

The Nebraska Legislature & Current Healthcare Issues

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About the NHA

92 member hospitals

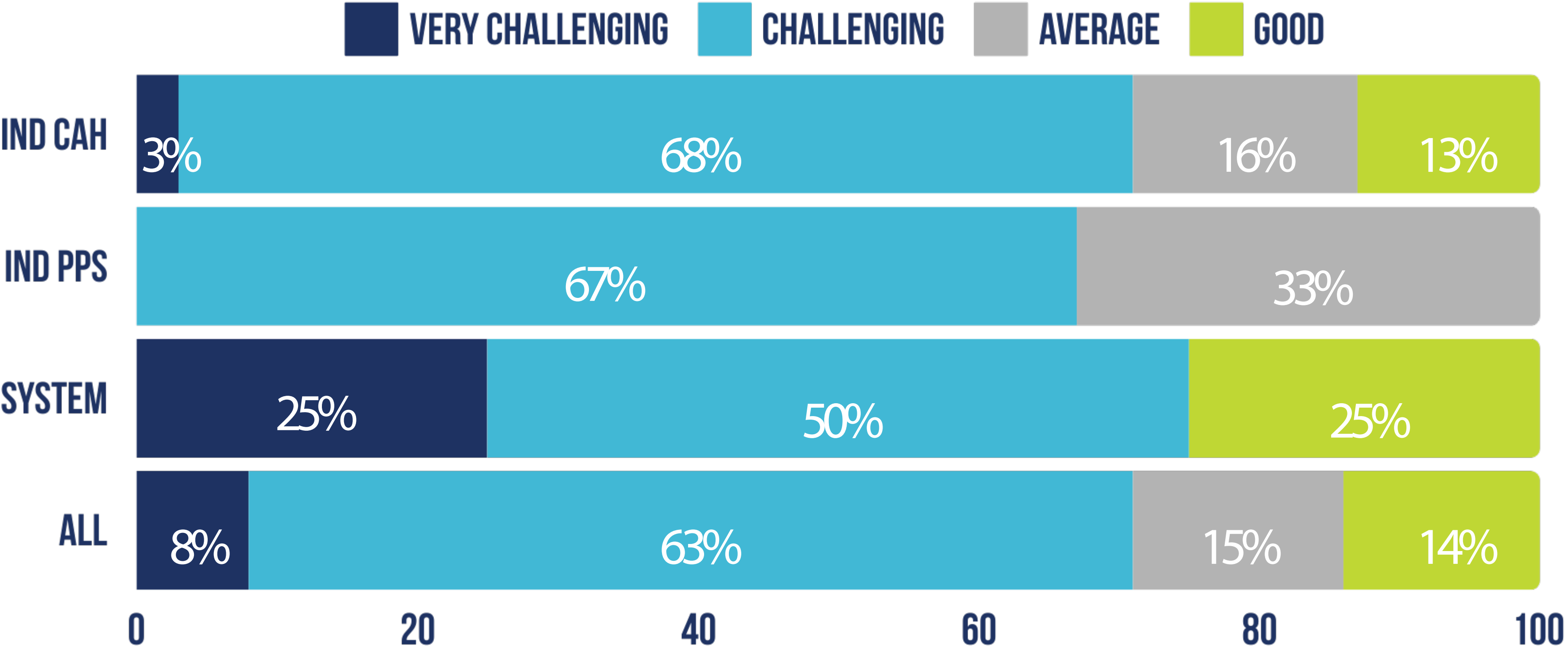
Nearly 50,000 hospital employees

\$8.6B in total expenditures

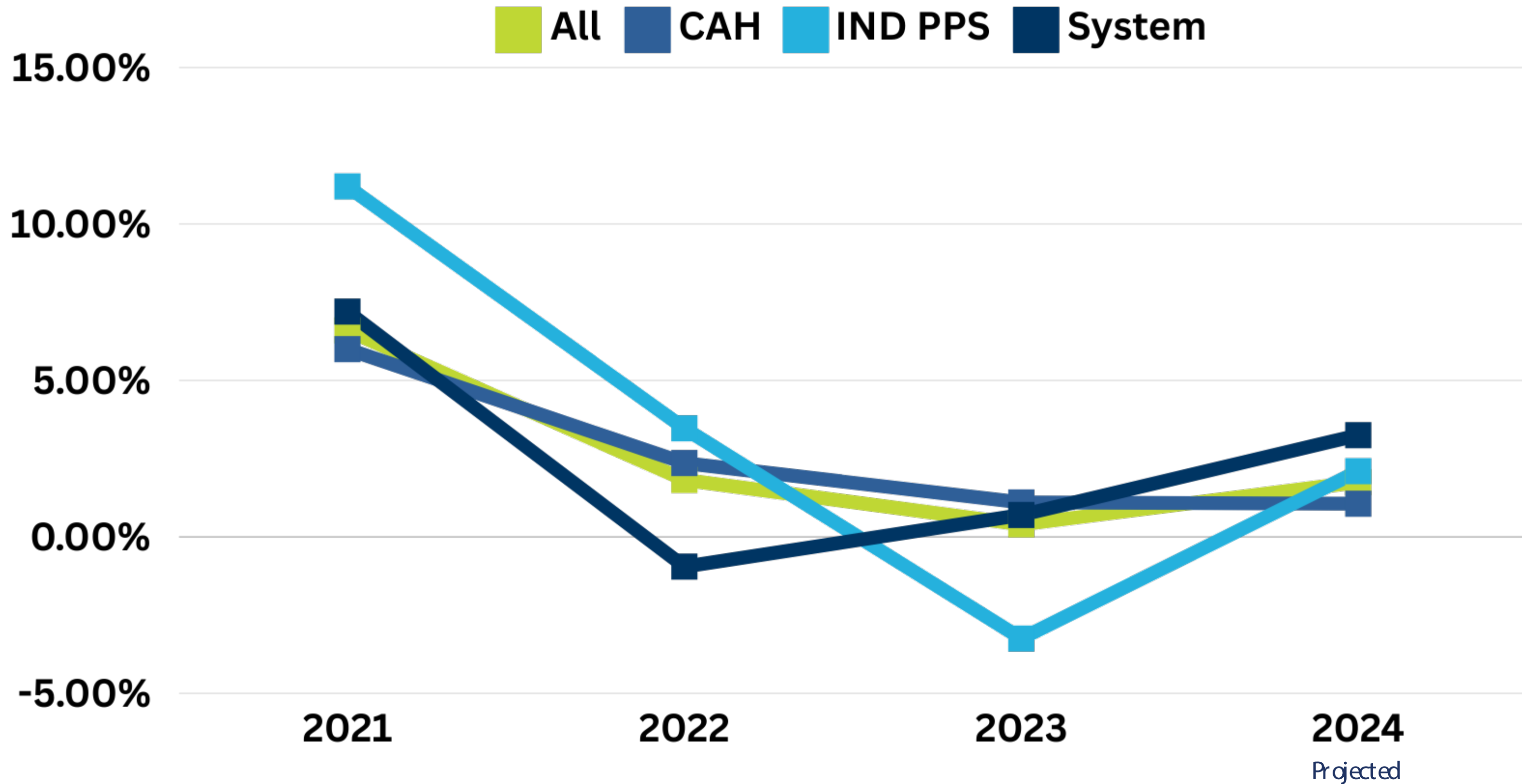
\$15B in total economic impact

\$4B+ in salary and benefits

describe your financial condition in the current fiscal Year



Net OPERATING Margin (2021-2024)



MOST CONCERNING ISSUES FOR HOSPITALS IN 2024

	INDCAH	INDPPS	SYSTEM
#1	cost of employed workforce	cost of employed workforce	cost of employed workforce
#2	commercial insurance & Medicare advantage burden	COST OF CONTRACT LABOR	cost of contract labor
#3	cost of contract labor	cost of pharmaceuticals	commercial insurance & Medicare advantage burden
#4	cost of supplies	commercial insurance & Medicare advantage burden	cost of pharmaceuticals
#5	cost of pharmaceuticals	cost of supplies	cost of supplies

