



The Leapfrog Group's October Market Insights Report

LeapfrogHospital Survey data submitted through August 31,2025, reveal steady and meaningful progress in hospital performance on two [nursing workforce measures](#): Total Nursing Hours per Patient Day (which includes registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and nursing assistants) and Registered Nurse (RN) Hours per Patient Day. These measures reflect hospitals' ability to maintain appropriate nurse staffing levels that directly impact patient outcomes, including rates of mortality, infection, and adverse events. Astonishingly, a 10% rise in missed nursing care is linked to a [16% higher likelihood](#) of a patient dying within 30 days of admission.

While achievement of Leapfrog's nursing standards continues to rise across all hospital cohorts, the latest data also highlight important variation between teaching, non-teaching, critical access, and pediatric hospitals. These differences point to both areas of excellence and opportunities to ensure every patient receives safe, high-quality care.

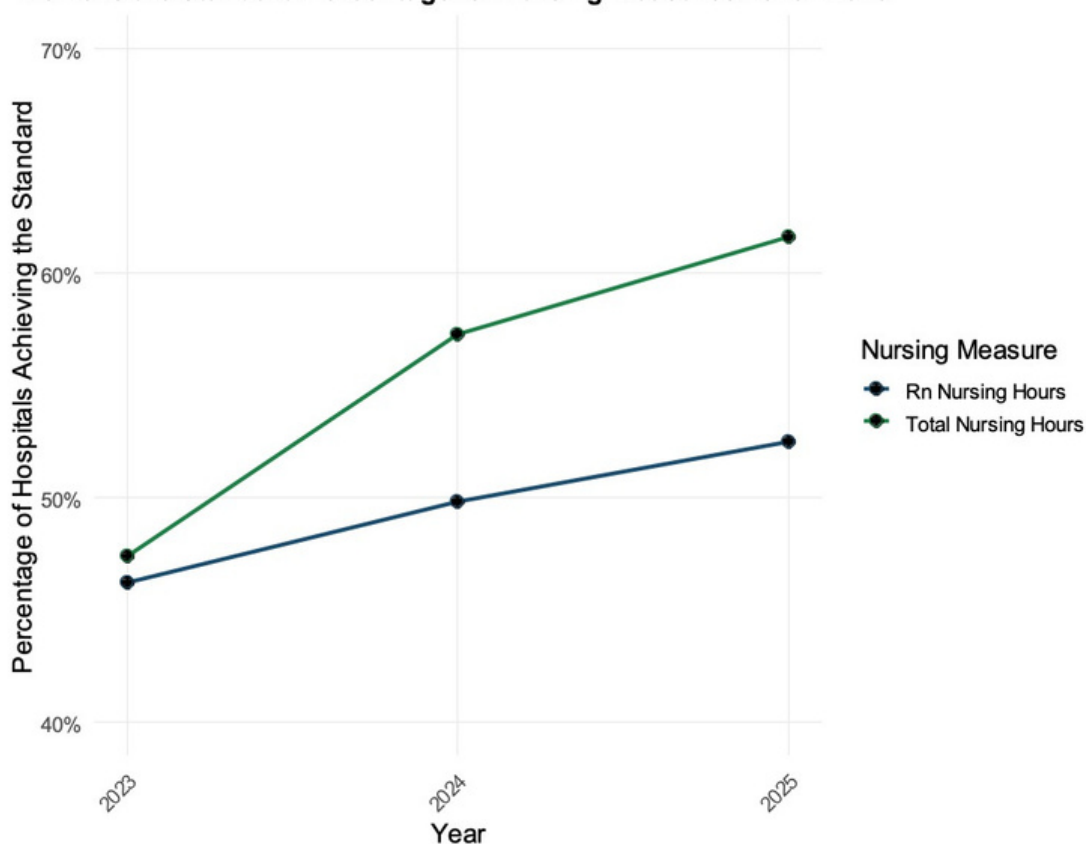
Overall Improvement in Nursing Hours Achievement

Across all hospitals, performance on both measures has improved significantly since 2023.

- **Total Nursing Hours per Patient Day:** Hospitals that Achieved the Standard rose from **47.4% in 2023** to **61.6% in 2025**, an improvement of over 14 percentage points in just two years.
- **RN Hours per Patient Day:** Hospitals that Achieved the Standard also saw a consistent increase from **46.2% in 2023** to **52.5% in 2025**.

These improvements reflect hospitals' sustained investment in safe staffing infrastructure and workforce capacity following pandemic-related disruptions. Leapfrog's 2025 data also indicate greater transparency and accountability in staffing data reporting, with both measures seeing a decrease in hospitals that did not measure.

Achieve the Standard Percentage for Nursing Measures 2023 - 2025



Variation in Achieving Leapfrog's Standards Exists Among Cohorts

Leapfrog scores and publicly reports hospital achievement based on standards adapted for each individual cohort of large teaching, small teaching, non-teaching,

pediatric, and critical access. Cohort-specific thresholds for Achievement, detailed [on page 40 of the Scoring Algorithms](#), reflect real differences in patient mix and staffing models between these sites.

