

THE CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

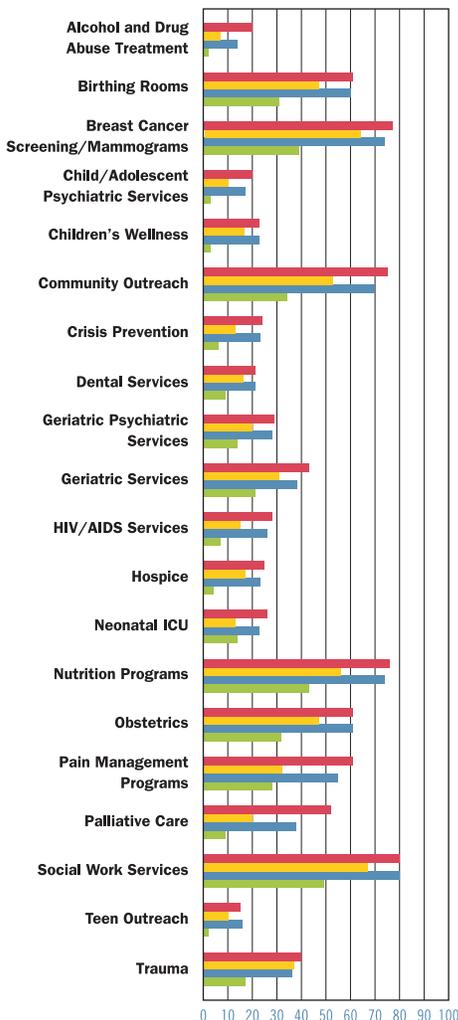
Advocacy Agenda

2013-2014 (113th CONGRESS)

PERCENT OF U.S. HOSPITALS OFFERING SELECTED PUBLIC HEALTH AND SPECIALTY SERVICES

Catholic hospitals often provide a higher percentage of public health and specialty services than other health care providers. These organizations' dedication to the common good often leads them to offer these traditionally "unprofitable" services.

- Catholic
- State/Local Government
- Other Not-for-Profit
- Investor-Owned (For-Profit)



Source: Source: 2011 American Hospital Association Annual Survey.

ABOUT CHA

The Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA) is the national leadership organization of the Catholic health ministry, representing the largest not-for-profit provider of health care services in the nation. By pursuing the priorities of the ministry, CHA is working to create health care that serves everyone. All 50 states and the District of Columbia are served by Catholic health care organizations providing acute care, skilled nursing and other services including hospice, home health, assisted living and senior housing.

Our advocacy is grounded in the core values that form our *Vision for U.S. Health Care*:

HUMAN DIGNITY: Because each person is created in the image of God, each life is sacred and possesses inalienable worth. Health care is essential to promoting and protecting the inherent dignity of every individual from conception to natural death.

CONCERN FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE: The moral measure of society is how it treats the poor and vulnerable, who are particularly marginalized by a lack of access to health care.

JUSTICE: Health care is a basic human right alongside food and shelter, all of which are necessary for individuals to participate fully in society.

COMMON GOOD: The health and well-being of each person is intertwined with the health and well-being of the broader community. Access to health care is an essential element contributing to the common good alongside others such as education, employment and a safe environment.

STEWARDSHIP: Our societal resources are finite, and we must make wise choices for how they are allocated. Health care resources should focus on the well-being of the community and be structured to deliver the care that is most medically beneficial and promotes public health.

PLURALISM: The health care system should allow and encourage involvement of the public and private sectors including voluntary, religious and not-for-profit organizations, and it should respect the religious and ethical values of patients and health care providers alike.

Our Priorities for the 113th Congress

ENHANCING MEDICAID AND ENSURING A STRONG SAFETY NET

The Catholic health ministry is committed to serving those in need, young and old, throughout every stage of life, and to advocating on their behalf. We support policies to:

- ✦ Improve access and care coordination in Medicaid, Medicare and other safety net programs
- ✦ Ensure that efforts to reduce the federal budget deficit are equitable and balanced, and do not disproportionately impact health care or the social safety net
- ✦ Provide adequate and sustainable financing to ensure the ability of health care providers to maintain quality and compassionate care
- ✦ Promote greater use of medical homes, care coordinators, and chronic care management with a focus on those dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare
- ✦ Improve access to behavioral health care services in all care settings

IMPLEMENTING AND IMPROVING THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

CHA advocates a health care system that serves everyone. The Affordable Care Act takes a significant step toward expanding access to health insurance coverage and improving our delivery system. During the 113th Congress, we will work to:

- ✦ Ensure adequate funding for implementation of the health care law in accordance with CHA's *Vision*

- ✦ Support policies to improve the current delivery system and reduce costs, including health technology; telemedicine; care coordination; and prevention and wellness
- ✦ Continue to expand health care access and coverage, including coverage for undocumented immigrants
- ✦ Strengthen the health care workforce to ensure the availability of primary care services in underserved areas, including rural and urban communities
- ✦ Ensure that health insurance exchanges, Medicaid coverage expansion and insurance reforms achieve the promise of coverage and high-quality integrated care for millions of uninsured individuals through outreach, enrollment and education efforts

STRENGTHENING AGING AND CHRONIC CARE SERVICES

CHA strongly supports efforts to coordinate and integrate person-centered health care services along the continuum of care, to ensure the best outcome for everyone. CHA supports policies that:

- ✦ Provide adequate and sustainable financing to ensure the ability of long-term care facilities and services to provide quality and compassionate care
- ✦ Promote improved coordination of care for those with chronic or serious illness
- ✦ Provide the elderly and persons with disabilities options to receive long-term care services in the most appropriate care setting, whether at home, in the community (such as PACE) or in a facility
- ✦ Improve access to palliative care for all

ENSURING CONSCIENCE PROTECTION

We support measures that allow us to maintain our Catholic identity and protect and defend human life from conception to natural death. We will work to:

- ✦ Preserve existing provider conscience protections and other measures to allow the ministry to provide care consistent with our faith
- ✦ Advocate health care programs and policies that acknowledge our religious, ethical and moral values

IMPROVING THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF COMMUNITIES

Catholic providers will continue to improve the health of their communities through policies that:

- ✦ Strengthen not-for-profit health care and ensure fair implementation of tax-exemption requirements in the Affordable Care Act
- ✦ Eliminate disparities based on race, ethnicity or socio-economic status in the provision of health care services
- ✦ Support federal programs that improve community health
- ✦ Address social justice issues such as comprehensive immigration reform, environmental responsibility and the promotion of affordable housing
- ✦ Facilitate care integration and health management among physicians, hospitals and post-acute care services



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