

# Nonprofit Acute Health Care 2022: Trends Impacting Hospital Bond Ratings

June 22, 2022



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## Welcome

Chad Mulvany  
Vice President, Policy  
California Hospital Association



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## Continuing Education



Continuing education hours are offered for this program for health care executives.

Full attendance and completion of the online evaluation and attestation of attendance are required to receive CEs for this webinar.

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## Questions



We will take questions as they come through out the presentation. There is also some time built into the presentation for questions and comments at the end.

Please submit your questions using the Q&A box (usually located at the bottom of your screen) as they come to you throughout the presentation.

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**Chloe A. Pickett**  
**Associate Director, U.S. Public Finance**  
**S&P Global Ratings**

Chloe Pickett is an Associate Director in the health care group of U.S. Public Finance. Chloe works on all areas of not-for-profit health care analysis, focusing on health care systems, stand-alone acute care hospitals, and specialty hospitals. While based in the Centennial, Colorado, she covers credits for organizations throughout the United States.



**Aamna Shah**  
**Associate Director, Healthcare, U.S. Public Finance**  
**S&P Global Ratings**

Aamna Shah has been with S&P Global Ratings since 2016 and is based out of the San Francisco office. She is an Associate Director for the U.S. Public Finance team covering the credit of not-for-profit standalone hospitals, large health care systems, as well as long term care facilities. Her coverage area spans the entire continental U.S. but most specifically the Midwest and West Coast regions.



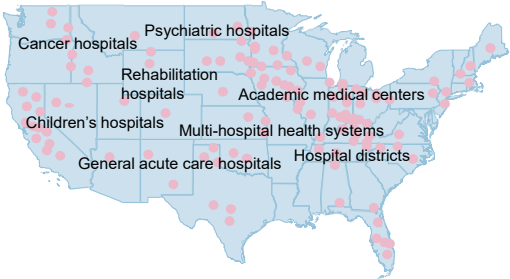
# Not-For-Profit Healthcare Universe and Criteria

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## U.S. Not-For-Profit Health Care Ratings Universe

- Not-for-profit, acute care stand-alone hospitals and health care systems, senior living facilities, and human service providers (approximately 500 ratings in total).



**Latest criteria update:**

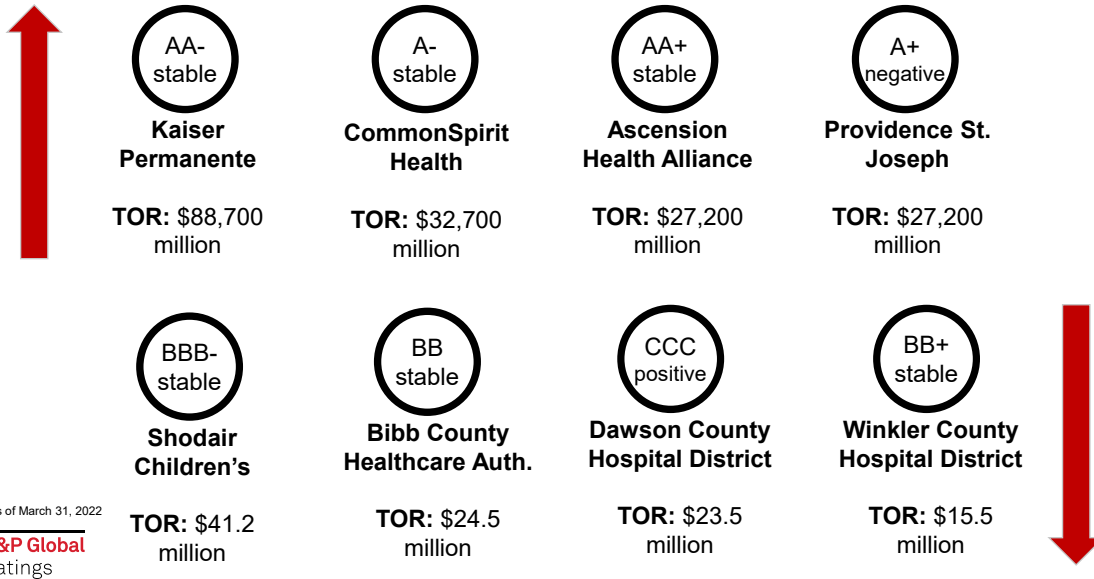
Revised criteria for U.S. and Canadian Not-For-Profit Acute Care Health Care Organizations released  
**March 19, 2018**

