

About

A robust primary care infrastructure has been shown to improve the health and well-being of populations. This scorecard, developed by the Virginia Center for Health Innovation on behalf of the Virginia Task Force on Primary Care, aims to provide an annual tracking tool to monitor the health and well-being of primary care in Virginia.

Scorecard measures include:

- Expenditures – Measures financial investment in primary care and disparities in resources
- Workforce – Measures the capacity of primary care clinicians to care for Virginians and variation in workforce by geographic region
- Primary Care Use – Measures how Virginians are using primary care
- Outcomes – Measures the health and well-being of Virginians based on primary-care sensitive metrics
- Patient Experience – Measures experiences related to accessing primary care

VTFPC defines primary care using a narrow definition (preventive services provided by physician specialties) and a broad definition (includes advanced practice practitioners). For more information see [Primary Care Spend Report, 2024](#).

Key Findings

- Virginia spent 2.3% to 4.1% of total healthcare dollars on primary care.
- Virginia lost more primary care physicians than it gained (-50 PCPs) in 2021 (most recent data available).
- An estimated 51.9% of insured Virginians had a primary care visit in 2022, with decreases across every payer from the year prior.
- Available emergency department rates are rising, with 10% of visits considered avoidable.
- Virginia primary care wait times increased by 4.5 days in 2019, up from 38.3 days in 2016-2018.*

Expenditures | **Workforce** | **Primary Care Use**
Outcomes | **Patient Experience** | **Sources**

Task Force Recommendations and Initiatives for SFY '24 & '25

SFY '24 KEY INITIATIVES

Person-Centered Primary Care Measure (PCPCM) Pilot

GOAL: Completion and evaluation

PROGRESS: 687 Clinicians enrolled, extended to 6/30/2025 due to IRB approval delays and larger than expected enrollment

Virginia Joy in Medicine Clinician Retention Initiative

GOAL: Launch with at least 5 primary care organizations

PROGRESS: 6 organizations enrolling, launch scheduled for summer 2024

Smarter Care Virginia Improving Vaccination Rates Initiative

GOAL: Launch with 500 practice sites

PROGRESS: Delayed due to data use agreements, launch expected fall 2024

Pediatric Behavioral Health Integration Pilot

GOAL: Design and implement a payment model with Medicaid health plans to support pediatric practices integrate behavioral health

PROGRESS: Design complete, contracting begins summer 2024

89 members engaged on the Virginia Primary Care Innovation Hub

SFY '25 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increase investment in primary care research and launch Research Consortium to promote evidence-based policy for Virginia
- Establish a primary care spending target with timelines for Medicaid and Commercial payers in Virginia
- Pursue parity spend with Medicare for Virginia Medicaid primary care services
- Evaluate and expand Task Force pilot to integrate behavioral health and primary care for children and adolescents
- Add a question on primary care wait times to Virginia's next annual state Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey
- Continue Smarter Care Virginia Improving Vaccination Rates pilot
- Continue to evaluate PCPCM pilot
- Continue to implement Virginia Joy in Healthcare pilot
- Continue to publish annual Primary Care Scorecard, Primary Care Spend report and Total Cost of Care report
- Continue to promote and utilize Primary Care Innovation Hub to share resources and best practices

Virginia Total Cost of Care Report & accompanying Dashboard

Virginia's Total Cost of Care
June 2024

Total healthcare expenditures in Virginia have been increasing in recent years, following a sharp decline in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Expenditures have now fully rebounded, exceeding total spend prior to the pandemic. In 2022, Virginia is estimated to have spent more than \$43.2 billion on healthcare expenditures—excluding costs incurred by the uninsured, self-insured, military, or federal employees. In total, healthcare accounted for 14.4% of the state's gross domestic product (GDP), significantly below the national average of 17.3%, and declining.*

Key Findings

- Medicaid accounts for the greatest share of healthcare expenditures (30.0%).
- Across all payers, prescription drugs account for 25.3% of healthcare dollars, followed by physician/professional services (24.3%) and inpatient hospitals (22.9%).
- Within physician/professional expenditures, 63.5% is spent on specialty care and 16.5% is spent on primary care—resulting in 4.1% of total healthcare expenditures spent on primary care.
- While commercial payers and Medicare Advantage spend more than one-third on prescription drugs, Medicaid spends 17.4% on prescription drugs and 26.6% on physician services.
- Spend varies by region. Southeast spent the most on prescription drugs (31.1-36.0%), while Northern Virginia, Hampton Roads, and Richmond city areas spent more on physician/professional services (24.0% - 29.1%).

Spent by Payer

Medicaid expenditures account for the greatest share of healthcare spend in the Commonwealth, with 30.0% (\$13.2 billion) of healthcare expenditures. Traditional Medicare (Medicare Fee-for-Service (FFS)) follows closely at 28.4% (\$11.0 billion).

Total Cost of Care, 2022

Across all payers, in 2022, prescription drugs accounted for the greatest share of expenditures in Virginia with 25.3% (\$10.9 billion). Physician/professional services accounted for 24.3% of total expenditures. The vast majority (83.5%) of physician services are specialty care, resulting in a total investment of 4.1% in primary care. For additional details of primary care spend please see [Virginia Primary Care Spend Report 2024](#).

Percentages spent in each service type vary greatly by payer. Commercial and Medicare Advantage both spend more than one-third of all expenditures on prescription drugs (34.4% and 36.9% respectively). However, with special access to drug rebates that reduce the cost of prescription drugs, Medicaid spent only 17.4% on prescriptions, with 26.6% spent on physician/professional services. Traditional Medicare spends its greatest proportion of healthcare dollars on inpatient hospital facility fees (27.6%).

Virginia Primary Care Spend Report

Includes information previously in the Virginia Telehealth Spend and Virginia Behavioral Health Spend Reports

Virginia Primary Care Investment
June 2024

VIRGINIA CENTER FOR HEALTH INNOVATION | **VIRGINIA TASK FORCE ON PRIMARY CARE**