



# STATE OF FLORIDA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH GAP ANALYSIS

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# Legislative Charge: Senate Bill 330 – the Behavioral Health Teaching Hospitals Act – requires DCF to contract for a detailed study of bed capacity and demand

## Facility and Program Type

- Current number and allocation of inpatient treatment beds,
- Number of individuals admitted and discharged annually
- Lengths of stay

## Department Regions

- Current allocation of beds
- Annual admissions and discharges
- Types and frequency of discharges
- Lengths of stay
- Current and projected inpatient service, bed needs, and demand

## Policy Recommendations

- Sufficient bed capacity for children, adolescents, and adults
- Enhancing services that could prevent the need for involuntary inpatient placements

Inpatient treatment services for adults with serious mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbance or psychosis in the state's forensic inpatient, safety-net voluntary and involuntary civil inpatient placement, and Medicaid statewide inpatient psychiatric programs.

# Behavioral health includes an individual's emotional, psychological, social state of wellbeing , and the consumption of select substances

**400,000** children and youth experience emotional, behavioral, and developmental issues

**5%** of the state's civilian population have serious mental illness

**15%** of individuals have struggled with substance use disorder within the past year



- Anxiety
- Depression
- Stress and trauma
- Suicidal thoughts and attempts
- Substance use disorders
- Eating disorders
- Schizophrenias
- Bipolar

Naloxone was administered  
**51,752 times**

**34.8%** of students have thought about committing suicide one or more times in the past 12 months

**9.1%** attempted suicide

**2.9 million** people, used illicit drugs within the past month

# Several government agencies contribute significantly to addressing the diverse behavioral health needs of individuals and communities



The **Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF)** is responsible for overseeing a statewide system of care focused on the prevention, treatment, and recovery of children and adults with serious mental illnesses or substance use disorders.



The **Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)** administers the state's Medicaid program, providing health coverage to low-income individuals and families, and is primarily responsible for the state's estimated \$35 billion Medicaid program, which serves 4.3 million Floridians in SFY 2024–25.



The **Florida Department of Education (FLDOE)** plays a crucial role in implementing mental health education programs, providing school-based mental health services, and collaborating with other state agencies to coordinate support for students.



The **Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)** plays a crucial role in the behavioral health system of care by addressing the mental and emotional well-being of at-risk and delinquent youth.



The **Florida Department of Corrections (FDC)**, the state's largest agency and the third-largest state prison system in the U.S., provides mental health assessments, counseling, and treatment, as well as substance abuse programs aimed at long-term recovery.



The **Florida Department of Health (DOH)** is committed to protecting and promoting the health of all Floridians. The DOH provides mental health assessments, counseling, substance abuse treatment, crisis intervention services, implements

## Managing Entities

The mission of the **seven Managing Entities** across the state is to educate, promote, facilitate, collaborate, and advance the behavioral health recovery of individuals and families. MEs oversee the state and federal substance abuse and mental health system of care.



The **Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD)** serves the needs of over 60,000 Floridians with developmental disabilities who may receive social, medical, behavioral, residential, and/or therapeutic services

## Health Insurers

**Health insurers** across Florida provide coverage for mental health services enabling residents to have access to care. Plans are offered by various health insurance providers include coverage for services such as, counseling, psychiatric evaluations, medication management, and inpatient and outpatient treatment.

## Behavioral Health Providers

Behavioral health service providers include a wide range of professionals and organizations, such as psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and community-based agencies. They offer an array of services, including therapy, psychiatric evaluations, medication management, and crisis intervention.

# The Florida Department of Children and Families Behavioral Health System of Services Across the Continuum of Treatment, Rehabilitation, and Supports

Providing children, adolescents, and adults with services and supports to meet the varied behavioral health needs