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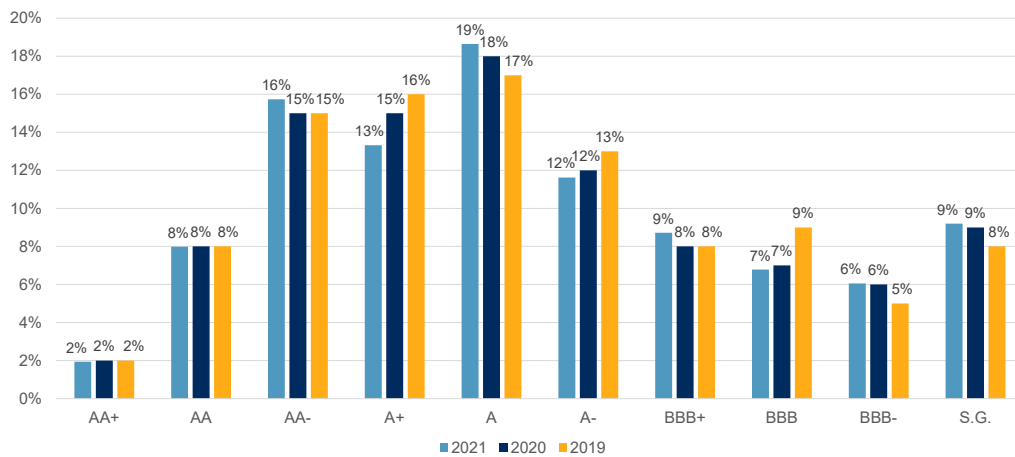
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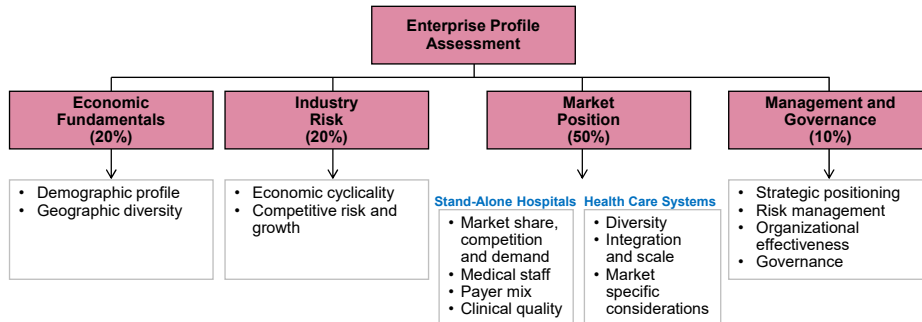
## Operating revenues ranging from \$89 billion to \$16 million



## Not-For-Profit Acute Health Care Rating Distribution



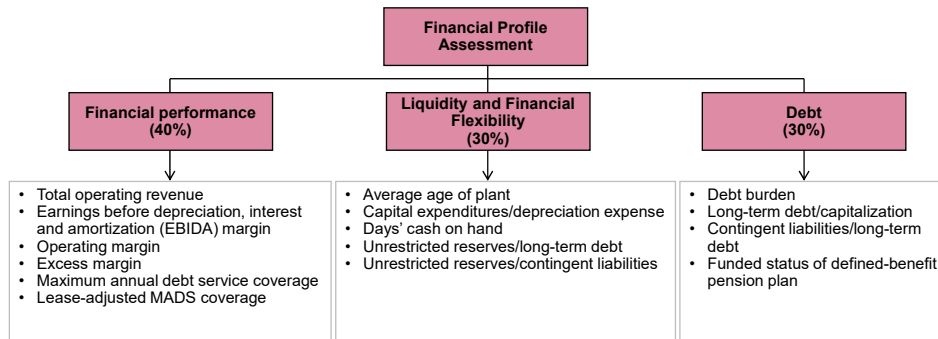
## U.S. Not-For-Profit Acute Health Care Criteria Overview



- Assesses operating environment and incorporates broad industry and organization-specific factors.
- Assessments for each factor range from 1 (strongest) to 6 (weakest) based on a combination of quantitative and qualitative factors.

