Strategies for Sustaining Emergency Care in the United States

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1. VALUE

2. CHALLENGES

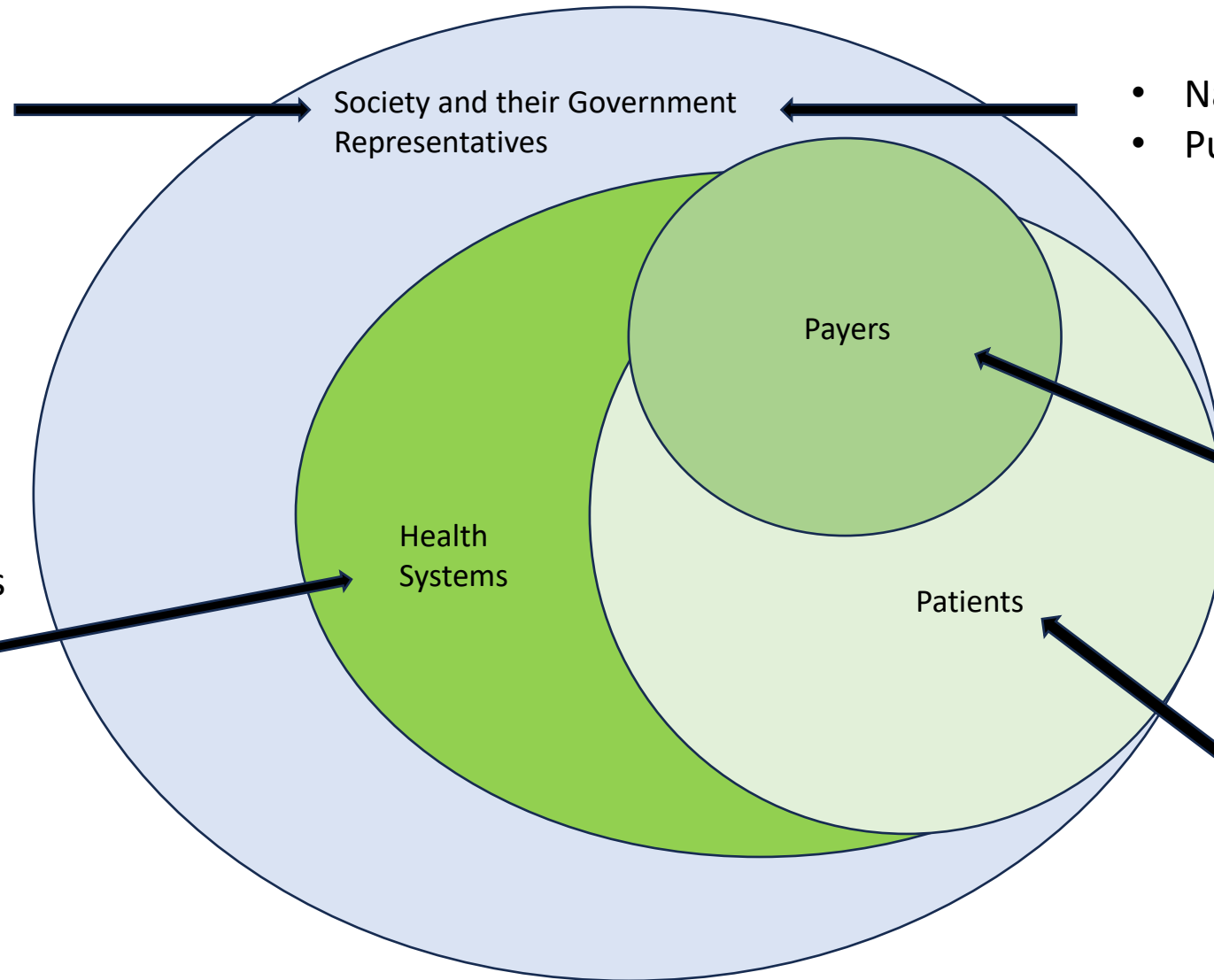3. PAYMENT

4. FUNDING STRATEGIES
(tied to value)

1. EDs provide value to a variety of stakeholders

- Care access and safety net
- Care for service-intensive populations
- Community resilience

- Advanced diagnosis and treatment
- Preservation of inpatient capacity
- Care coordination
- Care innovation

Society and their Government Representatives

Health Systems

Payers

Patients

- National security
- Public health

- Improved health outcomes and potential cost savings through timely care and averted hospitalizations

- Timely and comprehensive access
- Reduced barriers to care (financial or bureaucratic)

