-three transactions reshaped ownership, 9 of which 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 | 95 hospitals overall

2026 | 86 hospitals overall (1 closed in 2026)



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 MS Hospitals

Hospital Markets in Mississippi

October 2026

Key Stats

SYSTEM OWNERSHIP

34% → 51%

32/95 → 44/86 part of system

AVG HHI INCREASE

+876

4,505 → 5,381

RED ZONE TRANSACTIONS

9 of 33

27% in Red Zone

HOSPITALS LOST (NET)

-10

19 closed, 9 opened

Fewer Independent Hospitals

In 2000, two-thirds of Mississippi's hospitals were independent, but by 2026, the share had fallen to 49% as 12 more hospitals were acquired by systems. The largest operator is Baptist Memorial Health Care (12 hospitals), followed by Community Health Systems (9) and North Mississippi Health Services (6).

2000 | 95 hospitals overall

32 in 12 systems 63 independents

34%

66%

2026 | 86 hospitals overall (1 closed in 2026)

44 in 11 systems 42 independents

51%

49%

Mississippi's Largest Systems

Eleven systems own 44 of Mississippi's 86 hospitals; Baptist Memorial leads.

SYSTEM	HOSPITALS IN STATE	AVERAGE MARKET HHI	HOSPITALS WITH CONCENTRATION ABOVE 1,800 HHI
Baptist Memorial Health Care	12	5,753	12 of 12
Community Health Systems	7	5,101	7 of 7
North Mississippi Health Services	6	6,584	6 of 6

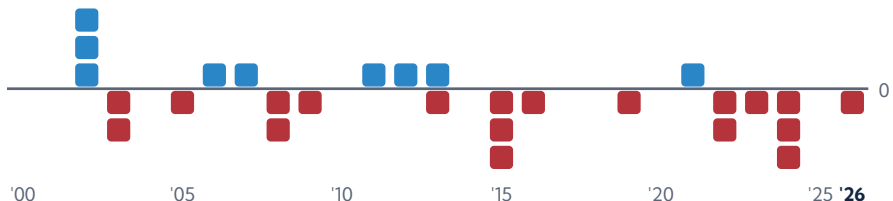
Average market HHI reflects the mean HHI across each system's hospitals within the state. HHI is calculated within a 30-minute travel radius of each facility. National hospital data typically lags by one to two years for new openings and recent ownership changes, so figures for 2024–2026 are preliminary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

Rising Levels of Consolidation

Average hospital market HHI in Mississippi rose by 19% from 4,505 to 5,381. This was driven by 33 transactions, 9 of which qualified as “Red Zone” mergers, as well as a net loss of 10 hospitals.

Hospitals opened & closed by year

9 OPENINGS 19 CLOSURES



Transactions by year

9 RED ZONE MERGERS 24 OTHER TRANSACTIONS