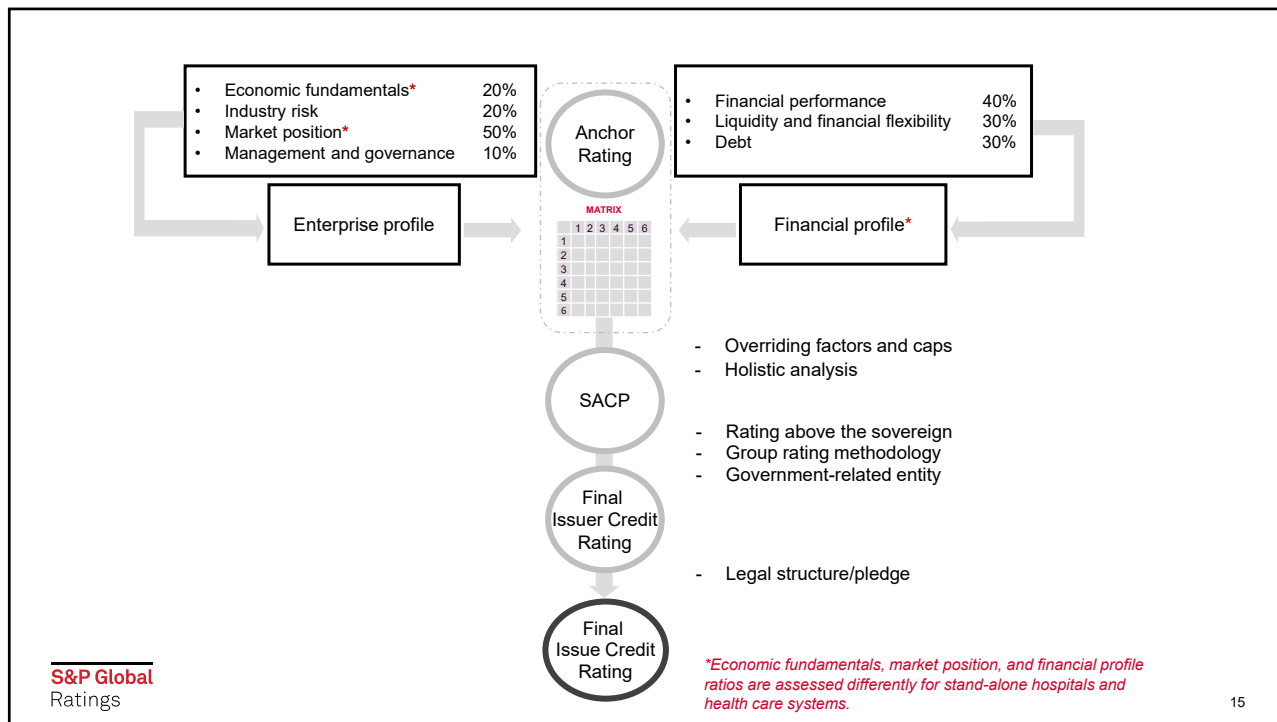
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## U.S. Not-For-Profit Acute Health Care Criteria Overview (contd.)



- Assesses the financial strength of health care organizations.
- Assessments for each factor range from 1 (strongest) to 6 (weakest) based on a combination of quantitative and qualitative factors.

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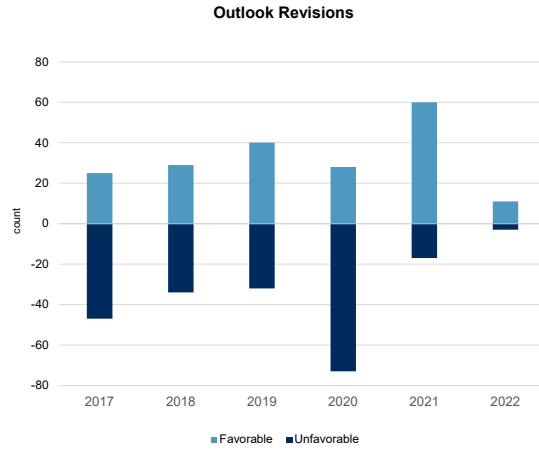
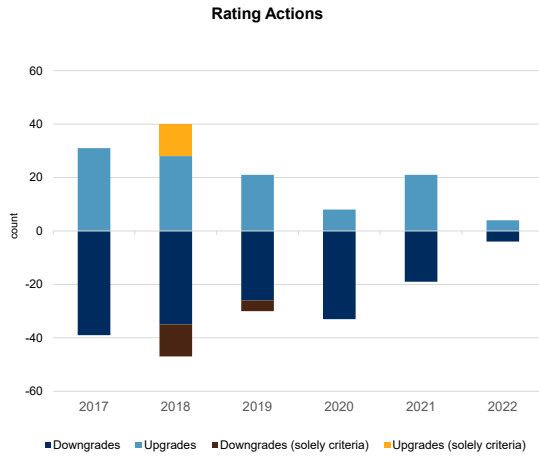
# U.S. Not-For-Profit Healthcare Sector Outlook

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## 2022 Not-For-Profit Acute Health Care Sector View: **Stable**



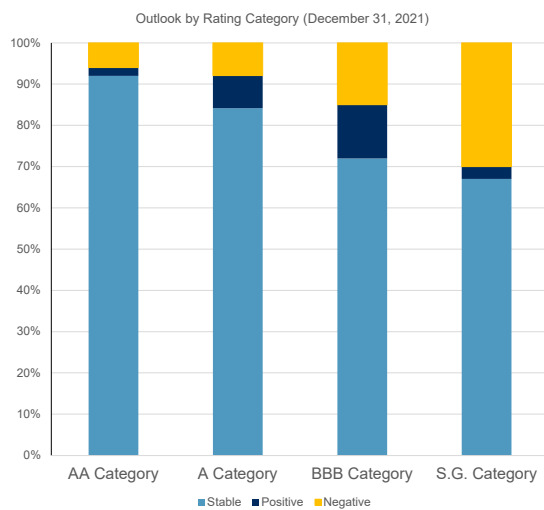
Data for 2022 as of Mar. 31, 2022. Excludes three organizations with developing outlooks. Rating Actions: Data represents all ratings reviewed including some with multiple rating actions. Criteria actions in 2018 and 2019 relate to "U.S. And Canadian Not-For-Profit Acute-care Health Care Organizations" criteria, published March 19, 2018. Outlook Revisions: All outlook changes unaccompanied by a rating change. Favorable outlook revisions include stable to positive and negative to stable. Unfavorable outlook revisions include positive to stable and stable to negative.

