
KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

RAPID HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT – PROPOSED CLOSURE OF ALTA BATES

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INTRODUCTION

- **Impetus:** Sutter Health, which operates Alta Bates Hospital, proposes to close the hospital in 2030.
- **Study:** The Rapid Health Assessment study was commissioned in 2018 by Mayor Arreguín Office to understand potential impacts of closure of Berkeley's Alta Bates Hospital, an Acute and Emergency-Care hospital with significant birthing, cancer, surgery, and other care.



ALTA BATES HOSPITAL - OVERVIEW

347 beds

3rd largest
general acute
care facility in
the region

66,268 patient

discharges, 2nd highest
of non-Kaiser hospitals
in Alameda County
2016

16,494

discharges from
Contra Costa
County in 2016
- 31% increase
since 2013

**45,900
ER visits**

in 2016 - 7%
increase since
2013

61% of ER visits
were **Medi-Cal
and Medicare** in
2016

7% of ER visits
were **uninsured**
patients in 2016

19

**5,863 live
births** in 2016
- highest in the
region

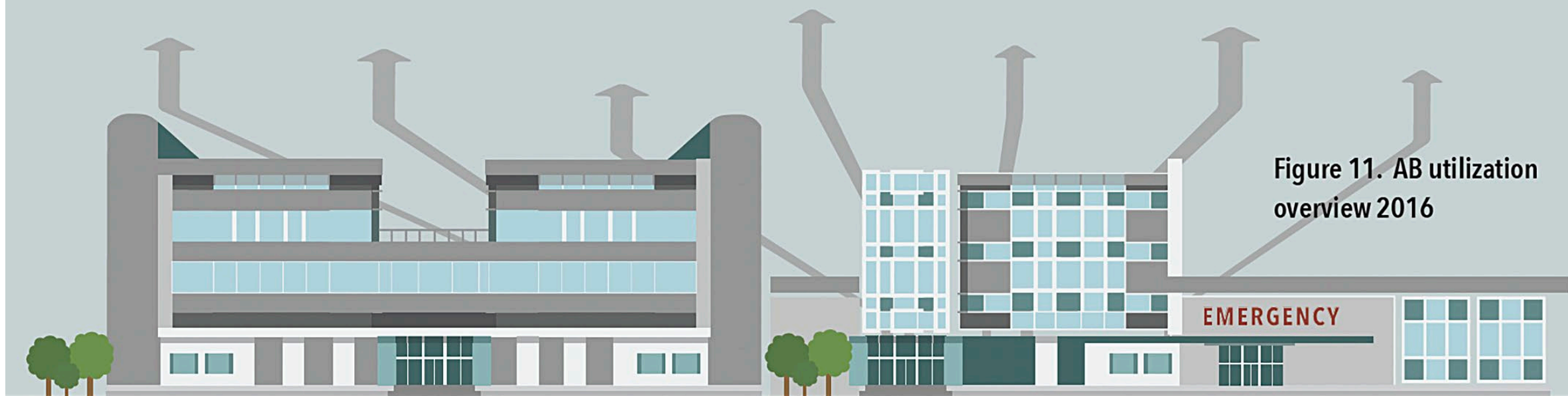
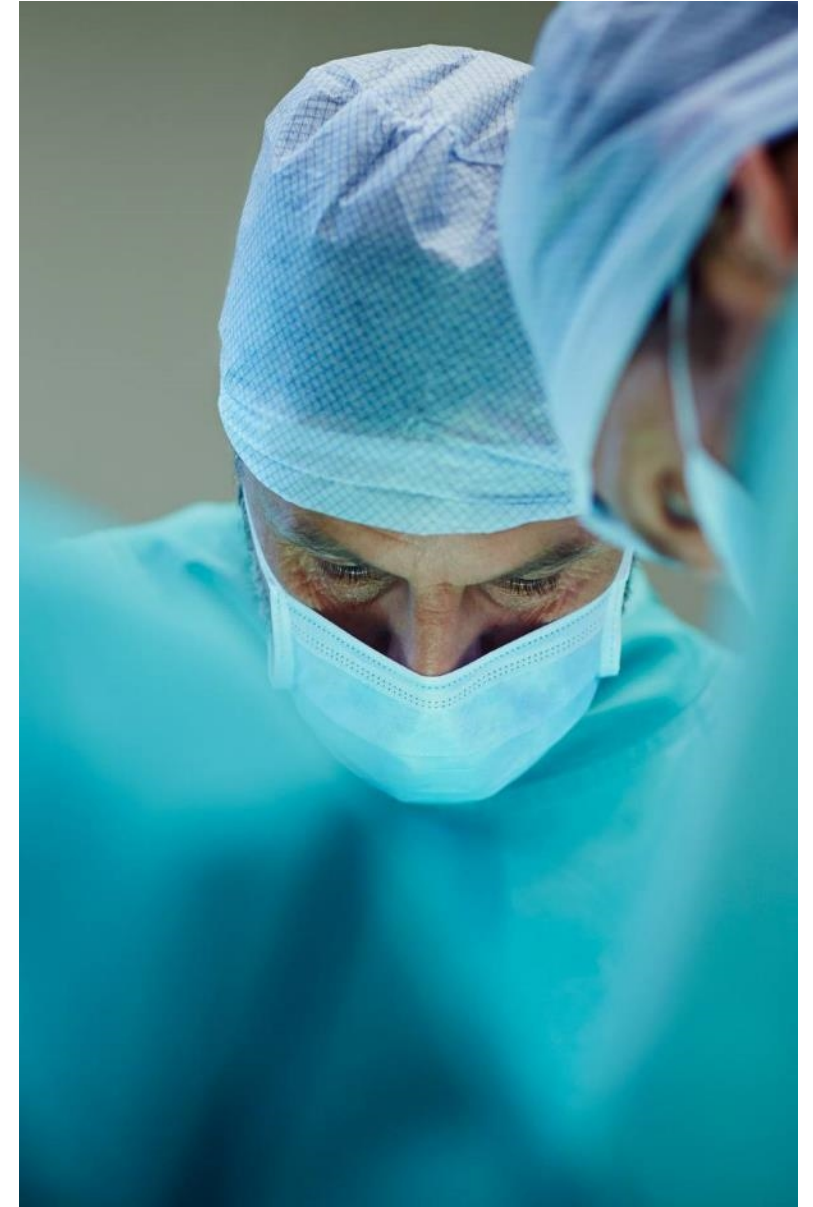
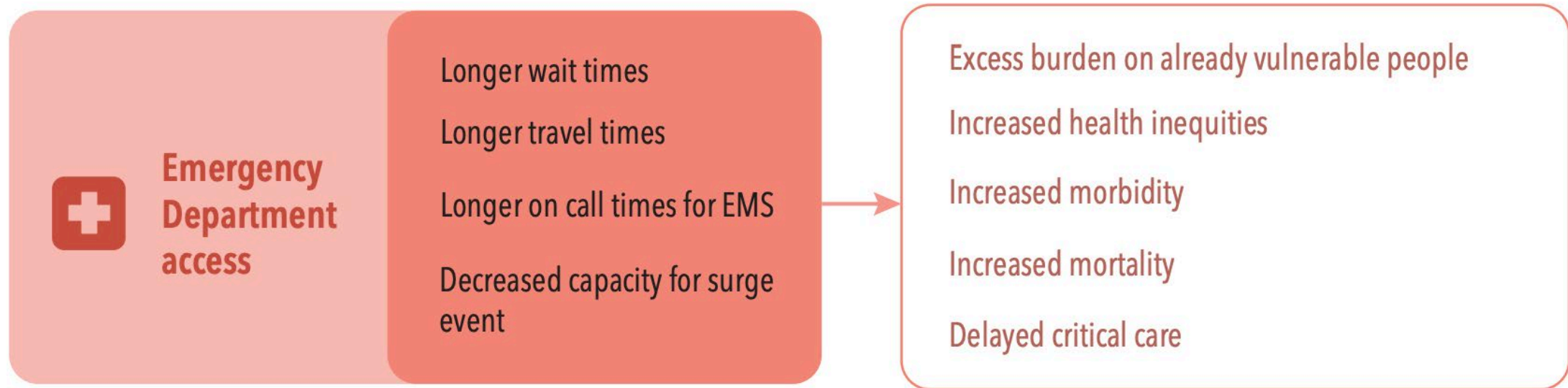


Figure 11. AB utilization
overview 2016

KEY FINDINGS



IMPACTS – EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT ACCESS



- Increased burden on regional emergency medical services, including emergency department overcrowding and increase in ambulance diversions – Sutter Oakland already has significant emergency wait times.
- Increase in private vehicle travel times to Emergency Department and Hospital for West Contra Costa County patients; lengthy and difficult access for patients using public transit.
- Lack of coordinated disaster preparedness plan for Bay Area regional health care providers – exacerbated with closure of Alta Bates.