Florida Assertive Community Treatment (FACT)		Aftercare services	Case Management
Short-term Residential Treatment		Comprehensive Community Service Team – Individual or Group	Day Care Services
Intermediate Level FACT	Residential Treatment	Day-night Services	Drop-In/Self-Help Centers
Outpatient Services	Crisis Stabilization	Educational Services	Incidental Expenses
Residential Level I	Intervention	Florida Self-Directed Care	Information and Referral
Residential Level II	Inpatient Services	Supportive Housing	Prevention
Medical Services		Supported Employment	Residential Level 4
Community Action Treatment Teams		Mental Health Clubhouse	Respite Services
Crisis Support/Emergency (includes MRT)		Residential Level 3	Room and Board with Supervision Levels 1–3
In-Home and On-Site Services			Service Planning and Coordination
Juvenile Incompetent to Proceed Program			Peer Support
<b>Treatment</b>		<b>Rehabilitation</b>	<b>Supports</b>

## Behavioral Health System of Services

# Psychiatric Bed Capacity And Utilization – Examining Bed Availability And Usage Across Psychiatric Inpatient Facilities Among **Children And Adolescents**

**93** facilities serve **children and adolescents**

**1,965**  beds

**485,373** total bed days (statewide)

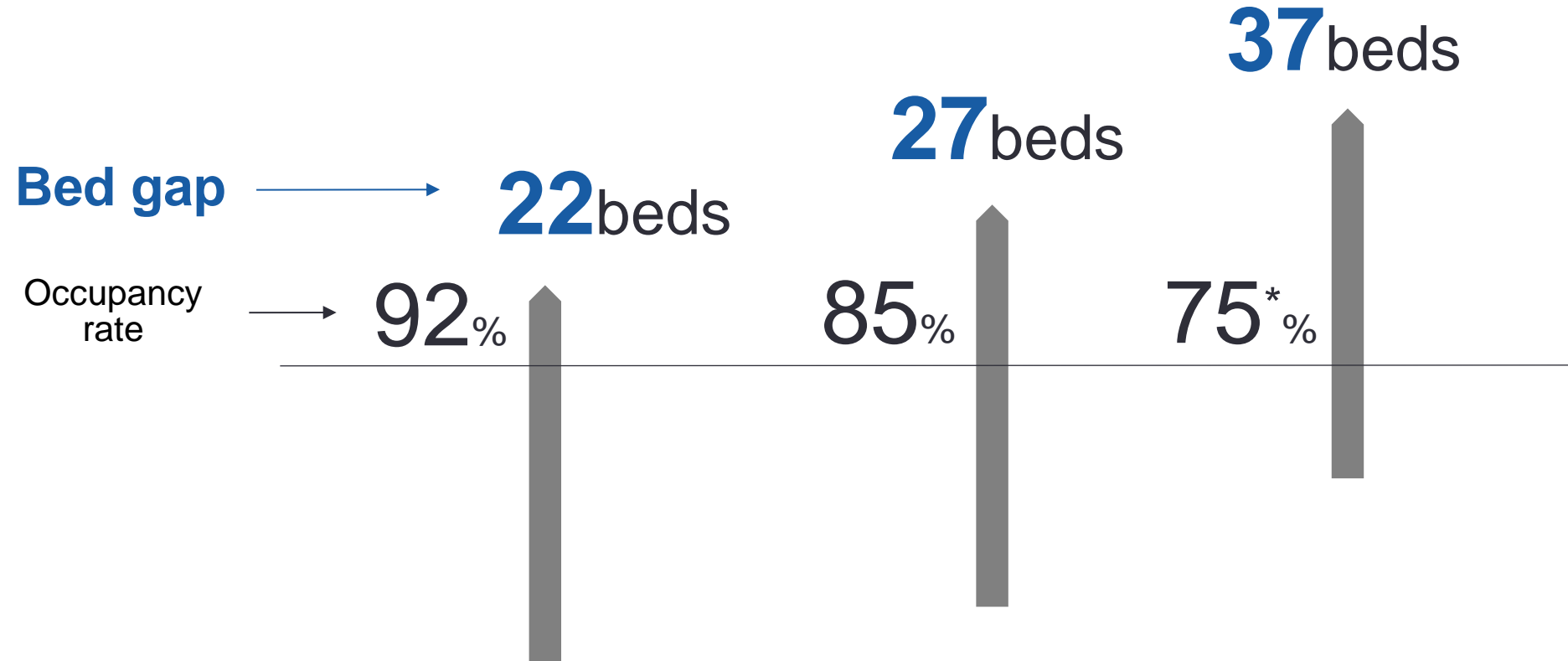
Facility Type	Number of Facilities	Total Number of Beds	Average Length of Stay	Occupancy Rate
Juvenile Incompetent to Proceed (JITP) Program	1	48	153	92%
Hospitals with psychiatric beds	18	406	6	63%
Specialty psychiatric hospitals (Class 3)	19	494	4.9	50%
Crisis stabilization units	22	237	3.7	73%
Residential treatment centers	19	636	209.3	81%
Short-term residential treatment unit	1	16	95.2	38%
Specialized therapeutic group home	13	128	249.6	65%