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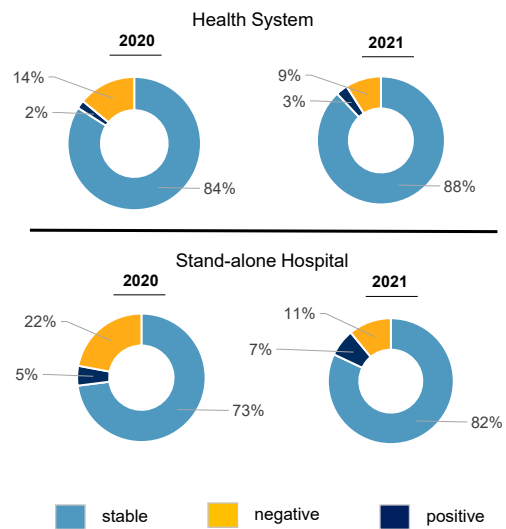
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## 2022 Not-For-Profit Acute Health Care Sector View: **Stable**



As of Dec. 31 for respective years. . Exclude organizations on CreditWatch or developing outlooks..

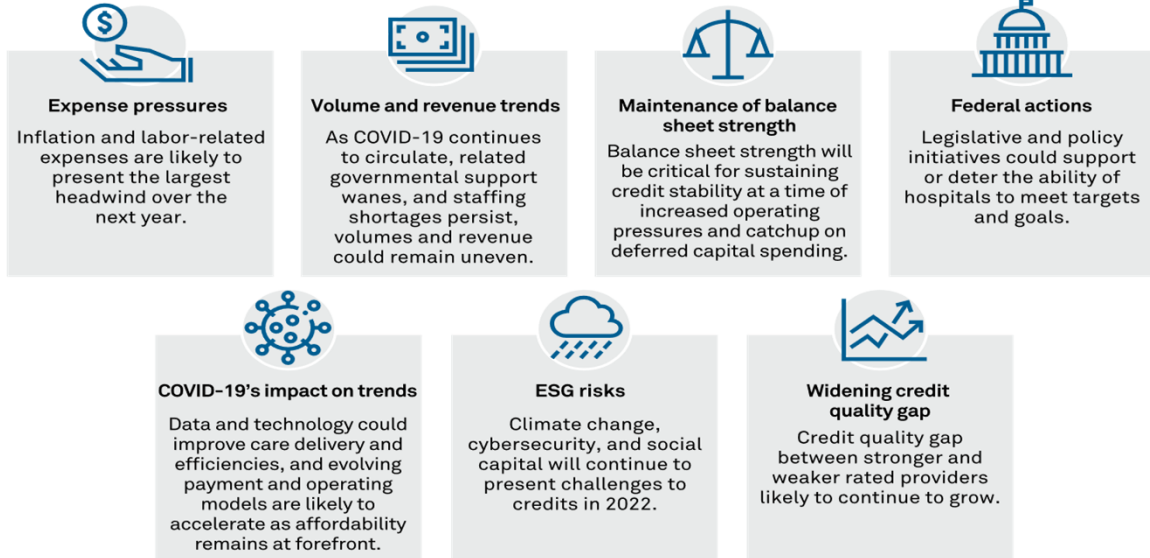
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## What We're Watching - U.S. Not-For-Profit Acute Health Care



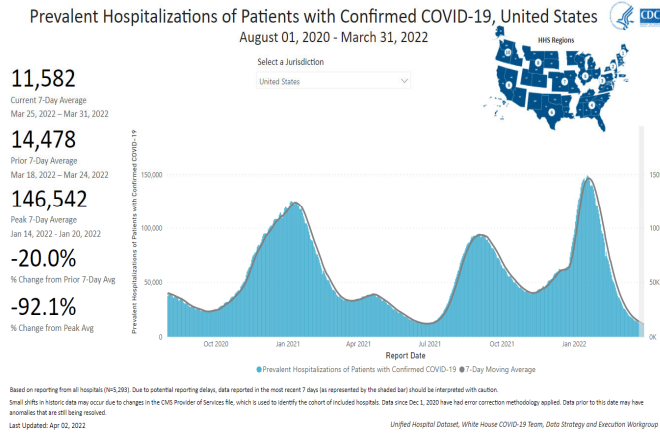
## How Does the Broader Macroeconomic Environment Affect the Sector?

