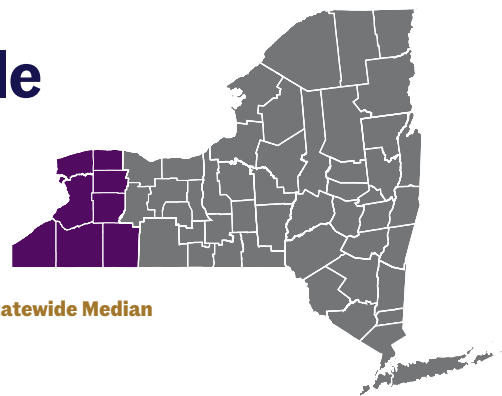
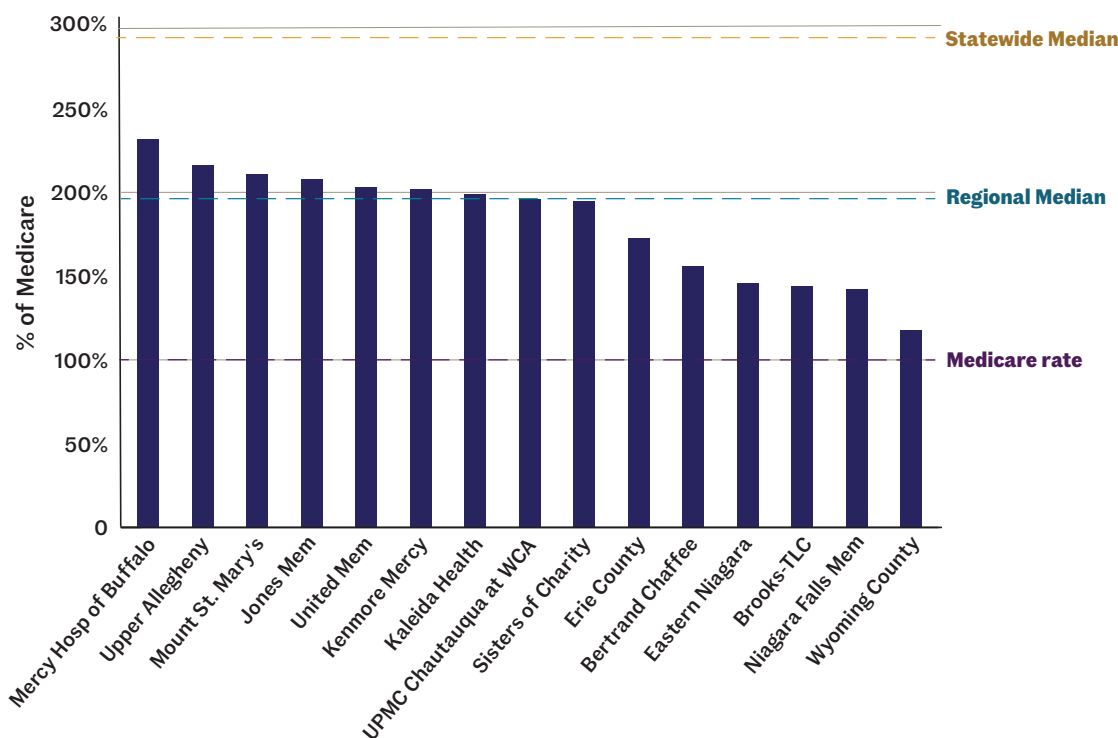


Why is Health Care So Unaffordable In Western New York?



