Physician Charity Care

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Physician Charity Care

- Nationally, 64.5% of physicians provide charity care (361,000)
- These physicians provide on average:
  - 7.5 hours of charity care per week
  - $54,468 of charity care per year
  - $19.7 billion of charity care per year
Physician Charity Care

- Nationally, 68.2% of physicians provide charity care (397,000)
- These physicians provide on average 10.6 hours of charity care per week
The percentage of physicians providing charity care decreased to 68.2% from 71.5% in 2000-01
- Across all major specialty groups
- Across both urban and rural areas
- For physicians at all levels of income

Surgical specialists are the most likely to provide charity care (on call at hospitals)

Pediatricians are the least likely to provide charity care (fewer children are uninsured)

Levels of charity care are highest among physicians in solo or group practices and those who are full or part owners of their own practice
Implications

- Constraints from payers have created financial pressures that may be limiting ability to provide charity care.
- Time pressures for physicians have increased, in part because of a strong surge in demand for physician services.
- The movement toward larger practice arrangements and less ownership is also contributing to a decrease in charity care.
Physician Charity Care

- Based on local survey, representing approximately 7% of physicians (10% clinics) in SD
- Statewide physicians provide an average of $8430 of charity care per year
  - Estimated $13.3 million of charity care per year in SD
Working together

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