Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems

People Waiting for Mental Health Placement
Monthly Summary
June 2021 - April 2025

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.
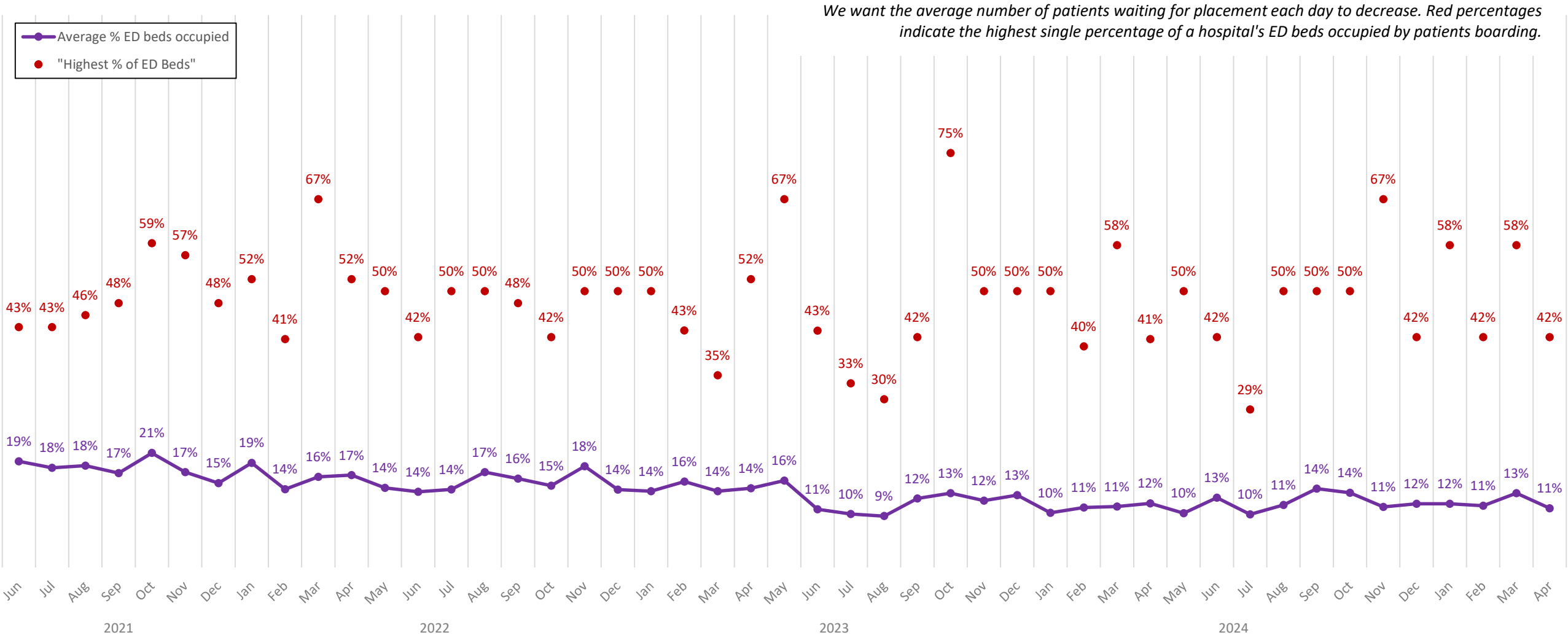
The VAHHS data collection process is described below:

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

SCOPE— The scope of this report includes all patients waiting for mental health care in Vermont emergency rooms. 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 – 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 are driven by voluntary patients and/or patients waiting for community placements not being reported to DMH.

Notes on Monthly Summary Table:

Data excludes days where reporting from hospitals fell below 70% or days where the 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 or episodes. Averages represent averages of daily reports in each month. 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 boarding.

ED Mental Health Boarding Impact
Average % of ED Beds Occupied

We want the average number of patients waiting for placement each day to decrease. Red percentages indicate the highest single percentage of a hospital's ED beds occupied by patients boarding.

