



Maryland

Department of Human Services

Report on Hospital Stays, Average Length of Stay, and Placements After Discharge

Completed pursuant to the 2024 Joint Chairmen's Report, pages 144-145

February 6, 2025

REPORT REQUIREMENT

This report is hereby submitted in response to the following reporting requirement:

The committees continue to be concerned about children and youth experiencing stays in emergency rooms or inpatient hospital settings longer than is medically necessary. Data has been requested on hospital stays by children and youth in out-of-home placements for several years. In an effort to continue to monitor this issue, the committees request that the Department of Human Services (DHS) submit a report that provides data for each month of the period October 2023 through September 2024 on:

- *the number of youth in out-of-home placement served in emergency rooms for psychiatric evaluation or crisis and the average length of stay (ALOS) by month;*
- *the number of youth in out-of-home placement served separately by medical hospitals and inpatient psychiatric hospitals and ALOS by month;*
- *the number of days that youth in out-of-home placements served in hospitals were in the hospital longer than was deemed medically necessary by either the hospital or a judicial finding separately by type of hospital; and*
- *the placement type after discharge separately by type of hospital, including identifying the number of youths placed out-of-state after discharge for fiscal 2024.*

Data reported for each of these areas should be broken out by region of the State or, where possible, by jurisdiction, based on the location of the youth's residency.

Source: 2024 Joint Chairmen's Report, pages 144-145

**NUMBER OF YOUTH IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS SERVED IN EMERGENCY ROOMS FOR PSYCHIATRIC
EVALUATION OR CRISIS AND AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY BY MONTH FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER
2023-SEPTEMBER 2024**

In FFY24, a total 102 (2.75%) of youth in the care and custody of local departments of social services experienced a hospital overstay. DHS is working with urgency and intention to reduce and eliminate hospital overstay. We instituted weekly staff meetings with local departments to review cases in which youth are experiencing hospital stays. Staff meetings work to address potential placement and treatment needs prior to discharge in order to prevent hospital overstay. For youth experiencing hospital overstay, the meetings include collaboration with the Local Department of Social Services (LDSS) and the hospital to address discharge planning.

Hospital overstay occur for different reasons. We are working on several levels to close persistent gaps in community-based and residential services that can cause delays in transitioning youth to appropriate placements. Nine youth required out-of-state residential treatment following hospitalization, underscoring the need for expanding in-state resources for complex cases. We are actively assessing provider capacity and addressing barriers to placement to ensure that youth can access timely, community-based services. Efforts focus on strengthening local provider networks, reducing reliance on hospitals, and minimizing out-of-state placements. We also expanded access to evidence-based practices aimed at reducing hospital admissions.

Targeted efforts are underway to enhance provider capacity for youth with complex behavioral health needs, ensuring timely and appropriate discharges. With the implementation of our-of-home care provider rate reform we anticipate procuring residential, community-based services that offer more clinically-focused care and supports. The modernized rate payment structure is expected to improve service delivery, reduce hospital overstay, and achieve better outcomes for youth in care.

Table 1 provides DHS data on the number of youth in out-of-home placements (OHP) served in emergency rooms for psychiatric evaluation or crisis and average length of stay (ALOS) by month for the period of October 2023 through September 2024. We enhanced the child welfare information system of record, Child, Juvenile, and Adult Management System (CJAMS), to document hospitalizations. Hospitalizations are now documented in the child's health record and as a living arrangement in the placement record.. We also developed an internal report that provides hospitalization details from all children's records directly from CJAMS. The enhancement and report eliminates the need for weekly manual hospitalization reporting from the LDSS. The SSA Youth Hospital Liaison is the point of contact for hospitals and holds weekly meetings with hospitals and LDSS staff regarding children in hospitals.

Some youth have repeat admissions within the year and each admission is counted separately in the data. The number of ER-psychiatric admissions for each month and the average length of stay (ALOS) is reported. The ALOS is skewed by a small number of long stays. For example, in April 2024, among the 27 ER-psychiatric admissions, 2 youth experienced stays longer than 60 days. The remaining youth experienced an ALOS of 4 days in the month of April. The breakout data in Table 1A shows this data.

