Presentation to House Appropriations Committee – Texas Mental Health Services

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February 15, 2023

TEXAS Health and Human Services

FY 2022-23 Appropriated - Mental Health

Description	FY 2022	FY 2023
Community Mental Health Services	*$857,933,957*	*$857,933,957*
State Hospitals	*$470,706,933*	*$494,777,123*
Substance Use Services	*$248,180,042*	*$248,180,042*
Other Strategies	*$58,058,528*	*$57,529,342*
Subtotal, Health and Human Services Commission	***$1,634,879,460***	***$1,658,420,464***
Medicaid and CHIP	$1,869,249,110	$1,906,743,106
Other State Agencies	$525,411,720	525,621,451
Article IX, Sec. 10.04 Total	***$4,029,540,290***	***$4,090,785,021***
Supplemental Appropriations – State Hospital Construction[1]	$559,183,334	-
COVID-19 Related Federal Funds	$240,902,407	$127,860,839
Grand Total	***$4,829,626,031***	***$4,218,645,860***

[1]Includes $321.3 million in state hospital construction appropriations for FY 2021 made in House Bill 2 (87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021), and $237.8 million in state hospital construction appropriations made in Senate Bill 8 (87th Legislature, 3rd Called Session, 2021)

Texas Medicaid: A Broad Array of Mental Health Services

General

Inpatient psychiatric services

Outpatient mental health services (includes counseling and psychotherapy)

Psychiatric diagnostic evaluation without medical services

Health and behavior assessment and intervention services

Substance Use Disorder

Screening, brief intervention & referral to treatment services for substance use (10+ years of age)

Substance use services (includes biopsychosocial assessment, counseling, residential treatment, withdrawal management, and medication–assisted treatment)

Case and Service Management

Mental health targeted case management services (includes routine and intensive wraparound services)

Service management and service coordination

Additional Services

Crisis intervention services (includes mobile crisis outreach teams)

Peer specialist services (21+ years of age)

Court-ordered services (inpatient and outpatient)

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COVID Federal Funding

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Families First Coronavirus Response Act, 2020

- 6.2 percent Medicaid Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) increase during Public Health Emergency

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, 2020

- $558M in Coronavirus Relief Funds (through the Office of the Governor) for COVID-19 expenses incurred in State Hospitals and State Supported Living Centers (SSLCs)
- $28.4M in Provider Relief Funds for COVID-19 expenses incurred in State Hospitals and SSLCs

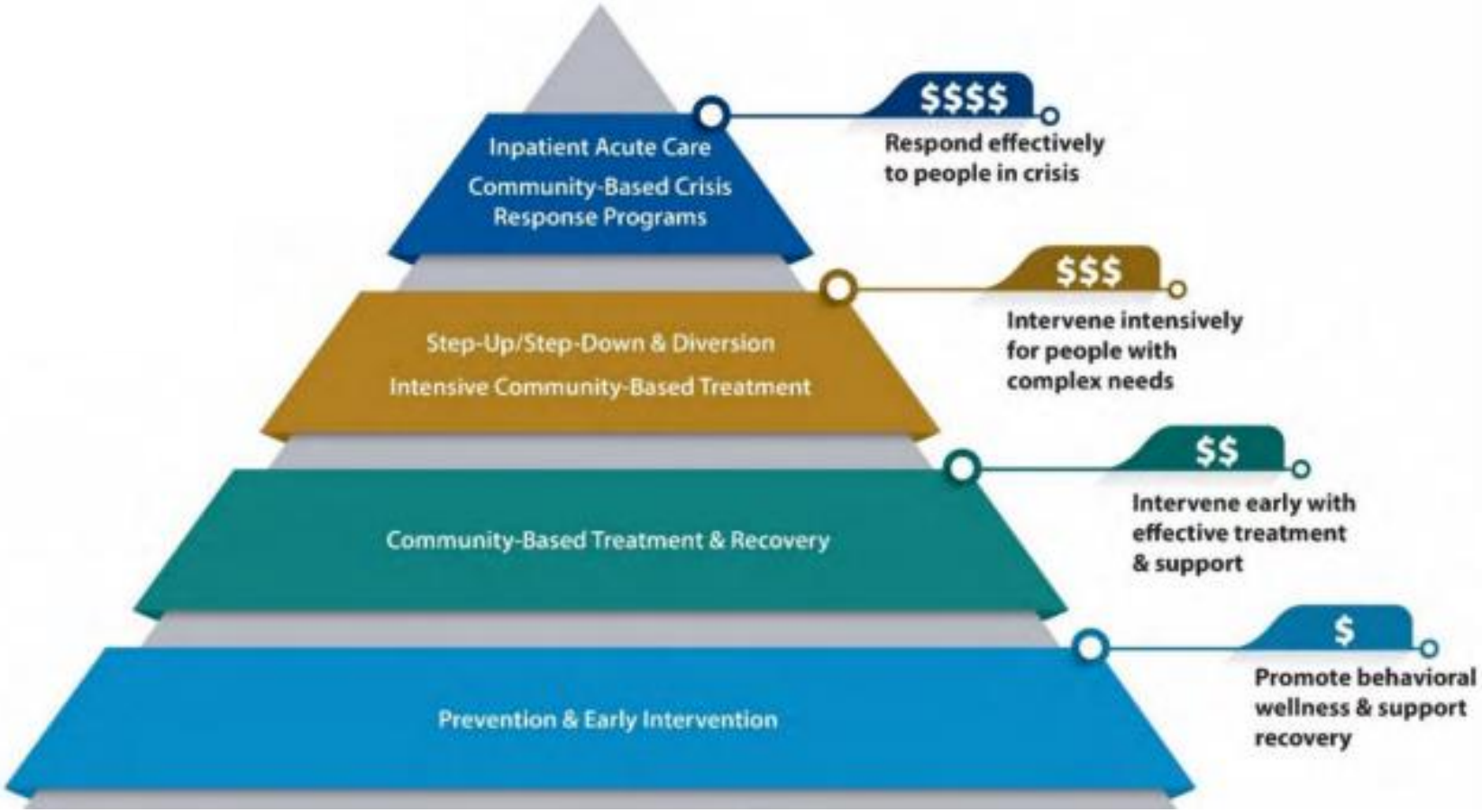
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021

- $74.6M in supplemental Mental Health Block Grant award
- Expansion of telehealth mental health services for Medicare patients

American Rescue Plan Act, 2021

- $128.8M in supplemental Mental Health Block Grant award and $4.4M for COVID-19 testing and mitigation efforts
- $237.8M for Dallas State Hospital construction and $15M for Sunrise Canyon Hospital expansion (Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund appropriated through Senate Bill 8 (873))
- 10 percentage point increase to the FMAP for Home and Community Based Services from April 2021 through March 2022. Increased funding can be expended by the state through March 31, 2025

Mental Health Services Continuum of Care



Prevention and Early Intervention

Prevention, and early intervention services identify, educate, and address mental health needs of adults, children, and families to avoid inpatient mental health placement and systems involvement. Examples include:

- **Mental Health First Aid:** teaches community members how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorder (SUD). A total of 6,713 instructors, school district employees, university employees, and community members have been trained in FY23.
- **Statewide SUD prevention and intervention programs:** provide strategies, training, outreach, and referrals to connect individuals and families to local support services. Served 92,912 adults and 1,091,509 youth in FY22.
- **MentalHealthTexas.Org**: a website where users can access resources and training modules for various mental health concerns. These resources aid Texans about behavioral health resources that may be accessible to improve their lives.
- **Turn To:** A statewide media campaign to provide Texas youth, young adults, and parents, with resources to cope successfully with trauma, stress, and anxiety—escalated by COVID-19 and health disparities.
- **Texas System of Care (TxSOC) Grant-School Based Initiative:** Teams of school-based providers provide services and supports with targeted interventions such as parent support groups, crisis and psychiatric services, suicide prevention education, and case-management services.
- **Non-Physician Mental Health Professionals (NPMHPs):** NPMHPs provide behavioral health resources, behavioral health trainings, trainings in grief and trauma, and link students to behavioral health services and supports.

