



# TENNESSEE

In the first half of 2023, Tennessee had 577 total state hospital beds for adults with severe mental illness, 550 of which were staffed and ready for patients. This puts Tennessee at 7.8 staffed beds per 100,000 population.

## Forensic Beds

While Tennessee has no beds specifically designated for forensic patients, approximately 15% of admissions were forensic patients (~83 beds) over the past year. 56 of these patients were NGRI patients.

### Tennessee's rank among the states

**#38** in beds per 100,000 population

**#45** in percentage of beds occupied by forensic patients

NGRI patients in Tennessee often stay in the hospital for years or for life, while people admitted for competency evaluation typically stay for a month. Civil patients with acute needs stay less than a week, on average.

## Forensic Waitlist

There are approximately 150 incarcerated individuals waiting in jail for a state hospital bed to open on any given day in the past few months at the time of data collection. State hospitals attempt to have court ordered forensic evaluations admitted within 60 days from receipt of the court order. At the time of data collection three out of four state hospitals were admitting forensic evaluation patients within 60 days from receipt of the court order, and one hospital was admitting forensic evaluation patients within 66 to 69 days from receipt of court order, according to state officials.

### Tennessee's State Hospital System:

The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services operates four state hospitals, which are called Regional Mental Health Institutes: [Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute](#) (Chattanooga, TN), [Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute](#) (Nashville, TN), [Memphis Mental Health Institute](#) (Memphis, TN), and [Western Mental Health Institute](#) (Bolivar, TN).