Strongest Growth Among Large Teaching and Pediatric Hospitals: Leapfrog's cohort analysis reveals strong performance among large teaching and pediatric hospitals, which continue to lead in meeting the nursing standards.

- **Large Teaching Hospitals (≥500 staffed beds)** improved from **53.2% Achieving the Standard in 2023 to 73.0% in 2025** on Total Nursing Hours, and from **51.6% to 59.9%** on RN Hours.
- **Pediatric Hospitals** demonstrated the most remarkable improvement, rising from **55.6% to 83.3%** on Total Nursing Hours and from **40.7% to 70.8%** on RN Hours over the same period.

These results highlight the effectiveness of teaching and pediatric institutions in integrating evidence-based staffing models and leveraging specialized workforce planning to enhance patient care.

Critical Access and Non-Teaching Hospitals Show Gradual but Slower Gains:

While overall progress is evident, critical access and non-teaching hospitals lag behind other cohorts.

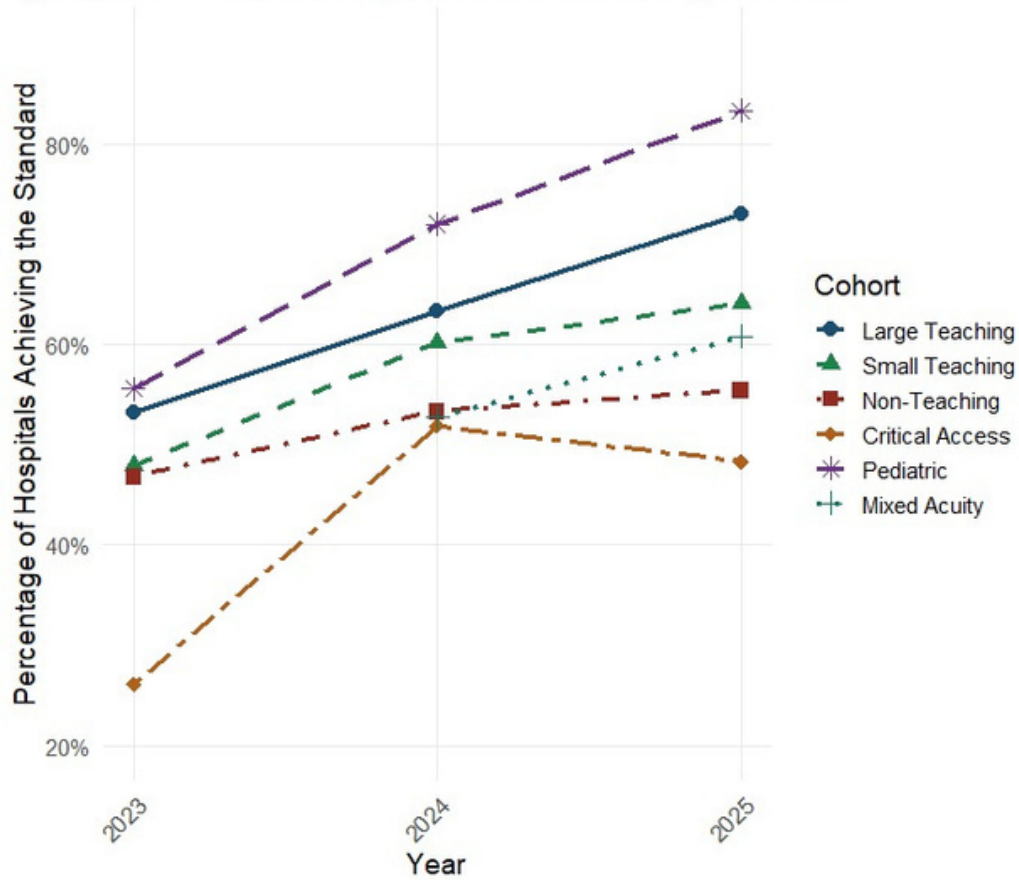
Critical Access Hospitals increased achievement on Total Nursing Hours from **26.1% in 2023 to 48.3% in 2025**, reflecting substantial progress.

However, RN Hours performance plateaued, rising from **26.1% to 38.7% between 2023 and 2024**, before slightly declining to **37.9% in 2025**.