Table 1: DHS Youth in Out-of-Home Placements Served in Emergency Rooms for Psychiatric Evaluation or Crisis and ALOS by Month for the Period of October 2023 - September 2024

October 2023 - September 2024	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Number of ER-Psychiatric Admissions	21	19	12	18	26	28	27	19	21	19	12	9	231
ALOS (days)	4	14	3	10	9	3	21	2	3	4	1	10	7

Table 1A provides the data on the number of youth in out-of-home placements served in Emergency Rooms for psychiatric evaluation or crisis, broken out by jurisdiction.

Table 1A: DHS Youth in Out-of-Home Placements Served in Emergency Rooms for Psychiatric Evaluation or Crisis and ALOS by Month for the Period of October 2023 - September 2024 by Jurisdiction

October 2023 - September 2024		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total Admissions
Allegany	# Youth		1		2		1			1				5
	ALOS		11		89		1			3				

Anne Arundel	# Youth	3	1	1	3	1					1			10
	ALOS	1	3	1	1	1					1			
Baltimore City	# Youth	3	1	0	0	8	6	14	8	14	8	5	3	70
	ALOS	9	1			5	1	11	8	11	2	1	1	
Baltimore County	# Youth	1	4	1	3	7	5	4	3	1			1	30
	ALOS	1	3	1	29	9	8	2	5	1			1	
Calvert	# Youth				2				1		1			4
	ALOS	0			16				1		2			
Caroline	# Youth													0
	ALOS	0												
Carroll	# Youth						1							1
	ALOS	0					1							
Cecil	# Youth	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	1		16
	ALOS	17	1	7	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	2		
Charles	# Youth			1								1	1	3
	ALOS	0		1								1	1	
Dorchester	# Youth				1				1					2
	ALOS	0			11				1					
Frederick	# Youth	1	1		1	1	1	1				1		7
	ALOS	4	4		1	2	1	7				1		

Garrett	# Youths ALOS	0						$\frac{1}{98}$		$\frac{1}{1}$				2
Harford	# Youth ALOS	$\frac{3}{1}$	$\frac{4}{6}$	$\frac{3}{6}$	$\frac{4}{2}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{1}{1}$			$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{1}$		$\frac{1}{2}$	20
Howard	# Youth ALOS	0	$\frac{2}{15}$	$\frac{1}{1}$			$\frac{2}{1}$		$\frac{2}{5}$				$\frac{1}{5}$	8
Kent	# Youth ALOS	0										$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	2
Montgomery	# Youth ALOS	$\frac{3}{1}$	$\frac{1}{18}$	$\frac{1}{3}$		$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{6}{1}$	$\frac{3}{1}$	$\frac{2}{5}$					17
Prince George's	# Youth ALOS	$\frac{4}{2}$	$\frac{2}{78}$	$\frac{1}{1}$		$\frac{3}{35}$	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{69}$	$\frac{0}{1}$		$\frac{1}{19}$	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{21}$	15
Queen Anne	# Youth ALOS	0					$\frac{1}{1}$							1
St. Mary's	# Youth ALOS	0				$\frac{1}{9}$				$\frac{1}{1}$				2
Somerset	# Youth ALOS	0			$\frac{1}{2}$						$\frac{1}{1}$			2

Talbot	# Youth ALOS	0												0
Washington	# Youth ALOS	1 2	1 1	1 1			2 1	1 1	1 1	1 4	1 10			9
Wicomico	# Youth ALOS	0						1 2			2 1	2 1		5
Worcester	# Youth ALOS	0												0
TOTALS	# Youth Served in ER	21	19	12	18	26	28	27	19	21	19	12	9	231
	ALOS Days	4	14	3	10	9	3	21	2	3	4	1	10	7

**NUMBER OF YOUTH IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS SERVED SEPARATELY BY MEDICAL HOSPITALS AND
INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS AND ALOS BY MONTH FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 2023-SEPTEMBER
2024**

Table 2 provides data on the total number of youth in out-of-home placements served in medical and inpatient psychiatric hospitals for the period of October 2023 through September 2024. The data is provided from the CJAMS hospitalization report.

Table 2A shows the data for medical hospitalizations broken out by jurisdiction, and Table 2B shows the data for psychiatric hospitalizations broken out by jurisdiction.