- **GDP growth:** Investment performance, payor mix dilution
- **Supply chain:** Inflationary pressures on operating expenses
- **Labor force:** Labor shortages increasing salaries/wages, reduced operating capacity
- **Unemployment:** Payor mix dilution, increased Medicaid/uninsured patients
- **The Fed:** Increased cost of borrowing/capital, pension discount rate assumptions
- **Recession:** Investment performance, payor mix dilution

**May 4, 2022 update:** Our qualitative assessment of recession risk over the next 12 months is now about **30%**. Given the heightened uncertainty, we're setting the **range at 25%-35%**. Because of the lag in monetary policy impact on the economy, we see recession risks greater in 2023.

## Questions That Matter: What's next with the pandemic?

- Ongoing waves could continue to occur, but vaccinations, therapies, and drugs could temper impact to hospitals over time.
- Variants remain an uncertainty.
- Relief funds likely to be more limited, as other pandemic support will wane.
- As attention lessens, global vaccination rates could also be factor.



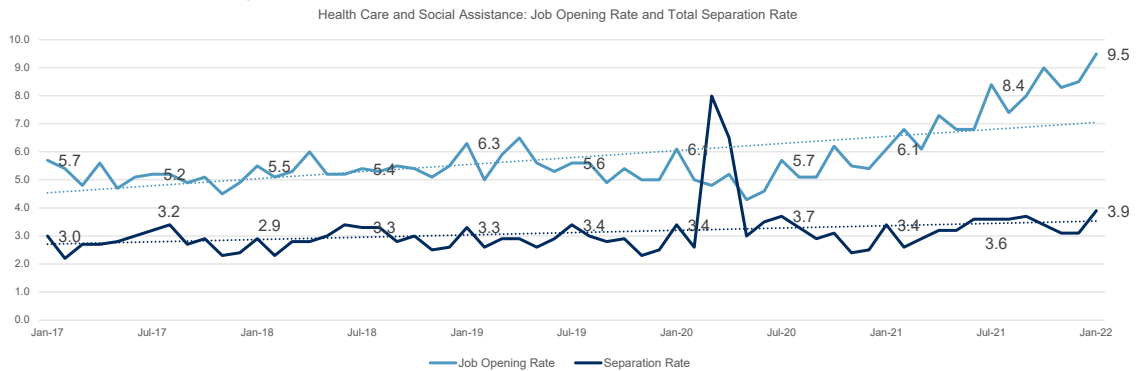
Source: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#hospitalizations>

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## Questions That Matter: How will labor dynamics affect providers?



- Ability to absorb higher staffing and labor expenses is a key credit focus and it is uneven geographically.
- Investment in workforce and well-being will be critical but will add additional expenses.
- Acceleration of technology innovations to manage care could provide some relief but likely in out years.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics; Seasonally non-adjusted rates.

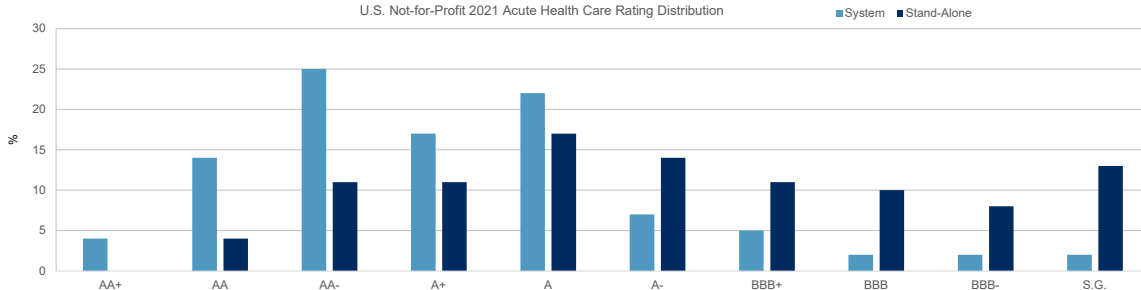
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## Questions That Matter:

### Which credits can manage operating margin compression?



- In addition to labor, other expenses and supplies will continue to impact margins and investment market weakening could impact non-operating income and overall cash flow.
- Management actions, including payor negotiations, could help to temper performance pressures.
- Location and credit characteristics matter, influenced by market position, payor mix, and demographics.

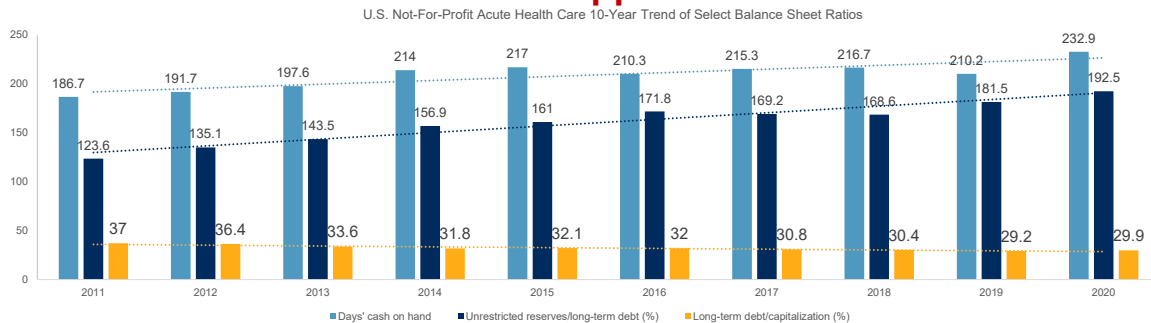
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## Questions That Matter:

### Will balance sheets continue to support credits?



- Organizations with strong balance sheets are less likely to experience a negative rating or outlook action.
- Sustained investment market challenges would be limiting factor.
- Low interest rates have allowed for cost efficient access to capital and liquidity; however, increasing interest rates could change this.
- Increased spending is likely and could dampen balance sheet strength if cash flow remains light.