Legend:
- Average % ED beds occupied
- "Highest % of ED Beds"

ED OCCUPANCY MEASURES – *% ED beds occupied* represents the total number of all ED beds in Vermont hospitals currently occupied by a patient waiting for mental health placement. ***Highest % at an ED*** represents the highest percentage of a single hospital's ED beds occupied by patients waiting for mental health placement. Total ED beds used as a denominator for these measures represent dedicated ED rooms. However, during times of high-volume hospitals may expand ED treatment space into adjacent departments and hallway spaces which are not included in the denominator for this measure.

Average Total Mental Health Patients Boarding per Day

We want the average number of patients waiting for placement each day to decrease. Shaded area represents the min and max reported patients during each month.

Values (Jun 2021 – Apr 2024): 41, 38, 39, 37, 43, 39, 36, 39, 31, 34, 34, 28, 29, 27, 34, 33, 30, 37, 26, 26, 28, 27, 27, 28, 18, 18, 19, 23, 28, 24, 25, 20, 21, 22, 22, 17, 23, 17, 21, 26, 26, 22, 20, 21, 19, 27, 20
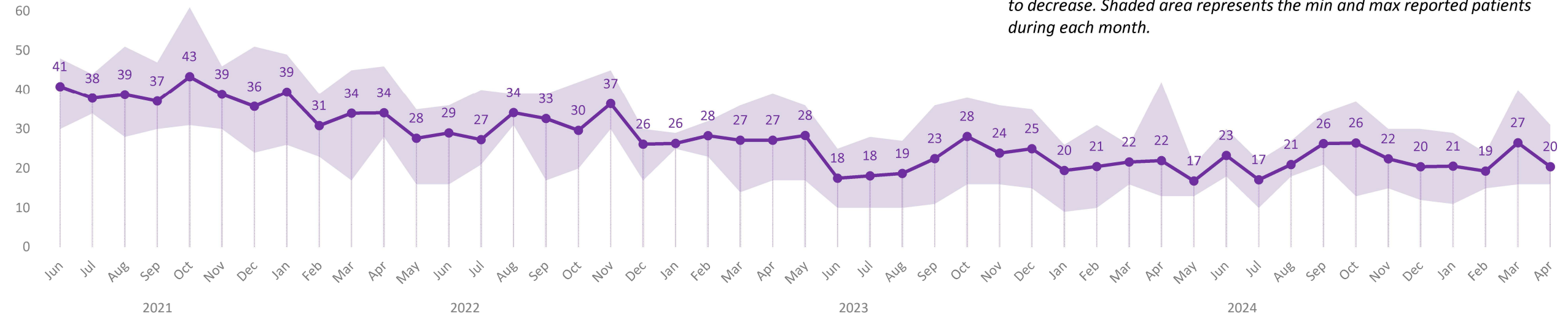
Average Percent of Mental Health Patients Waiting More Than 24 Hours
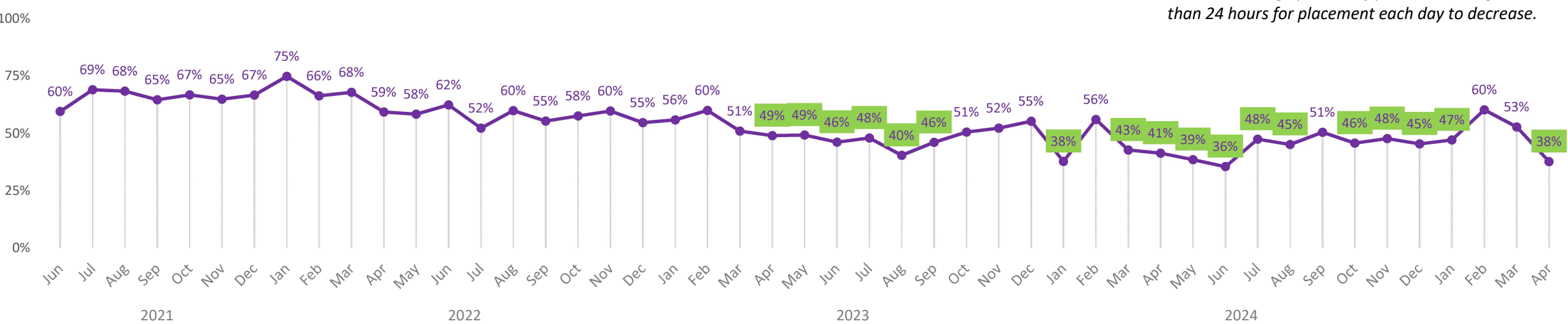
We want the average percent of patients waiting more than 24 hours for placement each day to decrease.