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Community-Based Treatment and Recovery

HHSC contracts with LMHAs/LBHAs across the state to provide community-based services including:

- Community based mental health services
- Community-based hospital services
- Substance use disorder services
- Crisis services, including Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams, Veterans mental health, jail diversion, and peer support

Children and families of children experiencing complex mental health needs may receive:

- Counseling and multi-systemic therapy
- Skills training and development
- Routine and intensive case management, including wraparound planning process
- Medication management
- Family partner services
- Crisis intervention and respite

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Local Authorities and HHS Service Area Regions

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1

2/3

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Local Mental Health/Behavioral Health Authorities and Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authorities*

- Health Service Region
- ACCESS
- Andrews Center
- Integral Care
- Betty Hardwick
- Bluebonnet Trails
- Border Region
- Burke Center
- Camino Real
- Center for Life Resources
- Central Counties
- Central Plains
- Coastal Plains
- Community Healthcore
- Denton County
- Emergence
- Gulf Bend Center
- Gulf Coast Center
- Heart of Texas
- Helen Farabee
- Hill Country
- Lakes Regional
- LifePath Systems
- MHMR Brazos Valley
- MHMR Concho Valley
- MHMR Harris County
- MHMR Nueces County
- MHMR Tarrant County
- NTBHA (LBHA); Metrocare (LIDDA, Dallas County)
- Pecan Valley
- PermiaCare
- Spindletop Center
- StarCare
- Texana Center
- Texas Panhandle
- Texoma
- Center for Health Care Services (LMHA); Alamo Area Council of Governments (LIDDA)
- Tri-County Services
- Tropical Texas
- West Texas Centers

(*authorities serve as both LMHA/LBHA and LIDDA except as indicated)

0 40 80 160 240 320 Miles

January 2020

Source: Health and Human Services Commission, Behavioral Health Services

Diversion and Intensive Community-Based Treatment

- **Youth Empowerment Services (YES!) Waiver** provides services to children ages 3 through 18 with serious mental, emotional, and behavioral difficulties. The program is focused on reducing the amount of time children are out of their home and community due to a mental health need.
- **Adult Mental Health (HCBS-AMH)** Program serves adults with serious mental illness who also have a history of lengthy stays in psychiatric hospitals or frequent arrests and/or emergency department visits.
- **Mental Health Peer Re-Entry Program** peer specialists provide 'reach-in' services to persons with mental illness in county jails and supports the successful transition of those individuals into clinically appropriate community-based care.

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Community-Based Crisis Response

Community-Based Crisis Program funds short term non-forensic inpatient psychiatric services at 35 facilities through 30 LMHA/LBHAs

- Crisis programs range from 24-hour crisis stabilization units to 60-day crisis residential programs

14,394 people served in FY22

40% decrease in state-funded hospitalizations

24/7 Crisis Hotline and Mobile Crisis Outreach services available statewide

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Inpatient Acute Care

The main types of inpatient psychiatric beds include:

- Contracted private psychiatric beds (PPBs)
- Community mental health hospital (CMHH) beds
- State hospital beds

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State Hospital System

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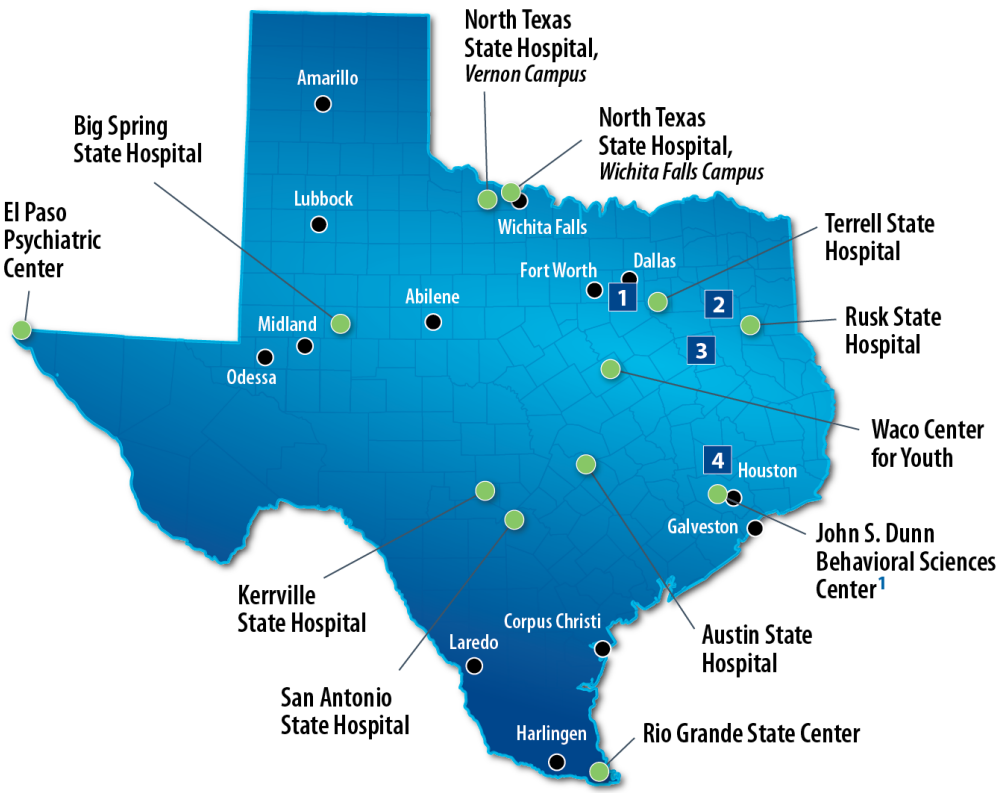

- 9 State Hospitals
- 1 Psychiatric Residential Treatment Center for Youth
- The Dunn Center (operated by UT Health Houston)
- 1 Outpatient Clinic
- Contracted beds at 3 facilities
- Texas Behavioral Health Center at UTSW is under construction

In FY22 the state hospitals served **4115 individuals**

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Discharge and Transition Support Services

- Common barriers to discharge include lack of housing and financial resources; ongoing medical needs; criminal justice involvement.
- The hospital step-down program offers a transition for persons with long-term stays in a state hospital ready to continue their recovery in the community and eliminate a return to the state hospital system.
- Proposed state hospital transition teams will have a transition specialist on each campus to address a caseload of individuals with the most complex transition needs.

