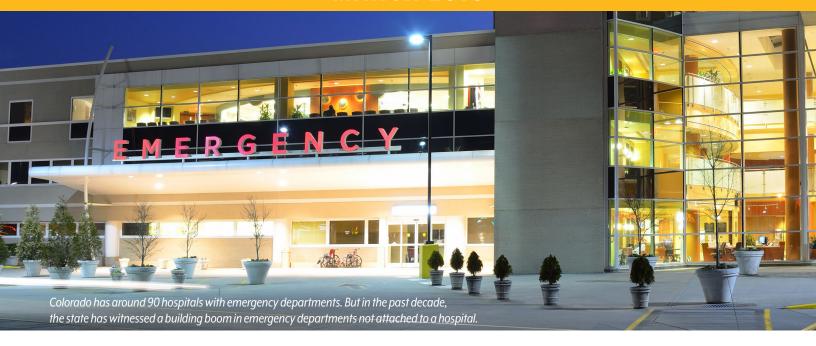


Targeted Growth

Freestanding EDs Cluster in Wealthiest Neighborhoods

MARCH 2018



Shoppers at Aurora's Southlands development can browse at popular chain stores like H&M or White House Black Market, grab a quick bite at Noodles & Company or sit down for lunch at P.F. Chang's. Choices abound.

The neighborhood also has plenty of choices in emergency medical care. Four emergency rooms are located within a 15-minute drive of Southlands—two of them just across the street from the shops.

This is Colorado's best example of freestanding emergency department clusters — a phenomenon the Colorado Health Institute (CHI) quantified through a mapping analysis.

Freestanding emergency departments have proliferated along the Front Range the past five years. But they are not distributed evenly. All the clusters are in well-to-do neighborhoods, where the median household income is more than \$100,000 a year. In contrast, the median income in Front Range neighborhoods without a freestanding emergency department is \$71,000.

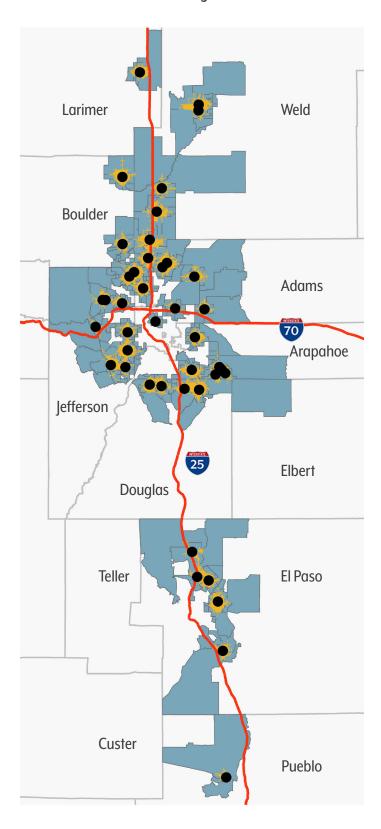
This new CHI analysis examines the locations of Colorado's 50 freestanding emergency departments.

Among the findings:

- Neighborhoods with at least one freestanding emergency department have slightly higher median incomes than those without.
- Communities with three or more such facilities have very high median incomes.
- More than 2.3 million residents of Colorado's
 Front Range nearly half the area's population
 — live in a Census tract that is within a five-minute drive of a freestanding emergency department.
- The only freestanding emergency departments in rural Colorado are in ski resort towns.