Nebraska hospitals are facing many challenges

Workforce Crisis

Historic Inflation

Post-Acute Placement Bottlenecks

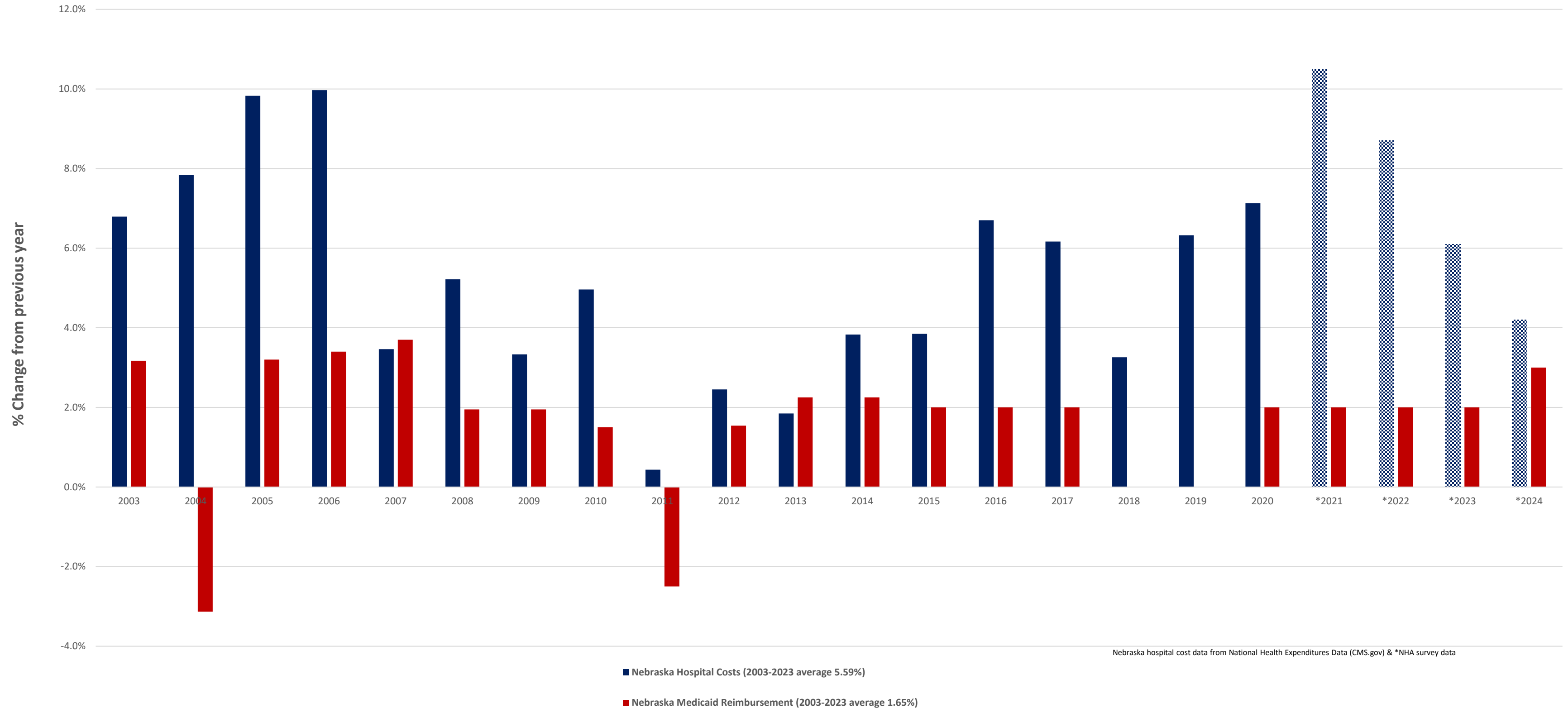
Growing Commercial Insurance Burdens

We need public officials to protect these vital
pillars in our community for patients

