



# LOUISIANA

In the first half of 2023, Louisiana had 689 state hospital beds. This puts Louisiana at 15.0 online beds per 100,000 population.

## Forensic Patients

35% of these beds (239 beds) were designated for forensic patients at the time of data collection. Of these beds, almost half (46% of beds, 110 beds) were occupied by patients who were not guilty by reason of insanity. The average length of stay for forensic patients was 7.2 months (216 days), while the average length of stay for civil patients was approximately 3 years (1107 days).

### Louisiana's rank among the states

**#10** in beds per 100,000 population  
**#31** in percentage of beds occupied by forensic patients

## Forensic Waitlist

In Louisiana, there were 153 incarcerated individuals waiting in jail for a bed to open at the time of data collection. Incarcerated individuals spent an average of approximately six months (180 days) waiting for a bed to open. While waiting in jail for a bed to open, people with severe mental illness can experience worsening psychotic symptoms and can even die from preventable causes such as starvation or dehydration.

## Occupancy Rate

Hospital occupancy rates greater than 85% are indicative of bed shortages. In Louisiana, occupancy rates far exceed this 85%. According to state officials, 96% of beds in the Central Louisiana State Hospital and 100% of beds in the Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System are occupied. There were also 15 patients in Central Louisiana State Hospital who were ready for discharge, but unable to be discharged due to a lack of appropriate facilities.

### Louisiana's State Hospital System:

The Louisiana Department of Health has two facilities for the specialized inpatient treatment of people with SMI:

- [Central Louisiana State Hospital](#) has 120 beds for civil patients and is located in Pineville.
- [Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System](#) has 239 beds for forensic patients and 330 beds for civil patients. This hospital is located in Jackson. ELMHS also includes a secure forensic facility and several contracted group homes for forensic patients who no longer require hospital-level care. Beds in these facilities are not included in total bed counts as they do not provide hospital-level care.