

People Waiting in Vermont Emergency Departments for Mental Health Placement

Week of April 21, 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 is driven by voluntary patients and/or patients waiting for community placements not being reported to DMH.

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.

*Total ED beds used as a denominator for this measure represents 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.

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All Patients

Date	Mon, Apr 21, 2025	Thu, Apr 24, 2025
Hospitals reporting	10	11
Hospitals reporting patients waiting	7	7
Total people waiting	21	16
% All VT ED beds occupied by pts waiting*	11%	8%
Highest % of ED beds occupied at an ED*	42%	20%
All Patients Waiting	21	16
Waiting less than 24 hours	11	12
Waiting 1-6 days	9	4
Waiting 7+ days	1	0
Patients Waiting for <u>Voluntary</u> Inpatient Care	8	6
% Total Patients	38%	38%
Waiting less than 24 hours	5	4
Waiting 1-6 days	3	2
Waiting 7+ days	0	0
Patients Waiting for <u>Involuntary</u> Inpatient Care	4	3
% Total Patients	19%	19%
Waiting less than 24 hours	1	2
Waiting 1-6 days	3	1
Waiting 7+ days	0	0
Patients Waiting for Other Reasons	9	7
% Total Patients	43%	44%
Waiting less than 24 hours	5	6
Waiting 1-6 days	3	1
Waiting 7+ days	1	0

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Children and Youth Patients

Date	Mon, Apr 21, 2025	Thu, Apr 24, 2025
Hospitals reporting	10	11
Hospitals reporting youth waiting	0	4
All Youth Waiting	0	4
Waiting less than 24 hours	0	4
Waiting 1-6 days	0	0
Waiting 7+ days	0	0
Youth Waiting for <u>Voluntary</u> Inpatient Care	0	1
% Total Youth		25%
Waiting less than 24 hours	0	1
Waiting 1-6 days	0	0
Waiting 7+ days	0	0
Youth Waiting for <u>Involuntary</u> Inpatient Care	0	0
% Total Youth		0%
Waiting less than 24 hours	0	0
Waiting 1-6 days	0	0
Waiting 7+ days	0	0
Youth Waiting for Other Reasons	0	3
% Total Youth		75%
Waiting less than 24 hours	0	3
Waiting 1-6 days	0	0
Waiting 7+ days	0	0

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Adult Patients

Date	Mon, Apr 21, 2025	Thu, Apr 24, 2025
Hospitals reporting	10	11
Hospitals reporting adults waiting	8	7
All Adults Waiting	21	12
Waiting less than 24 hours	11	8
Waiting 1-6 days	9	4
Waiting 7+ days	1	0
Adults Waiting for <u>Voluntary</u> Inpatient Care	8	5
% Total adults	38%	42%
Waiting less than 24 hours	5	3
Waiting 1-6 days	3	2
Waiting 7+ days	0	0
Adults Waiting for <u>Involuntary</u> Inpatient Care	4	3
% Total adults	19%	25%
Waiting less than 24 hours	1	2
Waiting 1-6 days	3	1
Waiting 7+ days	0	0
Adults Waiting for Other Reasons	9	4
% Total adults	43%	33%
Waiting less than 24 hours	5	3
Waiting 1-6 days	3	1
Waiting 7+ days	1	0