

NURSES ON THE FRONT LINES

While hospitals pad
their bottom line.

Large hospital systems are reaping billions in profits while nurses are **left understaffed, underpaid, and overworked**. Instead of reinvesting in the workforce that saves lives, many hospitals prioritize profits and expansion.



“[T]here isn’t a shortage of nurses, but a shortage of hospitals that provide nurses with safe work environments and adequate pay and benefits.”

– DEENA KELLY COSTA, PH.D., R.N. AND CHRISTOPHER R. FRIESE, PH.D., R.N., [NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE](#)

CONSEQUENCES OF FAILING TO INVEST IN THE WORKFORCE

Unsafe Staffing

Each additional patient a nurse cares for **increases the risk of mortality by 16%** and lengthens hospital stays.



Burnout Crisis

Nearly **1 in 3 nurses** experience burnout – undermining safety, quality, and patient satisfaction.



Administrative Harm

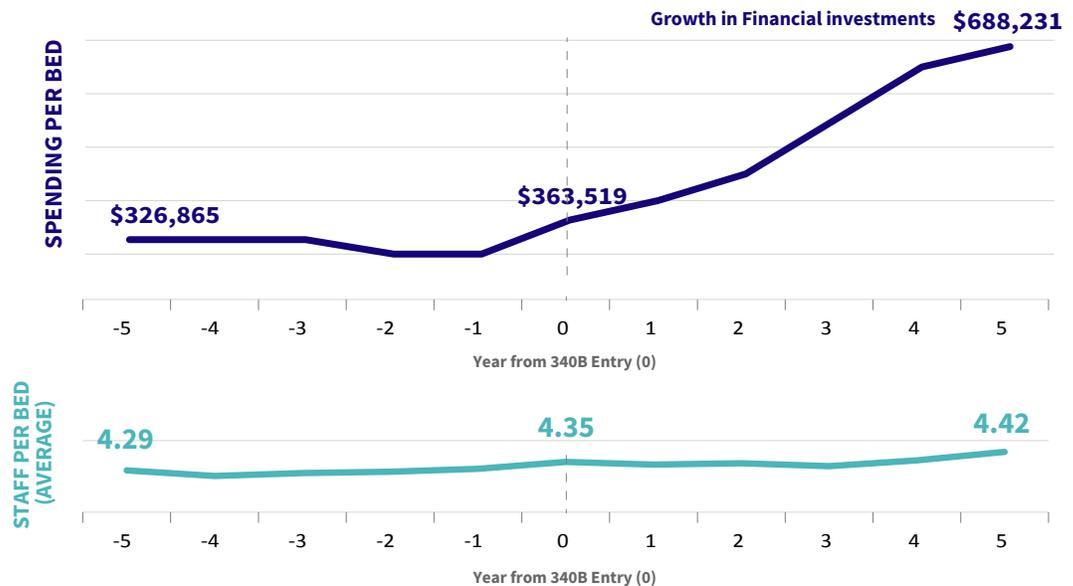
85% of clinicians say administrative decisions – not provider decisions – led to patient harm.





WALL STREET PRIORITIES

A **study** of safety-net hospitals shows a troubling trend: after entering the 340B program, tax-exempt hospitals made **soaring financial investments**, with minimal **to no growth in staffing levels**.



Overall, the average wage of hospital CEOs rose by 27.5% from 2009 to 2023, while the average pay for all employees rose 9.8%.

A MOVEMENT SWEEPING THE NATION

- ✓ **January 2026:** 17,000 New York nurses launched a ten-day strike, asking for **better nurse-to-patient care, higher wages, better hospital security, and health care coverage.**
- ✓ **July 2025:** 700 healthcare workers, including 500 nurses, **walked off the job over unsafe staffing**, low wages, and unfair labor practices in Michigan.
- ✓ **May 2025:** The Minnesota Nurses Association and National Nurses United released an **extensive analysis** of how not-for-profit hospitals profit off their tax-exempt status.
- ✓ **Early 2025:** 5,000 nurses and health professionals went on strike for 46 days – **the largest in Oregon state history.**
- ✓ **August 2024:** **1,700 nurses with the Illinois Nurses Association** launched a seven-day strike during the Democratic National Convention.

NO MORE EXCUSES

- ✓ **Listen to nurses.**
Their voices are clear: unsafe staffing puts patients at risk.
- ✓ **Invest in the nursing workforce** to reduce unsafe ratios and improve patient care.
- ✓ **Reform 340B** so savings benefit patients and those who care for them, not hospital profits.