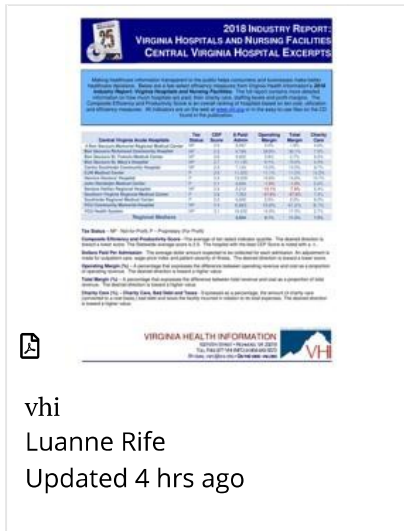


https://www.roanoke.com/business/columns_and_blogs/blogs/med_beat/med-beat-one-third-of-virginia-s-hospitals-operated-in/article_0eaa82e6-f460-54f8-a52f-6e9b8dba98b3.html

Med Beat: One-third of Virginia's hospitals operated in the red in 2017

Luanne Rife luanne.rife@roanoke.com 981-3209 4 hrs ago

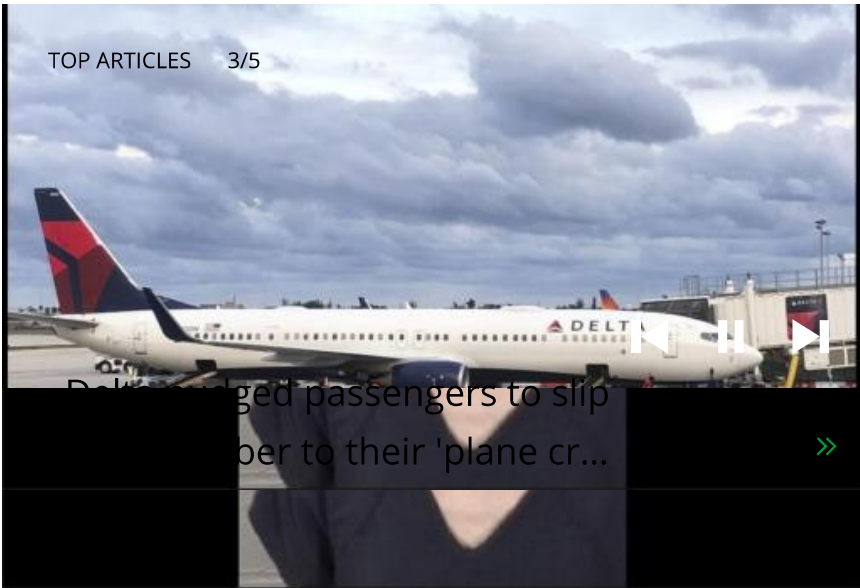


Virginia Health Information has published the annual report on hospitals' efficiency and productivity.

The agency gathers financial and operational data on hospitals, nursing homes and surgical centers and then publishes reports that include data on charity care, profit margins and performance.

The data is for 2017.

Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association said the information shows the number of hospitals with negative operating margins rose 43 percent from 2016 to 2017. Across the state, a third of all hospitals operated in the red. The association said 57 percent of rural hospitals reported negative margins, and more than half of all hospitals showed declines.



Seven of the 21 hospitals the Virginia Health Information groups in the southwestern region had negative operating margins for 2017. They were Bedford Memorial Hospital, Carilion Tazewell Community Hospital, LewisGale Hospital Pulaski, Russell County Medial Center, Smyth County Community Hospital and Twin County Regional Hospital.

Two – Buchanan General Hospital and Carilion Franklin Memorial Hospital – had operating margins of less than 1 percent.

Virginia expanded Medicaid on Jan. 1 so that 400,000 more Virginians will have insurance coverage to pay for care. The hospitals are paying an assessment to help offset the cost of the expansion program, but overall expect a decrease in amount of uncompensated and charitable care.

The hospital association said in a news release that "expansion alone isn't sufficient to address many broader systemic challenges."

Luanne Rife

Luanne Rife writes about the businesses, policies, discoveries and inventions that affect the health of people living in southwestern Virginia.