$22M

in HB 1 to expand Step-Down Housing and State Hospital Transitions

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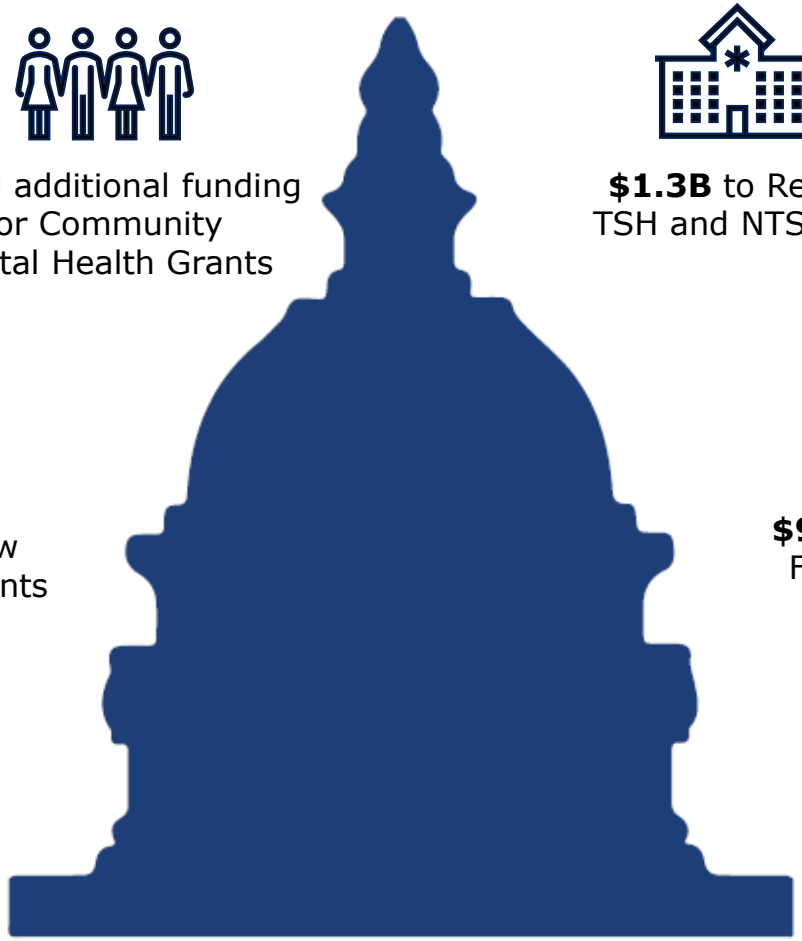
Keeping Pace with Need

- **Children in Crisis**: More support is needed for children and youth in crisis, as well as prevention and early intervention efforts
- **Demand:** In 2022, 2,617 people were waiting for a state hospital bed.
- **Balance:** Limited options for step-up and step-down settings create an overreliance on inpatient settings and make discharge more difficult
- **Workforce:** As of June 2022, 97 percent (248) of Texas' 254 counties had a mental health care professional shortage area (HPSA) designation. People seeking treatment may face limited options or wait lists as providers face challenges hiring staff

Additional Mental Health Funding Provided in H.B. 1



$45M additional funding for Community Mental Health Grants

$1.3B to Replace TSH and NTSH-WF

$15M for new Innovation Grants

$929M for Future Facility Planning

$331.5M for additional Community Inpatient Beds

$22M for Discharge Support Services

Appendix: Comprehensive Overview of the Mental Health Continuum

Prevention and Early Intervention

Prevention and Early Intervention

Prevention, and early intervention services identify, educate, and address mental health needs of adults, children, and families to avoid inpatient mental health placement and systems involvement. Examples include:

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Community-Based Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services

Community Services at Local Authorities

- HHSC contracts with LMHAs/LBHAs across the state to provide community-based services including:
  - Community based mental health services
  - Community-based hospital services
  - SUD services
  - Crisis services, including Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams, Veterans mental health, jail diversion, and peer support
- All LMHAs are Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC)
  - This model integrates primary care screenings and substance use disorder care into mental health care settings with the goal of improving overall health outcomes

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Community Mental Health Services: FY 2022 Persons Served

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Program	Numbers Served
Mental Health Services – Adult	230,683
Mental Health Services – Children	69,922
Youth Empowerment Services Waiver	2,828
Home and Community-Based Services – Adult Mental Health	508
Behavioral Health Matching Grant Programs	91,298
Peer and Recovery Services – Consumer-Operated Service Providers	2,098
Total	397,337*

*Not unduplicated; people may be served in more than one program.

LMHAs/LBHAs

- HHSC delegates certain responsibilities to a LMHA/LBHA under Health and Safety Code, Chapter 533. These include:
  - planning, policy development,
  - coordination, including coordination with criminal justice entities,
  - resource allocation, and resource development
  - oversight of mental health services in the most appropriate and available setting to meet individual needs in that service area

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LMHAs/LBHAs Funding

The 39 LMHA/LBHAs served over 400,000 Texans in FY22

- LMHA/LBHA base funding is 91% state general revenue, 6% Federal Mental Health Block Grant, and 3% Federal Social Services Block Grant
- Local matching funds which may include local funds, program income, and in-kind contributions are required
  - Contribution required is a percentage of the base funding (GR and federal block grants) accounting for per capita income within the local service area
- LMHA/LBHAs may also receive other grants or funding

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Children's Community Mental Health Services at LMHAs

Children and families of children experiencing complex mental health needs may receive:

- Counseling and multi-systemic therapy
- Skills training and development
- Routine and intensive case management, including wraparound planning process
- Medication management
- Family partner services
- Crisis intervention and respite

- In FY22, the average monthly number of children served by LMHAs and LBHAs ranged between **26,931 to 29,178**.
- Children receiving intensive case management experienced a **37.9% decrease** in need for crisis services and a **43.7% decrease** in need to access HHSC-funded hospitals.

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Behavioral Health Grants

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MENTAL HEALTH GRANT FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS

Address unmet physical and behavioral health needs to those in crisis to prevent initial or subsequent justice involvement and promote recovery. **31,254 served in FY22**

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH GRANT PROGRAM

Support comprehensive, data-driven mental health systems that promote both wellness and recovery. **43,096 served in FY22**

HEALTHY COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVES

Build communities that support the ongoing recovery and housing stability of persons who are homeless and have unmet behavioral health needs. **7,245 served in FY22**

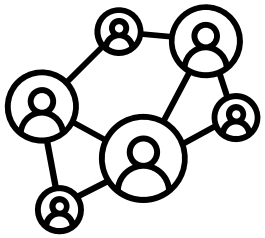
TEXAS VETERANS + FAMILY ALLIANCE

Support community-based, sustainable, research-informed, and accessible behavioral health services to Texas veterans and their families to augment the work of the Veterans' Administration. **9,703 served in FY22**

91,298 total individuals served through these programs in FY22.

