

# Hospital consolidation linked to closure of inpatient pediatric services

June 21 2023, by Elana Gotkine

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Hospital consolidation is associated with closure of inpatient pediatric

services within five years, according to a research letter published online June 20 in *JAMA Pediatrics*.

Allan M. Joseph, M.D., M.P.H., from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and colleagues conducted a longitudinal study of U.S. hospitals using the 2011 to 2020 American Hospital Association annual surveys to characterize whether [hospital](#) consolidation is associated with loss of inpatient pediatric services. A total of 5,104 unique hospitals, representing 46,841 hospital-years, were examined.

The researchers observed a decline in the provision of inpatient pediatric services over time, from 41.5 percent of 4,876 in 2011 to 32.6 percent of 4,551 in 2020. Joining a hospital system was associated with a loss of inpatient pediatric services within five years (adjusted odds ratio, 1.57; 95 percent confidence interval, 1.26 to 1.96; P

"Policy makers should consider the potential loss of inpatient pediatric services when reviewing proposed hospital mergers and [acquisitions](#)," the authors write.

**More information:** Allan M. Joseph et al, Association Between Hospital Consolidation and Loss of Pediatric Inpatient Services, *JAMA Pediatrics* (2023). [DOI: 10.1001/jamapediatrics.2023.1747](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapediatrics.2023.1747)

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