



Iowa Department of Human Services

Inpatient Psychiatric Hospital Bed Tracking

Rick Shults

Mental Health and Disability Services

Purpose of Bed Tracking

- Improve the efficiency of locating a psychiatric hospital bed for individuals that need inpatient treatment
- Track the availability of psychiatric hospital beds
- Improve communication between psychiatric hospitals and those seeking inpatient treatment for an individual

Number of Psychiatric Beds

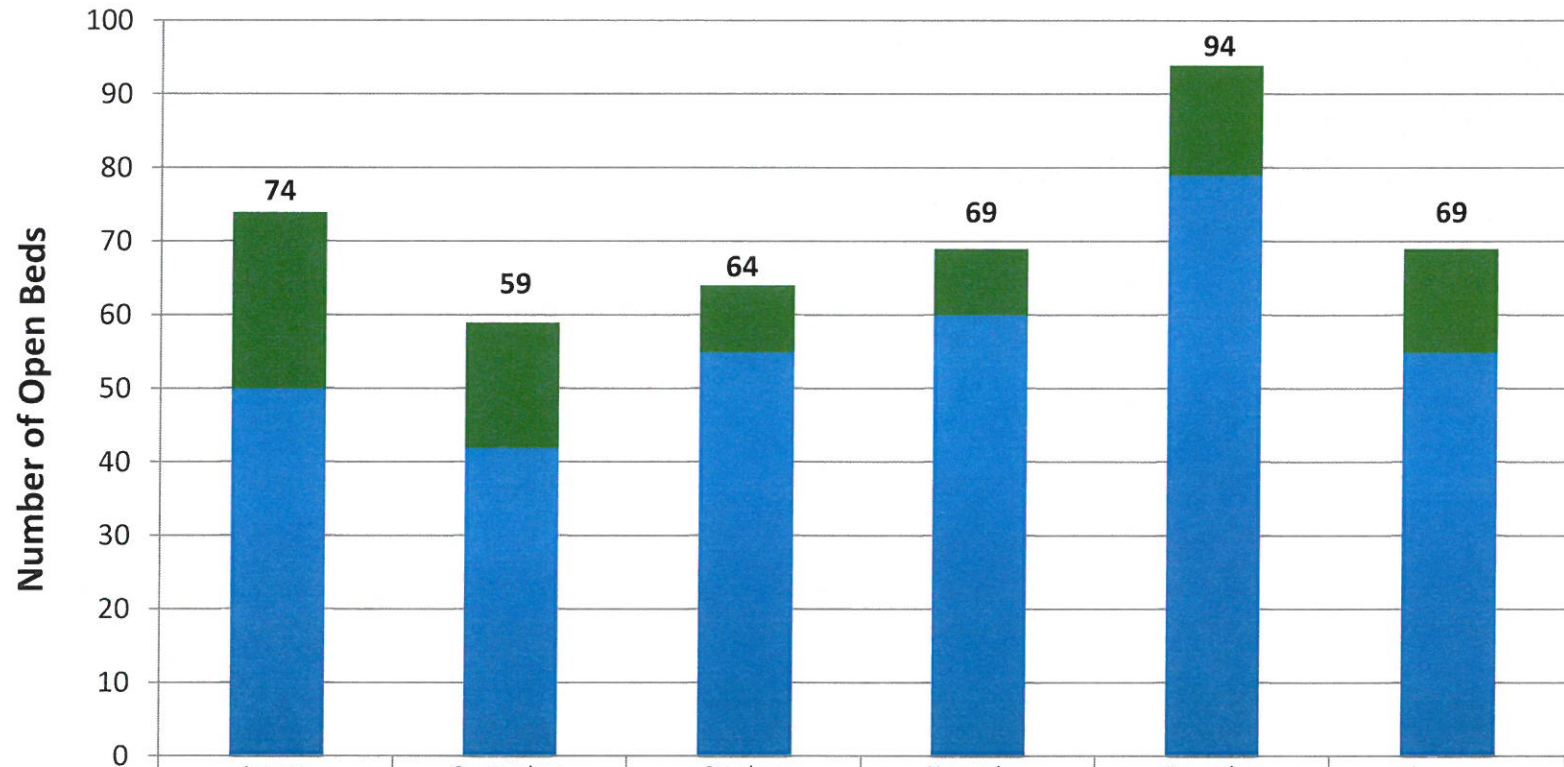
- 29 Hospitals have Psychiatric Hospital Beds including two State Mental Health Institutes
- 825 Licensed Psychiatric Hospital Beds
- 721 Staffed Psychiatric Hospital Beds
 - 493 Specifically for Adults
 - 142 Specifically for Children
(Other beds are available, but are not specifically designated)
 - 86 Specifically for Older Adults +55 years old

