



Introduction to VAHHS and Vermont's Hospitals

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VAHHS connects hospitals to policymakers

VAHHS Touchpoints

CEOs
Chief Medical Officers
Chief Nursing Officers
ED Medical Directors
Inpatient Psych Directors
HR Directors
IT Directors
Compliance Officers
Chief Financial Officers



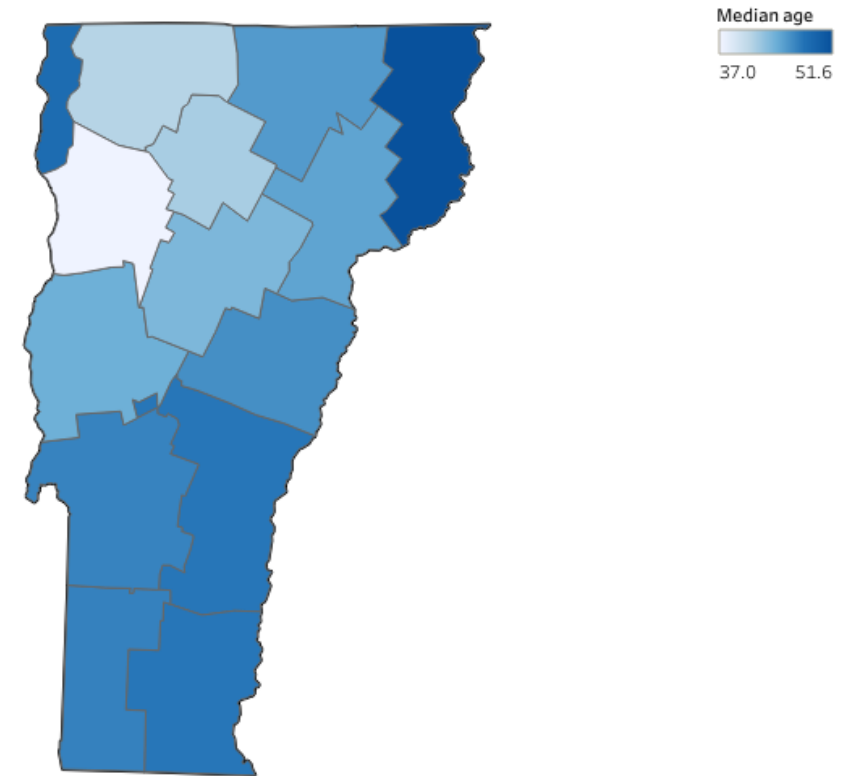
Policymakers

Legislature
State Agencies
Office of the Health Care Advocate
Provider Associations
Congressional Delegation

