

AMP **Pulse**

Primary care investment

What the data reveals about primary care spending and clinical quality:
Investing in primary care matters. IHA's Align. Measure. Perform. (AMP) data shows that increased primary care spending is linked to better quality outcomes.



California is raising the bar on primary care spending

Primary care is the foundation of a high-performing health system — and California is paying close attention. The Office of Health Care Affordability (OHCA) has set a bold statewide target for health plans: 15% of total health spending devoted to primary care by 2034. The question is no longer whether to invest more, but how.

IHA has been measuring primary care spending across California for six years, and the evidence is clear: when health plans and provider organizations invest more in primary care, patients receive better care, fewer

people end up in the emergency department, and the healthcare system works better for everyone.

IHA AMP's recent release of primary care investment data covers over 19 million members across 14 health plans and 200 provider organizations from 2021 to 2023, providing a robust source of information.

More investment, better results: Here's what the data shows

Data from AMP shows that **higher primary care spending by provider organizations is associated with higher clinical quality achievement and lower emergency department visits.**

Higher clinical quality

4–5 percentage-point higher primary care spending is associated with **12 percentage-point better performance** on key clinical quality measures, such as colorectal cancer screening and controlling high blood pressure. 91% of the state's highest performers in quality spent above the median for primary care.

12%



Fewer emergency department visits

When smaller organizations spend 4–5% of total spending on primary care, they achieve a similar rate in emergency department visits compared to larger organizations who spend 7–8%.

Primary care spending is not consistently linked to lower total cost of care

Better quality and utilization are seen, but overall spending is not consistently lower.



The investment gap between urban and rural California

Where patients live shapes their access to primary care — and their likelihood of visiting the emergency department. Among the Commercial population, we see:

- **Urban regions: 4.7%** average primary care spending
- **Rural regions: 3.9%** average primary care spending
- Urban areas have **20% fewer emergency department visits**
- Targeted investment can improve access and outcomes for **1.3 million** rural Californians

See how you stack up and where to focus

AMP participants have access to dynamic, interactive tools through AMP Pulse to compare performance against peers and OHCA's spending targets

In IHA's new Primary Care Investment Report, health plans and provider organizations can view their own primary care investment compared to California benchmarks, see peer-level comparisons across 200+ Commercial HMO provider organizations and regional breakdowns across all 19 Covered California regions, and understand the relationship between higher investment and patient outcomes.

Want to learn more?

Contact us at info@iha.org or visit www.iha.org

About Align. Measure. Perform. (AMP)

The Integrated Healthcare Association's Align. Measure. Perform. (AMP) unites California health plans, provider organizations, purchasers, and other partners around a shared, trusted foundation for measuring and improving healthcare performance. Whether it is reliable cost and quality performance results and benchmarking through AMP Core, interactive performance insights through AMP Pulse, or a framework to test new approaches through AMP Ignite, AMP offers an actionable, efficient, and reliable foundation to improving healthcare quality, equity, and affordability statewide.



At Integrated Healthcare Association (IHA), we bring the healthcare community together to solve industry-wide challenges that stand in the way of high-value care. As a non-profit industry association, we use our decades of expertise, objective data, and our unique role as a trusted facilitator to make the healthcare system work better for everyone.

180 Grand Avenue, Suite 1365, Oakland, CA | 510-208-1740 | www.iha.org