Reporting Hospitals

- Reporting in the Bed Tracking System is voluntary
- All 29 Hospitals with Psychiatric Hospital Beds are reporting in the Bed Tracking System
 - Most are reporting 5 to 7 days per week
 - The Department's goal is daily reporting

Inpatient Psychiatric Hospital Beds

August 2015 – January 2016



	August	September	October	November	December	January
Average Monthly Open Child Beds	24	17	9	9	15	14
Average Monthly Open Adults Beds	50	42	55	60	79	55
Average Monthly Open Beds Total	74	59	64	69	94	69

■ Average Monthly Open Adults Beds

■ Average Monthly Open Child Beds



Who Uses the Bed Tracking System

- Hospital Emergency Departments
- Community Mental Health Centers
- Courts
- Law Enforcement
- MHDS Regions

Information in Bed Tracking

- The number of available Psychiatric Hospital Beds at each hospital by children and adults on the day of the report
- Basic information for each Psychiatric Hospital
 - Age of patients served
 - Whether or not involuntary admissions are accepted
 - Whether or not the unit is locked
 - Gender preference

Hospital Admission Process

- Inpatient Psychiatric Hospital Bed Tracking does not reserve a bed
- Those seeking a Psychiatric Hospital Bed must call the Hospital to discuss admitting the patient
- Some items typically discussed:
 - Is the patient medically stable?
 - What is the patient's recent history?
 - Does the hospital have the capacity to serve the individual?

Quality Assurance

- The Department follows-up on use of the Psychiatric Hospital Bed Tracking System
 - Encourage hospitals to report timely
 - Ask users how the system is working for them
 - Identifying where and why it isn't working
 - Ask what could be done to improve the system

Reasons Patients Are Not Admitted

- Occasionally patients are not admitted when a hospital has a bed.
- Reasons often given to the Department for not admitting a patient are:
 - The individual has been or is currently aggressive
 - The individual has been or is currently under the serious influence of drugs or alcohol

Reasons for Not Admitting Continued

- Reasons often given to the Department for not admitting a patient are:
 - The individual is not medically stable
 - The make up of current patients prevent it:
 - Patient Mix – i.e., Currently have too many adult males or adult females
 - Current patients are very high acuity and require high staff ratios
 - Staff shortages

Psychiatric Hospital Bed Tracking Advisory Committee

- The Department has established an Advisory Committee of key stakeholders and users. The Committee has met three times since the bed tracking system has been in place.
- Members include individuals from:
 - Hospital EDs
 - Psychiatric Hospitals
 - Judiciary
 - County Sherriff
 - Iowa Hospital Association
 - County Jail
 - Public Health



Advisory Committee

- Review the information
- Discuss issues and concerns
- Provide advice and guidance

Next Steps for Bed Tracking

- Improve the first page users see to include state maps showing where vacancies exist by adults, children, and older adults
- Continue encouraging daily reporting
- Continue quality assurance calls
- Recruit additional users
- Do additional training
- Continue the Advisory Committee