**50,000** children and adolescents were discharged from psychiatric beds

**97%** from inpatient treatment services and crisis stabilization units

# The One JITP Facility, The Most Restrictive Care Setting For Children And Adolescents, Has 48 Beds And Treats Children And Adolescents Who Require In-patient Services

Calendar year 2029 projected bed capacity gaps will vary based on target occupancy rates



\*The target rate occupancy rate defined in Florida Administrative Code.

CY2029 projected bed capacity gaps vary across facility types and are informed by population growth rates, occupancy rates, utilization, and/or waitlists, **child and adolescents**

Region/Facility	Hospitals With Inpatient Psychiatric Units	Specialty Psychiatric Hospitals	Crisis Stabilization Units	Residential Treatment Centers	Short-term Residential Treatment Facilities	Specialized Therapeutic Group Homes	Projected Bed Gaps
Northeast	2	4	2	5	N/A	0	13
Northwest	1	3	N/A	+	N/A	N/A	4
Central	9	11	7	80	N/A	2	107
Southeast	11	3	1	+	N/A	3	15
Suncoast	5	10	5	+	N/A	1	21
Southern	0	N/A	0	+	1	0	1
<b>Projected Bed Gaps</b>	29	31	15	85	1	6	

Notes: + indicates a projected surplus in bed capacity for the given region. N/A indicates that there were none of the given type of facility in the specified region and thus demand projections could not be calculated. Totals may appear not to sum due to rounding.



# Psychiatric Bed Capacity And Utilization – Examining Bed Availability And Usage Across Psychiatric Inpatient Facilities Among **Adults**

**302** facilities serve **adults**

**11,318**  beds

**3,058,271**  
total bed days (statewide)

Facility Type	Number of Facilities	Total Number of Beds	Average Length of Stay	Occupancy Rates
State mental health facilities - forensic	3	1335	185	98%
State mental health facilities - civil	2	1,850	713	90%
Hospitals with psychiatric beds	71	2,573	5.3	59%
Specialty psychiatric hospitals (Class 3)	33	2,000	6.6	92%
Crisis stabilization units	42	726	4.3	107%
Residential treatment facilities	141	2,634	80	73%
Short-term residential treatment unit	9	200	56.5	53%

**241,615** children and adolescents were discharged from psychiatric beds

**95%** from inpatient treatment services and crisis stabilization units

CY2029 projected bed capacity gaps vary across facility types and are informed by population growth rates, occupancy rates, utilization, and/or waitlists, **adults**

Region/Facility	Hospitals With Inpatient Psychiatric Units	Specialty Psychiatric Hospitals	Crisis Stabilization Units	Residential Treatment Facilities	Short-term Residential Treatment Facilities	Projected Bed Gaps
Northeast	31	17	7	41	N/A	96
Northwest	16	9	4	+	10	39
Central	32	62	27	25	+	146
Southeast	36	25	6	68	2	137
Suncoast	41	52	14	45	11	163
Southern	33	4	4	26	N/A	67
<b>Projected Bed Gaps</b>	190	169	62	205	23	

Notes: + indicates a projected surplus in bed capacity for the given region. N/A indicates that there were none of the given type of facility in the specified region and thus demand projections could not be calculated. Totals may appear not to sum due to rounding.

# Assessing the projected gap in capacity in **civil and forensic state mental health treatment facilities** by CY2029, **adults**

## Civil

To maintain the current **occupancy rate of 90%**, state mental health treatment facilities need to add at least **770** additional civil beds within the next five years to meet demand.