Additional Funding for Behavioral Health Grants

- **Community Mental Health Grant**
  - Designed to foster community collaboration, reduce duplication of mental health services, and strengthen continuity of care for people receiving services through a diverse local provider network.



$15M
proposed in HB 1

- **Mental Health Grant for Justice-Involved Individuals**
  - Established to:
    - reduce recidivism rates, arrests, and incarceration among individuals with mental illness and
    - Reduce the wait time for individuals on forensic commitments.

$30M
proposed in HB 1

Substance Use Disorder Recovery Services

Statewide SUD Treatment Programs support outcomes for adult and adolescent clients. Services may include:

- Withdrawal Management Services - help people withdraw from substances in a safe and effective manner.
- Residential Services - Counseling, case management, education, and life skills training provided in a licensed, residential setting.
- Outpatient Services - Delivered in licensed community-based settings so that participants can recover and develop life skills while continuing to live and work in their community.
- 65 total providers (18 LMHAs, 2 governmental entities, 7 for profit orgs, 38 non-profits)

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Texas Targeted Opioid Response (TTOR)

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- Texas has received more than $280M in federal funding to address the opioid crisis under the TTOR program
- TTOR provides access to prevention, treatment and recovery support services, including medication assisted treatment, peer support and recovery, disposal of prescription drugs, and overdose-related emergency response services.

2,848 Lives Saved

50,207 Naloxone Kits Distributed

Disaster Behavioral Health Services

- HHSC provides disaster behavioral health preparedness, response, and recovery efforts for Texas before, during, and after events such as:
  - local, state, or federally-declared disasters
  - public health emergencies
  - certain criminal incidents
- Provided services to 2,444,681 people in FY22

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Uvalde Response

- Coordinated with state and local leadership, emergency response units, and law enforcement on response efforts and local Critical Incident Stress Management Network teams to provide mental health crisis intervention and peer support.
- Coordinated stakeholder meetings to build a long-term recovery program.
- HHSC ongoing efforts:
  - Assisting the community of Uvalde build resiliency through training, communications, and strategic planning.
  - Monthly visits to provide guidance and support to behavioral health providers.

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Uvalde Response

- Additional services in Uvalde include a portion of the budget execution order investments:
  - Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC) - $950K
  - Multisystemic Therapy (MST) –$4.725M
  - Uvalde Mental Health Needs Assessment – $5M
- More capacity for the Uvalde mental health system in HB 1 include:
  - Level funding for MST program and CSC, which will include services in Uvalde
  - $10M to provide ongoing mental health services support for the Uvalde community

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Community Crisis Intervention and Diversion

Crisis Services

Community-Based Crisis Program funds short term non-forensic inpatient psychiatric services at 35 facilities through 30 LMHA/LBHAs including:

- 3 Crisis Stabilization Units,
- 8 Extended Observation Units,
- 7 Crisis Residential Facilities,
- 14 Crisis Respite Facilities

14,394 people served in FY22

40% decrease in state-funded hospitalizations

24/7 Crisis Hotline and Mobile Crisis Outreach services available statewide

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988 Implementation

- 24/7 statewide primary coverage
- Adequate workforce to meet projected call volume estimates
- Access to appropriate, reliable, and accurate resources, referrals, and linkages to all Texans who contact 988

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Diversion Services

Diversion services identify and address mental health needs of adults and children to avoid inpatient placement and system involvement.

- All Texas Access: With funding from HHSC, 8 rural-serving LMHA/LBHAs implemented jail diversion projects for people with mental health conditions.
  - **3,593 diversions from jail to treatment saving local governments approximately $9.6 million in incarceration and related costs in FY22.**

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Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Waiver

- The YES Waiver provides services to children ages 3 through 18 with serious mental, emotional, and behavioral difficulties
- The program is focused on reducing the amount of time children are out of their home and community due to a mental health need.

Outcomes

2,828 children served in FY22

45% Decrease in Crisis Episodes

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Diversion Opportunities

Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM)

- HHSC facilitates workshops in local communities to help identify how people with mental illness flow through the criminal justice system and identifies "intercepts" to divert individuals and develop local strategic action plans that leverage existing and new assets
- In 2022, eight counties and two regions were mapped, representing 240 local agencies across the state
- 2023 Outlook:
  - Evaluate the impact of SIM mapping by conducting assessments and partnering with the University of Texas at Austin's Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health (TIEMH) to conduct an evaluation
  - Support strategic planning by continuing adult SIM workshops and launching the State's first Youth SIM mapping initiative.

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Inpatient Psychiatric Services

Inpatient Psychiatric Services

The main types of inpatient psychiatric beds include:

- Contracted private psychiatric beds (PPBs)
- Community mental health hospital (CMHH) beds
- State hospital beds

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Private Psychiatric Hospital Beds

LMHAs/LBHAs manage a network of inpatient beds to supplement state hospital capacity

- 343 Private Psychiatric Beds (20 are forensic)
- Annually serves over 15,000 Texans close to their home communities
- HB1 has $331.5m for additional community inpatient beds

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Community Mental Health Beds

215 Community Mental Health Hospital Beds (23 are forensic)

- Sunrise Canyon with StarCare Specialty Health System (StarCare operates)
- Harris County Psychiatric Center (through a contract with The Harris Center)
- St. Joseph Hospital (through a contract with Gulf Coast Center)

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State Hospitals

Forensic Commitments, individuals either found incompetent to stand trial (IST) or not guilty by reason of insanity (NGRI) account for approximately 66% of state hospital patients.

Adolescent Forensic Program at North Texas State Hospital – Vernon South campus provides specialized services to adolescents with complex mental health challenges whose behavior requires a more secure setting.

Waco Center for Youth provides residential treatment services to adolescents with behavioral challenges who are not involved with the juvenile justice system.

Funded primarily through GR, state hospitals also bill Medicaid and collect a small amount of TANF funds – the high population of forensic patients keeps collections low.

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Data reflects January 2023

State Operated Hospitals	Funded Beds	Online Beds
Austin State Hospital	263	160
Big Spring State Hospital	144	135
El Paso Psychiatric Center	71	58
Kerrville State Hospital	290	162
North Texas State Hospital – Wichita Falls	268	180
North Texas State Hospital – Vernon	262	120
North Texas State Hospital – Vernon South	32	20
Rio Grande State Center	52	52
Rusk State Hospital	288	162
San Antonio State Hospital	302	193
Terrell State Hospital	305	216
Waco Center for Youth	74	43
State Operated TOTAL	2,351	1,501
Partner Operated Hospitals Serving State Hospital Patients	**Funded Beds**	**Online Beds**
John S. Dunn Behavioral Health Sciences Center	104	104
Montgomery County Mental Health Treatment Facility	96	96
Palestine Regional Hospital	20	20
University of Texas Health Northeast	44	44
Texas Behavioral Sciences Center - UTSW*	296	N/A
Partner Operated TOTAL	560	264
Grand Total	**2,911**	**1,765**

*200-bed adult unit completion estimated for July 2025. 96-bed pediatric unit completion estimated for January 2026

State Hospitals: Offline Beds

		Beds Offline Due to Staffing				
	Capacity	Sept '22	Oct '22	Nov '22	Dec '22	Jan '23
ASH	263	118	109	107	107	103
BSSH	144	19	10	10	10	9
EPPC	71	12	10	11	9	7
KSH	290	63	133	134	134	128
NTSH WF	268	85	84	82	83	88
NTSH S	32	16	15	13	19	12
NTSH V	262	149	142	147	149	142
RGSC	52	0	2	0	0	0
RSH	288	90	91	115	110	96
SASH	302	90	82	87	83	71
TSH	305	0	39	34	44	32
WCY	74	33	35	32	33	31
Total	2,351	675	752	772	781	719

174 additional beds offline due to maintenance for a grand total of 893 beds offline for January

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Investment in Infrastructure

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Over $1B has been appropriated for construction and renovation of state hospitals since 2017.

