

ALASKA

In the first half of 2023, Alaska had 80 state hospital beds. 70 of these beds were online, staffed, and ready for patients. This puts Alaska at 9.5 available beds per 100,000 population. Only 10 of these state hospital beds (17%) are designated for forensic patients.

Hospital Occupancy Rates

Hospital occupancy rates greater than 85% are indicative of bed shortages. In Alaska, 96% of all state hospital beds and 100% of designated forensic beds are occupied.

Length of Stay

Civil patients stay in the hospital for 20 days on average, while forensic patients stay 6 months on average. Long lengths of stay may be related to the 20 patients who are ready for discharge but cannot be discharged due to a lack of appropriate discharge facilities.

Forensic Waitlist

35 inmates were on the waiting list for a bed in the state hospital. Inmates spent an average of 4.5 months on the waitlist. While waiting in jail for a bed to open, people with severe mental illness can experience worsening psychotic symptoms and can even die.

Alaska's rank among the states

#28 in beds per 100,000 population

#44 in percentage of beds occupied by forensic patients

Alaska's State Hospital System:

[Alaska Psychiatric Institute](#) is Alaska's only state hospital and is located in Anchorage, AK. The facility has 80 beds. The high occupancy rate of the state hospital and long wait times for inmates suggest the state lacks capacity to serve people with severe mental illness who require the services of the state hospital.

