

The states of health care: November 5th to 11th

Health care news stories from around the U.S.

New Hampshire:

The state is improving its recovery-friendly workplace program to help New Hampshire businesses support employees who have substance-use disorders

Massachusetts:

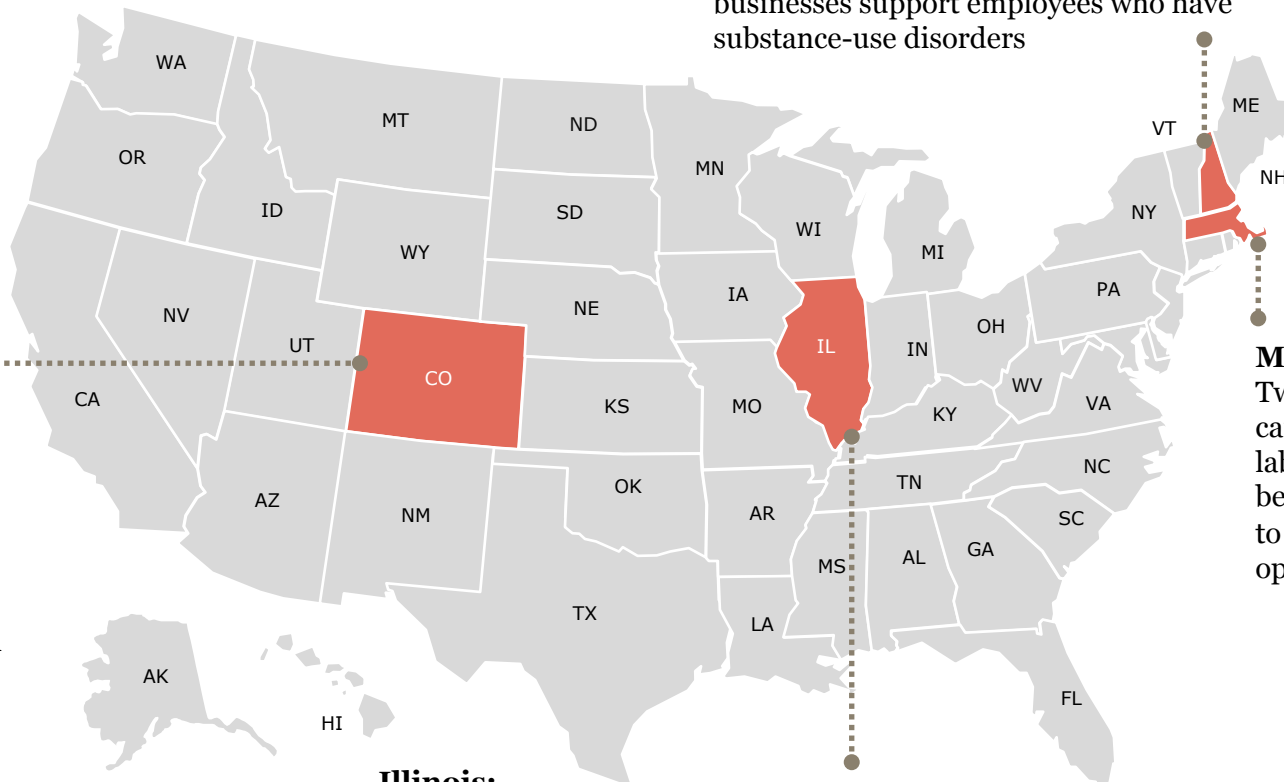
Two licensed cannabis testing laboratories have been given the “okay” to officially begin operations

Colorado:

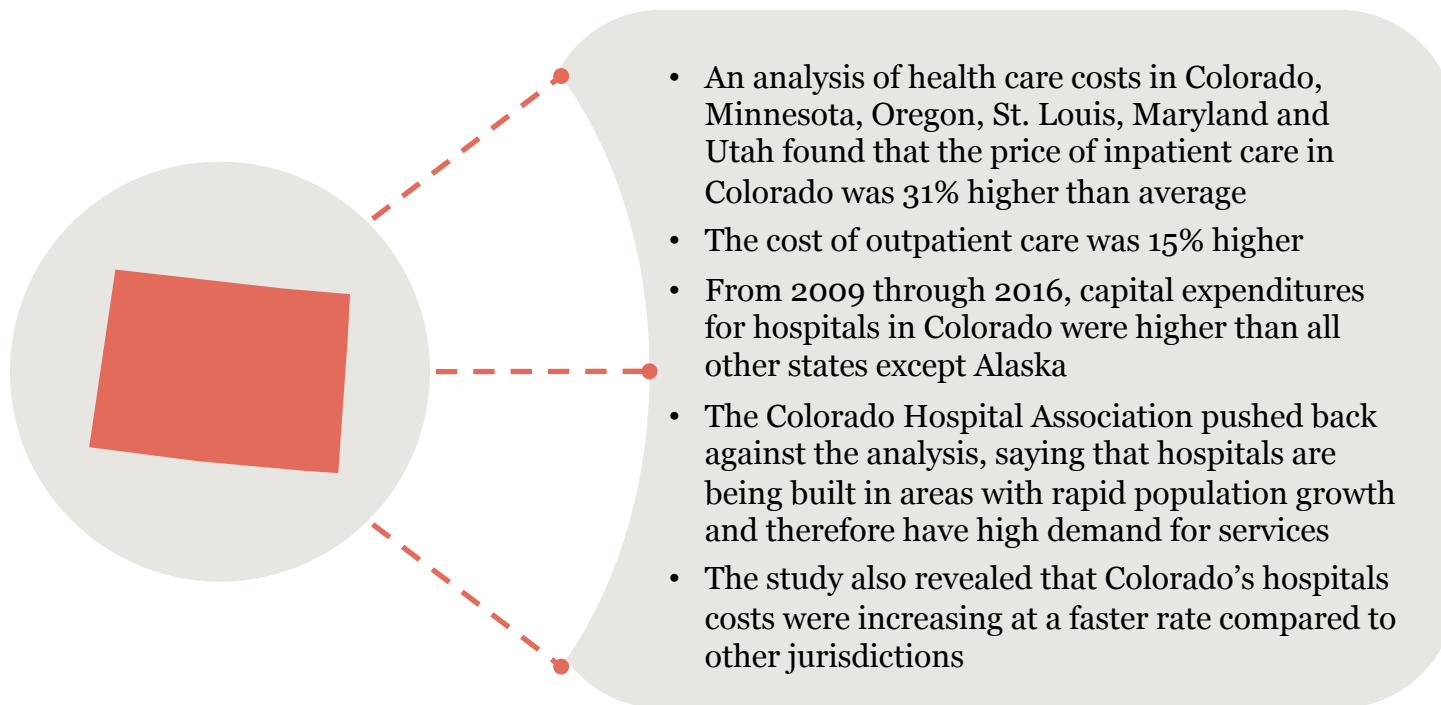
Colorado hospitals are charging up to 31% more for in- and out-patient procedures than five other jurisdictions

Illinois:

Two insurers in Illinois consolidated their health plans, reducing the Medicaid managed care program to six insurers



Colorado: Hospitals are charging up to 31% more for in- and out-patient procedures than five other jurisdictions



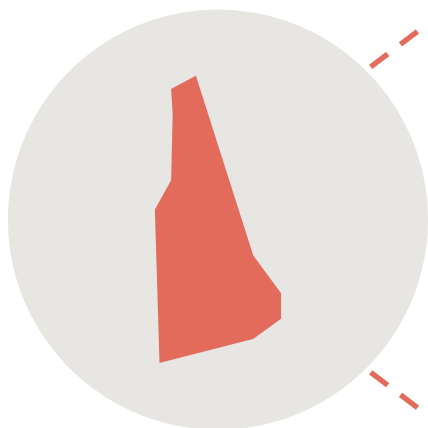
Sources: Christopher N. Osher, "Colorado hospitals charge insured patients significantly more than five other jurisdictions, survey finds," The Denver Post, November 9, 2018.

Illinois: Two insurers consolidated their health plans, reducing the number of Medicaid managed care insurers to six



- Harmony Health Plan is becoming part of Meridian Health Plan following WellCare's \$2.5 billion acquisition of Meridian
- Harmony members will be automatically enrolled in Meridian plans on January 1 unless they request otherwise
- This acquisition reduces HealthChoice Illinois, the state's one-year-old Medicaid program to six insurers instead of seven

New Hampshire: The state is improving its recovery-friendly workplace program to help employees with substance-use disorders



- New Hampshire Governor, Chris Sununu, announced the recovery-friendly workplace program last March
- The state is recruiting a program director, who will oversee the program
- The state legislature appropriated \$1 million to fund the new positions
- The initiative provides companies with a variety of free support measures, including prevention and training programs

Massachusetts: Two licensed cannabis testing laboratories have been given the "okay" to officially begin operations



- CDX Analytics in Salem and MCR Labs in Framingham were issued "commence full operations" notices by the Cannabis Control Commission
- This brings Massachusetts one step closer to recreational marijuana sales
- This announcement happened two years after Massachusetts residents voted to legalize marijuana
- The final step requires the commission to issue the same "commence full operations" notice to two dispensaries to sell recreational marijuana
- They have previously sold medical marijuana