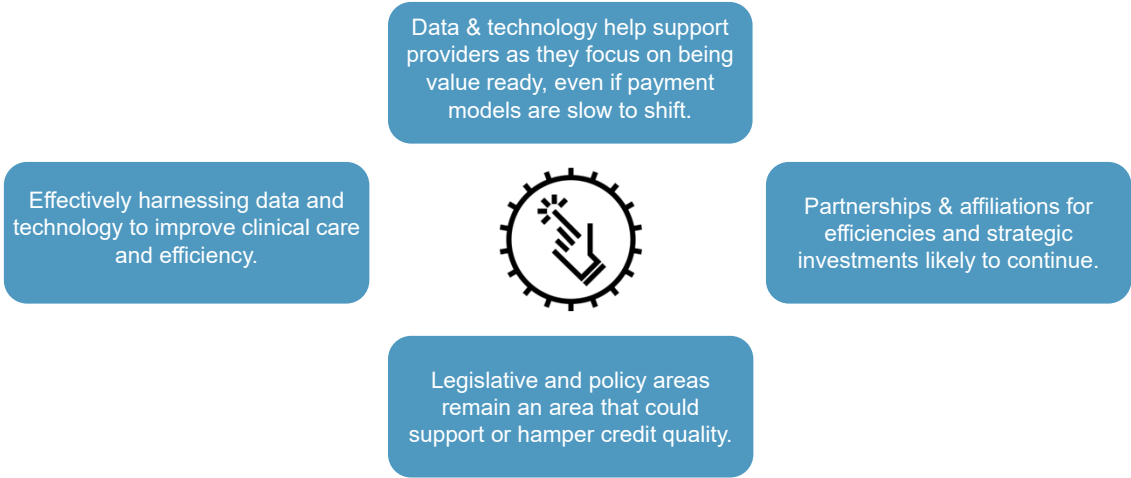
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**Questions That Matter:**

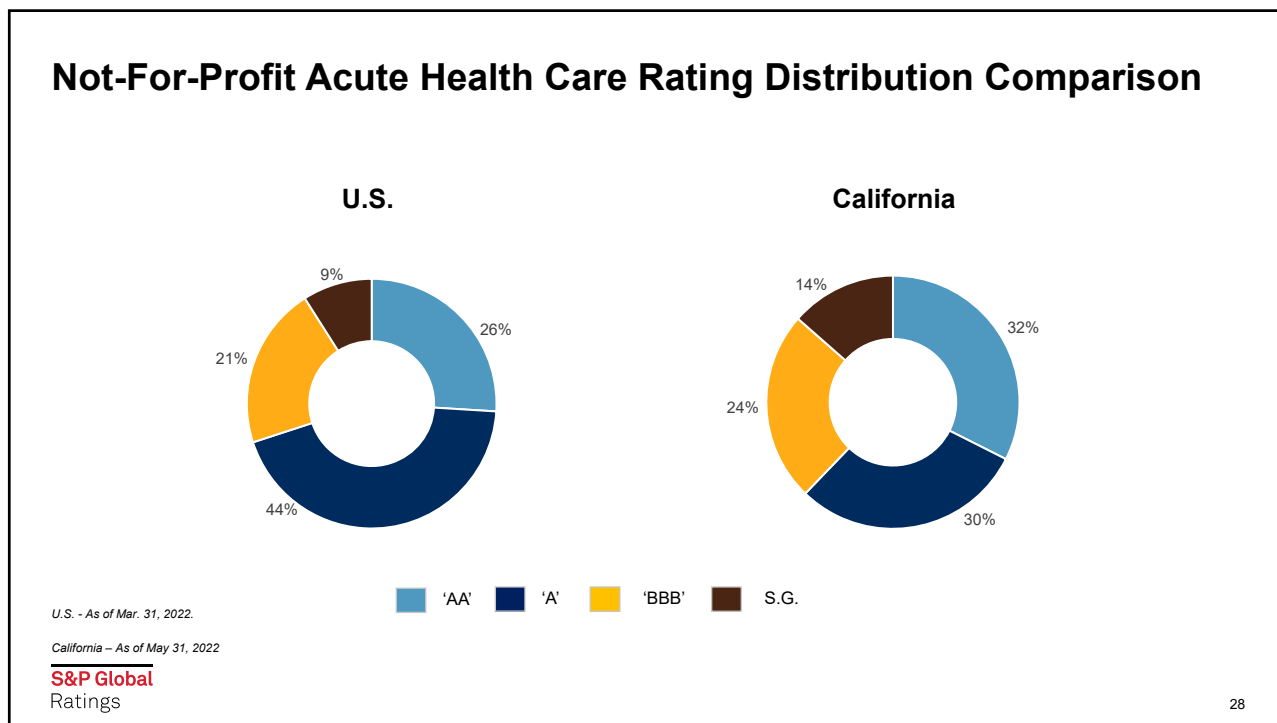
**What other factors could affect the sector in 2022?**