Table 2: DHS Youth in Out-of-Home Placements Served in Medical and Inpatient Psychiatric Hospitals October 2023 - September 2024

		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sept	Total
Number of Inpatient Admits	Acute Medical Hospital	17	8	5	6	6	8	9	13	4	6	8	7	97
	Inpatient Psychiatric Hospital	27	17	13	19	19	29	25	15	12	20	8	12	216

Table 2A: DHS Youth in Out-of-Home Placements Served in Medical Hospitals from October 2023 - September 2024 by Jurisdiction

Number of Admits to Medical Hospital	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sept	Total
Medical Admits													
Allegany						1		1					2
Anne Arundel											1		1
Baltimore City	9	1	1	2		5	4	6	3	4	3	5	43
Baltimore County	1		1				4	1	1	2	4	1	15
Calvert			1		1								2
Caroline													0
Carroll													0
Cecil	1	1						1					3
Charles													0
Dorchester													0
Frederick			1										1
Garrett													0
Harford													0
Howard	2	1				1							4

Kent													0
Montgomery		1		1	1	1		1					5
Prince George's	1	1	1	2	1		1	3				1	11
Queen Anne													0
St. Mary's													0
Somerset					1								1
Talbot	2												2
Washington	1	3			1								5
Wicomico				1	1								2
Worcester													0
TOTAL MEDICAL ADMISSIONS	17	8	5	6	6	8	9	13	4	6	8	7	97

Table 2B: DHS Youth in Out-of-Home Placements Served in Inpatient Psychiatric Hospitals from October 2023 - September 2024 by Jurisdiction

Number of Admits to Inpatient Psychiatric Hospital	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sept	Total
Psychiatric Admits													
Allegany				1		1							3
Anne Arundel	2		1	3	1	1				2			10
Baltimore City	8	1	2	1	5	6	6	4	5	7	3	6	40
Baltimore County	1	1	3	1	4	2	8	1	1	2		2	28
Calvert				1						1			2
Caroline													0
Carroll													0
Cecil	1	1		1	2		1	1	1	2	1		11
Charles													0
Dorchester								1					1
Frederick				1	1			1			1		9
Garrett					1				1				2
Harford	3		4	4	2	2	2	1	2	2		1	23
Howard		1				2		1				1	5
Kent												2	2

Montgomery	5	3	2	2	1	8	4	2		1	1		30
Prince George's	4		1	2	1				1		1		10
Queen Anne				1	1	1							3
St. Mary's						1			1				2
Somerset	1							1					2
Talbot						1							1
Washington	1	1				2	1	1				1	7
Wicomico							1	1		2			4
Worcester													0
TOTAL PSYCHIATRIC ADMISSIONS	27	17	13	19	19	29	25	15	12	20	8	12	216

Table 3 provides data regarding the ALOS for youth in out-of-home placements served in medical hospitals or inpatient psychiatric hospitals for the period of October 2023 through September 2024. The data reflects the ALOS for youth admitted for the month indicated.

Table 3A shows the data for ALOS for youth served in medical hospitals broken out by jurisdiction for the same period. Table 3B shows the data for ALOS for youth served in inpatient psychiatric hospitals for the same period, broken out by jurisdiction.

Table 3: ALOS for Youth in Out-of-Home Placements Served in Medical Hospitals and Inpatient Psychiatric Hospitals from October 2023 - September 2024

Average Length of Stay (ALOS)		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sept	One Yr. Average
ALOS (days)	Acute Medical Hospital	15	28	23	31	13	26	22	19	10	18	17	8	19
	Inpatient Psychiatric Hospital	41	99	34	31	48	43	42	42	11	30	19	9	37

Table 3A: ALOS days for Youth in Out-of-Home Placements Served in Medical Hospitals from October 2023 - September 2024 by Jurisdiction

Medical ALOS	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sept	One Yr. Average
Allegany						47		15					36
Anne Arundel			5								2		4
Baltimore City	18	6	33	153	10	42	26	30	14	18	19	17	24
Baltimore County	6		5	8	7		20	7	8	15	11	4	12
Calvert			2		11	2				5			7
Caroline													
Carroll				10									10
Cecil	2	4						3		4	13		5
Charles		37											37
Dorchester					3								3
Frederick									40				40
Garrett					4	1			3				3
Harford	2	2	5								59		17
Howard	13	72				23		5		14			23
Kent													
Montgomery	4	25	76	52	5	13		8	1	77			22

Prince George's	16	70	5	7	73		6	25				15	20
Queen Anne													
St. Mary's			110										110
Somerset			4	3									4
Talbot	17	4				4							9
Washington	11	29			9	7		4					16
Wicomico			3	7	37	9						9	12
Worcester													
ALOS in Days	15	28	23	31	13	26	22	19	10	18	17	8	19

January shows the highest ALOS for medical admissions of 31 days. The ALOS data reported for medical admissions is skewed by a few youth who had longer lengths of stay. For example, Baltimore City had 2 medical admissions in January with an ALOS of 153 days, but all youth did not experience similarly long hospital stays.

