



Mental Health Boarding in VT Emergency Departments

*Monday and Thursday mornings, point-in-time,
from 5/24/2021 through 11/29/2021*

Process and Scope

VAHHS is collecting point-in-time data on patients stuck in emergency departments waiting transfer or discharge to mental health care—also called patient boarding. This data collection effort is a work in progress and may change over time as we refine data points or streamline collection efforts. This point-in-time data is collated and shared with the Department of Mental Health, hospital representatives, and other interested parties.

Data Collection Process

Frequency: Hospitals report manually to VAHHS on patients awaiting placement as of each Monday and Thursday morning.

Scope: The definition of the scope of this report includes all patients waiting for mental health care in Vermont emergency rooms or med-surge units. Data are collected on all patients waiting, regardless of legal status or insurance.

Structure: Hospitals report person-level data to VAHHS for comparison with DMH counts. Person-level records include age, legal status, Medicaid status, and reason for wait so data discrepancies with DMH can be identified easier.

Comparison with DMH Figures

The scope of data that VAHHS is collecting is more expansive than the data reported to DMH, as VAHHS is collecting data on all patients regardless of legal status and reason for waiting. Data differences in DMH counts and VAHHS counts of patients waiting is driven by voluntary patients and/or patients waiting for community placements not being reported to DMH.

VAHHS continues to work with DMH to identify reasons for data discrepancies.

VAHHS figures are also point-in-time and not visit-based. VAHHS data is a point-in-time snapshot of people waiting on Monday or Thursday morning, therefore counts of patients and hours across days are not discrete since people can wait several days and be captured multiple times in data collection. Therefore, this report does not report total hours over-time nor total patients over time.

Waiting in Med-Surgical beds

Most patients waiting for care are in the emergency department, however a small number of hospitals place patients on medical surgical floors while waiting transfer to inpatient psychiatric units. These patients are included in our numbers as they are still waiting for mental health placement.

Mental Health Boarding in VT Emergency Departments and Med-Surg Units - Hours Waiting and People Waiting for All Age Groups

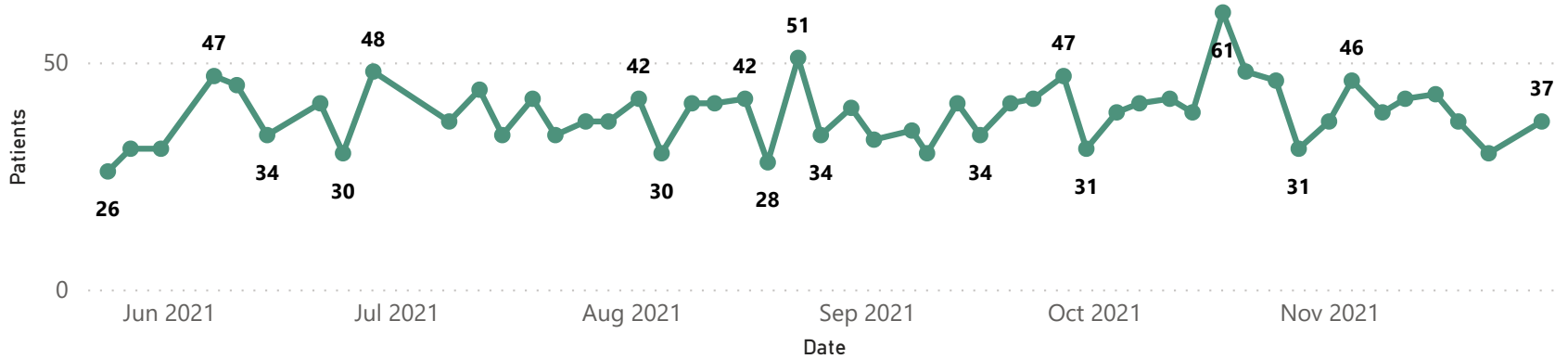
Monday and Thursday mornings, point-in-time, from 5/24/2021 through 11/29/2021

General Trends

The average total hours reported each Monday and Thursday to VAHHS increased from May through October. Average total patients reported each Monday and Thursday has also increased. On most days, the majority of people have been waiting more than 24 hours for placement.

