

***New Hampshire Hospital Association
Legislative Update***

***NNE HFMA Legislative Update Webinar
April 11, 2023***

***Steve Ahnen, President
New Hampshire Hospital Association***



New Hampshire Update

Key Issues

- Pandemic vs Endemic...Challenges Continue
- 2023 Legislative Session
- Way Too Early Look at Campaign '24



New Hampshire Update

Pandemic vs Endemic?

- PHE ending 5/11/23
- Seeing some of the lowest COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths in over a year
- Lifting of universal masking requirements
- Definitely in a different place today than we were 12, 24 or 36 months ago, but challenging days are still ahead



Inpatient COVID-19 Hospitalizations

Category	April 5	April 6	April 7
Total Confirmed COVID-19	36	39	37
COVID-Recovering*	45	41	38
Subsets of Total COVID-19 Numbers			
Treated for COVID-19**	20	17	11
Pediatric Confirmed COVID-19	0	0	0
Previous Day New COVID-19 Admissions			
Previous Day New COVID-19 Admissions	5	4	7
# Hospitals Reporting	30		

*Includes COVID-19 hospitalized patients no longer included in Confirmed COVID-19 statistics once removed from transmission-based precautions but continue to receive inpatient treatment for COVID-19 related illness.

**Current admissions with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 infections who have been administered Remdesivir or Dexamethasone. Subset of Total Confirmed COVID-19.

Current Hospital Census

Staffed Bed Status	April 5	April 6	April 7
Total Staffed Inpatient Beds Filled	2,472	2,451	2,405
Total Staffed Inpatient Beds Available*	339	356	403
Inpatient Occupancy	87.9%	87.3%	85.6%
ED Holds (excludes BH holds)	87	64	60
% Occupancy with ED Holds	91.0%	89.6%	87.8%
# Hospitals Reporting	30		

*Note: Does not include available ED beds

Current Emergency Department Holds

ED Hold Metric	April 5	April 6	April 7
ED Holds COVID Positive	3	3	2
ED Holds Non-COVID	197	129	192
ED Holds Adult Behavioral Health	35	38	43
ED Holds Pediatric Behavioral Health	28	26	31
# Hospitals Reporting	26		

Adult ICU Summary

ICU Metric	April 5	April 6	April 7
Staffed Adult ICU Beds	230	230	229
Adult ICU Available	35	49	58
Adult ICU Comprehensive Available*	25	35	41
Adult ICU % Occupancy	84.8%	78.7%	74.7%
# Hospitals Reporting	20		

*Subset of Adult ICU Beds Available

Other Bed Availability Summary

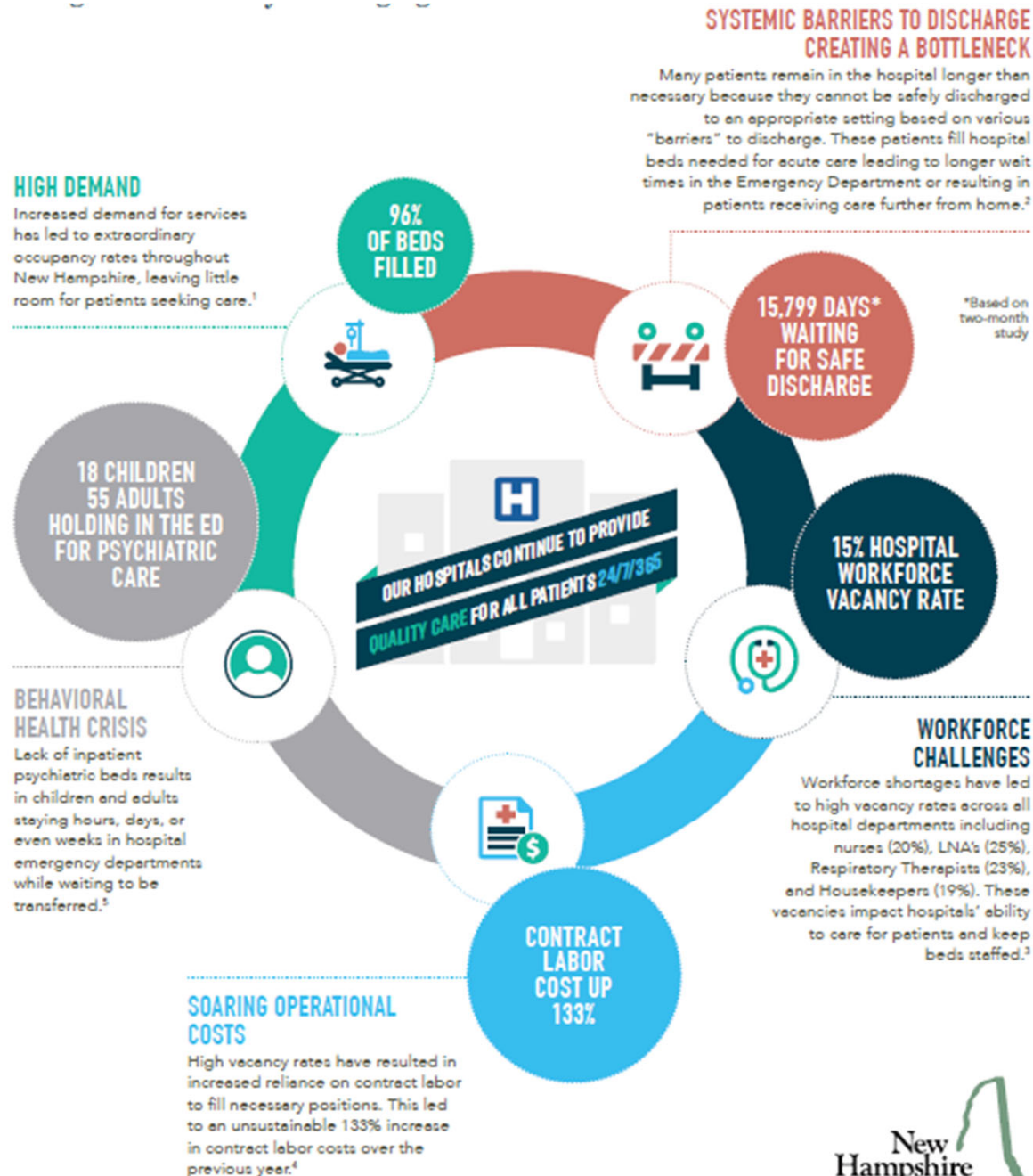
Bed Type	April 5	April 6	April 7
Adult Psych Inpatient	11	12	10
Medical Surgical	114	102	125
Pediatric	22	19	20
PICU	3	2	2
Telemetry	31	37	42
# Hospitals Reporting	26 / Adult Psych = 10 Hospitals		

