

datapoints

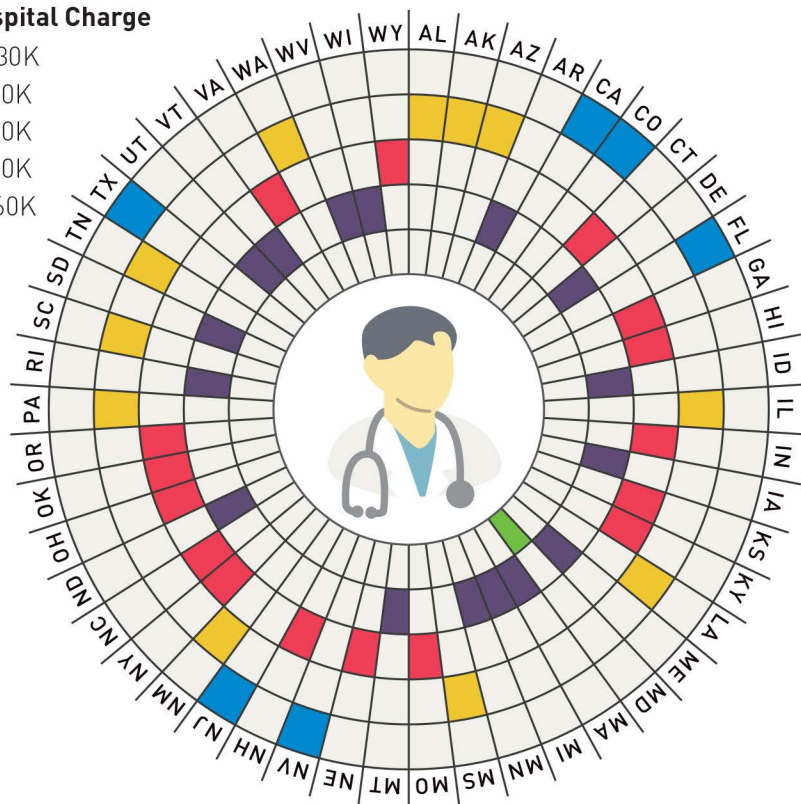
Forward's look at U.S. health-care costs

Same Problem, Different Payout

It's a matter of where, not what: Hospital charges for joint replacement—the most common hospital procedure for Medicare patients—vary greatly depending on where the surgery is performed.

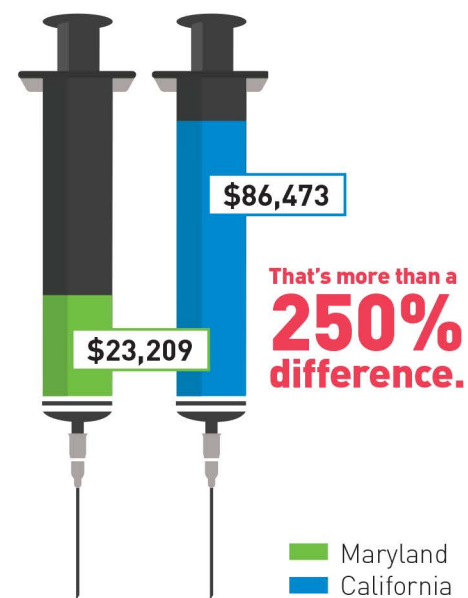
Average Hospital Charge

- Below \$30K
- \$30K-\$40K
- \$40K-\$50K
- \$50K-\$60K
- Above \$60K



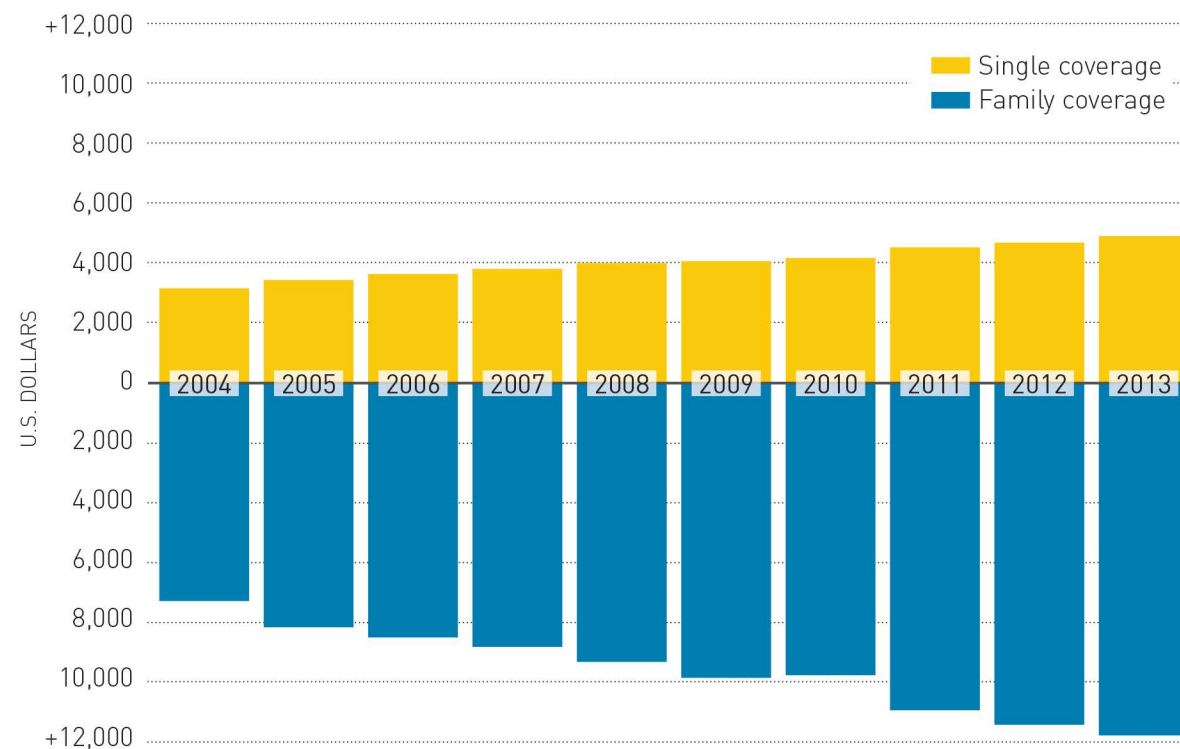
Highs and Lows

Maryland hospitals charge the least for joint replacements, while California hospitals charge the most.



Growing Pains

Health insurance costs have skyrocketed in the past decade, resulting in higher premiums for individuals and employers who offer health benefits. With 57 percent of employers offering health benefits in 2013, businesses are feeling the squeeze. Here's what they pay on average per employee:



56%

INCREASE OVER THE PAST DECADE

62%

Sources: National Journal; Kaiser/HRET Survey of Employer-Sponsored Health Benefits, 1999-2013