

HARBORVIEW MEDICAL CENTER

REGIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE

Sommer Kleweno Walley, Chief Executive Officer

Harborview Medical Center

December 10, 2025

Harborview's Mission

Harborview Medical Center is owned by King County, governed by the Harborview Board of Trustees, and managed under contract by the University of Washington.

Harborview Medical Center is a comprehensive healthcare facility dedicated to the control of illness and the promotion and restoration of health. Its primary mission is to provide healthcare for the most vulnerable residents of King County; to provide and teach exemplary patient care; to provide care for a broad spectrum of patients from throughout the region; and to develop and maintain leading – edge centers of emphasis. As the only Level I Adult and Pediatric Trauma Center in Washington, Harborview Medical Center provides specialized comprehensive emergency services to patients throughout the region and serves as the disaster preparedness and disaster control hospital for Seattle and King County.

The following groups of patients and programs will be given priority for care:

- Persons who are non-English speaking poor
- Persons who are uninsured or underinsured
- Persons who experience domestic violence
- Persons who experience sexual assault
- Persons incarcerated in King County's Jails
- Persons with mental illness, particularly those treated involuntarily
- Persons with substance abuse
- Persons with sexually transmitted diseases
- Persons who require specialized emergency care
- Persons who require trauma care
- Persons who require burn care

Harborview's patient care mission is accomplished by assuming and maintaining a strong leadership position in the Pacific Northwest and the local community. This leadership role is nurtured through the delivery of health services of the highest quality to all of its patients and through effective use of its resources as determined by the Harborview Board of Trustees.

Harborview, in cooperation with UW Medicine, plans and coordinates with Public Health Seattle and King County, other County agencies, community providers, and area hospitals, to provide programs and services.

Harborview fulfills its educational mission through commitment to the support of undergraduate, graduate, post-graduate and continuing education programs of the health professions of the University of Washington and other educational institutions, as well as programs relating to patient education.

Harborview recognizes that the delivery of the highest quality of healthcare is enhanced by a strong commitment to teaching, community service and research.

Harborview Governance



Regional Safety Net - Mission driven



Owned by the citizens of King County



Managed by the University of Washington since 1967



Governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by King County

Harborview Medical Center: Regional Public Health Leadership

- Largest Safety Net Care Provider in Washington
- Regional Level I Adult and Pediatric Trauma Center
- Regional Burn Center
- Behavioral Health
- Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response
- High-Consequence Infectious Disease (HCID) and Special Pathogens Center
- Public Health & Community Health Training, Research, and Workforce Development

