

Strategies to Reduce the State Hospital Census

Patient and staff safety at state hospitals continues to be an urgent priority for DBHDS. We are exploring all opportunities to manage the high census, which has been exacerbated by the pandemic.

DBHDS has been working with stakeholders to identify long-term strategies to reduce the state hospital census and streamline the TDO process to make it more efficient and patient-centered.

- The TDO Evaluator workgroup developed two pathways for expanding who can conduct evaluations as well as recommendations to improve the patient experience and evaluation quality.
- The Bed Registry workgroup developed recommendations for an enhanced acute psychiatric bed registry that can deliver accurate, real-time data around bed availability and criteria.
- Finally, the Medical TDO workgroup developed policies and procedures for requesting a medical TDO, which may help individuals become sober before being evaluated for a mental health TDO.

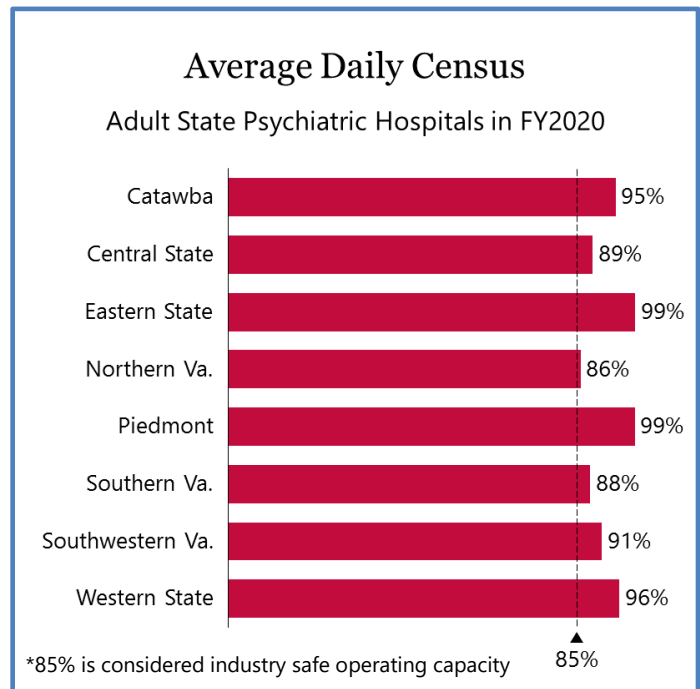
DBHDS is working with key partners to divert state hospital admissions when appropriate.

- We have developed 17 contracts with private providers to divert admissions and serve as step-down options.
- Additionally, DBHDS is working on centralizing LIPOS allocation for more effective use of these funds in securing beds. This change is included in the Governor's Budget.

State hospital workforce issues are also critical to maximizing capacity, and there is a shortage of licensed professionals, direct care staff, and other key staff.

Finally, quickly – and safely – discharging patients is critical to improving the census.

- We are working with CSB partners to discharge individuals, who are clinically ready, from the state hospitals more quickly – **SB 1304** supports this effort.
- Finally, this year's DAP workgroup found that the hardest to place populations are those with dementia or TBI. We're working on identifying providers of assisted living and nursing facility services, particularly to decrease the geriatric census – \$3.547M is included in the Governor's budget to support these efforts.



Census Budget Items

Pilots for patients with dementia: \$3,547,000 • Discharge Assistance Planning: \$2,500,000

Census Legislation

SB 1304 Discharge Planning

DBHDS works to ensure behavioral health, substance use disorder, and developmental disability services are available to all Virginians who need them in the most community-oriented, integrated setting possible. More information is available at www.DBHDS.Virginia.Gov/about-dbhds/policy-and-public-affairs/ga2021