# California: What We Are Watching

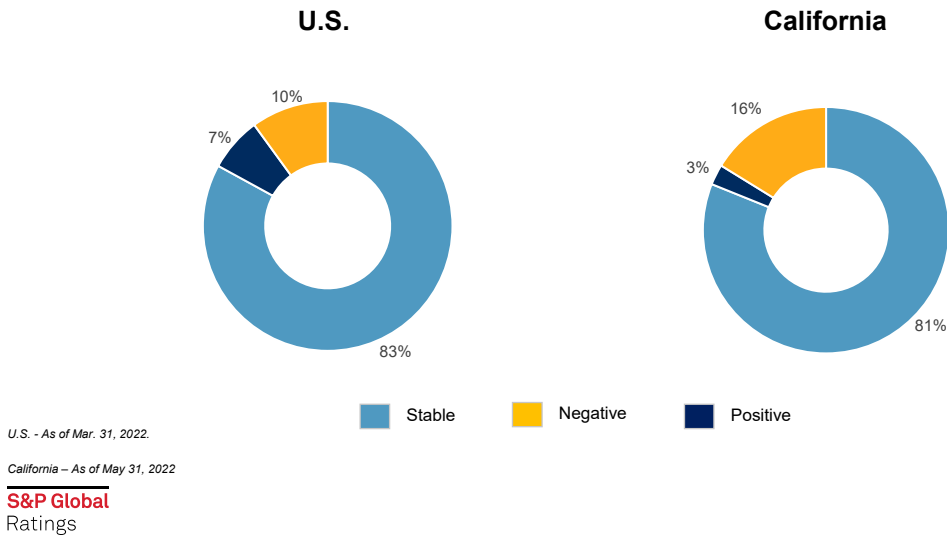


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## Not-For-Profit Acute Health Care Outlook Distribution Comparison



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## What We're Watching: Staffing Pressures

### California's labor market is influenced by staffing regulations and collective bargaining

- Nursing shortage in line with national trends.
- California is the only state that caps the number of patients assigned to a single nurse across all specialties, exacerbating staffing pressures.
- 60% of rated providers have staff with some level of participation in collective bargaining agreements.

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## What We're Watching: Diverse economic fundamentals

### Diverse economic indicators may lead to varied demand characteristics

- California's shortage of affordable housing, high social service costs and income disparity have challenged social capital demographic trends.
- Diversity in size and scale of health care providers.
- Primary service area populations range from over 60 million across multiple state jurisdictions to under 15,000.
- Majority of providers exhibit extremely or very strong economic fundamentals based on the primary service area population with population and employment growth in line with national averages.

## What We're Watching: Market consolidation and nontraditional competition

### Competitive dynamics vary across the state

- California is not a certificate of need state allowing hospitals and health systems to expand with less barriers.
- Consolidation somewhat capped in Northern California and San Diego.
- Parts of Southern California present opportunities for consolidation as the market is quite fragmented.
- Unique geography and high demand for health care services incentivizes non-traditional competition.
- Physician alignment challenged by California regulations on direct physician employment.



## What We're Watching: Environmental risk factors

### Earthquakes and wildfires are California's key environmental risk factors

- Our credit rating analysis for California providers incorporates a moderately negative influence from environmental physical risks including acute and chronic wildfire events and natural disasters, such as earthquakes.
- Many California providers exposed to wildfires which can result in disruption to operations or large scale property damage.
- Seismic requirements may impact credit rating profiles as we approach the 2030 deadline, as substantial capital plans could strain balance sheets limiting upward credit rating potential.
- Over the longer-term, pervasive drought conditions, particularly in certain parts of the state, could become a more material and visible risk in our credit rating analysis if areas become undesirable and affect population and demographic trends.

## What We're Watching: Quality assurance fee and supplemental funding

### Quality assurance fee is positive for many credits there are ongoing cash flow delays

- One-third of the state's population relies on Medi-Cal.
- Supplemental funding comprises a material component of operating margins for many California providers.
- Quality assurance fee program subject to renewal and approval from CMS – delays in renewal periods may impact receipt and recognition of funding from the program.
- Providers reliant on supplemental funds may experience operating pressure and uneven cash flow.