Values (Jun 2021 – Apr 2024): 60%, 69%, 68%, 65%, 67%, 65%, 67%, 75%, 66%, 68%, 59%, 58%, 62%, 52%, 60%, 55%, 58%, 60%, 55%, 56%, 60%, 51%, 49%, 49%, 46%, 48%, 40%, 46%, 51%, 52%, 55%, 38%, 56%, 43%, 41%, 39%, 36%, 48%, 45%, 51%, 46%, 48%, 45%, 47%, 60%, 53%, 38%

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Mental Health Patients Waiting for Placement
Level of Care Needed
Average Percentages Each Month

Other Level of Care: 12% 17% 18% 21% 25% 27% 23% 22% 22% 21% 26% 26% 29% 25% 30% 33% 31% 20% 34% 25% 26% 30% 40% 29% 31% 39% 30% 38% 39% 39% 31% 39% 41% 36% 38% 41% 47% 34% 30% 36% 36% 42% 46% 40% 34% 44% 47%

Involuntary Inpatient: 21% 25% 31% 24% 20% 18% 25% 17% 11% 12% 13% 11% 19% 17% 28% 16% 12% 14% 14% 11% 23% 13% 11% 16% 21% 13% 13% 9% 15% 13% 18% 7% 12% 14% 13% 15% 16% 7% 13% 13% 11% 18% 15% 9% 22% 12% 14%

Voluntary Inpatient: 68% 57% 51% 55% 55% 56% 52% 61% 68% 66% 61% 63% 51% 59% 42% 51% 58% 66% 52% 63% 50% 57% 49% 55% 47% 48% 58% 54% 47% 48% 51% 54% 47% 49% 49% 44% 37% 60% 57% 51% 53% 39% 39% 51% 43% 44% 39%

Months: Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec | Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec | Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec | Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec | Jan Feb Mar Apr
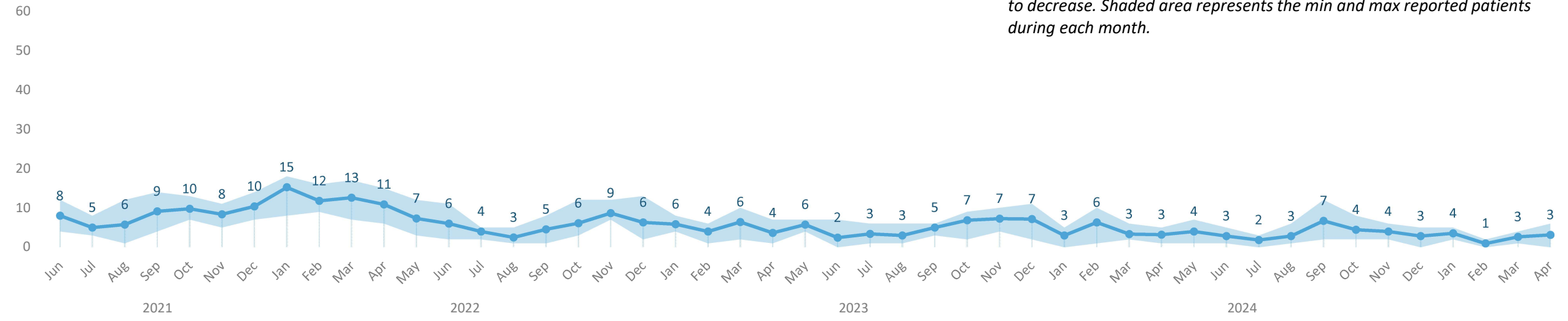
Years: 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024

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Average Youth Mental Health Patients Boarding per Day

We want the average number of patients waiting for placement each day to decrease. Shaded area represents the min and max reported patients during each month.