	05-May	06-Jun	07-Jul	08-Aug	09-Sep	10-Oct	11-Nov
Avg Total Hrs	1,392	2,662	2,938	2,841	3,073	4,270	3,095
Avg Total Pts	29	41	38	39	37	43	39

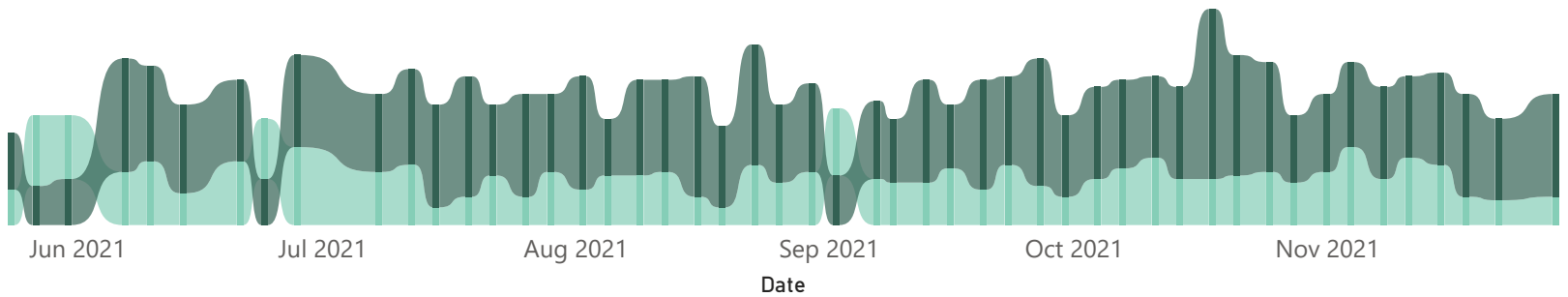
Number of People Waiting



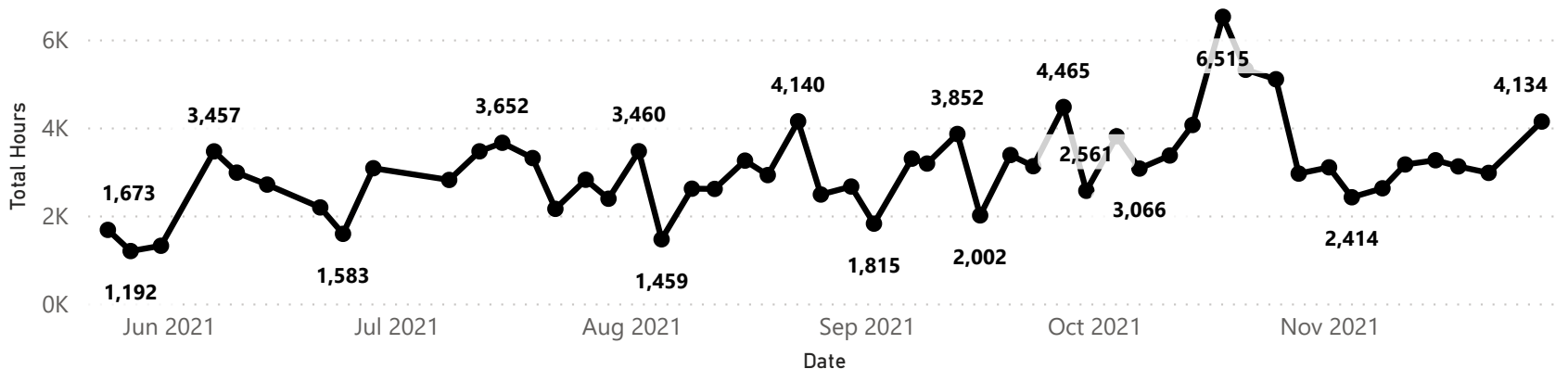
Number of People Waiting - Grouped by Hours

Wait Time ● Less than 24 hours ● More than 24 hours

A ribbon chart orders items based on which category has the largest count for each unit of measurement on the x-axis. Categories at the top are the largest.



Waiting Hours Reported



Based on data reported to VAHHS Monday and Thursday mornings, point-in-time, by Vermont hospitals for patients waiting mental health placement. Data includes any patient waiting in an emergency department or a medical-surgical bed needing a mental health placement in the community or inpatient. Data excludes days where reporting from hospitals fell below 75% or days where University of Vermont Medical Center was not able to make a report. Figures are point-in-time and cannot be summed together to arrive at a total number of individuals, episodes, or total hours waited.

