

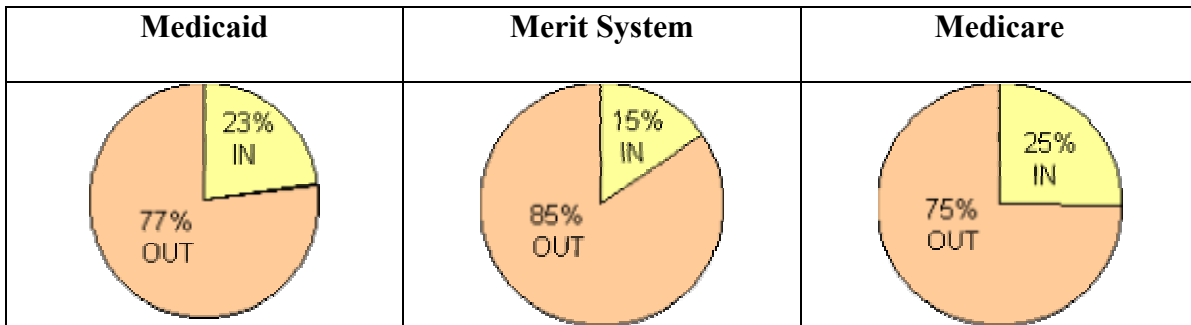
Financial Viability of Local Systems of Care

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One of the greatest challenges for rural health care systems is financial viability. The Networks for Rural Health process includes an analysis of the paid medical claims to determine how many of the health care dollars spent on the community's residents is spent locally. The amount of health care dollars spent receiving care from the local hospital, physicians, and other providers of care not only effects the viability of the health care system but also the community as a whole. A strong local health care system is important to the economic development of the community.

The charts below illustrate the average percentage of health care dollars available that flow out and remain in the community. Since there is no significant managed care in rural georgia, the decision to get care locally or elsewhere is primarily driven by patients' perceptions in the quality of care or the availability of services.

Average Inpatient Dollars Flowing Out of Counties Participating in the NFRH Program



Average Outpatient Dollars Flowing Out of Counties Participating in the NFRH Program

