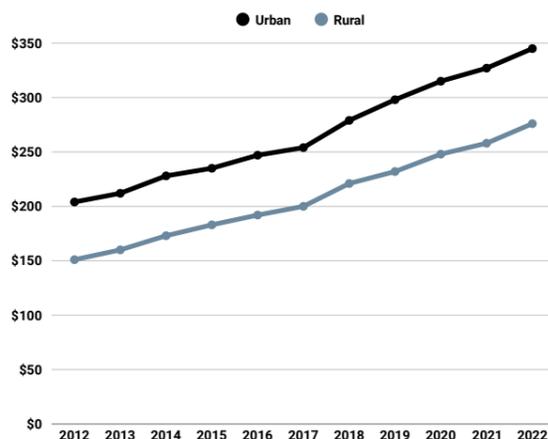


RURAL HOSPITALS FACE LOWER PAYMENTS THAN URBAN HOSPITALS

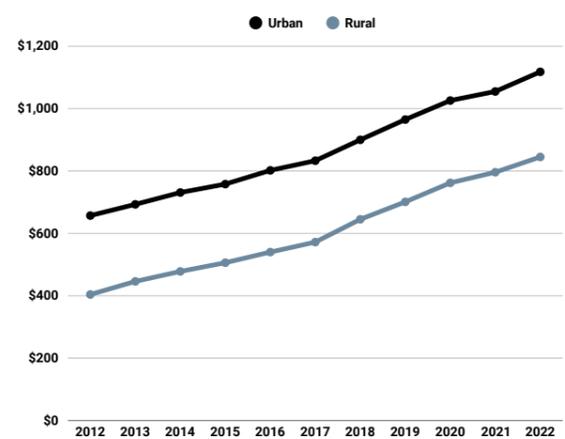
Rural Hospitals are Typically Paid Less than Urban Hospitals

For example, urban hospitals had higher prices for drug administration fees and emergency room evaluation and management services. In 2022, drug administration fees at urban hospitals were 25% higher, on average. Evaluation and management service prices at urban hospitals were 32% higher, on average.

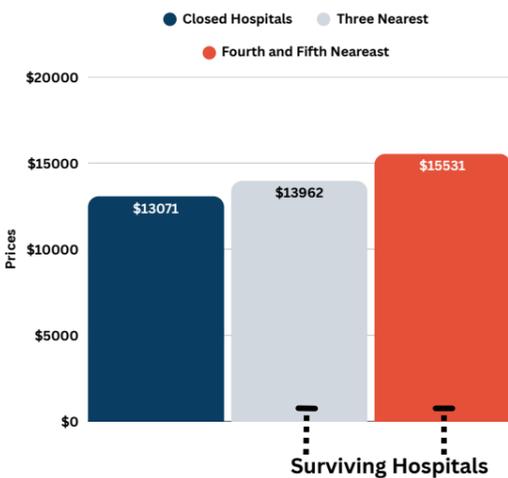
Drug Administration Fees 2012-2022



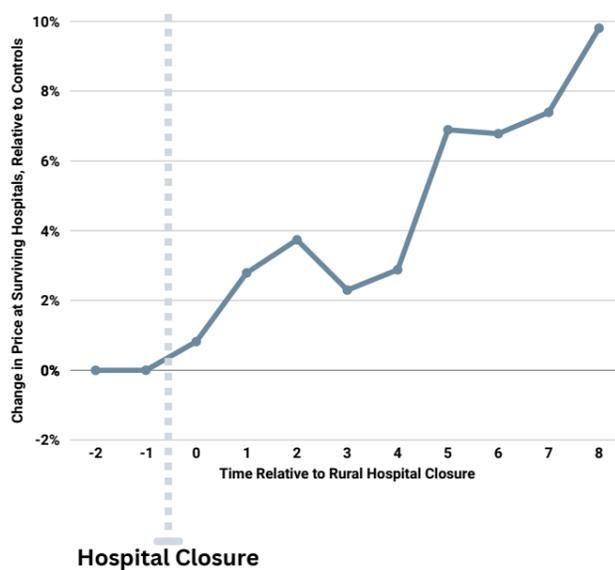
Evaluation & Management Prices, 2012-2022



Inpatient prices at closed rural hospitals and nearby surviving hospitals



Inpatient prices at closed hospitals' 3 nearest surviving hospitals US 2012-2022



Rural Hospitals Struggle for Financial Viability

Rural hospital closures have accelerated in the last decade, leading to less competition among hospitals in local markets.

Inpatient prices of closed rural hospitals were 15% lower than the nearest competitors.

Inpatient prices among surviving hospitals, however, grew by 6%, on average, following rural hospital closures.

Source: Carroll, Caitlin, and Jessica Y. Chang. "Rural Hospital Closures Led To Increased Prices At Nearby 'Surviving' Hospitals, 2012-22: Article examines impact of rural hospital closures on prices at nearby 'surviving' hospitals." Health Affairs 44.5 (2025): 563-571.

Childbirth Prices at Rural Hospitals are Lower than Urban Hospitals

On average, prices for inpatient childbirth deliveries in rural hospitals are 16% lower than urban hospitals. Prices for inpatient childbirth deliveries at urban hospitals grew at a faster rate compared to rural hospitals between 2012 and 2022.

Prices for Inpatient Childbirth, 2012-2022