Mental Health Boarding in VT Emergency Departments and Med-Surg Units - Hours Waiting and People Waiting for Children and Youth

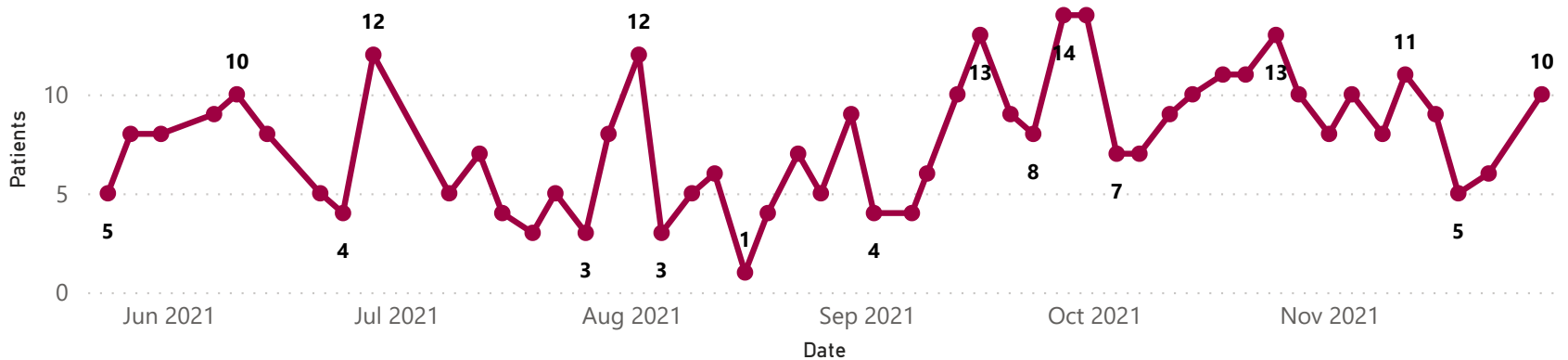
Monday and Thursday mornings, point-in-time, from 5/24/2021 through 11/29/2021

General Trends

The average total hours reported each Monday and Thursday to VAHHS increased from May through October. Average total children reported each Monday and Thursday has also increased. On most days, the majority of children have been waiting more than 24 hours for placement.

	05-May	06-Jun	07-Jul	08-Aug	09-Sep	10-Oct	11-Nov
Avg Total Hrs	607	732	368	400	744	1,633	915
Avg Total Pts	7	8	5	6	9	10	8

