

Maine Hospital Association

Northern New England HFMA

Maine Legislative Update

Steven Michaud, President
Maine Hospital Association
November 2, 2021

COVID

- Status Update
- Capacity Concerns
- Vaccine Mandates
- Staffing Crisis – Travelers
- Sub-Acute Care
- Mental Health
- Strategies for Relief

Legislative - Other

- State Budget
- Vaccine Mandate Backlash
- Rate Studies
- Primary Care Investment



Maine Hospital Association

MAINE'S LEADING
VOICE FOR HEALTHCARE

Federal

- COVID Relief
- Infrastructure
- Workforce
- Sequestration

***New Hampshire Hospital Association
Legislative Update***

NNE HFMA Fall State Legislative Update Webinar
November 2, 2021

*Steve Ahnen, President
New Hampshire Hospital Association*



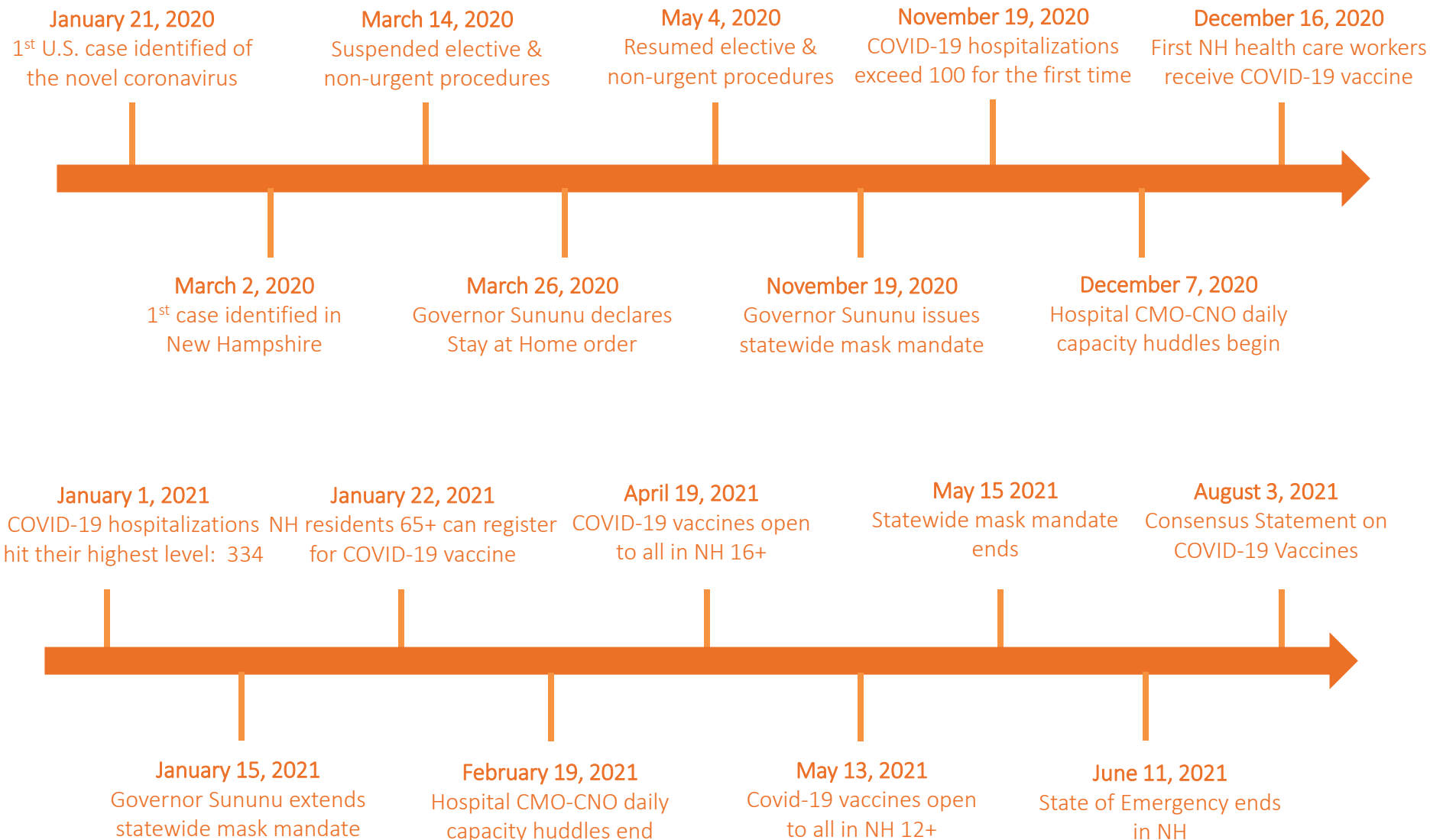
New Hampshire Update

Key Issues

- Ongoing COVID-19 Response
- 2021 Legislative Outcomes
- Upcoming Legislative Session

