



COLORADO

In the first half of 2023, Colorado had 482 staffed state hospital beds for the adult SMI population. This puts Colorado at 8.3 beds per 100,000 population. Colorado has faced significant staffing challenges since the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving 128 beds unable to be opened across Colorado's two state hospitals.

Forensic Patients

While approximately 22 state hospital beds (5%) are designated for forensic patients, 290 state hospital beds (60%) are occupied by forensic patients. 132 beds (27%) were occupied by NGRJ patients. There were 448 people waiting in jail for a state hospital bed to open. Incarcerated individuals wait an average of two months (66 days) in jail.

Colorado's rank among the states
#34 in beds per 100,000 population
#15 in percentage of beds occupied by forensic patients

Patients Ready for Discharge. At the time of data collection, 84 patients were clinically ready for discharge but unable to be discharged due to a lack of appropriate facilities. These patients tend to be people with a criminal history or people with a unique set of psychiatric/medical needs. According to state officials, this is an issue that the state has been struggling with for years as state hospitals are not meant to be long-term care facilities but end up housing patients for significant periods of time because they cannot be placed anywhere else.

Average Length of Stay. The average length of stay for civil patients was 1.2 months (37 days) in Pueblo and 4.0 months (121 days) in Fort Logan. The average length of stay for forensic patients was 3.1 months (92 days) in Fort Logan and 4.8 months (143 days) in Pueblo. Civil patients in Pueblo are only considered civil once their criminal charges are dropped.

Colorado's State Hospital System:

Colorado has two state hospitals that provide inpatient behavioral health services to adults and adolescents:

- [State Hospital at Fort Logan](#): This hospital has 138 beds, 104 of which are staffed. The hospital has a 94% occupancy rate.
- [State Hospital at Pueblo](#): The hospital has 516 beds, 20 of which are for adolescents and 34 of which are for geriatric patients. 422 of these beds are staffed with a 93% occupancy rate. Adolescent and geriatric beds are not included in total bed counts for the SMI population.