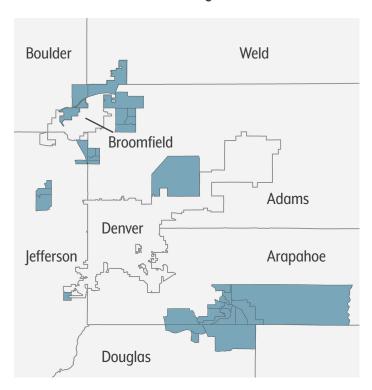
Map 1. Front Range Freestanding EDs

- Freestanding ED Five-Minute Drive Radius
- Census Tracts Within Five-Minute Radius of One or More Freestanding EDs



Map 2. Freestanding ED Clusters

Census Tracts Within Five-Minute Radius of Three or More Freestanding EDs



Map 3. Freestanding EDs Statewide

• Freestanding EDs Note: None on Eastern Plains



Background

Freestanding emergency departments provide emergency medical care but are structurally separate from a hospital. Some are satellites of local hospitals, while others are owned by non-hospital companies. They are different from urgent care centers, which treat lower acuity cases and charge less.

Texas, Arizona, Ohio and Colorado are the top states in the freestanding emergency department building boom.^{2,3} The majority of facilities nationwide have been built since 2010.4 None of these states have a Certificate of Need law, which requires facilities to demonstrate to state regulators that they will operate in an area that needs access to emergency care.

Advocates say these facilities increase access to quality emergency care. Critics say they often treat non-emergency conditions at expensive emergency room prices — often by choosing to locate in affluent neighborhoods, where patients are more likely to have private insurance, which pays providers at higher rates than Medicaid and Medicare.⁵

Previous analysis by the Center for Improving Value in Health Care found that seven of the top 10 conditions treated in Colorado freestanding emergency departments in 2014 might have been handled in a lower-level, less expensive setting.⁶

Colorado legislators are considering bills in the 2018 session requiring more disclosure of potential costs, more detailed data on prices and procedures, and licensing and fee limitations for freestanding emergency departments.

CHI's Mapping Analysis

Freestanding emergency departments cluster in wellto-do neighborhoods on the Front Range, particularly the Denver metro area.

CHI used mapping software and Census data to locate every freestanding emergency department in Colorado as of January 2018 and analyze the demographics of their neighborhoods.

We identified every Census tract that is at least partially within a five-minute drive time of a freestanding emergency department. We narrowed our analysis to the counties of Weld, Larimer, Boulder, Broomfield, Adams, Arapahoe, Denver, Jefferson, Douglas, El Paso and Pueblo, because they have the most facilities. Rural Colorado has only eight freestanding emergency departments, all in ski resort towns. (See Table 2 for a list of Colorado facilities).

CHI then performed the same drive-time analysis for traditional hospitals.

Table 1. Demographics of Front Range Census Tracts Close to Freestanding EDs and Hospitals

Facilities within a five- minute drive	Population of all tracts in this category	Below poverty	White (non- Hispanic)	Hispanic/ Latino	Jobless rate	Median household income			
Freestanding Emergency Departments									
0	2,405,334	10%	66%	23%	6%	\$71,218			
1	1,616,692	8%	64%	24%	5%	\$78,770			
2	525,092	4%	75%	16%	4%	\$96,913			
3+	179,768	4%	73%	14%	4%	\$101,313			
Hospitals									
0	2,961,767	8%	68%	21%	5%	\$82,500			
1	1,378,799	10%	65%	24%	6%	\$68,576			
2	303,634	12%	65%	23%	7%	\$ 71,706			
3+	82,686	9%	70%	15%	4%	\$69,420			

Sources: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, U.S. Census Bureau, CHI Analysis



