



DELAWARE

In the first half of 2023, Delaware had 124 state hospital beds for the SMI population. This puts Delaware at 12.2 beds per 100,000 population. Approximately one third of these state hospital beds (42) are occupied by forensic patients, with 5 of these forensic beds occupied by patients who are NGRI. Civil patients stay in the hospital for 1.1 years (403 days) on average, while forensic patients stay 2 years (748 days) on average.

Delaware's rank among the states

#17 in beds per 100,000 population

#34 in percentage of beds occupied by forensic patients

Patients who are ready for discharge

65% of civil patients (26 of 40) who were in Delaware Psychiatric Center at the time of data collection were stable and ready for discharge but could not be discharged due to a lack of appropriate facilities. 27% of these patients needed nursing-home level care but had trouble finding a nursing home that would accept them. Other patients who had difficulty with placement included those with developmental disabilities and those with violent behaviors. 31% of patients were also waiting for space to become available in group homes.

Challenges with staffing

Delaware Psychiatric Center has experienced various challenges with staffing, which were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to a representative, many state hospital employees left or retired during the pandemic and replacing them has been challenging due to lower state salaries, nationwide healthcare workforce shortages (especially in nursing), risk of being attacked by patients, and the facility mandating rules.

Delaware's State Hospital System:

[Delaware Psychiatric Center](#) is the only state hospital in Delaware. Located in New Castle, DE, the facility has 124 beds for the general adult population and 18 beds for the geriatric population. Geriatric beds were not included in bed counts for the SMI population.

