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Rural hospitals close in increasing numbers



Activists protest cuts to Medicaid, in 2025 in Washington, DC. Federal Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements are a critical revenue source for rural hospitals, which tend to serve large numbers of Medicaid patients.

TASOS KATOPODIS/GETTY IMAGES FOR PEOPLE'S ACTION INSTITUTE

Closures have domino effect on communities, residents

Shayann Ramedani and Daniel R. George

Penn State
THE CONVERSATION

Some Pennsylvania hospitals are being pushed beyond the brink of closure.

Taylor Hospital in Ridley Park closed in April 2025, Crozer-Chester Medical Center in Upland closed in May 2025, and Heritage Valley Kennedy Hospital, formerly the Ohio Valley Hospital, in Kennedy Township closed in June 2025.

Rural hospitals are particularly vulnerable.

The UNC Sheps Center, which tracks rural hospital infrastructure in the United States, has documented 195 rural hospitals that have closed or converted

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A 2022 study found that when a rural hospital closes, hospitals nearby see a measurable spike in inpatient admissions and emergency room visits that can cause significant financial strain.

Shooting suspect killed near White House

Secret Service reports bystander hurt by gunfire

Zac Anderson, Bart Jansen and Anthony Thompson

USA TODAY

A gunman opened fire outside the White House during the evening of May 23 before the Secret Service fatally shot the suspect, the agency said.

A bystander also was struck by gun-

fire, according to the Secret Service. No officers were injured. President Donald Trump was in the White House during the May 23 incident but was unharmed.

The shooting took place shortly after 6 p.m. near 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue near the White House complex on the west side. The gunman "pulled a weapon from his bag and began firing," according to the Secret Service statement. Officers returned fire, hitting the gunman, who later was pronounced dead at the hospital.

The Secret Service did not release the condition of the bystander.

In a May 24 social media post, Trump thanked "our great Secret Service and Law Enforcement for the swift and professional action."

Authorities identified the suspected gunman as 21-year-old Nasire Best, according to an official familiar with the incident. Court records show that Best, of Dundalk, Maryland, has a history of

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Iranians wave their national flag as they gather at Imam Khomeini Mosque in Tehran on May 24 to commemorate those killed in former wars and those killed during the latest U.S.-Israel led war.

ATTA KENARE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Trump: Blockade stays until deal signed

Mixed messages emerge on truce talks with Iran

Jay Stahl, Kim Hjelmgaard and Zac Anderson

USA TODAY

President Donald Trump on May 24 said he has told his diplomatic representatives not to rush into a deal with Iran because "time is on our side," less than a day after announcing that an agreement with Tehran had been largely negotiated.

"The Blockade will remain in full force and effect until an agreement is reached, certified, and signed. Both sides must take their time and get it right," Trump wrote on Truth Social, referring to the U.S. blockade of the critical Strait of Hormuz, where roughly 20% of the world's oil is transported. Tensions in the waterway have shaken the global economy and led to higher gas prices in the United States.

"There can be no mistakes! Our relationship with Iran is becoming a much more professional and productive one," Trump wrote.

Iran has demanded supervision of the strait, an end to the U.S. blockade on its ports and the lifting of sanctions on Iranian oil sales.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio confirmed on May 23 that progress had been reached in the previous 48 hours to help resolve tensions in the strait.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said "the trend this week has been towards a reduction in disputes, but there are still issues that need to be discussed through mediators."

He added, "We will have to wait and see where the situation ends in the next three or four days."

On May 23, Trump said a deal had been "largely negotiated" to end the Iran war after talks appeared to falter for weeks. In a social media post, Trump suggested an agreement to end the nearly 3-month-old war was imminent, with the president clarifying that "final aspects and details" are being ironed out and are set to be released "shortly." He also said that the Strait of Hormuz will be opened.

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