Table 2. Colorado Freestanding Emergency Departments as of March 2018

Centennial Medical Plaza 14200 East Arapahoe Road Centennial 80112 Centura Health Emergency & Urgent Care 16320 West 64th Street Arvada 80007 Centura Health Emergency & Urgent Care 760 Warner Drive Golden 80401 Centura Health Emergency & Urgent Care 9205 South Broadway Highlands Ranch 80129 Centura Health Emergency & Urgent Care 4943 Hwy 52 Suite 100 Frederick 80530 Centura Health Emergency & Urgent Care 3280 S. Wadsworth Blvd. Lakewood 81620 Centura Health Emergency & Urgent Care 94943 Hwy 52 Suite 100 Avon 81620 Centura Health Emergency & Urgent Care 9949 S Oswego Street Suite 100 Avon 81620 Centura Health Emergency & Urgent Care 9949 S Oswego Street Suite 100 Parker 80134 Centura Health Emergency & Urgent Care 9949 S Oswego Street Suite 100 Parker 80134 Centura 84th Ave. Neighborhood Health Center 2551 W. 84th Avenue Westminster 80031 Children's Hospital Colorado North Campus 469 W State Highway 7 Suite 1 Broomfield 80023 Children's Hospital Colorado Urgent Care 1830 Franklin St., Suite 100 Denver 80218 Church Ranch Emergency Room 7233 Church Ranch Blvd. Suite 175 Complete Emergency Center ED 1000 W. South Boulder Road Lafayette 80026 Complete Emergency Care Colorado Springs 8115 Voyager Parkway Colo Springs 80920 Center Health East Grand Community Clinic And Emergency Center 6906 10th Street Greeky 80634 Center Broom Valley Health Mountain Clinic 12 Snowmass Road, # 1018 Crested Buttle 81224 North Suburban Medical Center Northwest ER 12730 N. Benton Street Westminster 80022 Cover Mergency Services at Pueblo West 899 E. Industrial Boulevard Pueblo 81007 Rose Medical Center Stapleton ER 4930 N. Wabash Street Denver 80238 Couth Indus Emergency Center Aurora 23770 E. Smoky Hill Road, Suite 100 Aurora 80016 Couthinds ER Parker Adventist Centura Health 6159 S. Southlands Parkway Aurora 80016 Couthinds ER Parker Adventist Centura Health 6159 S. Southlands Parkway Aurora 80016 Couthinds ER Parker Adventist Centura Health 6159 S. South Park Avenue Plaza II 8reckenridge 80424 Cooper Min 80423 Cooper Min 80423 Cooper	Name	Address	City	Zip
Centura Health Emergency & Urgent Care Centura Health Ave. Neighborhood Health Center Centura Health Colorado North Campus Children's Hospital Colorado North Campus Children's Hospital Colorado Colorado Corda Colorado Care Centura Health State Highway 7 Suite 1 Colorado Colorado Centura Health Colorado Colorado Corda Colorado Springs Colorado Colorado Colorado Corda Colorado Springs Colorado Corda Colorado Springs Colorado Corda Colorado Corda Colorado Springs Colorado Colorado Corda Colorado	Banner North Colorado Emergency Care	2000 70th Avenue	Greeley	80634
Centura Health Emergency & Urgent Care 760 Warner Drive Golden 80401 Centura Health Emergency & Urgent Care 9205 South Broadway Highlands Ranch 80129 Centura Health Emergency & Urgent Care 4943 Hwy 52 Suite 100 Frederick 80530 Centura Health Emergency & Urgent Care 3280 S. Wadsworth Blvd. Lakewood 80227 Centura Health Emergency & Urgent Care 3280 S. Wadsworth Blvd. Lakewood 80227 Centura Health Emergency & Urgent Care 9949 S Oswego Street Suite 100 Avon 81620 Centura Health Emergency & Urgent Care 9949 S Oswego Street Suite 100 Parker 80134 Centura 84th Ave. Neighborhood Health Center 2551 W. 84th Avenue Westminster 80031 Centura 84th Ave. Neighborhood Health Center 2551 W. 84th Avenue Westminster 80021 Centura 84th Ave. Neighborhood Health Center 1830 Franklin 5t., Suite 100 Denver 80218 Centura 84th Ave. Neighborhood Health Center 1830 Franklin 5t., Suite 100 