

# Health System Transformation and Acute Care in Alameda County



Micah Weinberg, PhD Senior Policy Advisor

## Not all hospitals are alike













## But they all have to reckon with this

Table 1. Family income fell in every income category between 2007 and 2010

Family income (\$)					Percentage change	
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2007–2009 (official recession)	2007–2010 (actual peak to trough)
10th percentile	19,100	17,000	16,200	15,000	-15.2	-21.5
25th percentile	34,600	34,200	32,400	31,200	-6.4	-10.0
Median	68,400	66,000	64,700	61,100	-5.4	-10.7
75th percentile	122,000	122,300	115,600	112,400	-5.3	-7.9
90th percentile	188,300	187,500	183,700	179,100	-2.5	-4.9
95th percentile	246,000	232,100	235,600	226,300	-4.2	-8.0

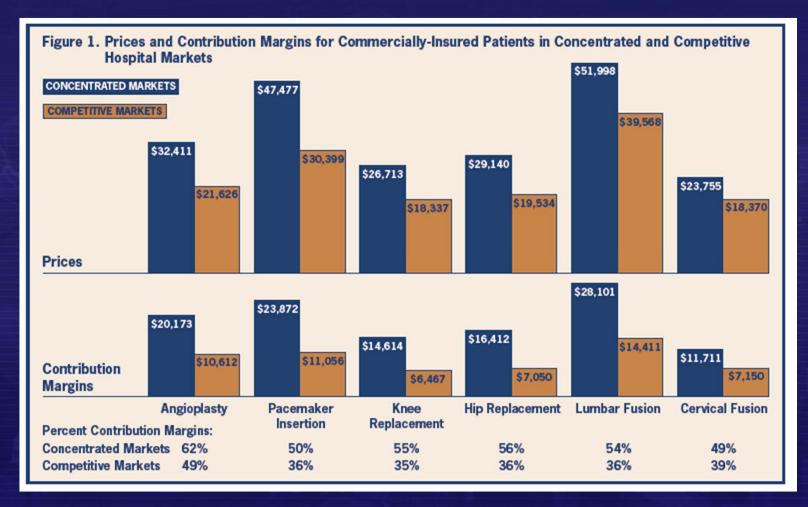
SOURCE Authors' calculations from the Current Population Survey of the U.S. Census Bureau.

NOTES: Family income is adjusted to 2010 dollars and normalized to account for family size. See Technical Appendix A for details.

## What drives hospital costs up?

- Misaligned incentives
  - Toward volume not health
- Technology
- Higher prices for comparable treatments
- Personnel costs
- Medi-Cal underpayment
- Bargaining power of payers vs. providers
- Relatively minor factors: aging, disease

## **Bargaining Power Matters**



Source: Dr. Jamie Robinson, UC Berkeley, November 2011



- Health insurance reform
- Incentivizing health and paying for quality
- Transforming the safety net
- Promoting integration

#### Affordable Care Act: Health insurance reform

- New incentives for and pressures on payers (Govts, Exchanges, plans, and businesses)
  - Increasing prevalence of products where consumer pays marginal cost of system
    - "Private label" offerings
    - Tiered networks
    - Reference pricing
    - But not all systems are alike
  - Contracting with more measures for quality, efficiency
    - Private sector innovation empowered by regulatory reform

## Affordable Care Act: Incentivizing health and paying for value

- Medicare reducing payments to hospitals in top tier for:
  - Healthcare acquired infections
  - Unnecessary Readmissions
- Hospital Value-based Purchasing initiative
  - Medicare rewards for achieving quality
- Temporarily higher payments for primary care

## Affordable Care Act: Shoring up safety net

- Coverage expansion
  - Managing DSH reductions
- Medi-Cal Waiver
  - Delivery System Reform Incentives Payments (DSRIP)
- Increased funding for community clinics?

## Affordable Care Act: Promoting Integration

- ACOs
  - Medicare Shared Savings Program
  - Pioneer ACOs
- California Health Benefit Exchange
  - "Change Agent" model
- Unintended consequences
  - Increasing provider leverage via ACOs?
  - Undermining integrated systems, Exchanges, high-value innovation through poorly-designed taxation?

## You can't "repeal and replace" reality

"There's no back to go to."

Ed Murphy, former CEO Carillion Clinic, Roanoke Virginia