Vermont Landscape: Rural and Aging Population

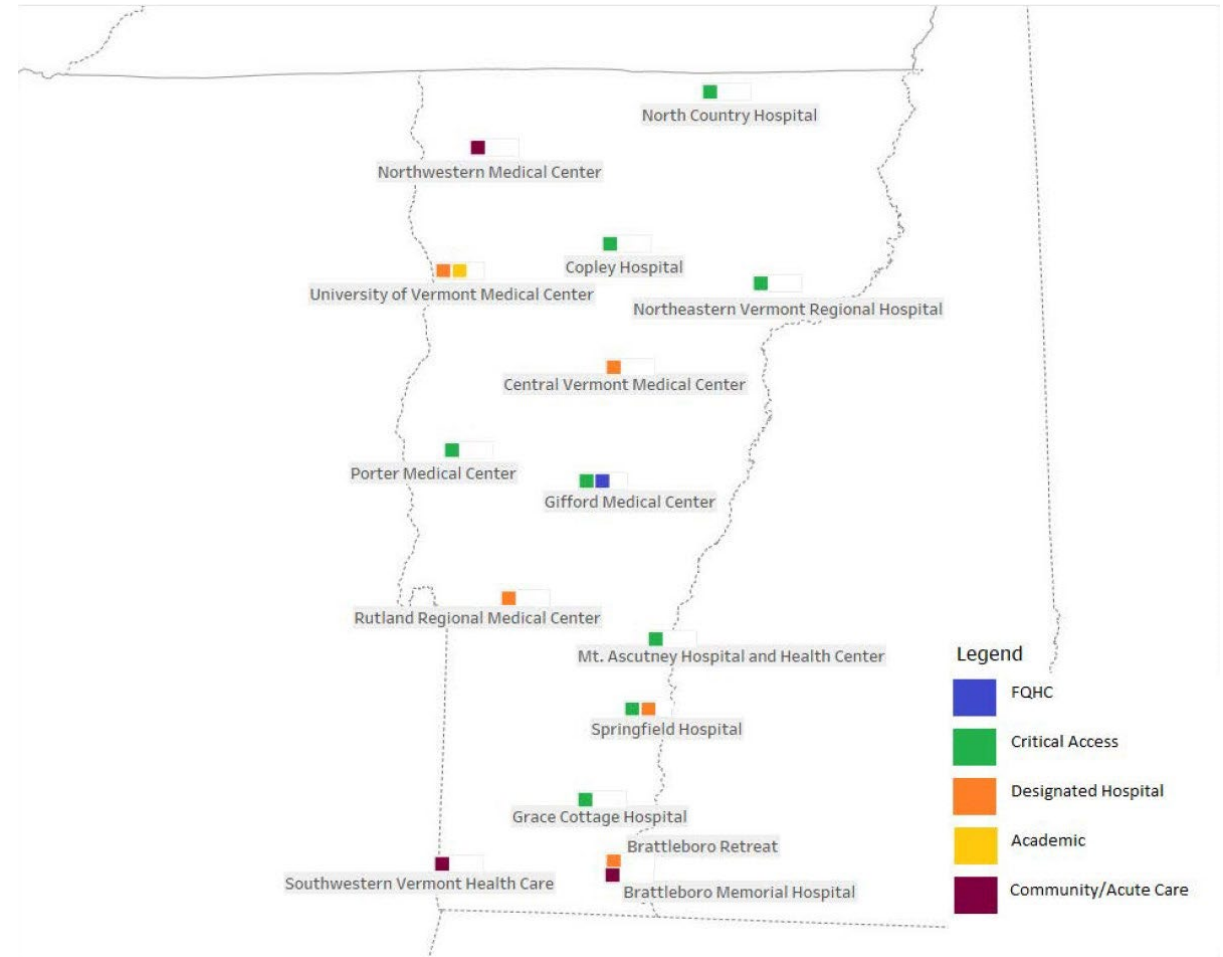
- According to the 2020 census, Vermont is the most rural state in the nation, with 65% of population residing in rural areas
- Vermont is also one of the oldest states in the nation with aging individuals dispersed throughout the state