Denver 80218 Centura 84th Ave. Neighborhood Health Center 1830 Franklin 5t., Suite 100 Denver 80218 Centura 84th Ave. Neighborhood Health Center 1830 Franklin 5t., Suite 100 Denver 80218 Centura 84th Ave. Neighborhood Health Center 1830 Franklin 5t., Suite 100 Denver 80218 Centura 84th Ave. Neighborhood Health Center 80022 Center 9450 Franklin 5t., Suite 100 Denver 80218 Centura 9450 Franklin 5t., Suite 100 Denver 80228 Centura 9450 Franklin 5t., Suite 100 Denver 80228 Centura 9450 Franklin 5t., Suite 100 Denver 80228 Centura 9450 Franklin 5t., Suite 100 Denver 80248 Centura 9450 Franklin 5t., Suite 100 Denver 80248 Centura 9450 Franklin 5t. Centura 9450	Centennial Medical Plaza	14200 East Arapahoe Road	Centennial	80112
Centura Health Emergency & Urgent Care Sentura Health Emergency & Urgent Care Lentura Health Emergency & Urgent Care Sentura Health Emergency & Urgent Care Southura Health Ave. Neighborhood Health Center Southura Have. Nei	Centura Health Emergency & Urgent Care	16320 West 64th Street	Arvada	80007
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Centura Health Emergency & Urgent Care Sentura B4th Ave. Neighborhood Health Center Schildren's Hospital Colorado North Campus Schildren's Hospital Colorado North Campus Schildren's Hospital Colorado Urgent Care Sentura B4th Ave. Neighborhood Health Center Schildren's Hospital Colorado North Campus 469 W State Highway 7 Suite 1 Broomfield 80023 Schildren's Hospital Colorado Urgent Care 1830 Franklin St., Suite 100 Denver 80218 Schildren's Hospital Colorado Urgent Care 1830 Franklin St., Suite 100 Denver 80218 Schildren's Hospital Colorado Urgent Care 1830 Franklin St., Suite 100 Denver 80218 Schildren's Hospital Colorado Urgent Care 1830 Franklin St., Suite 100 Denver 80218 Schildren's Hospital Colorado Urgent Care 1830 Franklin St., Suite 100 Denver 80218 Schildren's Hospital Colorado Urgent Care 1830 Franklin St., Suite 100 Denver 80218 Schildren's Hospital Colorado Springs 8115 Voyager Parkway Colo Springs 80026 Schoper Parkway Colo Springs 80026 Schoper Health East Grand Community Clinic And 145 Parsenn Road Winter Park 80482 Schenery Emergency Center Greeley Emergency Center Schoper Health Mountain Clinic 12 Snowmass Road, ≠ 101B Crested Butte Schoper Ball Schoper Schoper Ball S	Centura Health Emergency & Urgent Care	9205 South Broadway	Highlands Ranch	80129
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Centura Health Emergency & Urgent Care 9949 S Oswego Street Suite 100 Parker 80134 Centura 84th Ave. Neighborhood Health Center 2551 W. 84th Avenue Westminster 80031 Children's Hospital Colorado North Campus 469 W State Highway 7 Suite 1 Broomfield 80023 Children's Hospital Colorado Urgent Care 1830 Franklin St., Suite 100 Denver 80218 Church Ranch Emergency Room 7233 Church Ranch Blvd. Suite 175 Westminster 80021 Community Medical Center ED 1000 W. South Boulder Road Lafayette 80026 Complete Emergency Care Colorado Springs 8115 Voyager Parkway Colo Springs 80920 Conver Health East Grand Community Clinic And Emergency Center Greeley Emergency Center 6906 10th Street Greeley Emergency Greeley Emergency Emergency Emergency Enter Northwest ER 12793 Holly Street Thornton 80602 North Suburban Medical Center-Northwest ER 11230 N. Benton Street Westminster 80026 Parkview Emergency Services at Pueblo West 899 E. Industrial Boulevard Pueblo 81007 Rose Medical Center Stapleton ER 4930 N. Wabash Street Denver 80238 Goddle Rock Emergency Room 22500 E. Dry Creek Road Aurora 80016 Gotthlands ER Parker Adventist Centura Health 6159 S. Southlands Parkway Aurora 80016 Granthony Breckenridge Community Clinic Granthony Evestone Medical Clinic 1252 Road 8 Keystone 80424 Granthony Keystone Medical Clinic 1252 Road 8 Keystone Steamboat ER LLC 1600 Mid Valley Drive Steamboat Spgs	Centura Health Emergency & Urgent Care	3280 S. Wadsworth Blvd.	Lakewood	80227