Projects	2018-2019 85R SB1	2020-2021 86R SB500	2022-2023 87R HB2	2024-2025 88R HB/SB1
Austin SH Partial Replacement (240 adult beds)	$15.5M	$165M	$124.1M	N/A
Kerrville SH Renovation (Adds 70 MSU beds)	$30.5M	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rusk SH Partial Replacement (200 beds: 100 non-MSU, 100 MSU)	$98.8M	$90.1M	$3M	N/A
San Antonio SH Full Replacement (300 beds)	$14.5M	$190.3M	$152.4M	N/A
San Antonio SH Renovation (Adds 40 beds)	$11.5M	N/A	N/A	N/A
John S. Dunn Behavioral Science Center (264 beds: 96 SH forensic; 72 SH civil; 96 UTHealth)	$126.5M	N/A	N/A	N/A
Texas Behavioral Health Center - UTSW (Adds 296 beds: 200 adult, 96 pediatric)	N/A	N/A	$282.5M[1]	N/A
New Panhandle Inpatient Capacity (200 beds)	N/A	N/A	N/A	$477M[2]
Rio Grande State Center Expansion Replacement (200 beds total; adds 148 beds)	N/A	N/A	N/A	$452M[2]
Terrell SH Full Replacement (308 beds; adds 3 beds)	N/A	N/A	N/A	$696M[2]
North Texas SH - Wichita Falls Full Replacement (308 beds total; adds 40 beds)	N/A	N/A	N/A	$696M[2]
TOTAL	**$297.3M**	**$445.4M**	**$562M**	**$2.3B**[2]

[1]$44.7M appropriated in 87R HB2 and $237.8M appropriated in 87(3) SB8
[2]Legislature states in Art. IX Sec. 10.07(i) intention to fund in FY23 supplemental

State Hospital Construction: Completed Projects

Kerrville SH Renovation: New 70-bed MSU

Complete

Unable to open/move-in due to lack of staffing.

San Antonio SH Renovation: New 40-bed unit

Complete

Move in: April 2022

John S. Dunn Behavioral Sciences Center - Houston: 264 bed hospital

Complete

Move in: March 2022

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State Hospital Construction: Ongoing Projects

Austin SH Replacement: Replace 240 beds

75% Complete

Estimated move in: June 2024

Rusk SH Replacement: Replace 200 beds, expand MSU

93% Complete

Estimated move in: June 2023

San Antonio SH Replacement: Replace 300 beds

72% Complete

Estimated move in: March 2024

Texas Behavioral Health Center – UTSW: 296 bed hospital

Groundbreaking: December 2022

Estimated completion (200 adult beds): July 2025

Estimated completion (96 pediatric beds): January 2026

Completion and move in dates may be delayed due to staffing and supply chain issues

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State Hospital Construction: Future Projects

The 2014 CannonDesign report projected Texas would need 3,335 state operated psychiatric beds, and 1,433 community beds for an overall total of **4,768 beds** in 2024.

	Projected	Current	Unmet Need
State Operated	3,335	2,455	880
Community	1,433	720	713
Total	4,768	3,175	1,593

The 88th Legislature provided a statement of intention in HB 1, Article IX, Sec. 10.07(i) to fund the following:

- Inpatient capacity in the Panhandle adding 200 beds
- Replacement and expansion of Rio Grande State Center for a total of 200 beds, adding 148 beds to the current 52 bed capacity
- Replacement and expansion of North Texas State Hospital - Wichita Falls campus for a total of 308 beds; replacement is necessary to maintain capacity as failing infrastructure continues to deteriorate, also adds 40 beds to the current 228 bed capacity
- Replacement of Terrell State Hospital to maintain capacity and address failing and severely deteriorated infrastructure.

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Discharge and Step Down

Discharge and Transition Services

- Adult Mental Health (HCBS-AMH) Program serves adults with serious mental illness who also have a history of lengthy stays in psychiatric hospitals or frequent arrests and/or emergency department visits.
  - In FY22, HCBS-AMH served 508 people, 44 who discharged from a state hospital, and reported a decrease of 57% in crisis episodes, 43% in state funded hospitalizations, and 33% in jail admissions.
- Mental Health Peer Re-Entry Program peer specialists provide 'reach-in' services to persons with mental illness in county jails and supports the successful transition of those individuals into clinically appropriate community-based care.
  - In FY22, the Mental Health Peer Reentry Program served 511 individuals and reported a 71% decrease in jail admissions.

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Discharge and Transition Support Services

- The hospital step-down program offers a transition for persons with long-term stays in a state hospital ready to continue their recovery in the community and eliminate a return to the state hospital system.
- The state hospital transition team will have a transition specialist on each campus to address a caseload of individuals with the most complex transition needs.

$22M

in HB 1 to expand Step-Down Housing and establish new State Hospital Transitions Teams

