

# Adventist Health Mendocino Coast Updates



# Healthcare Landscape in California

## California Hospital Performance Continues to Be Challenged

In recent years, California hospitals and health systems have taken unprecedented steps to care for their communities amid significant pressure on staff and resources.

As hospital executives, policymakers, and other healthcare leaders assess the current landscape, key findings about the financial state of California hospitals through the end of 2023 include:

- **Hospital finances remain at risk.** Growing operating losses fueled by sicker patients, combined with declining cash balances and debt loads, are still placing many hospitals in unsustainable financial positions.
- **Margins remain depressed relative to pre-pandemic levels.** Throughout 2023, the hospital operating margin for California remained below its 2019 value, with 70% of hospitals experiencing low or negative operating margins.
- **Hospitals are still experiencing major financial challenges, with no further relief in sight.** Hospitals incurred serious losses relative to pre-pandemic levels—including approximately \$4.7 billion in 2023. Since 2020, hospitals have lost a combined \$25.3 billion.
- **Expenses are still significantly elevated from pre-pandemic levels.** Total expenses in 2023 for California hospitals were \$28.9 billion higher than pre-pandemic levels, outpacing increases in revenue. Rising expenses for labor, medical supplies, and purchased services have contributed to the increase.
- **Hospitals are treating patients with more severe health needs, which is driving higher expenses.** Hospital discharges, ED visits and patient days have returned to—or are slightly above—pre-pandemic levels. However, a significant rise in length of stay suggests that patients who visited hospitals had more severe health needs than prior to the pandemic. Furthermore, labor shortages in post-acute settings and prior authorization policies have prevented timely discharge of patients from the hospitals, leading to an increase in expense without a commensurate increase in revenue.

*This report was prepared at the request of the California Hospital Association.*

# Healthcare Landscape in California

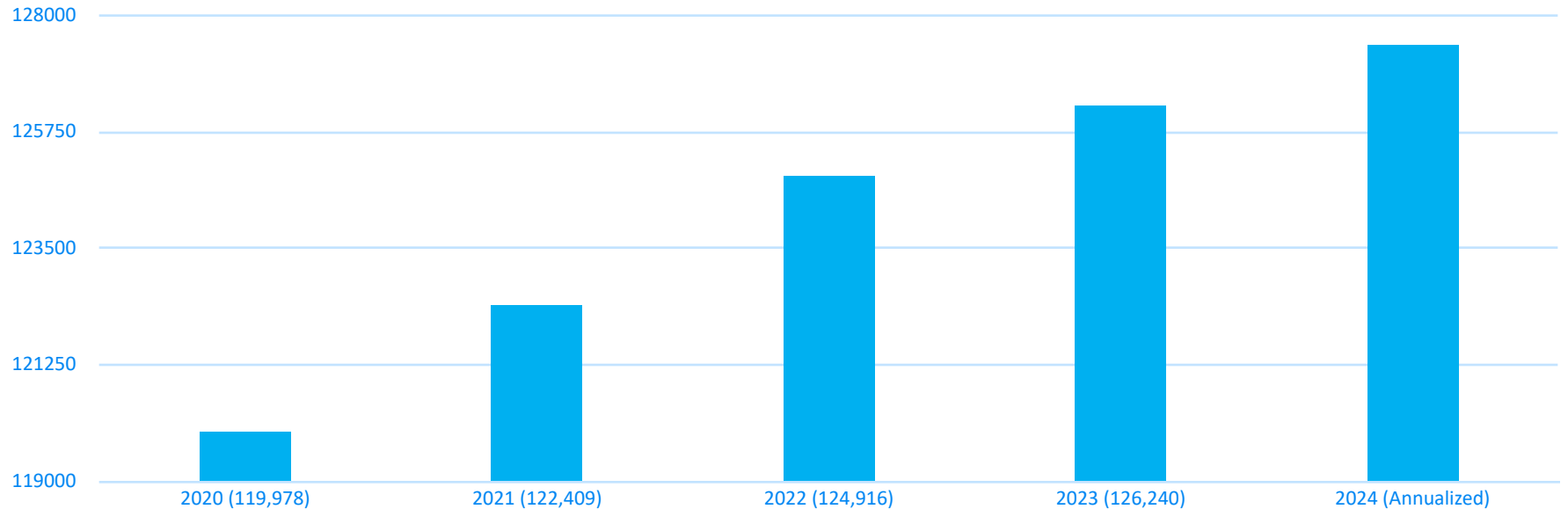
- More than 60 rural community hospitals
- 37 critical access hospitals
- Nearly 60% of California hospitals are losing money every day
- The need:
  - Rural hospitals need immediate financial help, followed by a new financial model that preserves care.