Centura 84th Ave. Neighborhood Health Center 2551 W. 84th Avenue Westminster 80031 Children's Hospital Colorado North Campus 469 W State Highway 7 Suite 1 Broomfield 80023 Children's Hospital Colorado Urgent Care 1830 Franklin St., Suite 100 Denver 80218 Church Ranch Emergency Room 7233 Church Ranch Blvd . Suite 175 Westminster 80021 Community Medical Center ED 1000 W. South Boulder Road Lafayette 80026 Complete Emergency Care Colorado Springs 8115 Voyager Parkway Colo Springs 80920 Denver Health East Grand Community Clinic And 2145 Parsenn Road Winter Park 80482 Cereley Emergency Center Greeley Emergency Center Northeast ER 12793 Holly Street Thornton 80602 Parkview Emergency Services at Pueblo West 899 E. Industrial Boulevard Pueblo 81007 Rose Medical Center Stapleton ER 4930 N. Wabash Street Denver 80238 Goddle Rock Emergency Room 22500 E. Dry Creek Road Aurora 80016 Got Health Emergency Center Aurora 23770 E. Smoky Hill Road, Suite 100 Aurora 80016 Got Halth Emergency Community Clinic 555 South Park Avenue Plaza II Breckenridge 80424 Graphony Eveckenridge Community Clinic 555 South Park Avenue Plaza II Breckenridge 80424 Graphony Eveckenridge Community Clinic 1252 Road 8 Keystone 80435 Greanboat ER LLC 1600 Mid Valley Drive Steamboat Spgs 80487 Greeley Emergency Everter Felluride 80426 Gowedish South Ammon Way Littleton 80256 Greeley Emergency Everter Felluride 80427 Felluride 80428 Felluride 80528 Felluride 80628 Felluride 80729 Felluride 80721 Felluride 80721 Felluride 80721 Felluride	Centura Health Emergency & Urgent Care-Avon	50 Buck Creek Road, Suite 100	Avon	81620
Children's Hospital Colorado North Campus 469 W State Highway 7 Suite 1 Broomfield 80023 Children's Hospital Colorado Urgent Care 1830 Franklin St., Suite 100 Denver 80218 Church Ranch Emergency Room 7233 Church Ranch Blvd .Suite 175 Westminster 80021 Community Medical Center ED 1000 W. South Boulder Road Lafayette 80026 Complete Emergency Care Colorado Springs 8115 Voyager Parkway Colo Springs 80920 Conver Health East Grand Community Clinic And Emergency Center 6906 10th Street Greeley Emergency Center Greeley Emergency Emer	Centura Health Emergency & Urgent Care	9949 S Oswego Street Suite 100	Parker	80134
Children's Hospital Colorado Urgent Care 1830 Franklin St., Suite 100 Denver 80218 Church Ranch Emergency Room 7233 Church Ranch Blvd . Suite 175 Westminster 80021 Community Medical Center ED 1000 W. South Boulder Road Lafayette 80026 Complete Emergency Care Colorado Springs 8115 Voyager Parkway Colo Springs 80920 Conver Health East Grand Community Clinic And Intergency Center Greeley Emergency Emergency Greeley Emergency Emergency Greeley Ender Park Emergency Greeley	Centura 84th Ave. Neighborhood Health Center	2551 W. 84th Avenue	Westminster	80031
Church Ranch Emergency Room 7233 Church Ranch Blvd .Suite 175 Westminster 80021 Community Medical Center ED 1000 W. South Boulder Road Lafayette 80026 Complete Emergency Care Colorado Springs 8115 Voyager Parkway Colo Springs 80920 Colo Springs 80920 Complete Emergency Care Colorado Springs 8115 Voyager Parkway Colo Springs 80920 Colorado Springs 80634 Colorado Springs 80634 Corested Butte 81224 Corested Butte 81224 Corested Butte 81224 Corested Butte 81224 Corested Butte 81225 Corested Butte 81224 Corested Butte 81224 Corested Butte 81225 Corested Butte 81224 Corested Butte 81	Children's Hospital Colorado North Campus	469 W State Highway 7 Suite 1	Broomfield	80023
