

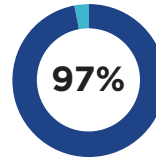
# HOSPITAL CONSOLIDATION AFFECTS US ALL



Evidence shows that **hospital consolidation raises hospital prices without resulting in gains in quality**. High prices are the primary driver of high health care costs for the 180M Americans with commercial insurance. ([KFF](#))



In 2022, people with private health insurance were on average charged **254%** of what Medicare would have paid for the same services. ([RAND](#))



**97% of hospital markets** are considered highly concentrated. ([KFF](#))

## PATIENTS + CONSUMERS

### HIGHER PREMIUMS

# \$25,572/yr

In 2024, the **average premium for family coverage** was \$25,572 per year, an increase of 24% over the last five years. ([KFF](#))

### HIGHER OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS WHEN CARE IS NEEDED



In 2024, nearly **one in three workers (32%) had a plan deductible of \$2,000 or more** (of workers with single coverage and a general deductible). ([KFF](#))

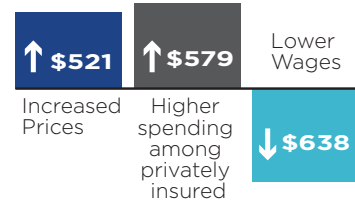
### MEDICAL DEBT AND FINANCIAL STRAIN ARE KEY CONSEQUENCES OF HIGH PRICES.

# 100M

 Americans face medical **debt**. ([KHN/NPR](#))

### LOWER WAGES ([RAND](#))

Researchers have found that hospital mergers lead to:



### ACCESS



About four in 10 U.S. adults say they have **delayed or gone without medical care** in the last year due to cost. ([KFF](#))



**Health care consolidation** reduces patient choice and does not improve quality of care. Evidence suggests that powerful hospitals and health systems may reduce key, but unprofitable services, which increases travel distances and wait times, and reduces timely access to care for rural and low-income patients. ([NIH](#))

## EMPLOYERS



Employers pay for health care premiums as a part of employee benefits. After wages, **employers spend more on health insurance than any other employee benefit** (about 8% of total compensation). ([BLS](#))



**High and rising health care costs** are one of the largest expenses for a business and depress businesses' profitability, ability to grow, hiring and compensation choices, and could even lead to business closures. ([KFF](#), [Small Business Majority](#), [JP Morgan](#))

## HEALTH CARE WORKERS

### CONSOLIDATION REDUCES WAGES FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS AND LIMITS PHYSICIANS' AUTONOMY.



**Hospital consolidation depresses wages** for the health care workforce, including nurses' wages. ([INET](#))



**Physicians report that consolidation reduces clinical autonomy**. For example, 61% of physicians report they have moderate or no autonomy to make referrals outside of the health system where they are employed. ([NORC/PAI](#))

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