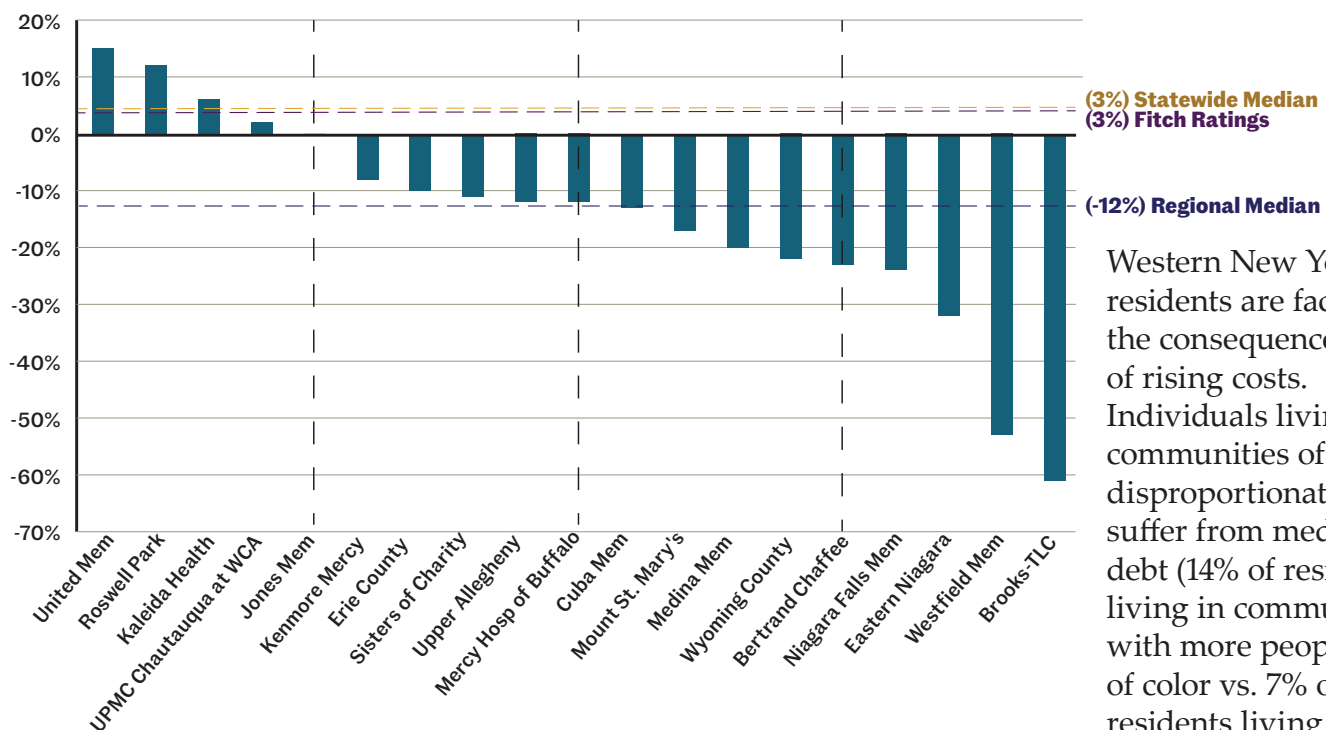
Hospital Commercial Prices in Western New York



Commercial prices in Western New York are around 200% of the Medicare rate, which is lower than the Statewide Median.

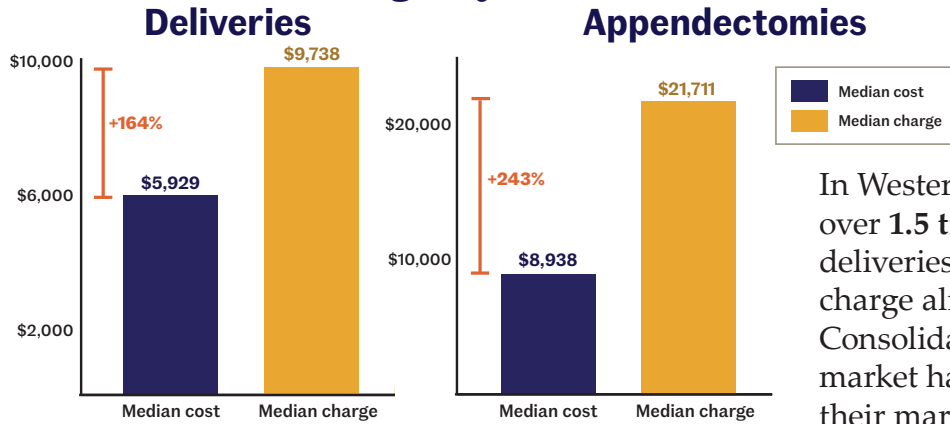
The Western New York region has many struggling hospitals, often in rural areas.