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Complete Emergency Care Colorado Springs 8115 Voyager Parkway Colo Springs 80920 Denver Health East Grand Community Clinic And Emergency Center Greeley Emergency Center Employ Employed English Southwest English South Ammon Way Colo Springs English South English E	Church Ranch Emergency Room	7233 Church Ranch Blvd .Suite 175	Westminster	80021
Denver Health East Grand Community Clinic And Emergency Center Greeley Emergency Environment En	Community Medical Center ED	1000 W. South Boulder Road	Lafayette	80026
Emergency Center Greeley Emergency Center From the Suburban Medical Center Northeast ER I25 North Suburban Medical Center Northeast ER I1250 N. Benton Street Westminster Rooz Center Street Westminster Rooz Medical Center Stapleton ER Rooz Medical Center Aurora Rooz Medical Center Aurora Rooz Medical Rook Emergency Room Rooz Medical Rook Free Rood Rooz Medical Rook Emergency Room Rooz Medical Center Belmar ER Rooz Medical Rook Emergency Room Rooz Medical Center Belmar ER Rooz Medical Center Belmar ER Rooz Medical Center Rooz Medica	Complete Emergency Care Colorado Springs	8115 Voyager Parkway	Colo Springs	80920
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North Suburban Medical Center Northeast ER 12793 Holly Street Thornton 80602 North Suburban Medical Center-Northwest ER 11230 N. Benton Street Westminster 80020 Parkview Emergency Services at Pueblo West 899 E. Industrial Boulevard Pueblo 81007 Rose Medical Center Stapleton ER 4930 N. Wabash Street Denver 80238 Saddle Rock Emergency Room 22500 E. Dry Creek Road Aurora 80016 Southlands ER Parker Adventist Centura Health 6159 S. Southlands Parkway Aurora 80016 St Anthony Breckenridge Community Clinic 555 South Park Avenue Plaza II Breckenridge 80424 St Anthony Keystone Medical Clinic 1252 Road 8 Keystone 80435 Steamboat ER LLC 1600 Mid Valley Drive Steamboat Spgs 80426 Swedish Medical Center Belmar ER 6196 South Ammon Way Littleton 80123 Felluride Regional Medical Center Telluride 81435	Greeley Emergency Center	6906 10th Street	Greeley	80634
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Parkview Emergency Services at Pueblo West 899 E. Industrial Boulevard Pueblo 81007 Rose Medical Center Stapleton ER 4930 N. Wabash Street Denver 80238 Saddle Rock Emergency Room 22500 E. Dry Creek Road Aurora 80016 SCL Health Emergency Center Aurora 23770 E. Smoky Hill Road, Suite 100 Aurora 80016 Southlands ER Parker Adventist Centura Health 6159 S. Southlands Parkway Aurora 80016 St Anthony Breckenridge Community Clinic 555 South Park Avenue Plaza II Breckenridge 80424 St Anthony Copper Mountain Clinic 860 Copper Road Copper Mtn 80443 St Anthony Keystone Medical Clinic 1252 Road 8 Keystone 80487 Steamboat ER LLC 1600 Mid Valley Drive Steamboat Spgs 80487 Swedish Medical Center Belmar ER 260 S. Wadsworth Blvd. Lakewood 80226 Swedish Southwest ER 6196 South Ammon Way Littleton 80123 Telluride 81435	North Suburban Medical Center Northeast ER	12793 Holly Street	Thornton	80602