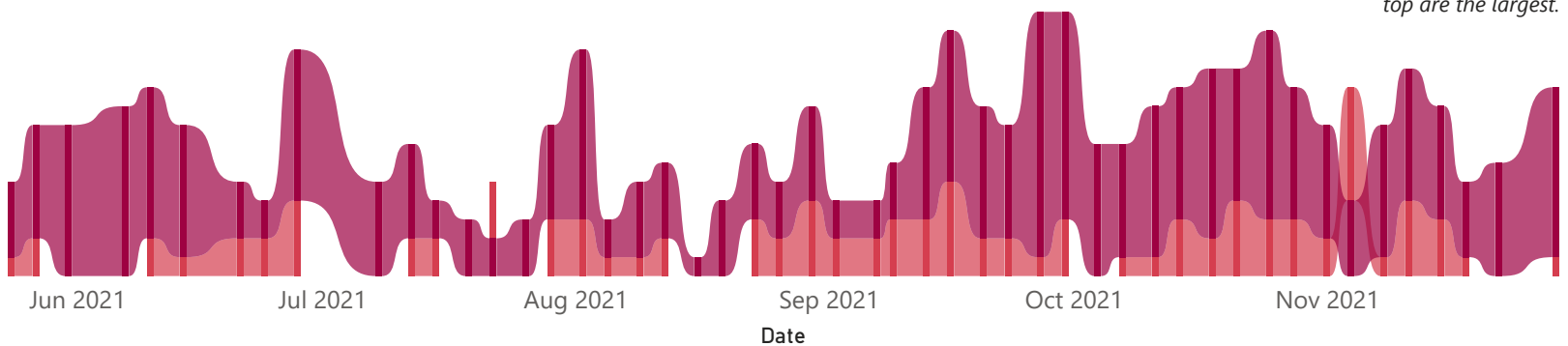
Number of Children and Youth Waiting



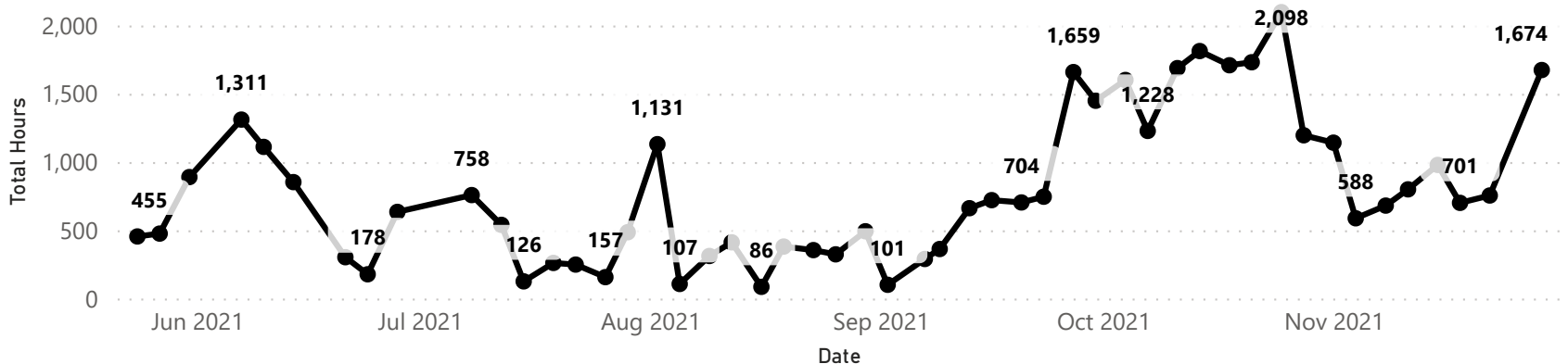
Number of Children and Youth Waiting - Grouped by Hours

Wait Time ● Less than 24 hours ● More than 24 hours

A ribbon chart orders items based on which category has the largest count for each unit of measurement on the x-axis. Categories at the top are the largest.



Waiting Hours Reported for Children and Youth



Based on data reported to VAHHS Monday and Thursday mornings, point-in-time, by Vermont hospitals for patients waiting mental health placement. Data includes any patient waiting in an emergency department or a medical-surgical bed needing a mental health placement in the community or inpatient. Data excludes days where reporting from hospitals fell below 75% or days where University of Vermont Medical Center was not able to make a report. Figures are point-in-time and cannot be summed together to arrive at a total number of individuals, episodes, or total hours waited.

Mental Health Boarding in VT Emergency Departments and Med-Surg Units - Hours Waiting and People Waiting for Adults

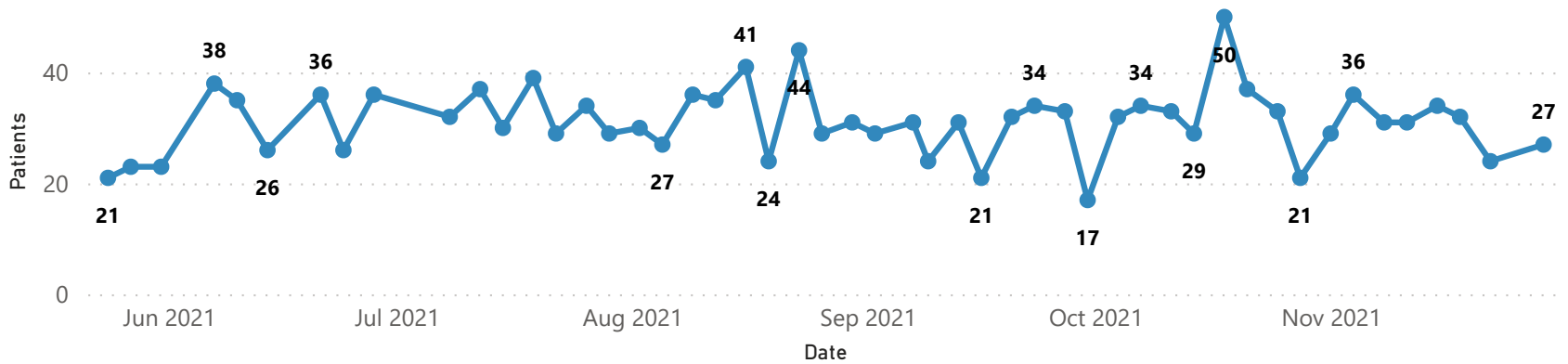
Monday and Thursday mornings, point-in-time, from 5/24/2021 through 11/29/2021

General Trends

The average total hours reported each Monday and Thursday to VAHHS increased from May through October. Average total adults reported each Monday and Thursday has also increased. On most days, the majority of adults have been waiting more than 24 hours for placement.