Let's talk about some legislative wins

Medicaid provider rate history

Nebraska Hospital Costs v. Medicaid Reimbursement



Provider Assessment & Directed Payment program Policy Landscape

- Medicaid reimbursements are not keeping up with the cost of care.
- Nearly \$1B in losses from public programs.
- 43% of Nebraska hospitals ran a negative operating margin in 2023.
- Establish a partnership with state to pursue maximum allowable federal reimbursement for Medicaid.

LB1087 (2024)

- Bill passed 45-0-1 on March 21. The governor signed the bill on March 28.

\$900 million per year!!

- It increases rates through a provider assessment and directed payment program. CMS authorizes Directed Payments through MCOs up to average commercial rates.
- DHHS has agreed to the NHA quality initiatives to improve children's mental health, adult mental health, maternity care, and senior care.

Additional NHA PRIORITY BILLS (2024)



LB 896 (Ballard) – Change provisions relating to telehealth consultations **(Passed)**



LB 1099 (McDonnell) – Change the use of appropriated ARPA Federal Funds for nursing scholarships **(Passed)**



LB 984 (Hardin) – Prohibit certain actions relating to distribution of drugs by 340B entities **(Held in Committee)**

Current Health Care Landscape

State

Legislation:

Protecting State Directed Payment Program

Protect the 340B Community Benefits Program

Prior Authorization Reform

Stop Harmful PBM Practices

Federal

priorities:

Medicare Advantage

340B practices

Rural Emergency Hospital

Site Neutral

More to come following the election

Interim studies

- **LR 377** (von Gillern) – Interim study to examine the components of the State of Nebraska’s public health registry data collection and release of that data to appropriate research entities.
- **LR 392** (Hansen) – Interim study to examine the costs and frequency of rebasing provider rates and to develop a methodology for rebasing such rates.
- **LR 397** (HHS Committee) – Interim study to examine the structure and processes of the credentialing review process, known as the “407 process.”
- **LR 410** (Dorn) - Interim study to examine the long-term fiscal sustainability of and how to best direct funding and appropriations towards sustaining a strong health care workforce in Nebraska, especially in rural communities
- **LR 428** (Hardin) – Interim study to review how the State of Nebraska can ensure it has effective emergency medical services in rural communities.
- **LR 433** (Day) – Interim study to examine the availability and access to data regarding maternal and infant health care in Nebraska.

The Advocacy Team is also analyzing the Department of Health & Human Services’ proposed agency budget related to potential Medicaid funding reductions.



Advocacy is a
team sport.
WE NEED YOU!



What can you do?

Build relationships with Legislators and their staff

- Personal Visits and Meetings
- Hospital and Community Tours
- Understand the Life of a Senator
- Phone Calls, Letters, and Emails

Follow policymakers & the NHA on social media

Mobilize Grassroots Advocacy – Ask your coworkers, friends, family to get involved and email their senator

Engage with the NHA - Attend Advocacy Day, subscribe to Newslink, attend monthly NHA Member Calls, reach out to us to share your insights (+/-)

Enroll in Summer 2025 Advocacy Institute

Contribute to the NHA Political Action Committee (PAC)



2024 Legislative Elections

Primary: May 14 General: November 5

U.S. Senators Fischer & Ricketts are up for re-election

25 out of the 49 legislative seats are up for election

There will a minimum of 15 new senators elected

10 current senators face re-election



2024 Legislative Elections

Close Key Races

District 35 – Grand Island area

Senator Ray Aguilar v. Former Senator Dan Quick

District 19 – Norfolk area

Senator Robert Dover v. Jeanne Reigle

District 49 – Omaha/Elkhorn area

Senator Jen Day v. Bob Andersen



2024 PAC Goal is \$85,000

Contribute Online

pac.nebraskahospitals.org

User name: nhapac

Password: nhapac1



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Questions?