Rose Medical Center Stapleton ER 4930 N. Wabash Street Denver 80238 Saddle Rock Emergency Room 22500 E. Dry Creek Road Aurora 80016 SCL Health Emergency Center Aurora 23770 E. Smoky Hill Road, Suite 100 Aurora 80016 Southlands ER Parker Adventist Centura Health 6159 S. Southlands Parkway Aurora 80016 St Anthony Breckenridge Community Clinic 555 South Park Avenue Plaza II Breckenridge 80424 St Anthony Copper Mountain Clinic 860 Copper Road Copper Mtn 80443 St Anthony Keystone Medical Clinic 1252 Road 8 Steamboat ER LLC 1600 Mid Valley Drive Steamboat Spgs 80487 Swedish Medical Center Belmar ER 260 S. Wadsworth Blvd. Lakewood 80226 Swedish Southwest ER 6196 South Ammon Way Littleton 80123 Felluride Regional Medical Center	North Suburban Medical Center-Northwest ER	11230 N. Benton Street	Westminster	80020
Saddle Rock Emergency Room 22500 E. Dry Creek Road Aurora 80016 3CL Health Emergency Center Aurora 23770 E. Smoky Hill Road, Suite 100 Aurora 80016 Southlands ER Parker Adventist Centura Health 6159 S. Southlands Parkway Aurora 80016 5th Anthony Breckenridge Community Clinic 5th Anthony Copper Mountain Clinic 5th Anthony Keystone Medical Clinic 5th Anthony Keystone Medical Clinic 5th Anthony Keystone Medical Clinic 6th Anthony Keyston	Parkview Emergency Services at Pueblo West	899 E. Industrial Boulevard	Pueblo	81007
23770 E. Smoky Hill Road, Suite 100 Aurora 80016 Southlands ER Parker Adventist Centura Health 6159 S. Southlands Parkway Aurora 80016 St Anthony Breckenridge Community Clinic 555 South Park Avenue Plaza II Breckenridge 80424 St Anthony Copper Mountain Clinic 860 Copper Road Copper Mtn 80443 St Anthony Keystone Medical Clinic 1252 Road 8 Keystone 80435 Steamboat ER LLC 1600 Mid Valley Drive Steamboat Spgs 80487 Swedish Medical Center Belmar ER 260 S. Wadsworth Blvd. Lakewood 80226 Swedish Southwest ER 6196 South Ammon Way Littleton 80123 Felluride Regional Medical Center	Rose Medical Center Stapleton ER	4930 N. Wabash Street	Denver	80238
Southlands ER Parker Adventist Centura Health 6159 S. Southlands Parkway Aurora 80016 61 Anthony Breckenridge Community Clinic 555 South Park Avenue Plaza II Breckenridge 80424 61 Anthony Copper Mountain Clinic 860 Copper Road Copper Mtn 80443 61 Anthony Keystone Medical Clinic 1252 Road 8 61 Keystone 80435 61 Edwedish Medical Center Belmar ER 260 S. Wadsworth Blvd. Copper Mtn 80443 80435 80436 80437 8043	Saddle Rock Emergency Room	22500 E. Dry Creek Road	Aurora	80016
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Steamboat ER LLC 1600 Mid Valley Drive Steamboat Spgs 80487 Swedish Medical Center Belmar ER 260 S. Wadsworth Blvd. Lakewood 80226 Swedish Southwest ER 6196 South Ammon Way Littleton 80123 Felluride Regional Medical Center	St Anthony Breckenridge Community Clinic	555 South Park Avenue Plaza II	Breckenridge	80424
Steamboat ER LLC 1600 Mid Valley Drive Steamboat Spgs 80487 Swedish Medical Center Belmar ER 260 S. Wadsworth Blvd. Lakewood 80226 Swedish Southwest ER 6196 South Ammon Way Littleton 80123 Telluride Regional Medical Center 500 W. Pacific Avenue Telluride	St Anthony Copper Mountain Clinic	860 Copper Road	Copper Mtn	80443
Swedish Medical Center Belmar ER 260 S. Wadsworth Blvd. Lakewood 80226 Swedish Southwest ER 6196 South Ammon Way Littleton 80123 Telluride Regional Medical Center 500 W. Pacific Avenue Telluride 81435	St Anthony Keystone Medical Clinic	1252 Road 8	Keystone	80435
Swedish Southwest ER 6196 South Ammon Way Littleton 80123 Felluride Regional Medical Center 500 W. Pacific Avenue Telluride 81435	Steamboat ER LLC	1600 Mid Valley Drive	Steamboat Spgs	80487
Felluride Regional Medical Center 500 W. Pacific Avenue Telluride 81435	Swedish Medical Center Belmar ER	260 S. Wadsworth Blvd.	Lakewood	80226
	Swedish Southwest ER	6196 South Ammon Way	Littleton	80123
JCHealth ER 875 W. 136th Avenue Broomfield 80023	Telluride Regional Medical Center	500 W. Pacific Avenue	Telluride	81435
	UCHealth ER	875 W. 136th Avenue	Broomfield	80023