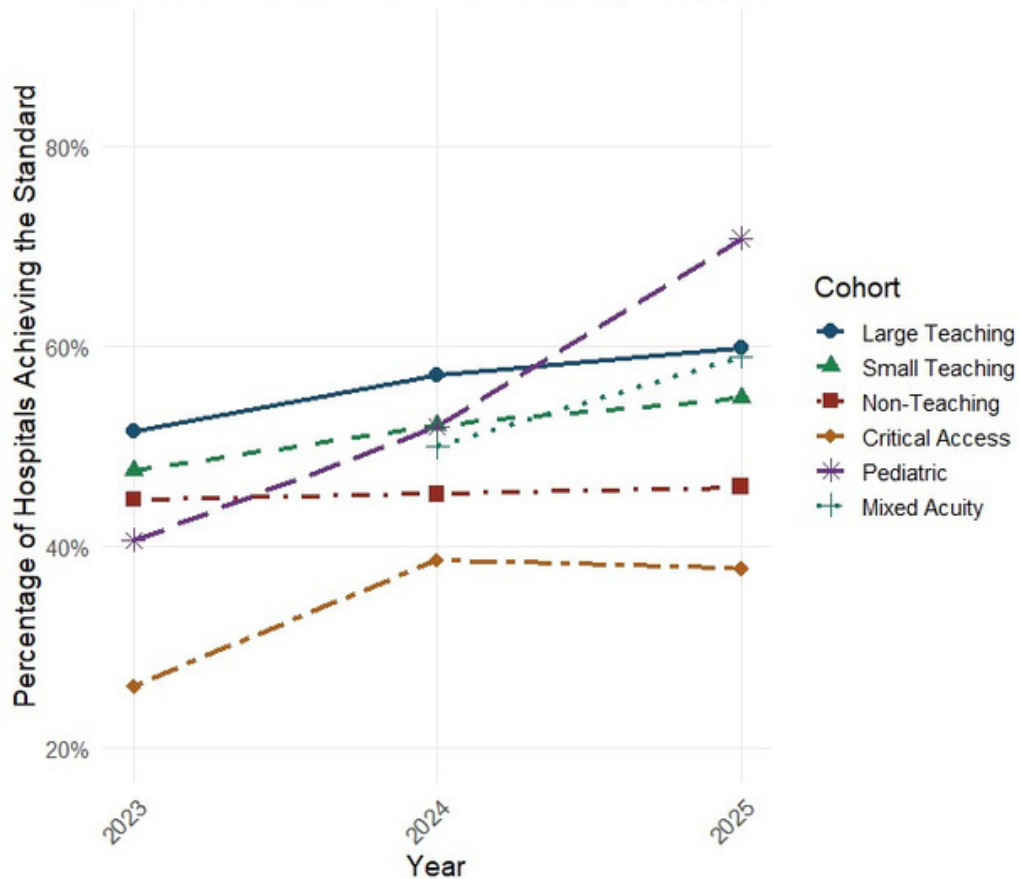
Non-Teaching Hospitals saw more modest improvement, increasing from **46.8% to 55.4%** on Total Nursing Hours and from **44.7% to 46.0%** on RN Hours.

These patterns may indicate ongoing challenges related to staffing shortages, financial pressures, and recruitment in rural or smaller community settings.

**Percentage of Hospitals that Achieved the Standard
by Cohort for Total Nursing Hours Per Patient Day 2023-2025**



**Percentage of Hospitals that Achieved the Standard
by Cohort for RN Hours Per Patient Day 2023-2025**



Despite Improvements in Achievement, the Median Rate is Decreasing Across the Board

While Leapfrog's data indicates that more hospitals are meeting standards, many cohorts are showing slight declines in the Median Rate (IQR) for nursing and RN hours.

- **Total Nursing Hours per Patient Day:** All cohorts except Mixed Acuity Units declined between 2024 and 2025.
- **Total RN Hours per Patient Day:** Similarly, all cohorts except Pediatric declined between 2024 and 2025.

In other words, while many hospitals have succeeded at improving their staffing model, that success hasn't been broadly felt across the nation. Given the importance of nursing hours and staffing allocations for patient safety, this will not only be a crucial trend to track, but it also requires innovative solutions.

Looking Ahead: Strengthening the Foundation of Safe Staffing

Overall, Leapfrog's October analysis demonstrates that U.S. hospitals are making steady progress toward achieving safe and sustainable nurse staffing levels. However, continued attention is needed to address disparities across hospital types and to ensure that improvements in total nursing hours are matched by corresponding increases in RN staffing.

As Leapfrog continues to follow these trends, the data reinforce that strong nurse staffing is fundamental not only to patient safety but also to overall hospital quality and workforce stability.

Explore Full Results

For more information on the 2025 Hospital Survey results, visit Leapfrog's Ratings website:

[Leapfrog Ratings Website](#)

[Contact Leapfrog](#) for tips on how to get started and more information about the Hospital Survey or ASC Survey and Hospital Safety Grades.

Want to do your own trend analysis of hospital or ambulatory surgery center performance? [Contact Leapfrog](#) for more information about licensing our historical data sets.

New Tools to Navigate Leapfrog Data

We've launched new features to make exploring Leapfrog data even easier.

The [Measure Search](#) function is a comprehensive tool that allows users to search measures across the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, the Hospital Survey, and the ASC Survey. Filter by facility type, patient type, dataset, or search for specific measures directly.

Our [Use Cases](#) illustrate how healthcare organizations, researchers, employers, and payors are applying Leapfrog data in the real world—from benchmarking safety performance to informing purchasing decisions and driving quality improvement.

Each example shows how data-driven insights can translate into better care, smarter strategies, and meaningful results.

Visit the Hopper to explore these features and discover more ways to apply Leapfrog data:

[The Hopper](#)