2. We summarized the evidence on key challenges that EDs face

Increasing care complexity, acuity, and boarding/crowding

Expanding scope of work

Competing stakeholder expectations (throughput, complexity, patient experience)
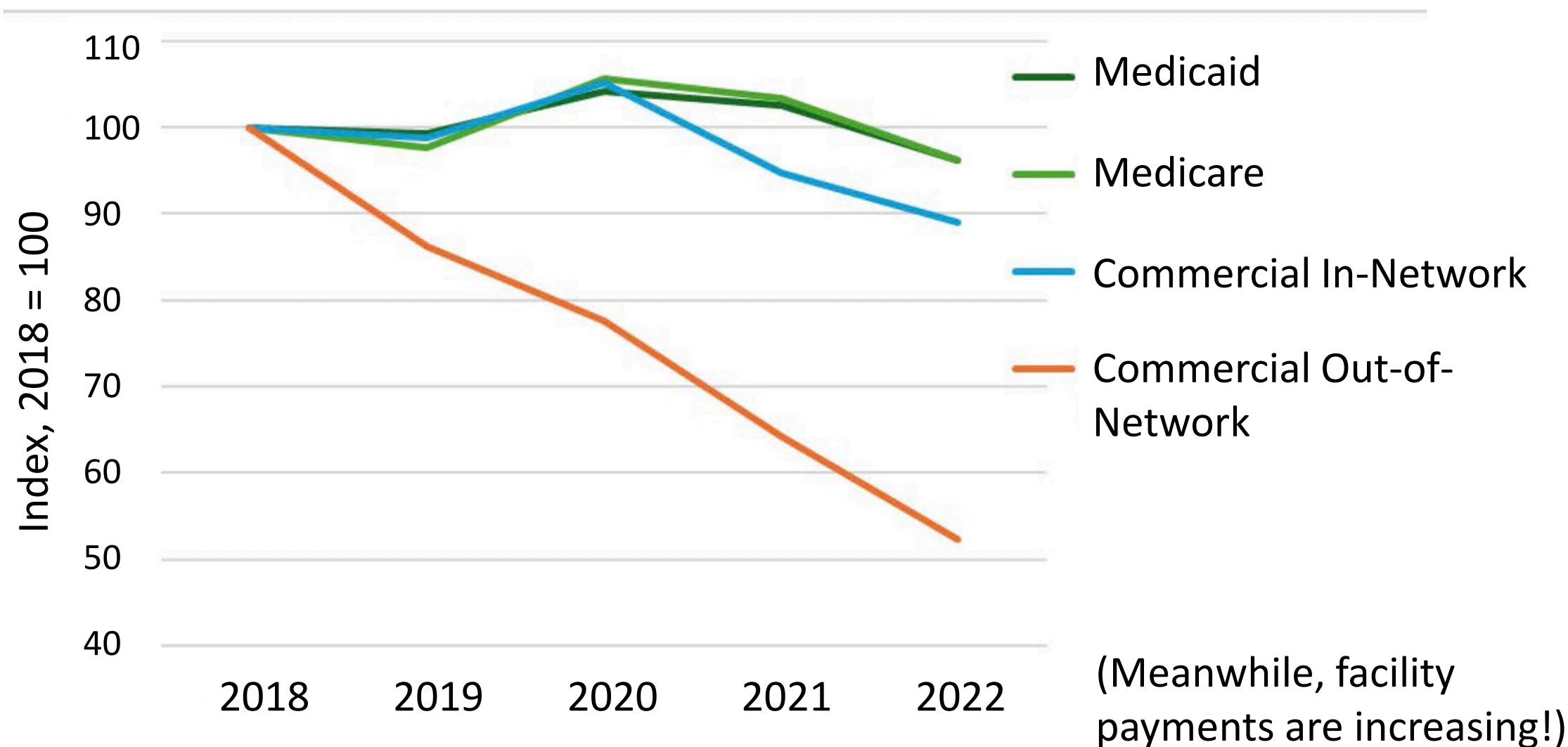
Workforce challenges

