A comparative breakdown of Texas’ largest hospital districts

Texas hospital districts serve as a local funding mechanism to provide health care to low income residents. Of Texas’ six largest districts by population, Central Health is unique: It is the only district to outsource its public hospital operations, and the only one projected to outpace the state’s population growth in the next 15 years.

Travis County residents pay the lowest tax rate among Texas’ six largest hospital districts. Central Health also compromises the smallest percentage of residents’ total tax bill.

Hospital districts can incur significant debt by investing in hospitals and facilities. Usually financed through bonds, these capital costs result in higher tax rates. By partnering with Seton Healthcare Family, which is privately funding a new public hospital, Central Health has been able to avoid significant debt and maintain a low tax rate.

Travis County has experienced skyrocketing property values and population growth during the past decade. Central Health works to be a part of the county’s affordability solution by providing health care services to low income residents while also maintaining a low tax burden. Of the state’s six largest hospital districts, Central Health collects the second-lowest amount of taxes per resident.

Central Health (Travis County)
Founded in 2004
2014 operating expenses: $228 million
- Maintains a public/private partnership to operate a Level 1 trauma/teaching hospital
- Owns and operates 20 clinics, and insurance and financial assistance programs

JPS Health Network (Tarrant County)
Founded in 1959
2014 operating expenses: $769 million
- Owns and operates a Level 1 trauma/teaching hospital and 41 clinics
- Operates a financial assistance program

University Health System (Bexar County)
Founded in 1955
2014 operating expenses: $1.13 billion
- Owns and operates a Level 1 trauma/teaching hospital, 18 clinics, Insurance and financial assistance programs; co-owns medical transport helicopter fleet

Harris Health System (Harris County)
Founded in 1966
2014 operating expenses: $1.26 billion
- Owns and operates a Level 1 trauma/teaching hospital, a Level 3 trauma/teaching hospital, a rehabilitation hospital, 29 clinics, insurance and financial assistance programs

Parkland Health & Hospital System
(Dallas County)
Founded in 1954
2014 operating expenses: $1.37 billion
- Owns and operates a Level 1 trauma/teaching hospital, 32 clinics, insurance and financial assistance programs

FISCAL YEAR 2015 TAX RATE
UNCOMPENSATED SETON HEALTH CARE SERVICES 6.00 %
GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION 2.77 %
ESTIMATED OPERATIONAL AND STAND ALONE INEFFICIENCIES 2.00 %
DEBT SERVICE ON NEW HOSPITAL LEVEL 1 TRAUMA 1.50 %
- 1.00 %

Total 2014 Hospital District Taxes
El Paso County $769 million
Travis County $680 million
Harris County $449M
Bexar County $425M
Tarrant County $304M
Dallas County $278M

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