Continued on next page

Findings

Front Range Census tracts with one freestanding emergency department within a five-minute drive have a median annual income of \$79,000 compared with a median income of \$71,000 a year for those with no nearby stand-alone emergency room. The Census tracts with a nearby freestanding emergency room have a poverty rate of 8 percent, lower than the 10 percent of Census tracts without a facility.

But Census tracts with three or more freestanding emergency departments within a five-minute drive have much higher incomes and much lower poverty rates. The median household income in these areas is \$101,000, and the poverty rate is just 4 percent.

Traditional hospitals, on the other hand, have the opposite results in CHI's demographic analysis. The more hospitals within a five-minute drive, the higher the poverty rate and the lower the income.

Census tracts close to three or more hospitals have a median household income of \$69,000 and a poverty

rate of 9 percent compared with a median income of \$83,000 and a poverty rate of 8 percent for tracts with no hospital within a five-minute drive. This likely reflects the density of hospitals in central Denver and Aurora, where incomes are lower than many suburbs.

Conclusion

This analysis shows that freestanding emergency departments cluster in high-income areas, where people are more likely to have private insurance and less likely to have Medicaid, which pays lower rates to providers than commercial carriers. Critics would say the finding supports their position that the facilities are positioned to make the most money, and that they are less likely to expand access to medical care for vulnerable populations.

The analysis is consistent with other studies done around the country that show freestanding emergency departments disproportionately locate in affluent areas and those with high rates of employersponsored insurance.^{7,8}

Table 2 (continued). Colorado Freestanding Emergency Departments as of March 2018

UCHealth ER	15100 E. 104th Avenue	Commerce City	80022
UCHealth ER	12020 Colorado Blvd	Thornton	80241
UCHealth ER	15300 E. Mississippi Avenue	Aurora	80017
UCHealth ER	25551 E. Smoky Hill Road	Aurora	80016
UCHealth ER	13351 W. Bowles Avenue	Littleton	80127
UCHealth ER	2101 Main Street	Longmont	80501
UCHealth ER	18610 Green Valley Ranch Blvd.	Denver	80249
UCHealth ER	9475 S. University Blvd.	Highlands Ranch	80126
UCHealth ER	16990 Village Center Drive East	Parker	80134
UCHealth ER	3790 E. Woodmen Road	Colo Springs	80920
UCHealth ER	13510 Meadow Grass Drive	Colo Springs	80921
UCHealth ER	2770 N. Powers Blvd.	Colo Springs	80922
UCHealth ER	7890 Fountain Mesa Road	Fountain	80817
UCHealth ER	15240 W. 64th Avenue	Arvada	80007
UCHealth ER	9505 Ralston Road	Arvada	80002
UCHealth ER	5965 Firestone Blvd.	Firestone	80504
UCHealth Harmony Road ER	4630 Snow Mesa Drive	Fort Collins	80528

Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Endnotes

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- ⁸ Medicare Payment Advisory Commission. (2017).

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