Increase in uncompensated and undercompensated care

Underpayment by insurance administrators and patients

Decreasing payments to ED professionals

3. We found that payments to ED professionals are decreasing over time
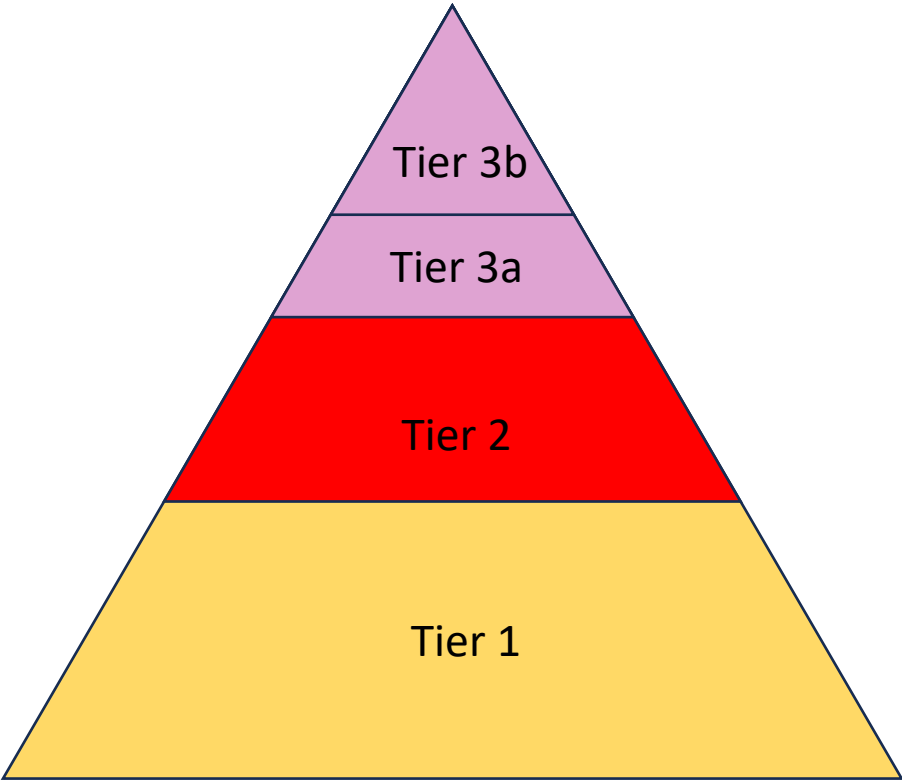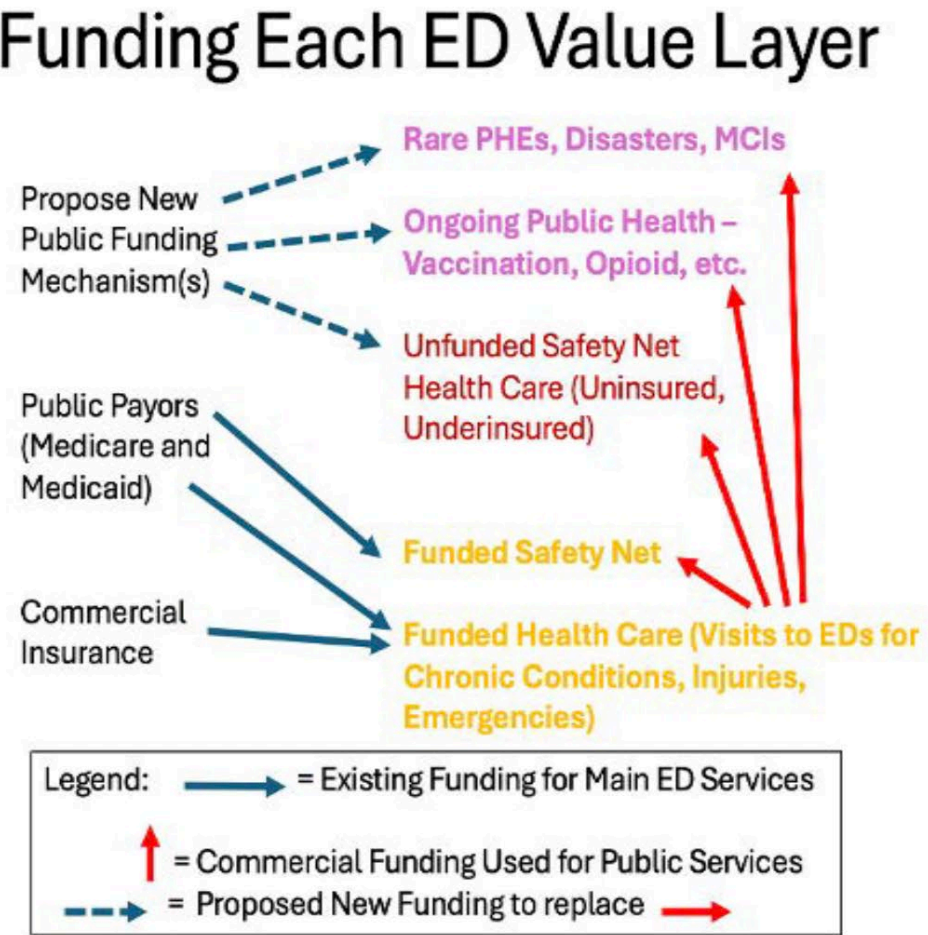

Figure 4.5. Index of Inflation-Adjusted Dollars Paid to ED Professionals per Visit, 2018–2022

(Meanwhile, facility payments are increasing!)

4. A tiered strategy for payment can address challenges and enable EDs to continue to provide value

Figure 6.2. Mapping Existing Funding to Each ED Value

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Thanks to all of you!