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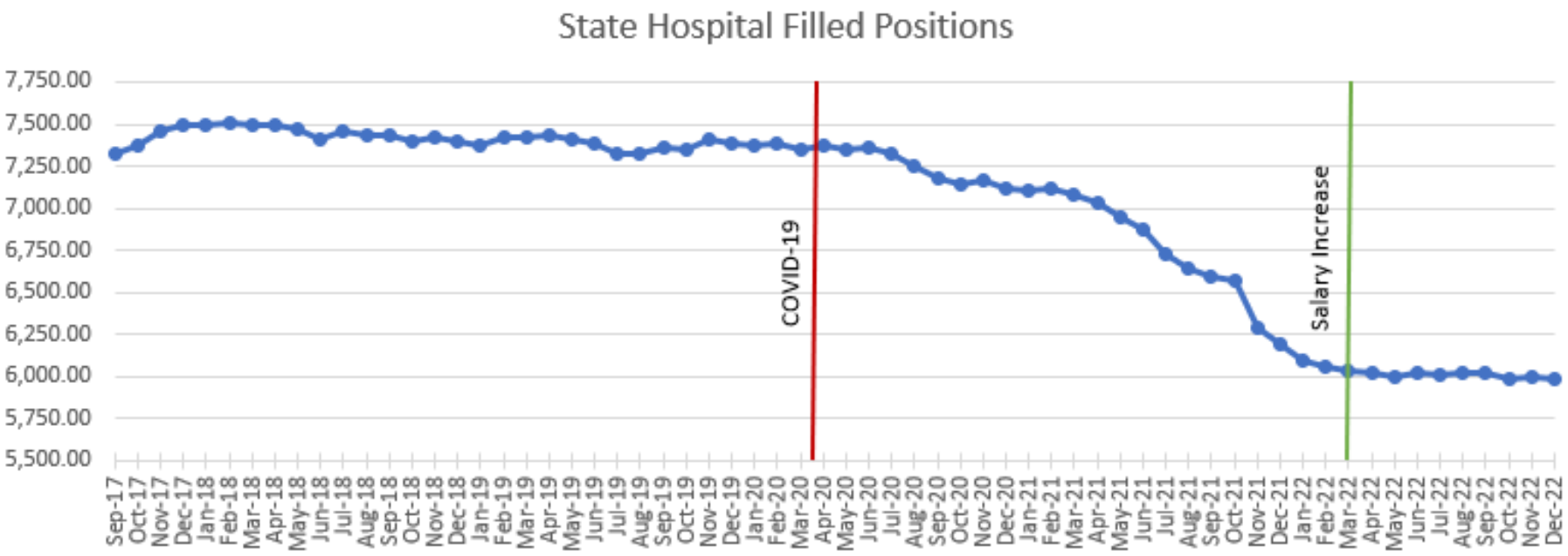
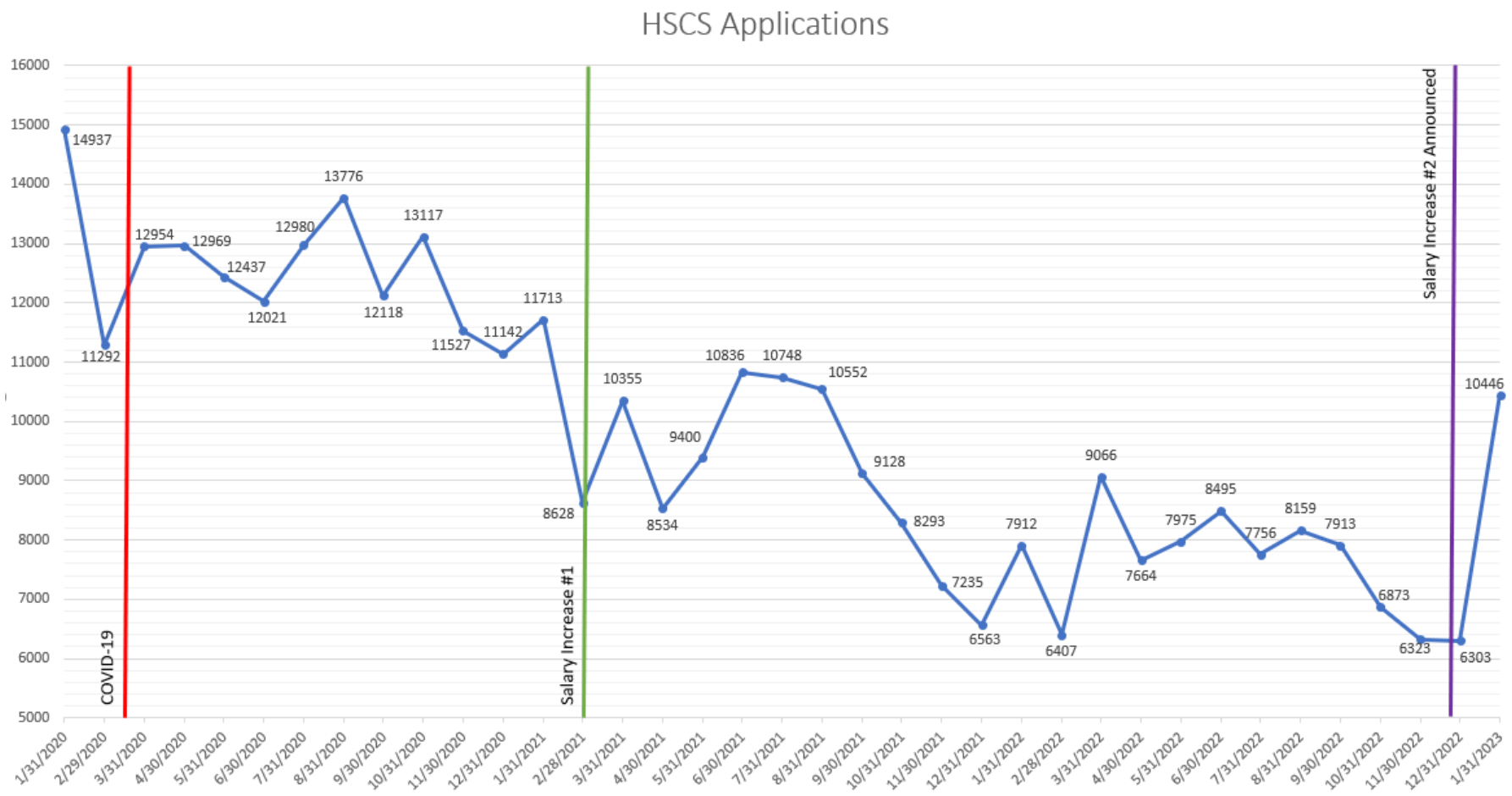
State Hospital Capacity & Waitlists

Workforce Challenges

- Beginning to see an increase in number of applicants. More needed to continue to compete with the broader economy and increase fill rates.
- Fill rate beginning to show signs of stabilization.



Recruitment & Retention Efforts



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Forensic Waitlist

- Waiting lists for inpatient competency restoration exist across the country. This is a multi-system and multi-factor challenge that concerns state and local governments, as well as the judiciary.
- In 2019, HHSC implemented initiatives which decreased the size of the State Hospital forensic waitlist down to 883* individuals. However, in March 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in Texas, the waitlist began to grow and is now at approximately 2,400* individuals.

*These numbers include both those who are waiting for a maximum-security bed and those who are waiting for a non-maximum-security bed.