If civil state mental health treatment facilities maintain the industry standard **occupancy rate of 85%**, the gap is estimated to be **934** beds by CY2029.

## Forensic

To maintain the current **occupancy rate of 98%**, state mental health treatment facilities would need to add at least **1,602** additional forensic beds within the next five years to meet demand.

If the state mental health treatment facilities maintain the industry standard **occupancy rate of 85%**, the forensic beds gap is projected to be **2,034** by 2029.

State mental health treatment facilities are facing increased waitlists for civil and forensic beds. Between 2021 and 2024, waitlists grew annually by 7% for civil beds and 6% for forensic beds, a trend expected to continue in the coming years.

# Efforts should focus on prioritizing investments to improve access and ease utilization of high cost, high intensity services

Facilities and services highlighted are areas to considered prioritized investments

Florida Assertive Community Treatment (FACT)		Aftercare services	Case Management
Short-term Residential Treatment		Comprehensive Community Service Team – Individual or Group	Day Care Services
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## Behavioral Health System of Services

# Treatment services enable increased access to varied acuities of care for children, adolescents, and adults

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## Florida Assertive Community Treatment (FACT)

- **29 additional Florida Assertive Community Treatment** teams needed

## Intermediate Level FACT

- **Three additional Intermediate Level Florida Assertive Community Treatment** teams needed.
- One team each in the Southern, Suncoast, and Central regions

## Crisis Support/Emergency (includes Mobile Response Team)

- **Seven additional MRTs** needed in the Northwest region

## Juvenile Incompetent to Proceed (JITP) Program

- **22 – 37 additional beds** needed

# Residential services encompass care across the treatment, rehabilitation, and support continuum

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## Children and adolescents

### Specialized therapeutic group homes

- Currently no specialized therapeutic group home in operation in the Northwest region.
- **17 beds needed** (one specialized therapeutic group home [average of 10 beds per facility] in Northwest and seven beds in remaining regions)

### Residential Treatment

- **72 – 106 beds needed**

## Adults

### Residential Treatment

- **149 – 205 beds needed**

# Short term residential treatment and crisis stabilization offer more recovery-oriented treatment options

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## Short-term Residential Treatment

### Children and adolescents

- Short-term residential treatment for children and adolescents is not available in six regions
- **80 additional** beds needed

### Adults

- **46 - 67 additional** beds needed

## Crisis Stabilization Units

### Children and adolescents

- No child and adolescent-serving crisis stabilization unit in operation in the Northwest region
- **26 – 48 beds** needed

### Adults

- **62 – 369 beds** needed

# Inpatient psychiatric facilities offer treatment in an intensive, structured setting

## Inpatient Services

### Children and Adolescents

#### Hospital w/ inpatient psych unit

- **28 beds needed**

#### Specialty psychiatric hospital

- Currently no specialty psychiatric hospital in operation in the Southern region
- **57 beds needed** (one specialty psychiatric hospital [average of 26 beds per facility] in Southern region and 31 beds in remaining regions)

### Adults

#### Hospital w/ inpatient psych unit

- **189 beds needed**

#### Specialty psychiatric hospital

- **169 beds needed**



# Other Considerations for Addressing Gaps in Behavioral Health System of Care

Addressing gaps in the behavioral health workforce, increasing prevention activities, and increasing access to supportive housing are critical to meeting the behavioral health needs of Florida residents.



## **Workforce:**

- Estimated gap of ~25,000 behavioral health professionals (e.g., marriage and family therapists, clinical social workers, and mental health counselors) throughout Florida and at least 34 psychiatrists are needed statewide
- Training opportunities on evidence-based practices for behavioral health workforce throughout the continuum



## **Prevention:**

- Early screening and detection for substance use and mental illness
- Provision of education about behavioral health resources
- School-based interpersonal skills building targeting anti-bullying, problem-solving, conflict-resolution



## **Supportive housing:**

- State funded housing vouchers for unhoused persons with a serious and persistent mental illness (SPMI) diagnosis
- Housing First Model
- Cost based on fair market rental rate
- Priority access for individuals transitioning out of psychiatric inpatient, CSU, Residential treatment

Questions?