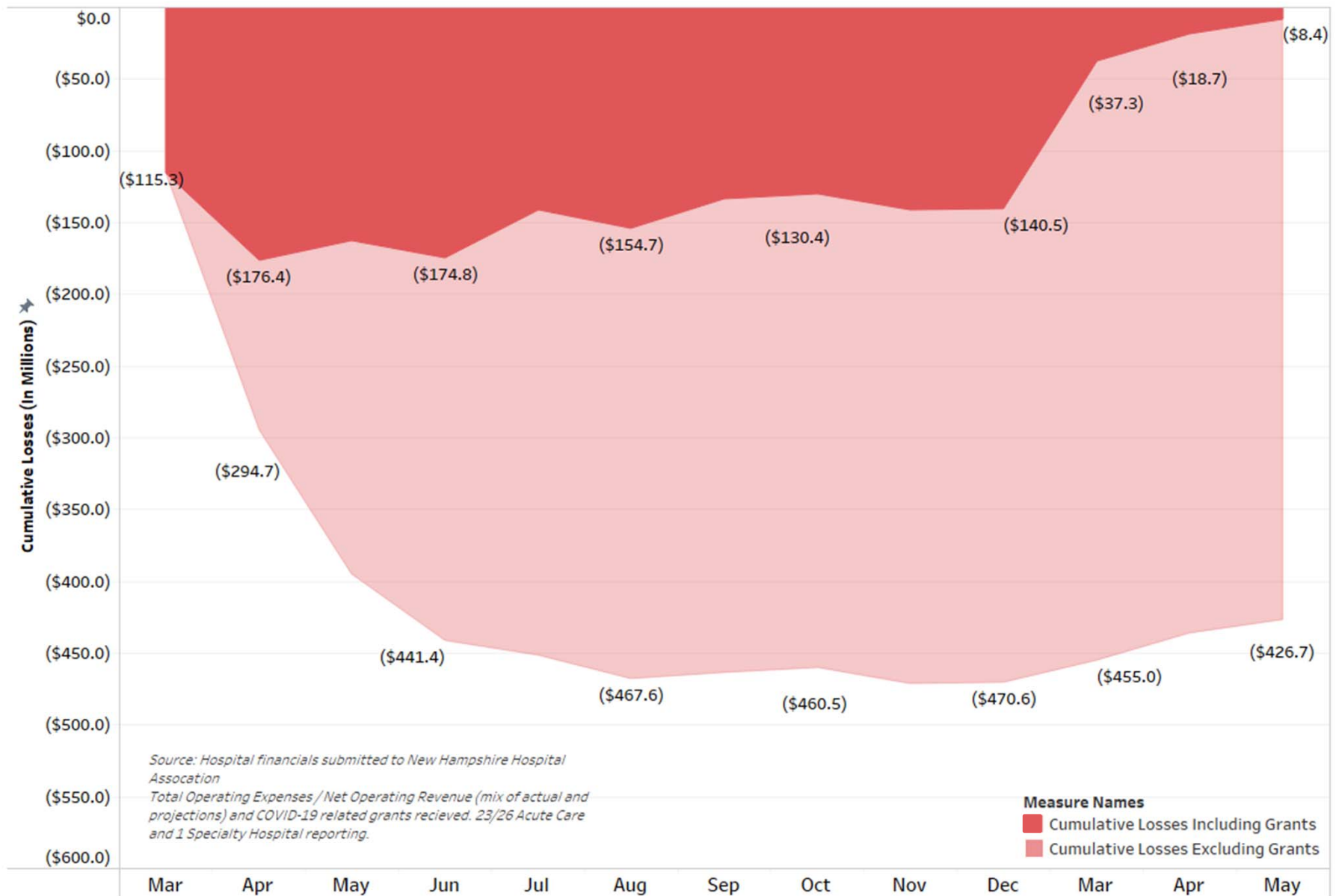


COVID-19 Timeline



Impact of COVID-19 Grants on New Hampshire Hospital Financial Losses

March 2020 – May 2021



NHHA Advocacy – 2021 Highlights

NHHA Bills – High Priority	Position	Outcome
SB 74, relative to advance directives for health care decisions	SUPPORT 	PASSED
SB 100, establishing legislative committees to study, among other things, workplace safety in health care settings	SUPPORT 	PASSED
SB 149, adopting omnibus legislation on health and human services (health facilities providing care in the declared emergency)	SUPPORT 	PASSED
SB 155, codifying provisions included in select emergency orders issued by the governor in response to the COVID-19 pandemic	SUPPORT 	PASSED
HB 131, relative to reporting of health care associated infections	SUPPORT 	PASSED
HB 600, relative to funding for newborn screening	SUPPORT 	PASSED
HB 191, relative to prior authorizations and patient transfers under managed care group health insurance policies	SUPPORT 	RETAINED

New Hampshire Update

2022 Legislative Session

- A good offense often starts with a good defense
- Here we go...
- HB 220 study committee to examine policy on medical interventions including immunizations
- Against a backdrop of a vocal minority opposed to COVID-19 vaccines/interventions



New Hampshire Update

- House Leadership staunchly opposed to much related to COVID restrictions, including vaccine requirements



- NH Executive Council rejected \$27 million in federal vaccine funding...the only state in the country to turn down federal \$\$

Executive Council rejects \$27M federal grant to oversee vaccinations over Sununu's objection

By Kevin Landrigan New Hampshire Union Leader Oct 13, 2021 Updated Oct 14, 2021

- Just the beginning of challenges to all types of COVID mitigation measures and efforts to increase vaccination
 - Coalition/Campaign Efforts

New Hampshire Update