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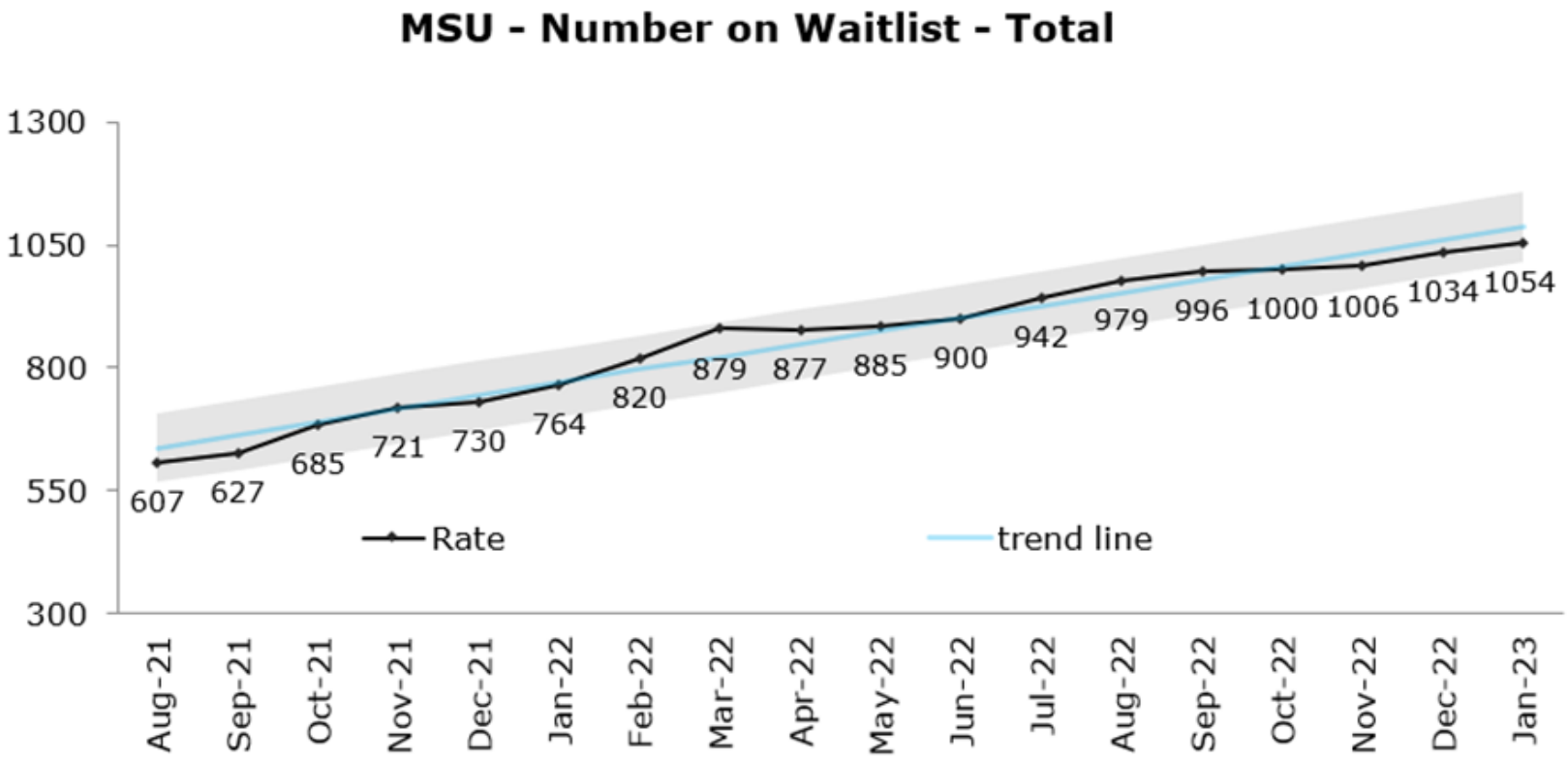
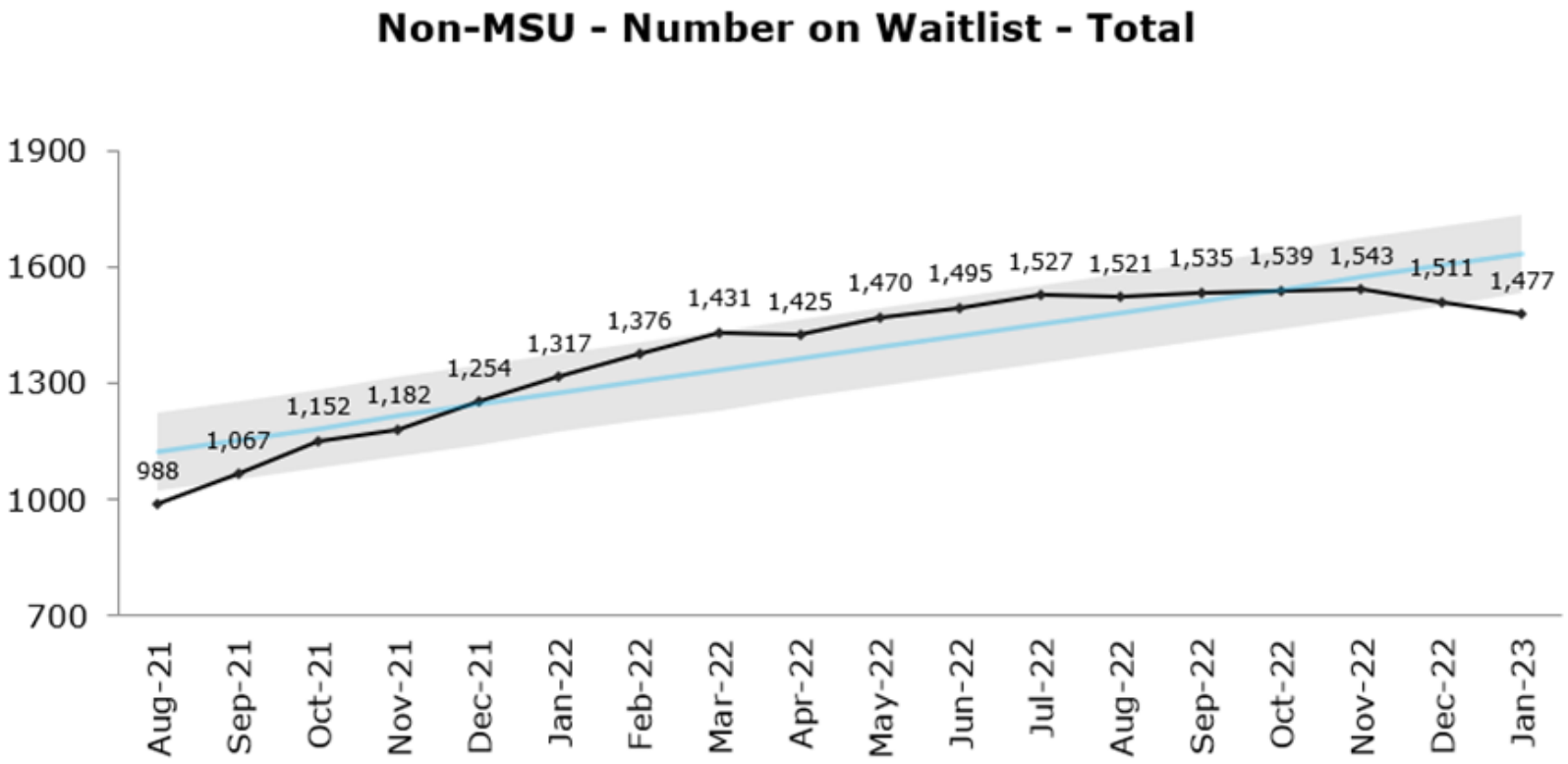
Maximum Security (MSU) Waitlist

As of February 2023, 1,054 people were waiting for a maximum-security bed.