## California Not-For-Profit Acute Health Care Selected Medians 2020 vs. 2019

	California		All acute care	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Sample size	40	41	399	395
<b>Statement of operations</b>				
Net patient revenue (NPR; \$000)	669,193	697,322	900,920	922,974
Total operating revenue (\$000)	798,687	816,840	1,046,825	1,014,342
Salaries & benefits/NPR (%)	55.1	52.7	60.2	56.7
Maximum annual debt service coverage (x)	2.8	3.6	3.9	3.9
Operating lease-adjusted coverage (x)*	2.2	2.8	3.1	3.2
Debt burden (%)	2.9	2.9	2.4	2.4
EBIDA (\$000)	96,535	82,228	90,167	100,739
Nonoperating revenue/total revenue (%)	2.2	2.1	1.8	1.9
EBIDA margin (%)	9.6	11.6	9.5	10.0
Operating EBIDA margin (%)	7.1	8.9	7.6	8.4
Operating margin (%)	1.3	3.7	1.6	2.3
Excess margin (%)	3.2	6.1	3.4	4.1
Capital expenditures/depr. & amort. exp. (%)	108.0	131.9	112.9	119.3
<b>Balance sheet</b>				
Average age of plant (years)	11.6	11.2	11.8	11.5
Cushion ratio (x)	21.7	19.3	24.8	23.0
Days' cash on hand	193.0	186.4	232.9	210.2
Days in accounts receivable	50.2	53.6	45.1	47.6
Cash flow/total liabilities (%)	9.5	15.1	11.6	15.5
Unrestricted reserves (\$000)	519,642	421,079	680,185	553,019
Unrestricted reserves/long-term debt (%)	154.3	134.1	192.5	181.5
Unrestricted reserves/contingent liab. (%)*	851.7	729.0	775.4	650.1
Contingent liabilities/long-term debt (%)*	15.4	22.1	26.6	28.7
Long-term debt/capitalization (%)	27.7	29.9	29.9	29.2
DB pension funded status (%)*	81.4	83.5	80.7	81.8
Pension-adjusted long-term debt/capitalization (%)*	29.9	33.8	32.1	31.7

\*These five ratios are only for organizations that have defined-benefit (DB) pension plans, operating leases, or contingent liabilities. Includes stand-alone hospitals and health care systems. MNR--median not reported. Fiscal 2019 and 2020 medians are based on audited fiscal years and ratings as of June 30, 2020, and June 30, 2021, respectively.

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## California Not-For-Profit Acute Health Care Selected Medians Audited 2021 Preview

	California		
	2021	2020	2019
Sample size	32	40	41
<b>Statement of operations</b>			
Net patient revenue (NPR; \$000)	1,049,162	669,193	697,322
Total operating revenue (\$000)	1,225,958	798,687	816,840
Salaries & benefits/NPR (%)	54.3	55.1	52.7
Maximum annual debt service coverage (x)	3.7	2.8	3.6
Operating lease-adjusted coverage (x)*	3.2	2.2	2.8
Debt burden (%)	2.5	2.9	2.9
EBIDA (\$000)	119,019	96,535	82,228
Nonoperating revenue/total revenue (%)	3.2	2.2	2.1
EBIDA margin (%)	10.8	9.6	11.6
Operating EBIDA margin (%)	6.9	7.1	8.9
Operating margin (%)	0.5	1.3	3.7
Excess margin (%)	4.3	3.2	6.1
Capital expenditures/depr. & amort. exp. (%)	99.9	108.0	131.9
<b>Balance sheet</b>			
Average age of plant (years)	11.4	11.6	11.2
Cushion ratio (x)	28.4	21.7	19.3
Days' cash on hand	348.7	193.0	186.4
Days in accounts receivable	58.5	50.2	53.6
Cash flow/total liabilities (%)	11.8	9.5	15.1
Unrestricted reserves (\$000)	1,019,198	519,642	421,079
Unrestricted reserves/long-term debt (%)	251.0	154.3	134.1
Unrestricted reserves/contingent liab. (%)*	1,547.5	851.7	729.0
Contingent liabilities/long-term debt (%)*	13.1	15.4	22.1
Long-term debt/capitalization (%)	25.4	27.7	29.9
DB pension funded status (%)*	96.6	81.4	83.5
Pension-adjusted long-term debt/capitalization (%)*	26.1	29.9	33.8

\*These five ratios are only for organizations that have defined-benefit (DB) pension plans, operating leases, or contingent liabilities. Includes stand-alone hospitals and health care systems. MNR--median not reported. Fiscal 2019 and 2020 medians are based on audited fiscal years and ratings as of June 30, 2020, and June 30, 2021, respectively.

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- Not all Dec. 31, 2021 fiscal year audits yet available.
- Financial performance has weakened significantly from fiscal 2020
- Balance sheet metrics improved, impacted by new issuer with robust balance sheet

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# Q&A

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An online evaluation and an attestation of attendance will be sent to you shortly.

For education questions, contact:

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