Table 3B: ALOS days for Youth in Out-of-Home Placements were Served in Inpatient Psychiatric Hospitals from October 2023 - September 2024 by Jurisdiction

Psychiatric ALOS	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sept	One Yr. Average
Allegany				178		5							92
Anne Arundel	75		6	8	72	3				37			33
Baltimore City	14	146	8	31	52	30	48	12	13	31	12	8	28
Baltimore County	13	13	71	12	25	104	42	20	16	10		15	42
Calvert				7						57			32
Caroline													
Carroll													
Cecil	17	33		42	46		23	134	11	82	29		49
Charles													
Dorchester								88					88
Frederick				15	48			91			6		54
Garrett					8				8				8
Harford	16		23	19	123	40	95	1	9	5		15	33
Howard		20				14		1				7	11
Kent												25	25

Montgomery	13	208	60	53	7	25	13	69		9	10		44
Prince George's	77		2	53	62				7		27		51
Queen Anne				18	21	197							32
St. Mary's						199			13				106
Somerset	332							90					177
Talbot						88							88
Washington	60	8				5	40	5				7	19
Wicomico							14	16		19			17
Worcester													
ALOS in Days	41	99	34	31	48	43	42	42	11	30	19	9	37

Similar to Table 3A, the ALOS data in Table 3B is skewed by a small share of youth who experienced longer lengths of stay. For inpatient psychiatric admissions reported in Table 3B, November 2023 shows the highest ALOS of 99 days. The average is heavily skewed by 4 out of the 17 admissions experiencing stays longer than 120 days.

NUMBER OF DAYS THAT YOUTH IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS SERVED IN HOSPITALS WERE IN THE HOSPITAL LONGER THAN WAS DEEMED MEDICALLY NECESSARY BY EITHER THE HOSPITAL OR A JUDICIAL FINDING SEPARATELY BY TYPE OF HOSPITAL FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 2022-SEPTEMBER 2024

For the period of October 2023 through September 2024, a total of 102 youths (27 medical and 75 psychiatric) were reported as experiencing an overstay in a hospital setting for medical or psychiatric reasons. Tables 4a and 4b provide data on the 27 youth who experienced a medical overstay, based on the month they entered overstay status and the total number of days in overstay. Tables 4c and 4d provide data on the 75 youth who experienced a psychiatric hospital overstay, based on the month they entered overstay status.

Table 4A: Youth in Out-of-Home Placements in Hospital Longer than Deemed Medically Necessary by Hospital Type- Medical

2023 - 2024	Hospital Overstays - Medical			
	Number of Youth(s) Who Entered Overstay Status This Month	Total Number of Overstay Days for the Youth(s) Who Entered Overstay Status This Month	Avg Length of Overstay (Days)	Median Length of Overstay (Days)
Oct	3	169	56	41
Nov	1	44	44	44
Dec	1	8	8	8
Jan	2	116	58	58
Feb	3	20	7	4
Mar	1	4	4	4
Apr	2	32	16	16
May	1	4	4	4
Jun	2	65	33	33

Jul	3	70	23	8
Aug	3	29	10	7
Sep	5	27	7	7
Totals	27	588	23	8

Table 4B: Youth in Out-of-Home Placements in Hospital Longer than Deemed Medically Necessary by Hospital Type and Jurisdiction

Medical Overstays 2023-2024	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sept	Total
Allegany													0
Anne Arundel													0
Baltimore City	3			1	1	1		1	1	2	1	1	12
Baltimore County							1			1	1	3	6
Calvert													0
Caroline													0
Carroll													0
Cecil											1		1
Charles													0
Dorchester					1								1
Frederick									1			1	2
Garrett													0

Harford													0
Howard													0
Kent													0
Montgomery		1											1
Prince George's			1				1						2
Queen Anne													0
St. Mary's				1									1
Somerset													0
Talbot													0
Washington					1								1
Wicomico													0
Worcester													0
Total	3	1	1	2	3	1	2	1	2	3	3	5	27