- Legislative Study Committee on Workplace Safety in Healthcare Settings
 - Increasing violence against health care workforce
 - According to OSHA, health care workers are injured at an alarming rate...that must change!
- Our goal is to bring stakeholders together to build consensus on legislative steps
 - Modifications to warrantless arrest statute;
 - Data collection efforts
 - Enhanced training



New Hampshire Update

- Payor Reforms
 - Ongoing challenges with payors: Administrative burden, prior authorization, credentialing, contracting issues, growing accounts receivable challenges
 - Efforts to streamline and improve prior authorization processes was stalled in this past session of the legislature
 - Signature issue for us in the coming legislative session to address some of these ongoing issues...more to come, stay tuned

New Hampshire Update

- Workforce, Workforce, Workforce
 - Was a challenge before the pandemic, only more challenging today
 - Rising labor costs
 - Staff shortages
 - Need to address short-term needs while building a sustainable system for the long-term
 - Working to streamline licensure and other processes to bring providers on board (OPLC)
 - Working to fix the state criminal background check system...making progress, potential legislative solutions



New Hampshire Update

- THANK YOU!
- We continue to be inspired by the tremendous work that all of you are doing to prepare for and take care of your staff and patients during this crisis...and honored to be your partners in supporting those efforts.
- Stay safe, be well.



Questions?

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HFMA Update – Vermont

November 2, 2021

Mike Del Trecco

Sr. Vice President of Finance and Operations

Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems

VAHHS.ORG

- Occupancy Challenges
 - Covid-19
 - Emergency Department
- Regulatory Items:
 - Sustainability planning
 - Hospital budgets
- Legislative Update

