



TECHNICAL NOTES

for MAPPED 1.0

January 2025

Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council
Report Period: 2023 and 2024

225 Market Street, Suite 400, Harrisburg, PA 17101
Phone: (717) 232-6787
www.phc4.org

Barry D. Buckingham, Executive Director

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview	1
Included in this Visualization	1
Not included in this Visualization	1
Data Collection & Verification	1
Limitations	1
Collection Process	2
2023 Collection Process	2
2024 Collection Process	2
Appendix	
Definitions	3

Technical Notes

MAPPED 1.0

OVERVIEW

Included in this Visualization

MAPPED 1.0 provides an interactive visualization of Pennsylvania hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs), collectively referred to as “facilities.” Facilities are distinguished by facility type (indicated by shape) and ownership type (indicated by color). Users can filter and highlight facilities using tools below the map. In cases of shared ownership, a facility is displayed twice, once for each owner. A legend is included to assist with interpretation.

The map supports zoom, pan, and reset functions (accessible via the lower-right corner). Definitions of terms used in the visualization are provided in the Appendix.

Two bar graphs accompany the map, which show the number of facilities owned by each health system and investor-owned entity.

Not Included in this Visualization

This visualization reflects only current ownership and does not show changes over time. The most recent update is noted below the map. Historical data can be purchased via PHC4’s Special Requests department, which may be reached by email at specialrequests@phc4.org.

The visualization excludes minority ownership and does not display the names of individual physician-owners.

DATA COLLECTION & VERIFICATION

Limitations

Tracking and reporting ownership for each facility in Pennsylvania posed challenges due to limited and sometimes conflicting information. While PHC4 aimed to minimize bias and inaccuracies, the varied corporate structures of private organizations made complete standardization difficult.

In some cases, PHC4 analysts exercised judgment when identifying ownership entities, introducing a potential source of bias in the dataset. Ownership verification was conducted directly with facility chief executive officers, however, not every facility responded to verification efforts.

PHC4 successfully reduced the amount of bias in the 2024 dataset during the collection process, by enhancing collecting ownership updated information. However, PHC4 analysts found that some facilities did not change their ownership information with PHC4, despite an ownership change occurring. The responsibility for the accuracy of this data lies with each facility.

Collection Process

2023 Process

PHC4 developed and executed a methodology to identify ownership for all hospitals and ASCs in Pennsylvania. Analysts independently reviewed facilities and confirmed a parent company, cross-checking their work to resolve discrepancies. Information sources included:

- Facility Name and Email Domain
- Financial Submissions
- Department of Health License
- Facility and Affiliate Websites
- News Articles

A single owner was identified for each facility. For facilities with equal ownership (50/50), ownership was split between two entities. Notifications were sent to facilities with a two-week window to correct their parent company.

Analysts categorized each owner as **Health System**, **Independent**, **Investor Owned**, or **State Owned** (definitions can be found in the Appendix). Ownership categories were not part of the facility verification process with the 2023 data.

2024 Process

Starting in 2024, ownership and ownership type category were collected as part of PHC4's annual contact verification process. Facilities were provided with their prior year's ownership and ownership type category to review and provide corrections, if necessary.

Newly opened facilities ownership information is collected from the facilities license. Facilities who were closed at the time of the update were removed from the dataset.

PHC4 staff reviewed the submitted information against what could be determined through independent efforts. Information sources for this independent effort included:

- Facility Name and Email Domain
- Financial Submissions
- Department of Health License
- Facility and Affiliate Websites
- News Articles

Facilities that were found to have outdated information or conflicting information were followed up with. These facilities received an email informing them PHC4 had identified a discrepancy with the information they had submitted and asked them to confirm which information was correct.

APPENDIX

Definitions

Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC): Health care facilities focused on providing outpatient surgical care

Hospital: An inpatient facility staffed by physicians on site that provides 24-hour care and diagnostic, pharmacy, and surgical treatment

Health System: A group of health care organizations that are jointly owned or managed, which includes hospitals, ASCs, and/or insurance plans

Independent: A hospital or ASC not associated with a larger organization or a for-profit investor

Investor Owned: A hospital or ASC (or chain of these facilities) that is owned by a group of shareholders, all of whom own stock in it

State Owned: A state hospital operated by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Service