	05-May	06-Jun	07-Jul	08-Aug	09-Sep	10-Oct	11-Nov
Avg Total Hrs	785	1,930	2,570	2,441	2,329	2,637	2,180
Avg Total Pts	22	33	33	33	28	34	31

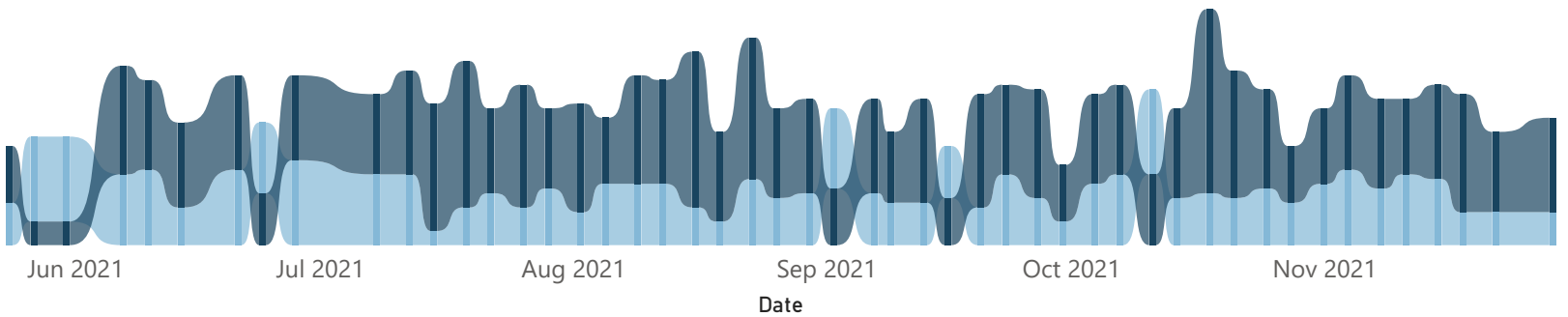
Number of Adults Waiting



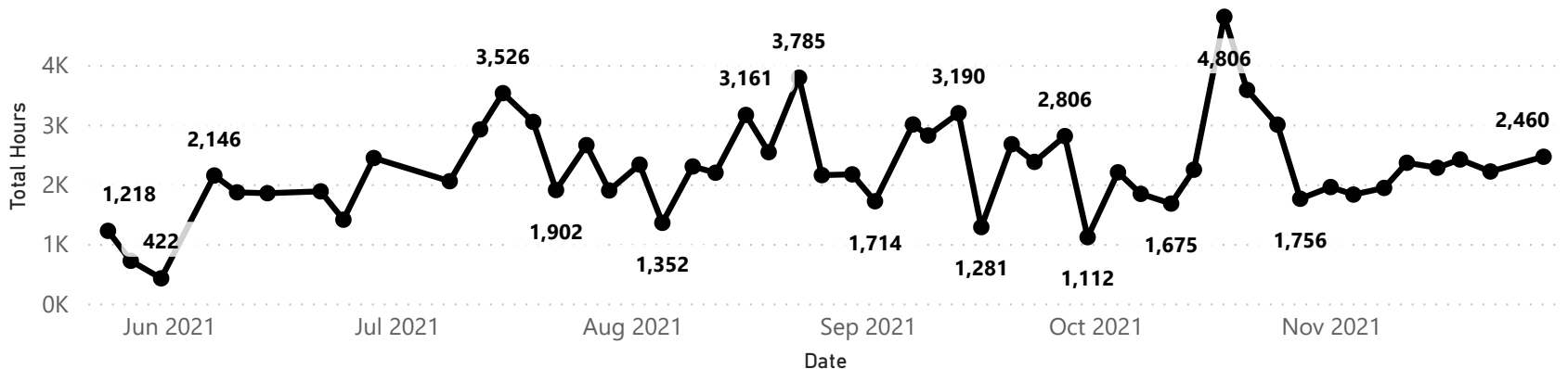
Number of Adults Waiting - Grouped by Hours

Wait Time ● Less than 24 hours ● More than 24 hours

A ribbon chart orders items based on which category has the largest count for each unit of measurement on the x-axis. Categories at the top are the largest.



Waiting Hours Reported for Adults



Based on data reported to VAHHS Monday and Thursday mornings, point-in-time, by Vermont hospitals for patients waiting mental health placement. Data includes any patient waiting in an emergency department or a medical-surgical bed needing a mental health placement in the community or inpatient. Data excludes days where reporting from hospitals fell below 75% or days where University of Vermont Medical Center was not able to make a report. Figures are point-in-time and cannot be summed together to arrive at a total number of individuals, episodes, or total hours waited.