Table 4C: Youth in Out-of-Home Placements in Hospital Longer than Deemed Medically Necessary by Hospital Type- Psychiatric

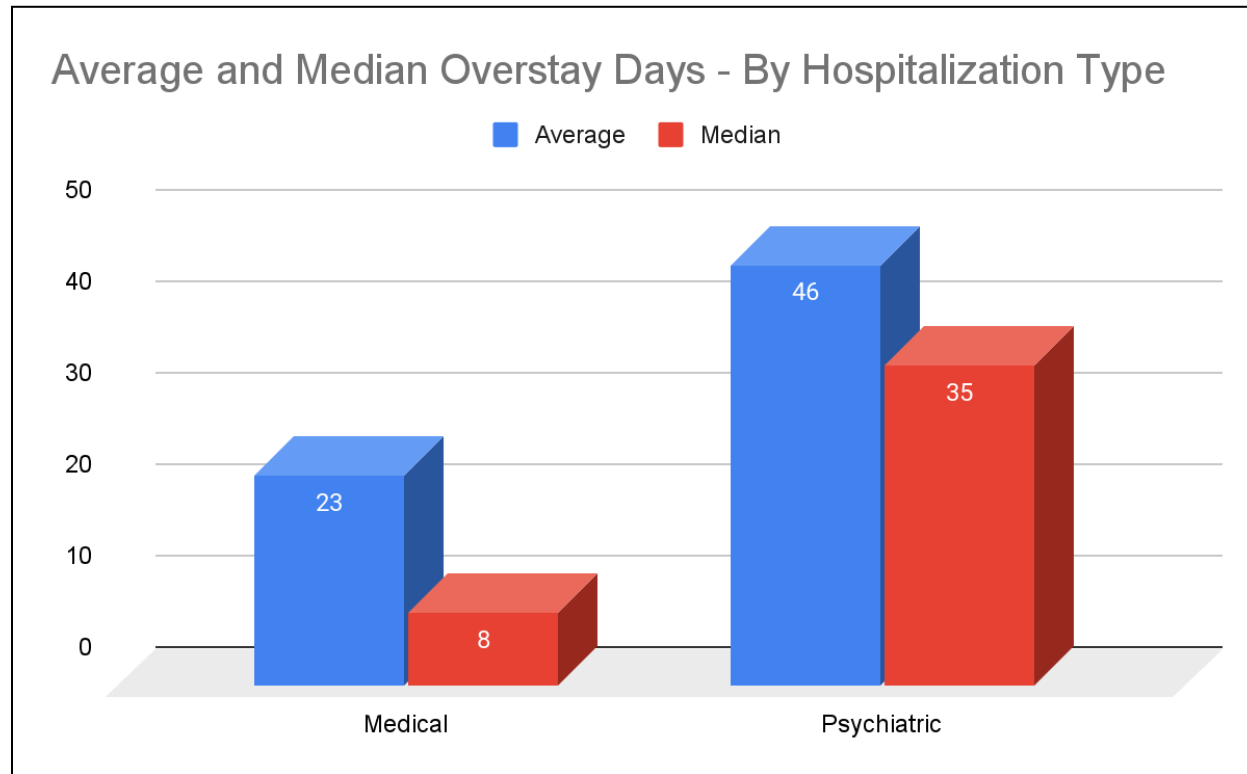
2023 - 2024	Hospital Overstays - Psychiatric			
	Number of Youth Who Entered Overstay Status This Month	Total Number of Overstay Days for the Youth Who Entered Overstay Status This Month	Avg Length of Overstay (Days)	Median Length of Overstay (Days)
Oct	5	298	60	21
Nov	5	536	107	117
Dec	6	195	33	15
Jan	6	322	54	26
Feb	13	592	46	37
Mar	7	431	62	44
Apr	10	354	35	39
May	8	393	49	39
Jun	5	70	14	11
Jul	2	87	44	44
Aug	4	131	33	32
Sep	4	44	11	7
Totals	75	3453	46	35

Table 4D: Youth in Out-of-Home Placements in Hospital Longer than Deemed Medically Necessary by Hospital Type and Jurisdiction

Psychiatric Overstays 2023-2024	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sept	Total
Allegany				1									1
Anne Arundel		2			1						1		4
Baltimore City	2		3	1	4	2	8	3	4	1	1	1	30
Baltimore County					4	2		1	1			1	9
Calvert				1								1	2
Caroline													0
Carroll													0
Cecil					1			2			2		5
Charles													0
Dorchester				1									1
Frederick					1			1					2
Garrett													0
Harford	1		1	1	1								4
Howard			1										1
Kent												1	1