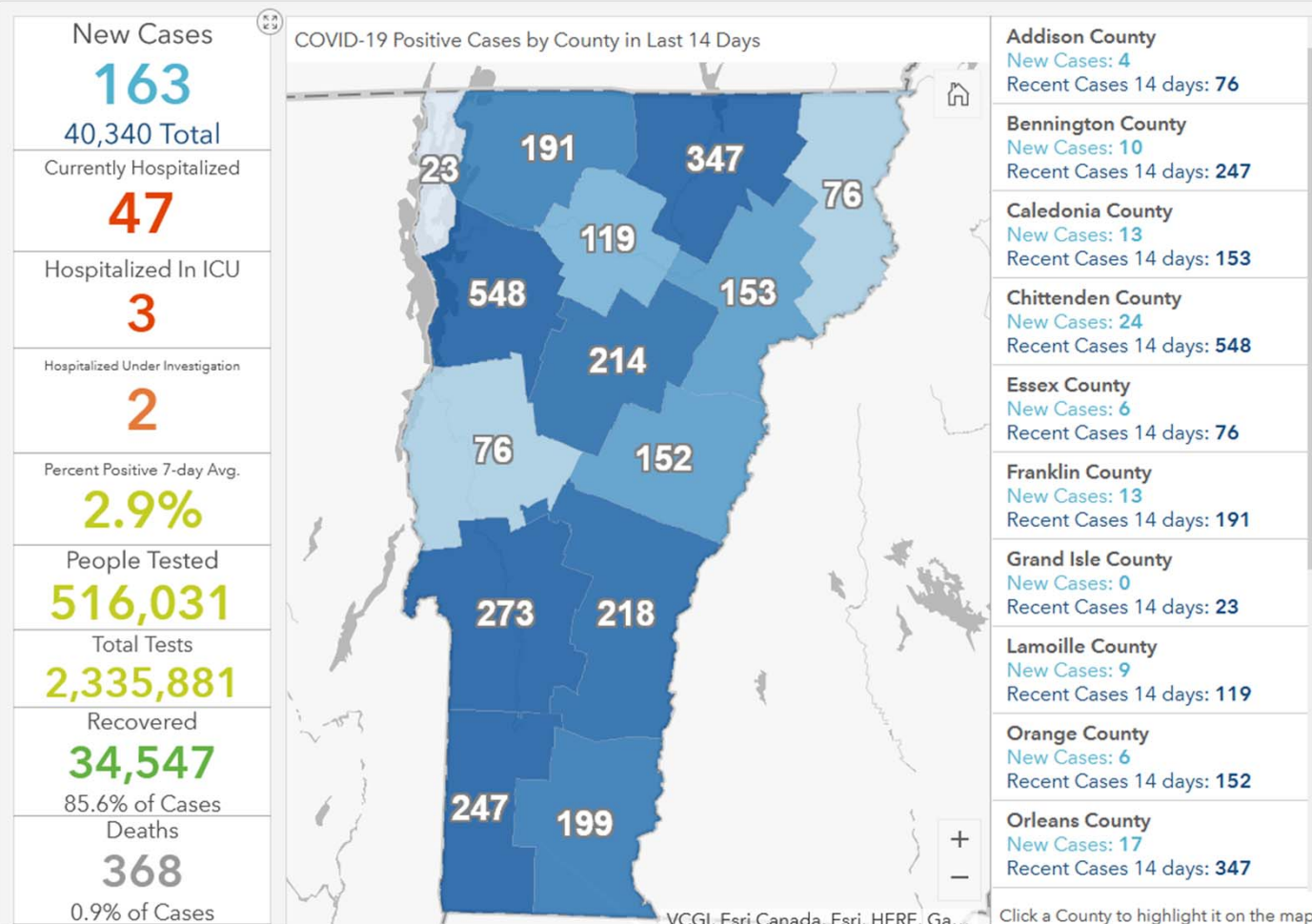


Covid-19 Snapshot

- 90% with at least one dose, 81% have completed vaccination
- Case counts and hospitalizations continue to be elevated
 - 278 new cases, 44 hospitalized with 9 in ICU
 - 2.9% positive (7 day average)
- Hospital capacity strained
 - Half of hospitals reporting critical staffing issues
 - Half of hospitals reporting elevated ICU, inpatient, and/or ED issues
 - Almost half of hospitals are reporting no medical surgical bed availability
 - 30-40 patients boarding daily for mental health or substance use placement, majority have been waiting more than 24 hours

COVID-19 in Vermont

COVID-19 in Vermont Vermont Department of Health (VDH)





COVID-19 Vaccines in Vermont

Vermont Vaccination Data

Blue headers indicate CDC data
Gray headers indicate Vermont data

Vaccination by County Age 12+

The percent of the county population age 12+ that has received at least one dose of the vaccine

Show Rates By:

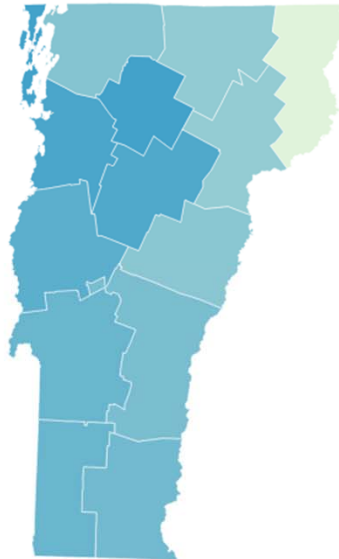
Overall

Race/Ethnicity

Ethnicity

County Overall progress

Addison	86.6%
Bennington	84.2%
Caledonia	76.3%
Chittenden	89.7%
Essex	62.5%
Franklin	79.1%
Grand Isle	91.1%
Lamoille	91.1%
Orange	78.2%
Orleans	76.7%
Rutland	84.2%
Washington	88.7%
Windham	82.6%
Windsor	81.1%



62.5% 91.1%

See data notes for more information about COVID-19 immunizations provided in New Hampshire.

