

Health Care in Illinois

Quality health care is of paramount importance to the people of Illinois. Health care is key to the state's quality of life, and therefore to its attractiveness as a place to live and to conduct business. Health care is also an important economic driver, as health care accounts for more than 12% of gross state product and more than 9% of all employment. Illinois is home to 190 hospitals which account for 3.9 % of all U.S. hospitals. In addition, the state is also ranked 4th in the nation with 197 rural clinics.

Ten Illinois hospitals were included in the 2007 U.S. News World Report of "America's Best Hospitals." The hospitals were ranked on sixteen specialties which included; cancer, heart & heart surgery, kidney disease, neurology & neurosurgery, digestive disorders, ear, nose & throat, endocrinology, geriatrics, gynecology, orthopedics, respiratory disorder and urology. Among the top ranked were the University of Chicago Medical Center and Northwestern Memorial hospital in Evanston.

The University of Chicago Medical Center was also included in the Honor Roll for "Best Hospitals". This category included hospitals that "scored very high in at least six specialty rankings". The hospital was ranked 17 overall out of 5,462 hospitals surveyed, and ranked among the top ten in two specialties: digestive disorders (6th) and cancer (7th). Six other disciplines ranked among the top 25: In addition to its magnificent patient care, the University of Chicago Medical Center boasts its affiliation with eleven winners of the most prestigious award, the Nobel Prize. Moreover, in 2007 The American

Nurses Credentialing Center awarded Magnet Recognition Status to the University of Chicago Medical Center for "excellence in nursing practices and adhering" to National Nursing Standards

Northwestern Memorial Hospital has a strong history as the best hospital in America. They have been included in the U.S. News World Report of "America's Best Hospitals" for 14 years in a row. In 2007 rankings, Memorial hospital was in the top 20 in five specialties; neurosurgery (13th), urology (17), orthopedics (18), geriatrics (19) and they were ranked 15th for their strong reputation. Moreover, according to the National Research Corporation, Chicago consumers named Northwestern Memorial Hospital the number one Chicago "most preferred" hospital. The criteria for the award were based on; best doctors, best nurses, best overall quality and best image and reputation.

In addition to the two previously mentioned prominent Illinois hospitals, Rush University Medical Center (another reputable Illinois hospital), scored high in ten programs in the 2007 U.S. News World Report of "America's Best Hospitals. They were in the top ten in orthopedics (8th) and 15th in neurology & neurosurgery while geriatrics ranked 17th. They also had eight other specialties in the top 50.

Excellent health care system starts with the education of physicians. Most Illinois medical schools work closely with local hospitals to provide an outstanding training and patient care. Illinois' eight medical schools include the University of Illinois and two nationally

distinguished medical schools, the University of Chicago and Northwestern. The University of Illinois medical school is the largest medical school in the United States with over 2,600 students and trainees. One in six Illinois physicians graduated from the University of Illinois medical school. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, Illinois graduated 1,083 medical students in 2007, behind Texas and New York.

These first class, nationally recognized and patient friendly hospitals make Illinois very competitive and a strong leader in quality health care. Illinois residents are thus able to find excellent medical care in all disciplines, as it is evident that Illinois hospitals are among the best in clinical specialties.

Health Care Spending

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, Illinois spent \$67,292 million in 2004 (12.2% of the Gross State Product) towards health care, ranking Illinois 6th in the nation in health care expenditures. 85% of Illinois residents have access to quality health care compared to 82% nationally.

Employment in Health Care

In 2007 there were 41,826 nonfederal physicians in Illinois, accounting for about 4.3% of the total U.S. physicians. Illinois ranks in the top six states

for registered nurses, employing 104,130 in 2007. And, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation, 8,705 Dentists practice in Illinois. In addition, there were 1,810 physician assistants in 2007. All these health care professionals utilize their different skills and expertise to make Illinois health care efficient and competitive.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than ten million Americans held health care occupations in 2006 and the projections indicate a rising trend. The state of Illinois was ranked 7th with 442,830 health care occupations, accounting for 4.2 percent of the U.S. total and 7.1 percent of Illinois total employment. All health care sectors in Illinois have added more jobs each year. For instance, Health care and social assistance added 13,100 jobs in 2006 and Ambulatory Health care services 7,000 while the offices of the physicians added more than 2,000 physicians. The Illinois Department of Employment Security estimates that the health care employment in Illinois will experience a 1.3 percent growth each year through 2014.

A number of companies in the health care sector rank among Illinois' largest employers. Most are hospitals or hospital networks with common ownership. Advocate Health Care is the largest of these with more than 16,000 employees in 2007. Pharmaceutical company Abbott Laboratories is also a major employer with 12,300 workers in Illinois.

Illinois Medical District

The Illinois Medical District in Chicago is the largest urban healthcare, educational, research and technology district in the nation. The Illinois Medical District's mission is to "attract medical research and new businesses" to Illinois. The Chicago Medical District is a home to four medical centers and several human services agencies. Moreover, in collaboration with the Chicago Technology Park, IMD nurtures life sciences and technology companies in early development by providing them with advanced technology and University resources for research and development. IDM and the Chicago Technology Park have experienced a tremendous growth in the Chicago area, with an average growth rate for startup companies at 200 percent over a four year period.

In addition, the Chicago Medical District has also been a major enhancement to both Illinois health care and economy. The district's elite medical centers are committed to providing remarkable care to the citizens of Illinois and visitors. As a 24 hour, seven day facility, IDM Chicago also boasts excellent amenities and access to public transportation. Thus, the district attracts over 75,000 visitors daily, creates \$3.3 billion yearly to boost Illinois economy, generates \$220 million in research annually and employs over 50,000 people.

The nationally renowned and finest medical schools, first-class hospitals, attractive health care employment and the Illinois Medical District, are the prime indicators that Illinois is a strong leader in health care.

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