Monthly values (Jun 2021 – Apr 2024): 8, 5, 6, 9, 10, 8, 10, 15, 12, 13, 11, 7, 6, 4, 3, 5, 6, 9, 6, 6, 4, 6, 4, 6, 2, 3, 3, 5, 7, 7, 7, 3, 6, 3, 3, 4, 3, 2, 3, 7, 4, 4, 3, 4, 1, 3, 3

y-axis: 0, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60

x-axis: Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

2021   2022   2023   2024

Average Percent of Youth Mental Health Patients Waiting More Than 24 Hours

We want the average percent of patients waiting more than 24 hours for placement each day to decrease.

Monthly values (Jun 2021 – Apr 2024): 77%, 71%, 69%, 72%, 78%, 73%, 78%, 85%, 89%, 83%, 71%, 59%, 69%, 54%, 67%, 54%, 69%, 77%, 79%, 57%, 68%, 62%, 50%, 61%, 82%, 63%, 71%, 65%, 66%, 72%, 70%, 21%, 71%, 30%, 59%, 54%, 50%, 46%, 41%, 64%, 60%, 39%, 45%, 60%, 33%, 50%, 32%

y-axis: 0%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 100%

x-axis: Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr
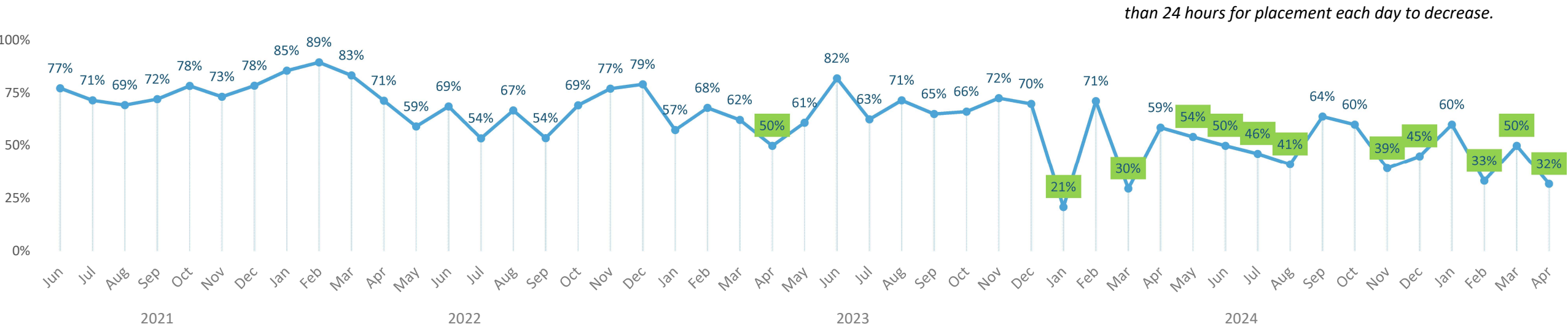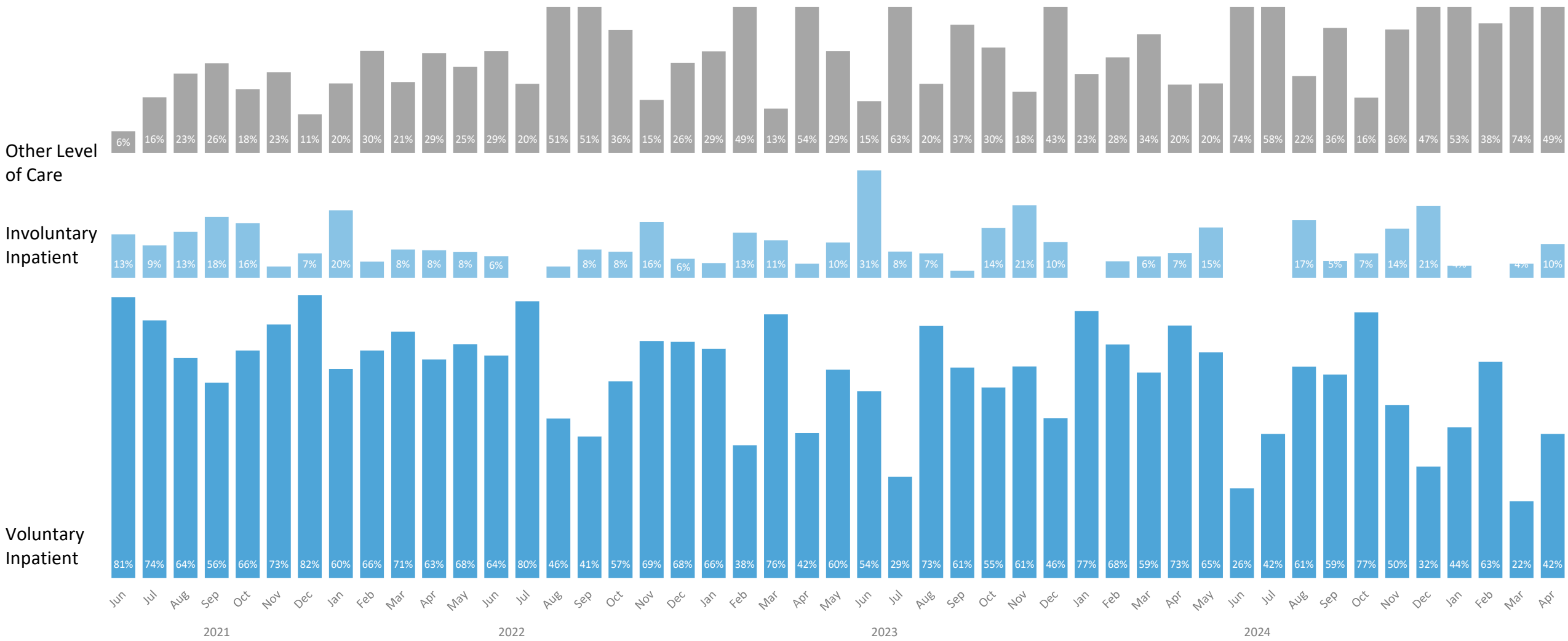
2021   2022   2023   2024

