

New Hampshire’s hospitals are partners with the state in caring for our most vulnerable citizens. It is our mission to care for those who are sick. Our members work tirelessly to provide the highest quality of care to anyone who walks through our doors, regardless of ability to pay.

New Hampshire’s Hospitals strongly support our state’s Medicaid expansion program, and we advocated for its initial adoption and reauthorization. The Granite Advantage Health Care Program is currently providing health coverage to over 90,000 low-income, formerly uninsured Granite State residents. This coverage includes the ability to be seen by a primary care doctor or in a health clinic, to receive important primary and preventive, cost-effective management of chronic conditions, and life-saving mental health and substance use services. As a result of this coverage, these patients are now able to receive the right care, at the right time, in the right place.

The Granite Advantage Health Care Program has helped to reduce the number of uninsured patients seeking care in hospital emergency departments. Since the inception of the program, hospitals statewide have seen:

- ↓ **64% reduction in the number of uninsured patients seeking care in the emergency department;**
- ↓ **59% reduction in the number of uninsured inpatient admissions; and**
- ↓ **50% reduction in the number of uninsured outpatient visits.**

*\*Source: NHHA Membership, 23 Hospitals Reporting*

**New Hampshire Acute Care Hospitals Coverage Expansion Summary**

Patient Utilization	Oct 2013 - Sep 2014	Jan - Dec 2022	% Change
<b>Inpatient Admissions</b>			
Total	106,864	104,437	-2.27%
Uninsured	5,291	2,188	-58.65%
<b>Emergency Visits</b>			
Total	419,083	417,614	-0.35%
Uninsured	72,947	26,606	-63.53%
<b>Outpatient Hospital Services*</b>			
Total	3,777,832	4,117,208	8.98%
Uninsured	160,103	80,516	-49.71%

\* Outpatient services include labs, imaging, observations, etc. Excludes Emergency Department and professional services.

**This has resulted in a significant drop in the amount of uncompensated care attributable to those without insurance. In SFY 2014, when New Hampshire’s first Medicaid expansion program was implemented, hospitals reported \$173 million in the amount of uncompensated care attributable to uninsured patients. As a result of Medicaid expansion, those uncompensated care costs have *dropped dramatically* to \$69 million in SFY 2021, a direct reflection of the coverage gains brought about by the Granite Advantage Health Care Program.**

Ninety percent of the costs of the program are paid for by the federal government, and no general funds have been used to cover the state share.

While it’s important to understand these fiscal impacts, it’s also important to understand the impact that this program is having on people in New Hampshire. For instance:

- The person with diabetes who was routinely seen in the hospital emergency room or admitted to the hospital is now able to get the insulin they need to manage their diabetes and receive the ongoing care they need with their primary care physician.
- Or the single mom, working two jobs to support herself and her family, who is now able to get the ongoing care she needs to take care of her chronic health conditions so that she can continue to work and support her family.

These are just two stories, but there are literally thousands of similar stories occurring every day across New Hampshire that demonstrate the importance of the Granite Advantage Health Care Program.

Continuation of this vital program is an important investment in the health of our state and the people it serves, and we urge its reauthorization. SB 263, bipartisan legislation introduced by Senate President Jeb Bradley and many others, is the bill that accomplishes this objective, and we strongly offer our support.