Hospital Operating Profit Margins in Western New York



Western New York residents are facing the consequences of rising costs. Individuals living in communities of color disproportionately suffer from medical debt (14% of residents living in communities with more people of color vs. 7% of residents living in communities with fewer people of color).

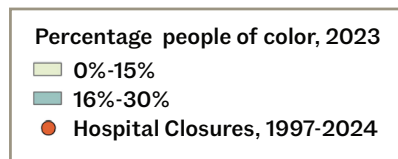
Median Costs and Charges by Procedure



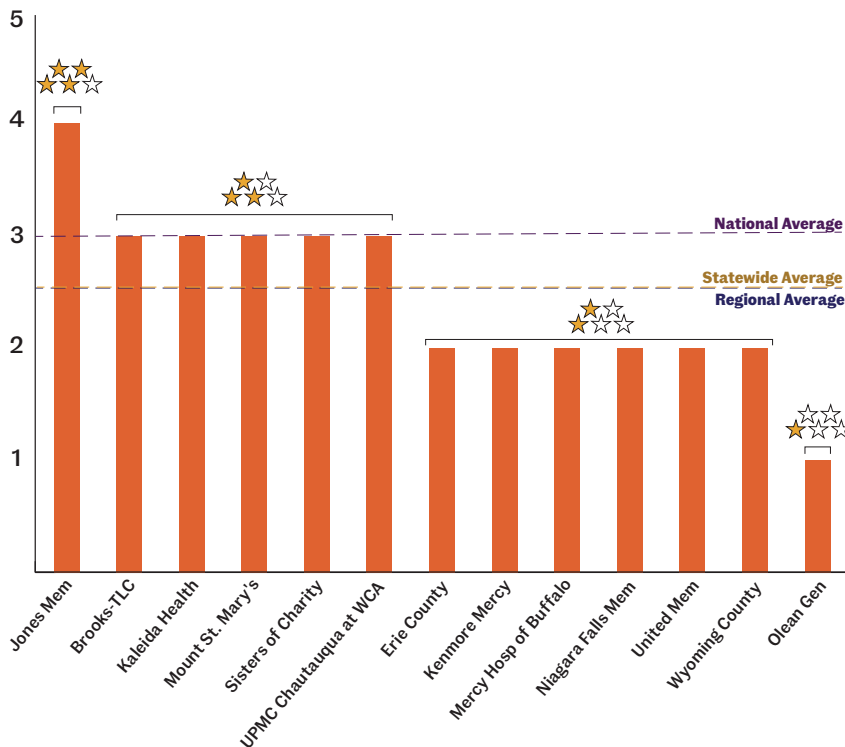
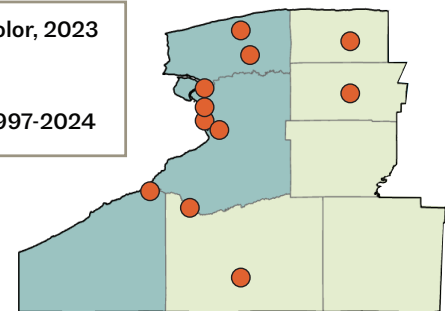
In Western New York, hospitals charge over **1.5 times** their costs for vaginal deliveries. For appendectomies, they charge almost **2.5 times** their costs. Consolidation in the Western New York market has enabled its hospitals to leverage their market power to command high charges for common procedures.

Hospital Closures in Western New York

Since health care deregulation in the 1990s, the region has experienced a high rate of closures (11). These closures typically occurred in counties with more residents of color and where more residents have medical debt.



Closures, consolidation, and restructuring have led Western New York to lose over a quarter (28.5%) of its hospital beds since 2000, with every county in the region losing at least 12% of its beds.



CMS Quality Ratings for Hospitals in Western New York

Quality ratings for hospitals in Western New York are near the Statewide average; nearly all facilities have quality ratings below the national average. No hospitals in Western New York have a 5-star quality rating.

New York policymakers should consider a range of policy options—many of which have been adopted by other states—to address the unaffordability, lack of access, and low quality that plague the State's health care system. Read the full report, *Why is Health Care in New York So Unaffordable and What Can be Done to Fix It?* to learn more about how New York can address its lack of transparency, high prices, and uneven quality of care at cssny.org.