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Youth Mental Health Patients Waiting for Placement
Level of Care Needed
Average Percentages Each Month

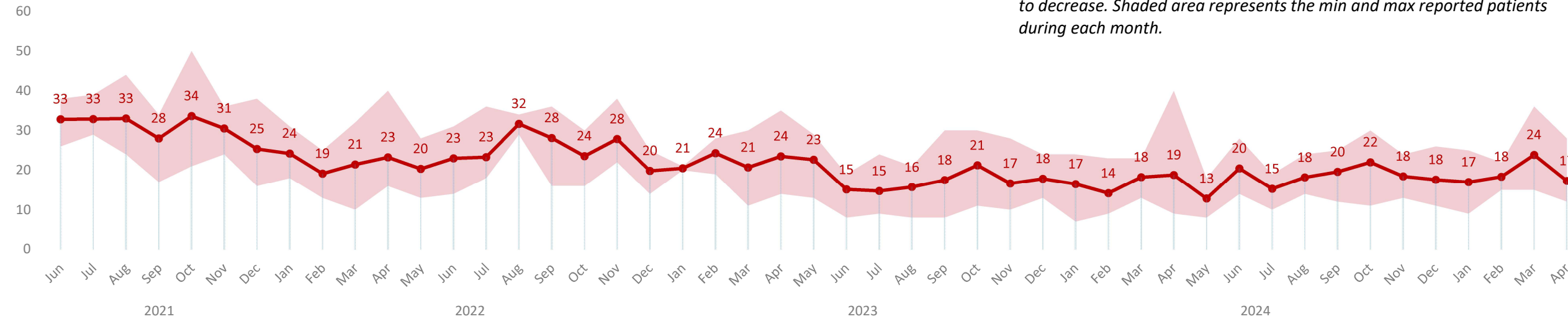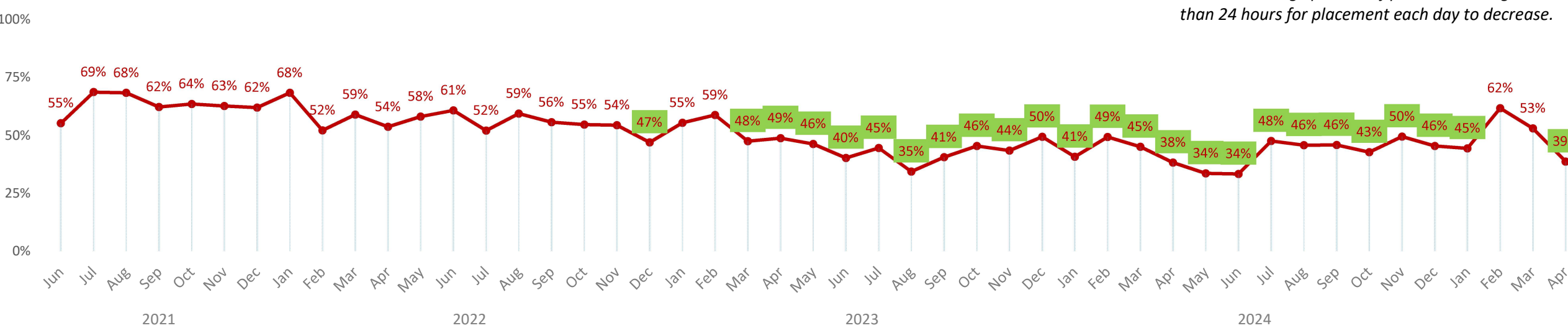|	Other Level of Care	Involuntary Inpatient	Voluntary Inpatient
Jun 2021	6%	13%	81%
Jul	16%	9%	74%
Aug	23%	13%	64%
Sep	26%	18%	56%
Oct	18%	16%	66%
Nov	23%		73%
Dec	11%	7%	82%
Jan 2022	20%	20%	60%
Feb	30%		66%
Mar	21%	8%	71%
Apr	29%	8%	63%
May	25%	8%	68%
Jun	29%	6%	64%
Jul	20%		80%
Aug	51%		46%
Sep	51%	8%	41%
Oct	36%	8%	57%
Nov	15%	16%	69%
Dec	26%	6%	68%
Jan 2023	29%		66%
Feb	49%	13%	38%
Mar	13%	11%	76%
Apr	54%		42%
May	29%	10%	60%
Jun	15%	31%	54%
Jul	63%	8%	29%
Aug	20%	7%	73%
Sep	37%		61%
Oct	30%	14%	55%
Nov	18%	21%	61%
Dec	43%	10%	46%
Jan 2024	23%		77%
Feb	28%	6%	68%
Mar	34%	7%	59%
Apr	20%	15%	73%
May	20%		65%
Jun	74%		26%
Jul	58%	17%	42%
Aug	22%	5%	61%
Sep	36%	7%	59%
Oct	16%	14%	77%
Nov	36%	21%	50%
Dec	47%	4%	32%
Jan	53%		44%
Feb	38%	4%	63%
Mar	74%		22%
Apr	49%	10%	42%

