

**Office of Community & Rural Health Series on Rural-Urban Disparities**

**Critical Access Hospital (CAHs) Medicaid Charges are about  
Three-Percent**

**Rural Health Facts:**

- Washington has 39 CAHs. They serve all patients, including those on Medicaid and Medicare, and the uninsured.
- One-third of them are at least 30 miles from the next hospital.
- Over half provide long-term care and 23 have a rural health clinic.
- CAHs discharged about 8% of all Medicaid hospital patients in 2005.
- CAHs account for roughly 5% of Medicaid hospital patient days.
- Average length of stay in CAHs is shorter than it is in other hospitals.

<b>Medicaid Hospital Charges</b>			
	<b>CAH (39)</b>	<b>Non-CAHs (57)</b>	<b>Combined</b>
<b>Patient Days</b>	25,328	483,435	508,763
<b>Discharges</b>	10,235	117,508	127,743
<b>Average Length of Stay (days)</b>	2.47	4.11	3.98
<b>Medicaid Charges</b>	\$62,152,592	\$1,894,245,085	\$1,956,397,677
<b>% of Medicaid Charges</b>	3.18%	96.82%	

**Policy Implications:**

- The services of CAHs do not have a major impact on the Medicaid budget.
- The hospitals improve access to health care services for the low-income that live in underserved rural areas.
- It is important to consider CAH services in policy discussions on rural health care access and services.

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