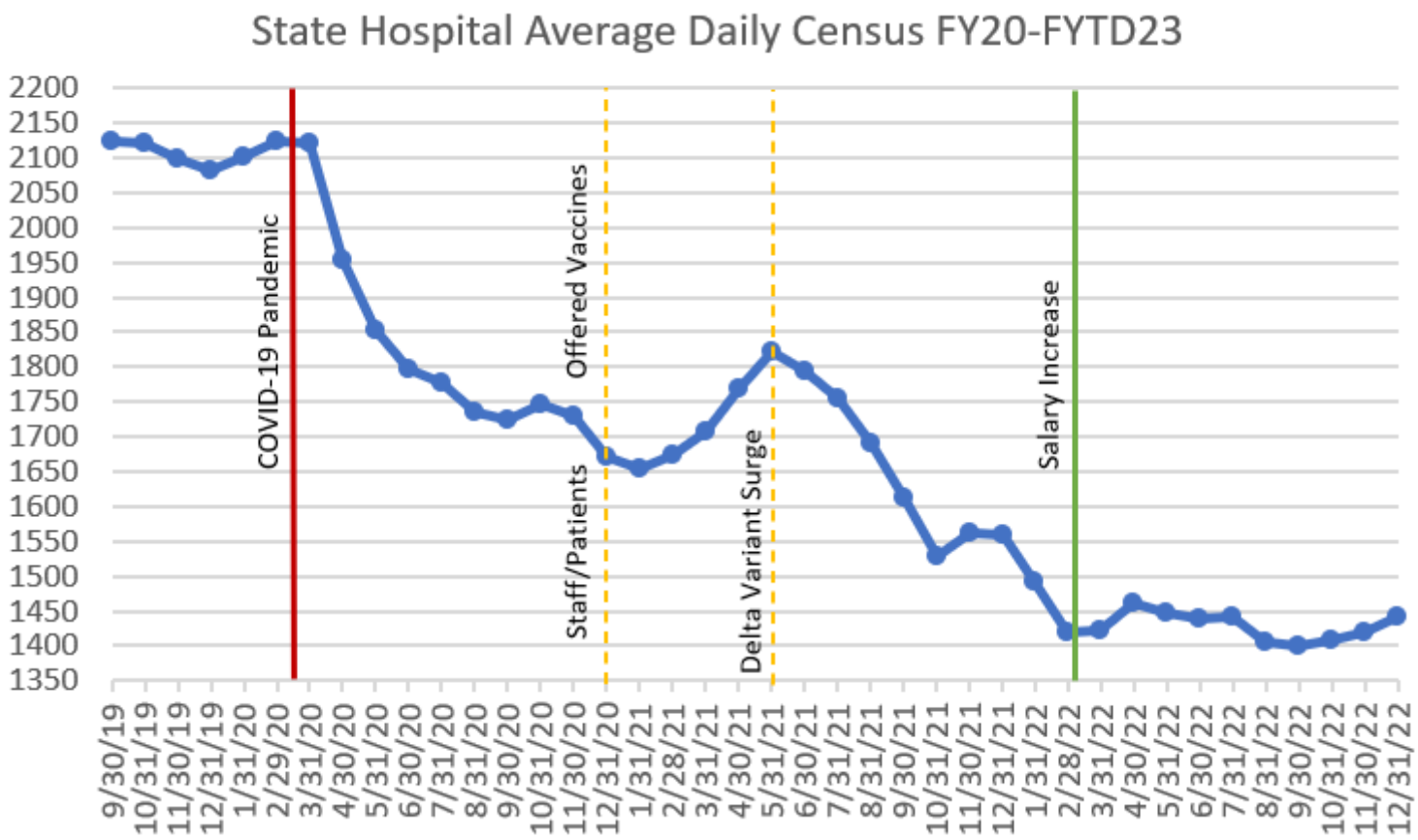
Non-Maximum Security (Non-MSU) Waitlist

As of February 2023, 1,477 individuals were waiting for a non-maximum-security forensic bed.



State Hospital Average Daily Census

The state hospital average daily census stabilized as the number of filled positions stabilized, and as of January 2023 has increased each month of FYTD 2023.



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Community Mental Health Services Waitlist

Community Mental Health Services Wait List - Adults

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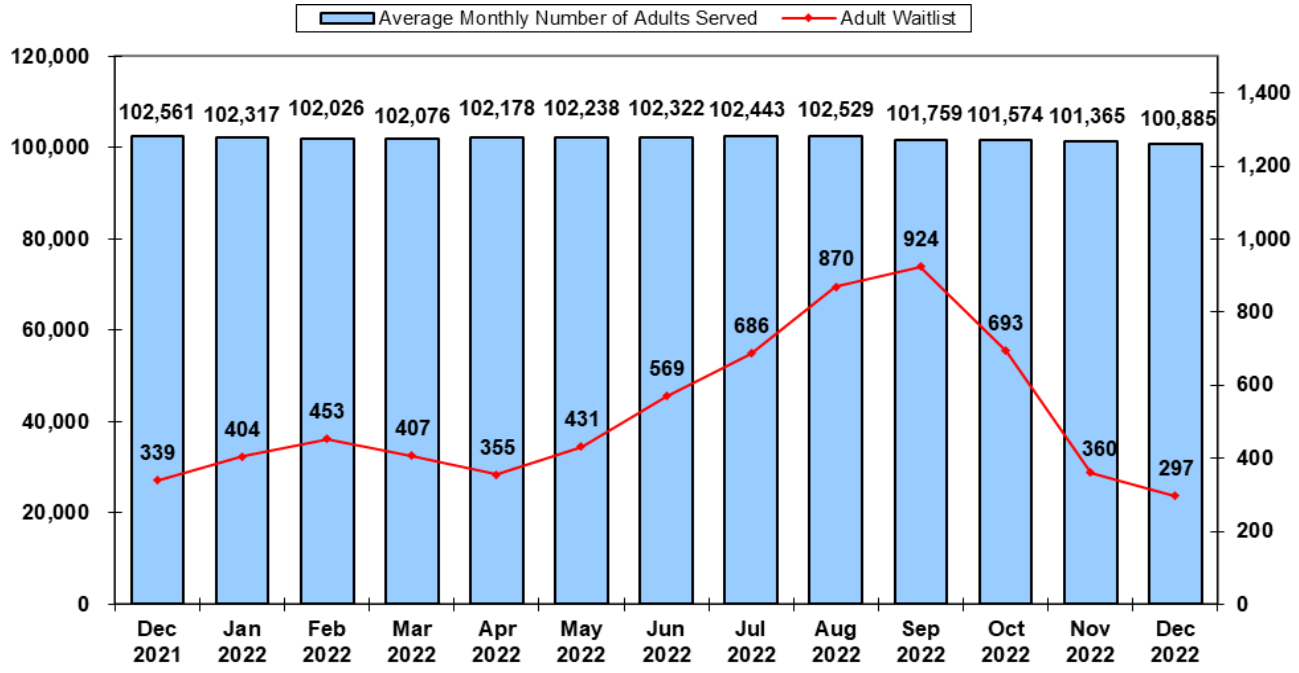
Adult Mental Health Number Served and Waitlist by Month