Montgomery	1					1		1					3
Prince George's	1	2	1	1	1	1	1			1			9
Queen Anne						1							1
St. Mary's													0
Somerset													0
Talbot													0
Washington		1					1						2
Wicomico													0
Worcester													0
TOTAL	5	5	6	6	13	7	10	8	5	2	4	4	75

The graph below with Average vs Median overstay days demonstrates that while the average length of overstay for medical overstays is 23 days, half of the overstays are for less than 10 days. The average is skewed as a result of a few longer overstays that had an outsized impact on the average. For psychiatric overstays, half of the overstays are approximately 25% lower than the average of 46 days. Similar to the medical overstays, the average length of stay is also skewed as a result of the outlier overstays.



**PLACEMENT TYPE AFTER DISCHARGE SEPARATELY BY TYPE OF HOSPITAL, INCLUDING IDENTIFYING THE
NUMBER OF YOUTHS PLACED OUT-OF-STATE AFTER DISCHARGE FOR FFY 2024**

As reflected in Table 2, in FFY 2024, 313 youth were served in medical and inpatient psychiatric hospitals, some youth experienced multiple admissions resulting in a total of 530 discharges. Table 5 provides data on the placement type after discharge. The data includes all discharges for youth even if the discharge recommendation was the same for multiple stays.

Table 5: DHS Placement Types after Discharge from Medical and Psychiatric Hospitalizations for FFY 2024

Placement Type	Medical		Psychiatric		Totals
	In-State	Out-of-State (OOS)	In-State	Out-of-State (OOS)	
Reunification	17	0	15	0	32
Independent Living (ILP)	17	0	12	0	29
Residential Child Care (Group Homes)	100	0	110	0	210
Residential Treatment Center (RTC)	3	5	27	4	39
Treatment Foster Care (TFC) - Private	25	0	20	0	45
Community Placements	76	0	78	0	154
*Other	17	0	4	0	21
State Youth Population	235	5	266	4	530

**Other includes placements into Adult DDA Facilities, Adult Detention Centers, Juvenile Detention Centers, Inpatient Substance Abuse Programs, and discharge to another hospital.*

Table 5A: DHS Placement Types after Discharge from Medical Hospitalizations for FFY 2024 broken out by Jurisdiction

Medical Discharge Placements	Reunification	Independent Living	Treatment Foster Care	Residential Child Care	Residential Treatment Center	Out of State	Community	Other
Allegany		1		1			2	
Anne Arundel				1		1	4	
Baltimore City	5	8	12	45			20	3
Baltimore County	6	4	9	6			12	2
Calvert			1	10				
Caroline								
Carroll				3			2	
Cecil		1	1	2	1		5	
Charles				1			3	
Dorchester				1				
Frederick							2	
Garrett	2						3	1

Harford			1	1		1	1	1
Howard						3	2	1
Kent	1							3
Montgomery	1		1	5		1	1	2
Prince George's			1	7			8	1
Queen Anne		1					1	
St. Mary's				1				1
Somerset		1					2	4
Talbot			1	1			3	1
Washington	4			6			3	2
Wicomico				2			2	1
Worcester								

Table 5B: DHS Placement Types after Discharge from Psychiatric Hospitalizations for FFY 2024 broken out by Jurisdiction

Psychiatric Discharge Placements	Reunification	Independent Living	Treatment Foster Care	Residential Child Care	Residential Treatment Center	Out of State	Community	Other
Allegany				1			4	
Anne Arundel			3	4	1	1	2	
Baltimore City	3	4	7	42	1	2	18	3
Baltimore County	2	6	2	12	7		9	2
Calvert			1	2				
Caroline								
Carroll								1
Cecil	1			4	2		4	1
Charles				1			1	1
Dorchester				1			1	
Frederick			1	3	2	1	3	2
Garrett					1		3	

Harford	2		2	11	3	2	3	2
Howard			1	2			5	
Kent								2
Montgomery	3	2	1	9	1	4	7	3
Prince George's	2		2	11	2	1	4	
Queen Anne	1			1			1	
St. Mary's				2				1
Somerset	1				1		2	
Talbot								1
Washington				3			4	2
Wicomico							6	
Worcester								