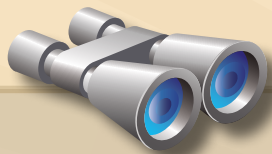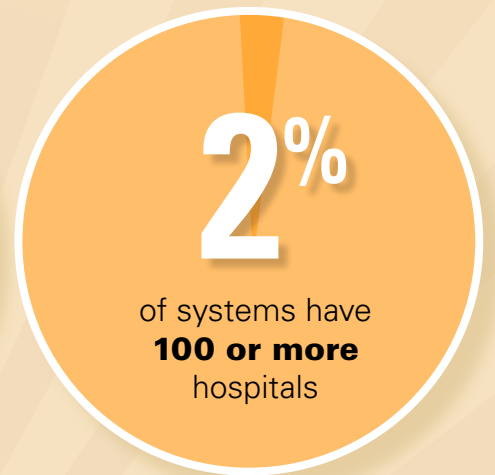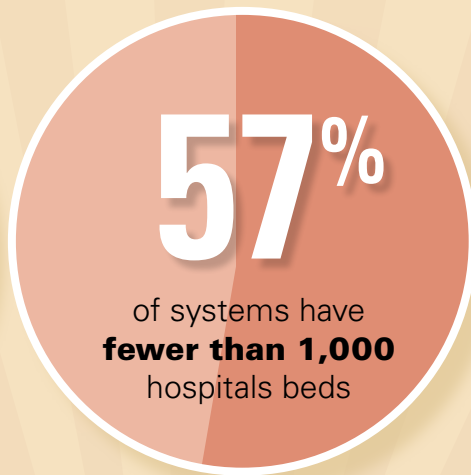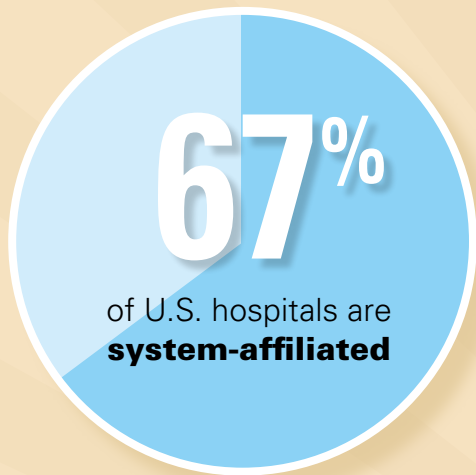# FAST FACTS | U.S. Health Systems

WHAT IS A HEALTH CARE SYSTEM? AHA has defined two types of health care systems, and both involve an ownership, lease, sponsorship or contract-management relationship with a central organization. A multihospital system involves two or more hospitals, while a single diversified hospital system involves one hospital and three or more pre- or post-acute health care organizations.

Total U.S. Health Systems = 417

67% of U.S. hospitals are **system-affiliated**

76% of all U.S. **hospital beds** are system-affiliated

57% of systems have **fewer than 1,000** hospitals beds

2% of systems have **100 or more** hospitals

A GLANCE BACK

▶ **In 1940**, there were at least 50 systems, all of them Catholic or other nonprofit organizations.

▶ **In 1960**, the first investor-owned system was identified.

▶ **In 1980**, the AHA conducted a survey and identified 267 systems.

Source: *Data Book on Multihospital Systems 1980-81*, AHA.

244 Number of systems with 1-5 hospitals

7 Number of systems with 100 or more hospitals

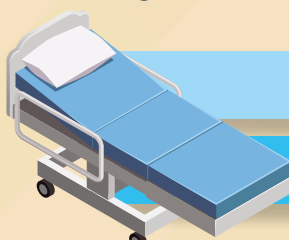**236** Number of systems with 1,000 or fewer hospital beds

Total U.S. hospitals **6,093**
Total U.S. hospitals in systems **4,097**

Systems range in size from:
▶ **1–156 hospitals**
▶ **25–39,468 beds**

Total U.S. hospital beds **920,531**
Total U.S. hospital beds in systems **696,233**

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