IMPACTS – VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

- Decreased access to urgent & chronic care for vulnerable populations including people of color, unhoused individuals, people with disabilities, the elderly, women, students, and low-income and uninsured families
- Uncertainty regarding replication of high-performing birthing center and related maternal & newborn care
 - *Alta Bates has over 5,000 births per year – the highest in the region*
- Loss of Emergency Department and in-patient care and loss of emergency mental health & suicide prevention services
- Likely increase in Bay Area elderly population will increase hospital care needs simultaneous with closure of Alta Bates
- Delayed or missed care for growing homeless population

ALTA BATES PATIENT DEMOGRAPHICS 2016

56% of ED patients and **63%** of hospitalized patients were people of color

41% of patients are uninsured/self pay or are Medi-Cal recipients

23% of hospitalized patients are elderly

68% of inpatient discharges were women

IMPACTS – REGIONAL ECONOMY

- Decreased regional spending
- Increased costs for local governments
- As a nonprofit hospital, Alta Bates is required to reinvest any surplus revenue back into the community in the form of community benefit programs.
- Every dollar that a hospital earns in patient revenue generates between \$2.63 and \$2.69 in economic activity for the surrounding region.

Impact	Magnitude
Low wage workers	165 workers already laid off since 2012
Community benefits	Potential reduction of \$91 million in charity care
Local economic activity	Potential loss of \$1.5B annually in local economic activity

IMPACTS – MAJOR DISASTER EVENTS

Haywired Earthquake Scenario:

84% of households are displaced in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties

14,000 estimated injuries requiring medical attention from Alameda and Contra Costa Counties

\$57 billion in total direct economic loss

Chevron Fire Example:

Estimated **15,000** related emergency department visits over 2 ½ weeks



2,876 visits to emergency departments on peak day (4 days after fire occurred)

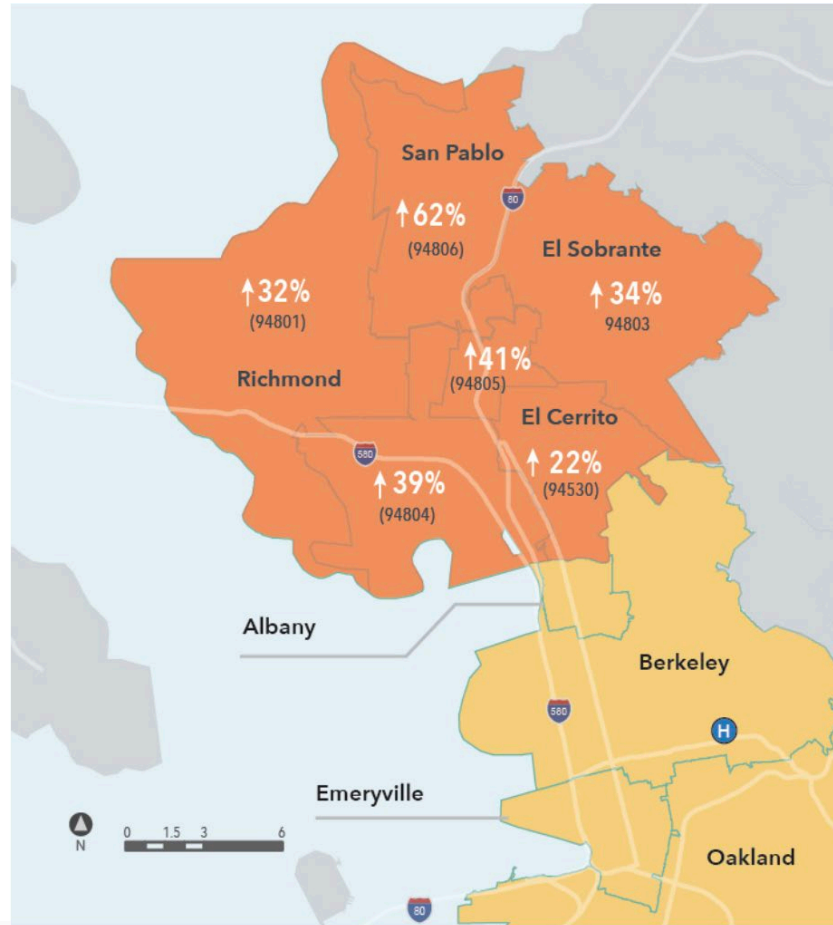
200 ED visits within the first 2 hours after the fire

IMPACTS – WEST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Map 4. Large volume increases in Alta Bates ED discharges from West Contra Costa County 2013 - 2016

Source: OSHPD, 2013 & 2016

-  Alta Bates campus
-  West Contra Costa County in the RHIA defined service area
-  Additional Cities in the HSA