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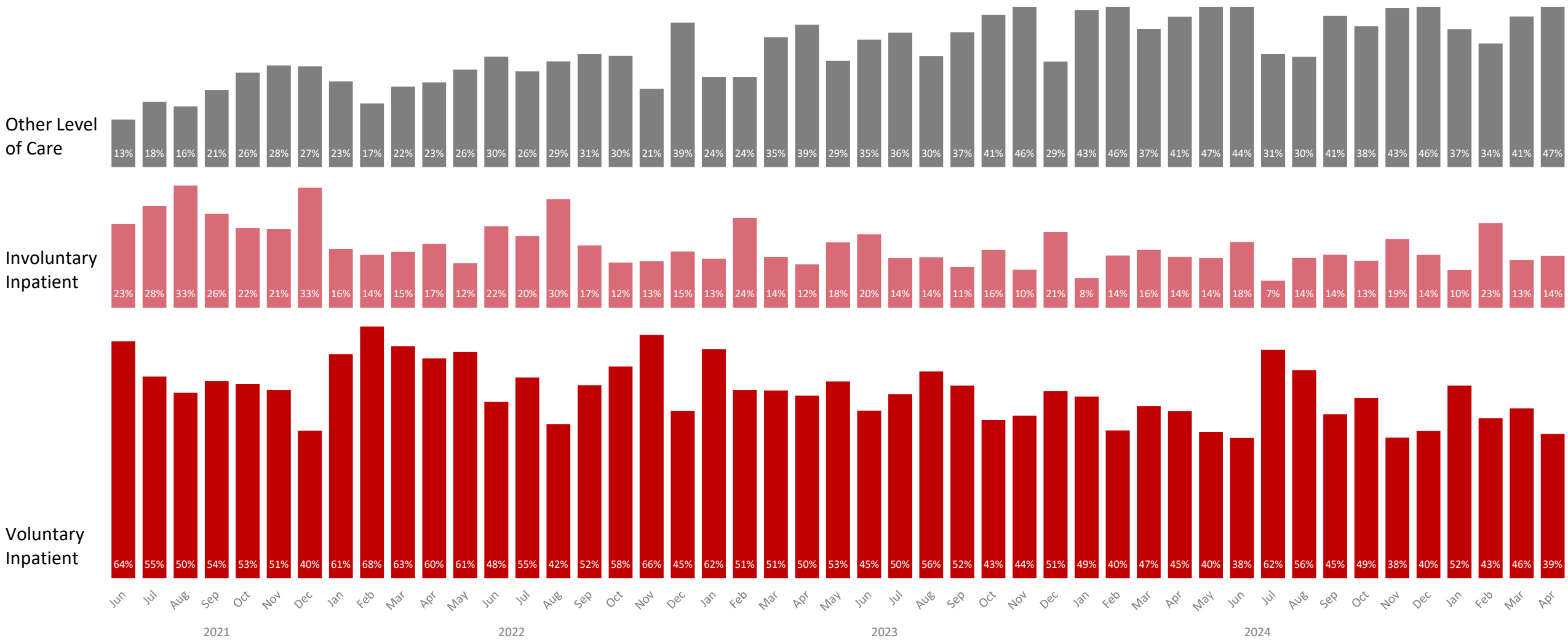## Average **Adult** Mental Health Patients Boarding per Day

We want the average number of patients waiting for placement each day to decrease. Shaded area represents the min and max reported patients during each month.

Average Percent of **Adult** Mental Health Patients Waiting More Than 24 Hours

We want the average percent of patients waiting more than 24 hours for placement each day to decrease.

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Adult Mental Health Patients Waiting for Placement
Level of Care Needed
Average Percentages Each Month

	Other Level of Care	Involuntary Inpatient	Voluntary Inpatient
Jun 2021	13%	23%	64%
Jul	18%	28%	55%
Aug	16%	33%	50%
Sep	21%	26%	54%
Oct	26%	22%	53%
Nov	28%	21%	51%
Dec	27%	33%	40%
Jan 2022	23%	16%	61%
Feb	17%	14%	68%
Mar	22%	15%	63%
Apr	23%	17%	60%
May	26%	12%	61%
Jun	30%	22%	48%
Jul	26%	20%	55%
Aug	29%	30%	42%
Sep	31%	17%	52%
Oct	30%	12%	58%
Nov	21%	13%	66%
Dec	39%	15%	45%
Jan 2023	24%	13%	62%
Feb	24%	24%	51%
Mar	35%	14%	51%
Apr	39%	12%	50%
May	29%	18%	53%
Jun	35%	20%	45%
Jul	36%	14%	50%
Aug	30%	14%	56%
Sep	37%	11%	52%
Oct	41%	16%	43%
Nov	46%	10%	44%
Dec	29%	21%	51%
Jan 2024	43%	8%	49%
Feb	46%	14%	40%
Mar	37%	16%	47%
Apr	41%	14%	45%
May	47%	14%	40%
Jun	44%	18%	38%
Jul	31%	7%	62%
Aug	30%	14%	56%
Sep	41%	14%	45%
Oct	38%	13%	49%
Nov	43%	19%	38%
Dec	46%	14%	40%
Jan	37%	10%	52%
Feb	34%	23%	43%
Mar	41%	13%	46%
Apr	47%	14%	39%

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