Summary

By Age, Sex, Race, Ethnicity

Vermont Forward

90.0%

of Vermonters 12+ have received at least one dose

495.8K

Vermonters 12+ have received at least one dose

80.5% of Vermonters 12+ have completed vaccination

Source: CDC

Vaccine Distribution

Doses Administered

994.0K

Total People Vaccinated

Total People Started 38.6K

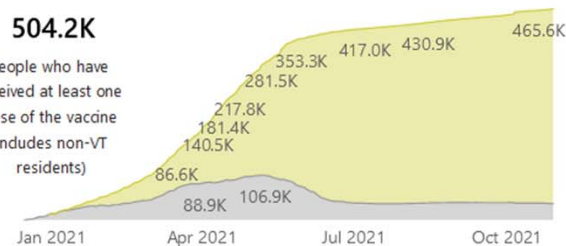
Total People Completed 465.6K

People Received Additional Dose 67.8K

Started Completed

504.2K

People who have received at least one dose of the vaccine (includes non-VT residents)



Updated 10/30/2021 9:11:40 AM



Emergency Department

General Trends – All Age Groups

The average total hours reported each Monday and Thursday to VAHHS increased from May through October. Average total patients reported each Monday and Thursday has also increased. On most days, the majority of people have been waiting more than 24 hours for placement.

	05-May	06-Jun	07-Jul	08-Aug	09-Sep	10-Oct
Avg Total Hrs	1,392	2,662	2,938	2,841	3,073	4,270
Avg Total Pts	29	41	38	39	37	43

General Trends – Children and Youth

The average total hours reported each Monday and Thursday to VAHHS increased from May through October. Average total children reported each Monday and Thursday has also increased. On most days, the majority of children have been waiting more than 24 hours for placement.

	05-May	06-Jun	07-Jul	08-Aug	09-Sep	10-Oct
Avg Total Hrs	607	732	368	400	744	1,633
Avg Total Pts	7	8	5	6	9	10

General Trends – Adults

The average total hours reported each Monday and Thursday to VAHHS increased from May through October. Average total adults reported each Monday and Thursday has also increased. On most days, the majority of adults have been waiting more than 24 hours for placement.

	05-May	06-Jun	07-Jul	08-Aug	09-Sep	10-Oct
Avg Total Hrs	785	1,930	2,570	2,441	2,329	2,637
Avg Total Pts	22	33	33	33	28	34

Hospital Budgets

- 2022 Hospital Budgets Final
- Hospital growth below health care inflation
 - Five-year 4% vs 7% Medical Inflation
- Hospitals challenged for planning for the future

Sustainability Planning Studies

- Cost and Payment Variation
 - Discussion of hospital cost vs payment
 - Movement towards cost coverage model
- Capacity Study
 - Suggested models for hospital reform
 - Bed reallocation



2022 State Legislative - Challenges

- Health Care Reform
 - Senate President Pro Tem has committed to exploring health care reform (global budgets)
 - 2021 legislation created Health Care Affordability Task Force, which is currently considering many approaches, including:
 - Public option
 - Cost growth benchmark “with teeth”
- Agency of Human Services Report on Access
 - Public meeting held in October



2022 Legislative – Capacity and Funding

As with other areas of the country, Vermont's hospital system is at or past capacity

- Seeking Increases to Medicaid reimbursement to sustain system, particularly in areas of hospitals, LTC facilities, and home health
- ED alternatives for psych patients for better care and ED decompression
- Compensate care in the ED for psych patients (additional per diem)
- Statewide telepsych program



2022 Legislative - Workforce

VAHHS worked with the Director of Health Care Reform on a Health Care Workforce Development Strategic Plan, including an interagency task force to address:

- Tax incentives for health care workers
- Housing
- Child care
- Grants to health care organizations to retain and attract workers



Planning and Ongoing Work

- All-Payer Model Version 2.0
- Sustainability planning / hospital budgets
- Effective use of federal dollars
- Planning for in-person events