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.

**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

**Total U.S. Health Systems = 417**

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.

**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

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

**Total U.S. hospitals** 6,093

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

**Total U.S. hospital beds** 920,531

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

For more information or to purchase access to AHA data | ahadatainfo@aha.org