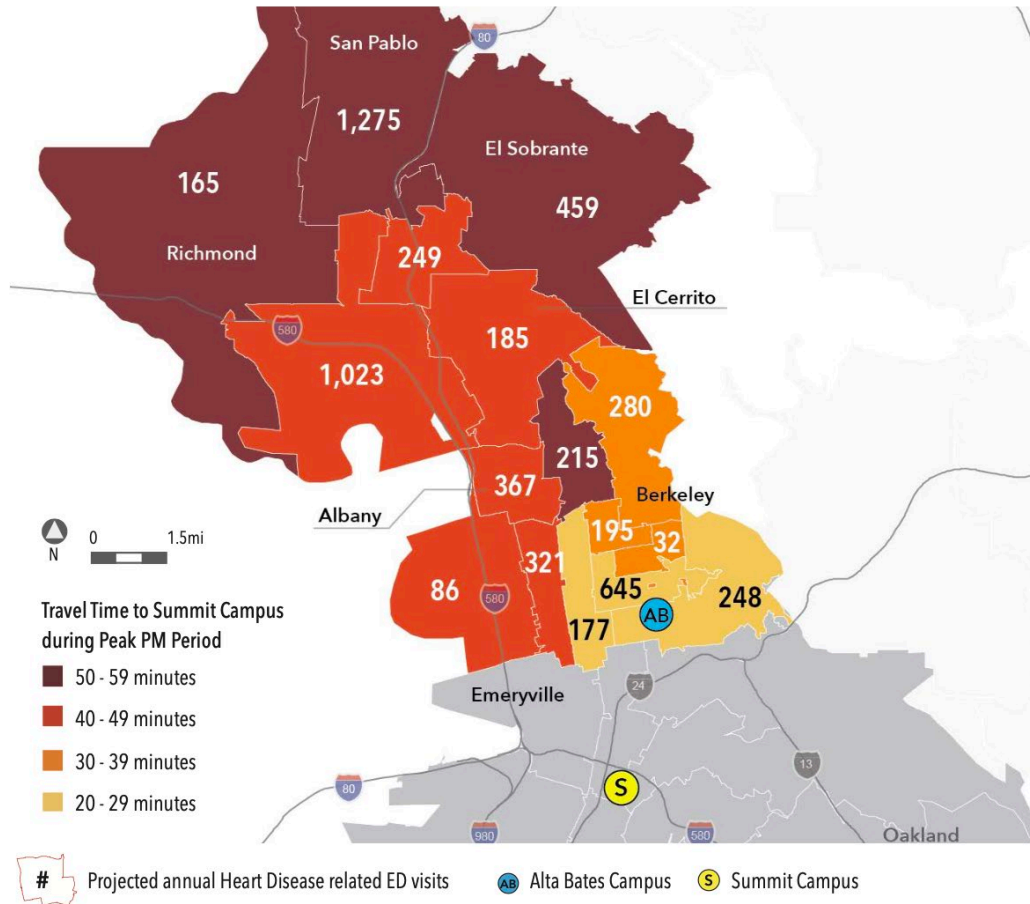


- **Of 66,268** patients that visited Alta Bates Campus in 2016, **approximately 18% were from 6 zip codes in Richmond, San Pablo, El Cerrito, and El Sobrante** (94530, 94801, 94803, 94804, 94805, 94806)
- **39% increase** in patients visiting Alta Bates from the six zip codes above
- **Particularly adverse impact on African-American populations*:**
 - Richmond and San Pablo had the highest health risks and death rates (particularly for African American men) from heart disease, all cancers, diabetes, stroke and homicides.
 - African Americans in Richmond had 254 asthma hospitalizations and ED visits per 10,000 people, compared to 105 for all racial/ethnic groups.

*According to Contra Costa Health Services 2010 Community Indicators Report cited in RHIA.

IMPACTS ON ALBANY – IN SUMMARY

Map 11. Estimated Number of Heart Disease ED visits & Private Vehicle Travel Time for Peak Period to Summit Campus for select ZIP Codes



- **Emergency Services:**
 - Increased travel times to Summit Campus
 - Potential delays in emergency care and increased ambulance diversions
- **Vulnerable Populations:**
 - Significant impact on elderly, low-income residents, and people of color
- **Economic Impact:**
 - Job losses and reduced economic activity
- **Disaster Preparedness:**
 - Challenges in disaster response due to extended travel times

CONCLUSION

- Alta Bates closure will have devastating impacts on Berkeley and the North/East I-80 Corridor.
- COVID experience and excessive impacts to low-income communities and communities of color reinforce the importance of access to healthcare and hospitals.
- Continuing to convene – expect updated report as early as May 2024



THANK YOU!
QUESTIONS?