[https://calhospital.org/wpcontent/uploads/2024/04/Preserving-Rural-Health-Care\\_Issue-Brief\\_2024\\_04\\_Final.pdf](https://calhospital.org/wpcontent/uploads/2024/04/Preserving-Rural-Health-Care_Issue-Brief_2024_04_Final.pdf)

# Volume Growth

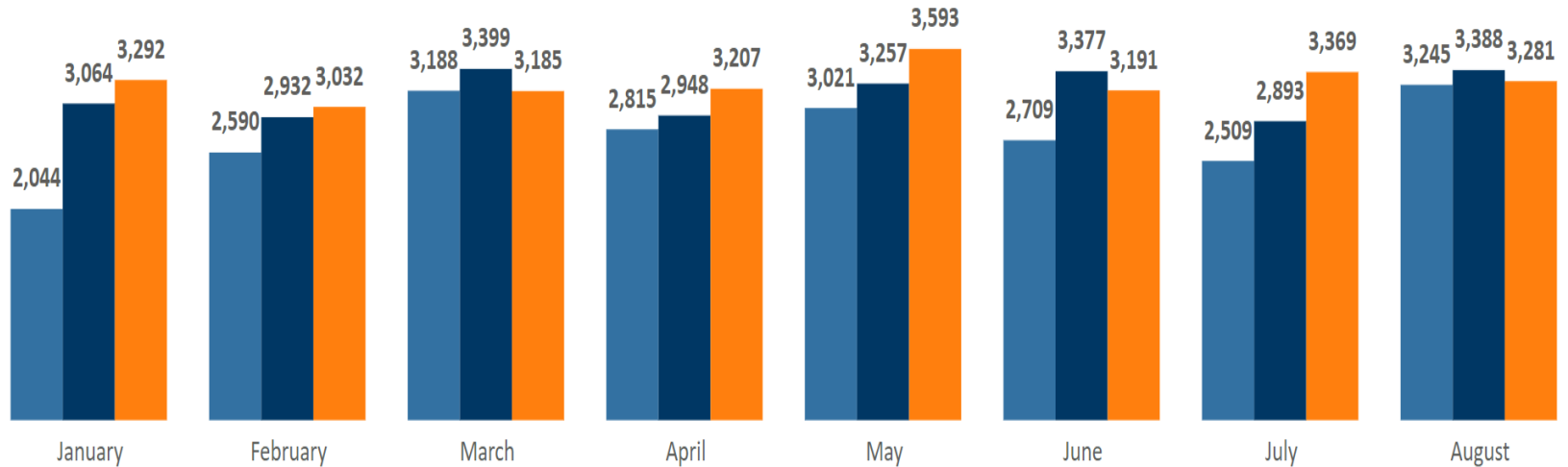
AHMC Laboratory Annual Tests and Panels



# Volume Growth

## Clinics

Year ● 2022 ● 2023 ● 2024



# Diagnostic Imaging's Expanded Hours

- In addition to our current hours, Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM

- NOW OPEN

Every Saturday

8 AM to 5 PM



# Pyxix Safety Medication Dispensing System

- Our old Med-Dispense system was originally designed and launched in 2021
- We will house and dispense over \$1 Million of precious (and, at times, scarce) medications supplies within these new machines over these next 12 months



# New Alaris Infusion Pump

- Our old pumps were manufactured by Sigma Spectrum and launched in the hospital pre-2009.
- Design was at end-of-life, parts and software upgrades were no longer available.
- The new Alaris Pump offers so many more safety features such as pharma-guard.
- Ensures improved patient safety.





# Arrival of New Beds in Med Surge & ICU

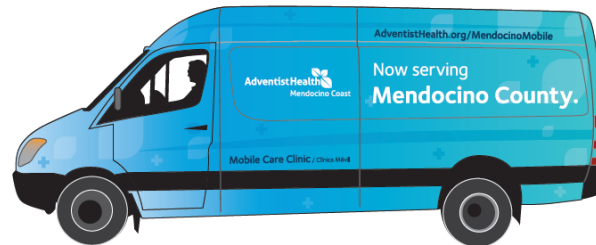
- Our old beds were over 10+ years old.
- New beds provide patients with a more comfortable rest.
- New design replaces bar going down the middle that could be felt when lying down.
- New design is safer for patients and staff.



# Mobile Clinical Services

## Mobile Medical Van

- Coming 2025
- Taking healthcare to the streets
- Senior center, houses of worship, community centers, street medicine, hospitality centers...
- Primary care services (blood pressure clinics, wellness screenings, vaccinations, physicals, first aid services at community events, concerts, sporting events...



# Expanding Surgical Services

## Dialysis Outpatient Surgery

- Access to local dialysis surgery
- Collaboration between AHMC and the Fort Bragg Dialysis Clinic
- Surgical equipment obtained
- Procedures include:
  - Arteriovenous fistulas
  - Arteriovenous grafts



**Mauricio Heilbron, MD**  
General and Vascular Surgery

# Expanding Access to Providers

## Cardiology Services at the Coast



**Paul McWhirter, MD**  
Cardiologist

Dr. McWhirter received his bachelor's in Biology before attending the University of Southern CA Keck School of Medicine where he received a Doctor of Medicine in 1988

# Expanding Behavioral Health

- Specializing in treatment of complex mental health conditions.
- Treatment for patients facing trauma, depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, anxiety disorders, substance use disorders and personality disorders.
- Dr. Spencer received her bachelor's in molecular biology from Princeton and 2-years of medical school at UCSF before receiving her doctorate in clinical psychology from Rutgers University.



**Rikki Spencer, PsyD**  
Clinical Psychologist

# Expanding Pediatrics

- Board certified pediatric nurse practitioner.
- Extensive experience serving children and adolescents.
- Provides well-child and adolescent exams, immunizations, and sports physicals.
- Diagnosis and treatment for childhood illnesses or chronic health concerns.
- Assists parents navigate normal developmental milestones
- Advocate for preventative health.



**Cathy Boyle, NP**  
Pediatrics

# Emergency Preparedness

## Critical Event Management

- Relaunching MIR3 – Emergency Alert System | Providing reliable and effective emergency alerting capabilities to notify hundreds of people at once.
- 2-Way immediate communication
- Improved employee and community Safety.