Harborview by the Numbers

540

Licensed beds

484

Average daily census FY25

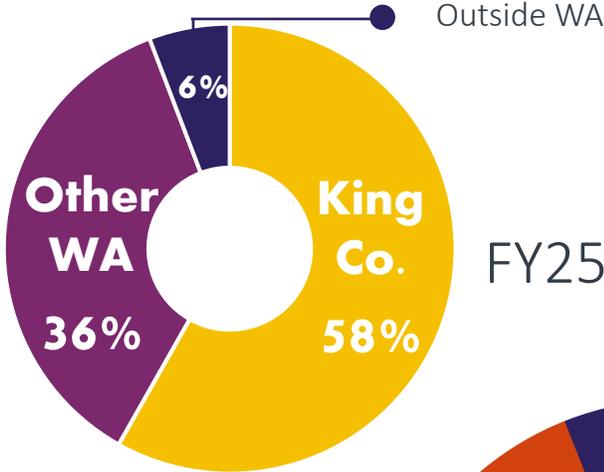
16,821

Inpatient admissions FY24

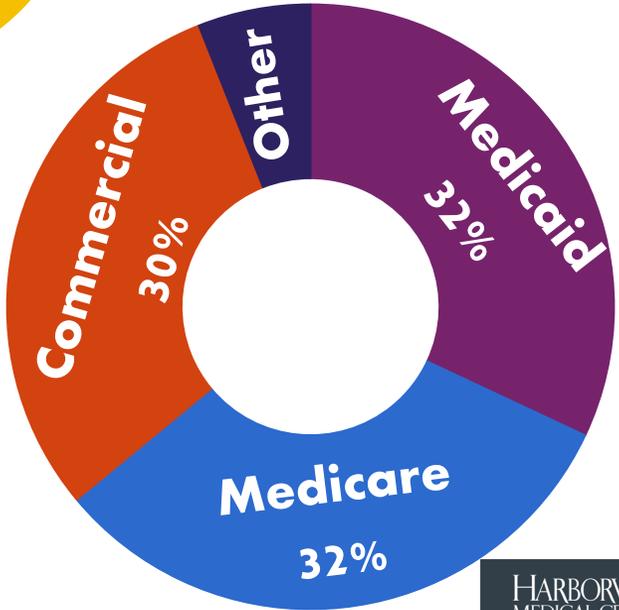
59,776

Emergency department visits FY24

Inpatient Origin



FY25 Payer Mix FY25



Trauma Program

- Harborview Medical Center is the sole Level I Adult and Pediatric Trauma and Burn Center in the region
- Harborview treats the most complex cases in the state and has among the best quality outcomes in the country for trauma



Behavioral Health

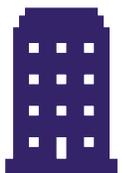
Harborview is a crucial link in the region's behavioral healthcare system.



66-bed inpatient psychiatry beds, providing acute psychiatric care and stabilization for patients with severe mental illness or crises



The State's only **24-hour psychiatric emergency services department**



Outpatient & long-term behavioral health & substance use services

Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

- Serves as Washington's lead disaster medical coordination center, providing statewide & regional support during mass-casualty incidents, natural disasters, and public-health emergencies.
- Maintains specialized teams, surge capacity, and training programs for regional & national emergency preparedness, including coordination with EMS, Public Health—Seattle & King County, state & national emergency management agencies.

Critical Tax Support from King County

- King County has long supported Harborview Medical Center, including through periodic bond initiatives for major capital projects
- In 2025, King County passed a new property tax to support capital and operating needs at Harborview. The King County Council voted to increase this tax in 2026.
- This support is critical for Harborview; however, it will not fully mitigate the large impending federal Medicaid cuts implemented by H.R. 1.

H.R. 1 Medicaid Cuts

- Passage of the Affordable Care Act resulted in significant expansion of the Medicaid program, increasing both in terms of program eligibility and the federal government's contribution
- UW Medicine has leveraged the Medicaid program in two major ways:
 - Enrolled previously uninsured patients in Medicaid – Harborview's rate of uninsured patients dropped from approximately 12% before the ACA to roughly 3% today
 - Secured additional federal support through directed payment programs, which utilize UW's status as a state entity to increase Medicaid supplemental funding

Timeline of Major Medicaid Cuts in H.R.1

Funding cuts

10/1/2026

Federal Medicaid match for qualifying immigrants reduced to 50%

1/1/2028

- Directed payment rates reduced by 10% a year until they reach Medicare rates
- State provider tax “hold harmless” thresholds reduced from 6% to 3.5% between 2028 and 2032

Benefit and eligibility cuts

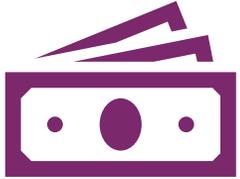
1/1/2027

- States must verify Medicaid eligibility every 6 months
- Medicaid retroactive eligibility period shortened
- New work requirements for “able bodied” adults

10/1/2028

New cost sharing requirements for Medicaid expansion population earning over 100% FPL

Impacts to Harborview from Medicaid Cuts



Harborview stands to lose up to **\$224 million in directed payments**, due to cuts in H.R. 1.



Reductions to Medicaid eligibility will also have significant financial impacts. For every 1% shift in patients from Medicaid to uninsured, Harborview will lose approximately **\$8.4M per year**.



These reimbursement reductions, along with other federal and state cuts, will severely impact Harborview's ability to provide the critical mission-aligned services we currently provide.