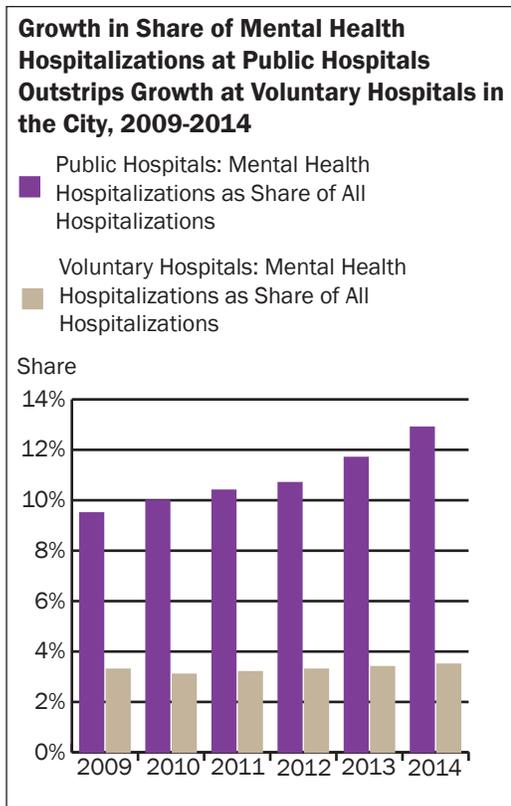
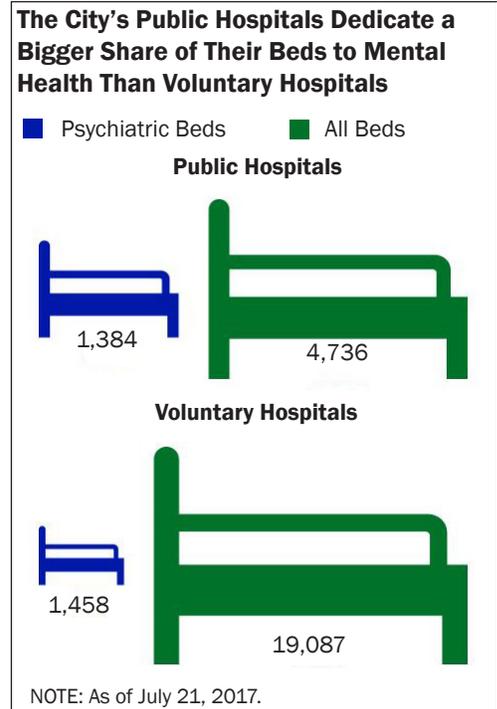


Are New York City's Public Hospitals Becoming the Main Provider of Inpatient Services for the Mentally Ill?

The number of hospitalizations at public and voluntary hospitals in New York City has been declining for some time, falling from 1.3 million hospitalizations in 2009 to 1.1 million in 2014. This decline in hospitalizations is similar to national trends, as health care is increasingly provided in outpatient settings. One noticeable exception to this trend is the hospitalization of patients with mental illness by NYC Health + Hospitals, the city's public hospital system. Mental health hospitalizations at NYC Health + Hospitals' 11 hospitals grew by 20 percent in 2009-2014, increasing from 20,550 to 24,705. Over the same six year-period, mental health hospitalizations decreased by nearly 5 percent among the voluntary hospitals in New York City.

- Currently, there are more than 2,840 hospital beds for psychiatric patients at a total of 37 hospitals across the five boroughs according to a state website. Almost half of the available beds are in the city's public hospitals.
- Just three public hospitals—Bellevue, Kings County, and Elmhurst—account for about 25 percent of all the psychiatric beds in the city.
- Out of the roughly 4,730 beds in the public hospitals for all types of health care, almost 30 percent are for psychiatric patients. Among nearly 19,090 beds in the voluntary hospitals in the city, about 8 percent are reserved for psychiatric care.



- While hospitalizations overall have been declining, the share of inpatient care due to mental health needs grew substantially in the public hospital system over the years 2009-2014, the most recent period for which data is available. As a share of the types of hospitalizations among the voluntary hospitals in the city, mental health care was essentially flat over the same period.
- Hospitalizations for mental health care were the single most common reason for hospitalization at NYC Health + Hospitals institutions in 2014, accounting for 13 percent of all hospitalizations in the public hospital system and 43 percent of all the inpatient care for mental health among all the hospitals in the city.
- NYC Health + Hospitals is currently developing a plan to transform mental health inpatient and emergency care services to outpatient care and integrate these services with primary care, maternal health, and pediatrics. These changes reflect Mayor de Blasio's [Thrive NYC](#) and [Healing NYC](#) initiatives, which aim to increase awareness of behavioral health issues while expanding options for prevention and treatment.

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SOURCES: Hospital bed capacity data comes from [NYS Health Profiles](#). Accessed July 21, 2017; Hospitalization data comes from the New York State Department of Health Public Inpatient Deidentified SPARCS [data](#) 2009-2014.

NOTES: We use "hospitalization" as the equivalent of "discharge." Data on hospital discharges were likely affected by Hurricane Sandy in 2012, which caused a few hospitals in the city to temporarily close. Discharges exclude federally regulated hospitals and discharges from Coler and Henry J. Carter, both of which are skilled nursing facilities. For the nine hospitals that permanently closed during the years 2009-2014, we include discharge information for the years they were open.