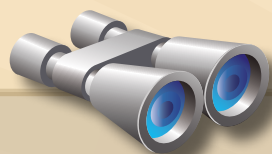
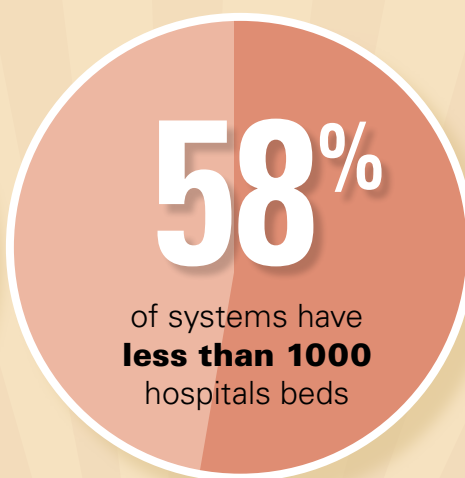
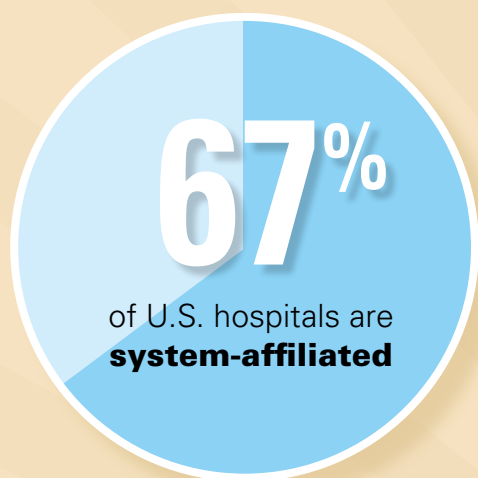


**WHAT IS A HEALTH CARE SYSTEM?** AHA has defined two types of health care systems, and both involve an ownership, lease, sponsorship or contract management relationship with a central organization. A multihospital system involves two or more hospitals, while a single diversified hospital system involves one hospital and three or more pre- or post-acute health care organizations.

## Total U.S. Health Systems = 417



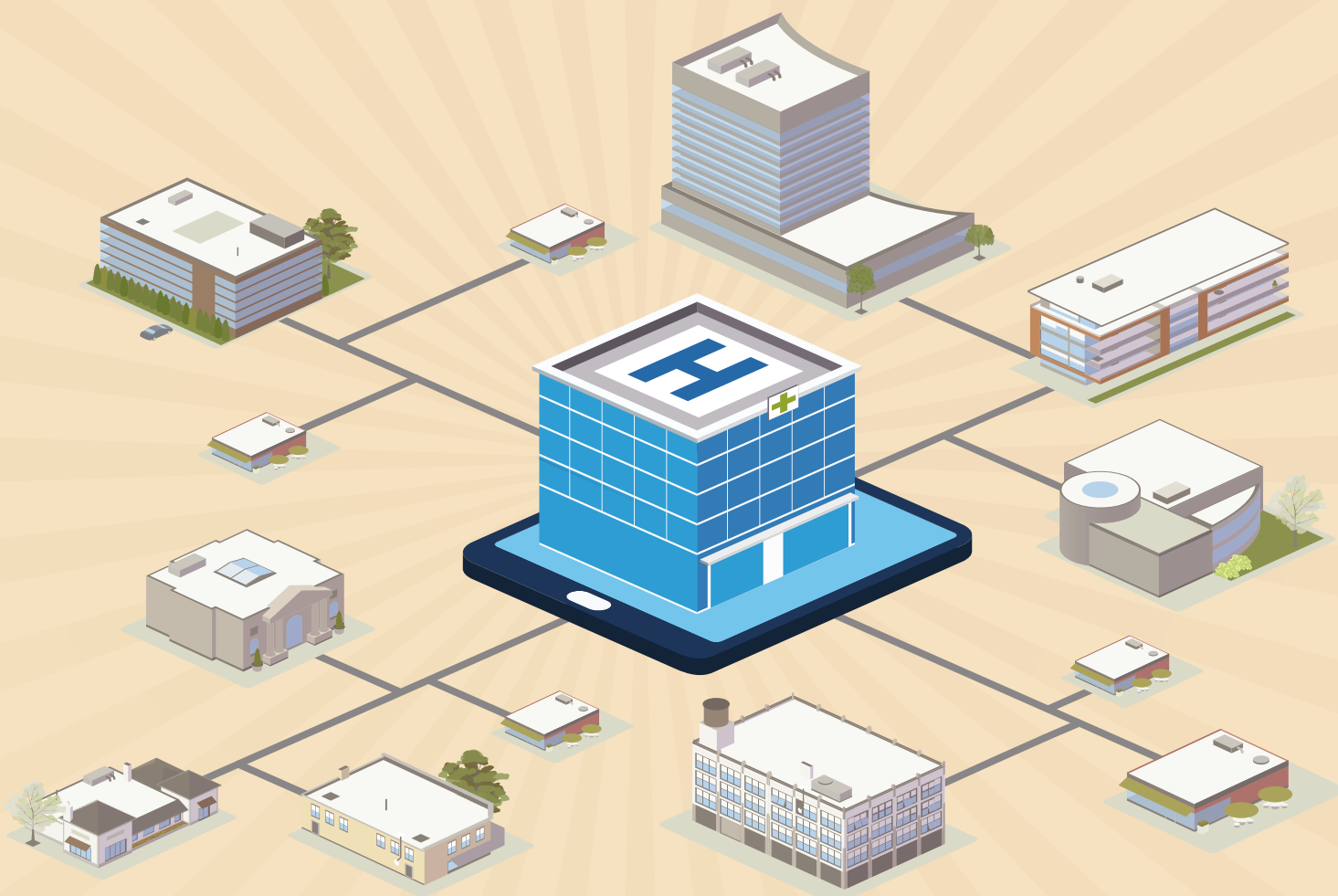
### A GLANCE BACK

► **In 1940**, there were at least 50 systems, all of them Catholic or other not-for-profit organizations.

► **In 1960**, the first investor-owned system was identified.

► **In 1980**, the AHA conducted a special survey and identified 267 systems.

Source: *Data Book on Multihospital Systems 1980-81*, AHA.



**248** Number of systems with 1-5 hospitals

**7** Number of systems with 100 or more hospitals

**240** Number of systems with 1,000 or fewer hospital beds

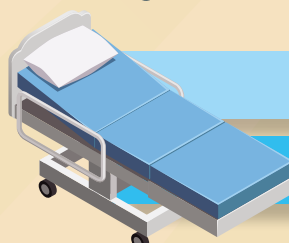


Total U.S. hospitals **6,090**

Total U.S. hospitals in systems **4,063**

**Systems range in size from:**

- **1-161 hospitals**
- **25-39,825 beds**



Total US hospital beds **919,559**

Total US hospital beds in systems **687,815**