

# COVID-19 Snapshot

Challenges Confronting America's Hospitals and Health Systems

(March 18, 2021)

The COVID-19 Snapshot is the American Hospital Association's look at what America's hospitals and front-line workers are facing as they provide care during the public health emergency. America's hospitals and health systems continue to face historic challenges, including unprecedented financial pressures. It is vitally important that hospitals and health systems receive further support and resources to ensure that they can continue to deliver critical care for patients and communities.

## BY THE NUMBERS: COVID-19 IN THE U.S.

(As of March 17)

**470.3** per **100,000** in population  
cumulative hospitalization rate  
(as of 3/06)

Source: [gis.cdc.gov/grasp/COVIDNet/COVID19\\_3.html](https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/COVIDNet/COVID19_3.html)

**30.1%**

year-over-year increase in hospital labor expenses per adjusted discharge

Source: Kaufman Hall National Hospital Flash Report February 2021

**17.6%**

year-over-year decrease in adjusted hospital discharges

Source: Kaufman Hall National Hospital Flash Report February 2021

**29,608,410** total COVID-19 cases in the U.S.  (383,753 increase over the last 7 days)

Source: [coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html](https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html)

**538,096** total COVID-19 deaths in the U.S.  (8,647 increase over the last 7 days)

Source: [coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html](https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html)

**States with the highest ICU bed occupancy rates (all patients):**  
(as of 3/15)

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. TX – <b>83%</b> | 4. FL – <b>78%</b> |
| 2. DE – <b>83%</b> | 5. GA – <b>78%</b> |
| 3. DC – <b>80%</b> |                    |

Source: [beta.healthdata.gov/Health/COVID-19-Community-Profile-Report/gqxm-d9w9](https://beta.healthdata.gov/Health/COVID-19-Community-Profile-Report/gqxm-d9w9)

## FROM THE FRONT LINES

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While the CARES Act [funds] were critically important in 2020, they did not negate the financial difficulties of the hospitals.

David Ramsey | President and CEO of Charleston Area Medical Center and Health System in West Virginia

## IN THE NEWS

**A year of COVID: New Hampshire hospitals are struggling financially**  
– Concord Monitor –

**Why rural hospital closures hit a record high in 2020**  
– Becker's Hospital Review –

**Rural South Carolina hospital loses \$8 million in pandemic**  
– ABC 13 News –

**Hospitals will likely continue to have staffing shortages despite falling COVID-19 cases**  
– Health Care Finance News –

**After weeks of declining cases, echoes of hot spots emerge in Upper Midwest, New York City area**  
– Washington Post –

**Q&A: Pandemic heightens staffing, financial struggles facing rural hospitals**  
– Modern Healthcare –