2020 Census, Median Age



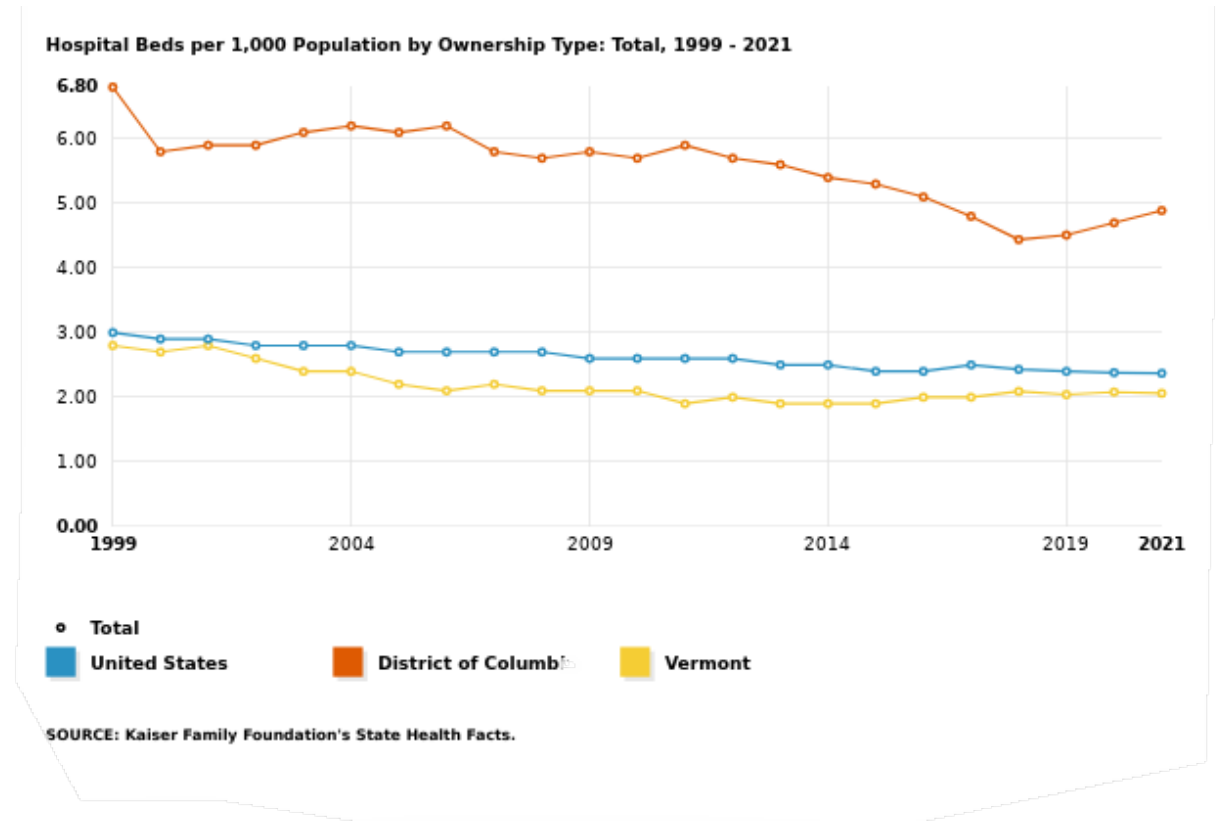
Vermont's Nonprofit Hospital System

- 16 Hospitals
- 8 Critical Access Hospitals
- 1 Academic Medical Center
- 7 Inpatient Psychiatric Care
- 1 Veteran's Affairs Hospital



Vermont's Hospitals in Context

- Half the beds per capita of Washington D.C., despite similar-sized population
- Lower per capita for beds than the national average
- Vermont consistently ranks as one of top five healthiest states



Vermont's Hospitals are Highly Regulated

Federal Regulation: 629 regulatory requirements

- Conditions of Participation
- IRS Tax Code

Green Mountain Care Board

- Budget review
- Certificate of Need
- Health Resources Allocation Plan
- Hospital Sustainability

Department of Health

- Licensure
- Community Health Needs Assessment
- Hospital Report Cards
- Emergency Management

Department of Mental Health

- Inpatient Designation Authority
- Coordination of Care

Hospitals and Health Care Reform



- Funding from hospitals disbursed to community providers via OneCareVT
- Hospitals are partnering with community organizations to address social determinants of health
 - Homelessness
 - Food insecurity
 - Alternatives to emergency departments

Hospitals are in Financial Crisis

- Statewide, hospitals have a **negative 1.9%** operating margin
- 9 out of 14 hospitals have negative operating margins
 - 65% of expenses are labor
 - 30% of expenses are medical and surgical supplies and pharmaceuticals
- Inflation is also a factor- historically, hospital growth has been lower than medical inflation

Vermont's Cost Shift is Real



HEALTH MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES

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- Medicaid and in many cases, Medicare, do not cover the current costs of delivering care to their patients.
- This puts enormous pressure on hospitals to ensure that commercial payers cover both the cost of delivering care to commercial patients and the unpaid costs of delivering care to Medicare and Medicaid patients. This is unsustainable.

Health Care System in Crisis



Emergency Dept.

- 30 people needing mental health care boarding in EDs, half for longer than 24 hours
- 25 patients boarding in ED waiting for a medical surgical bed
- Increase in workplace violence



ICU/Medical Surgical

- Last week, medical surgical beds were over 97% full
- Largest hospitals were at 100% capacity
- 3-6 ICU beds available



Sub-Acute Care

- Last week, 137 patients were waiting for discharge because there were no placement options
- Hospitals have seen 35% of inpatient beds filled by patients waiting to be discharged

VAHHS Advocacy Agenda

- Need to ensure access to health care for Vermonters
 - Long term care
 - Mental health
 - Public safety
 - Including addressing workplace violence
 - Regulatory opportunities
- Workforce
- Consider entire system when examining policies