Previous Day Emergency Department Visits

ED Visit Metric	April 5	April 6	April 7
Previous Day Total ED Visits	1,380	1,407	1,446
% Previous Day ED Visits COVID Related	10.0%	10.1%	8.9%
# Hospitals Reporting	26		

Moving Forward

- High Demand
- Delays and backups across the system
 - Front door
 - Back door
- Staffing challenges
 - Vacancy rates
 - Labor costs
- Ongoing behavioral health crisis



New Hampshire Update

2023 Legislative Session

- Many familiar faces:
 - Governor Chris Sununu 
 - Senate: GOP retains control (14-10)
 - New Senate President, Jeb Bradley 
 - Senate Democratic Leader, Donna Soucy 
 - House: GOP retains control by a razor thin majority (201-198)
 - Speaker Sherm Packard 
 - New Democratic Leader, Matt Wilhelm 
- Many familiar battle lines, but opportunities for bipartisanship remain



New Hampshire Update

- State Budget (HB 1/HB 2)
 - Governor kicks off the process in February, first goes to House and then to the Senate
 - Medicaid rate increases...Governor proposed a 3.1% increase for all providers, House increased the amount of funding available and targeted
 - NHHA advocating for targeted rate increases for behavioral health and long-term care/home and community-based services to address the backlog of those patients
 - Bipartisanship put to the test last week when House leadership was forced to compromise with House Democrats in order to get a budget passed
 - Troubling behavioral health provisions inserted by the Governor were removed from the budget
 - On to the Senate...

New Hampshire Update

Other Legislative Activity



- Medicaid Expansion Reauthorization (SB 263)

- Set to expire 12/31/23
- SB 263 passed out of the Senate unanimously, on to the House
- Goal is to remove the sunset, House budget reauthorizes for 2 years only

↓ 64% reduction in the number of uninsured patients seeking care in the emergency department;

↓ 59% reduction in the number of uninsured inpatient admissions; and

↓ 50% reduction in the number of uninsured outpatient visits.

**Source: NHHA Membership, 23 Hospitals Reporting*

- Workplace Safety (SB 58)

- Follow on bill from last session to give law enforcement the authority to arrest a patient who has assaulted a health care provider when in their care

New Hampshire Update

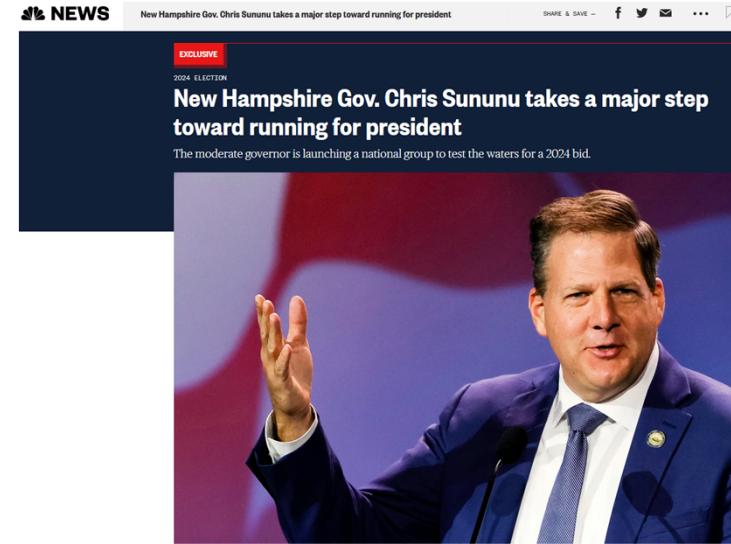
- Payor Reforms
 - SB 131, relative to provider contract standards
 - SB 72, relative to provider credentialing procedures
 - SB 82, relative to prompt payments for managed care
- Licensing
 - Governor included major licensing reforms in his budget
 - Viewed by many in the House as too much, too soon, largely removed from the budget
 - Other licensing bills could become a vehicle for reforms
- Nurse Staffing Agencies
 - SB 149 would require some level of transparency and disclosure of rates that are being paid to travelers



New Hampshire Update

Campaign 2024

- While it's still way too early to be talking about the 2024 campaign, rumblings are getting louder that Governor Sununu may be considering a run for President
 - Impact on other candidates getting into the race?
 - Impact on the 2023/24 agenda for Governor Sununu at the State House?
- Welcome to the 2024 New Hampshire Presidential Primary!



New Hampshire Update

- THANK YOU!
- We continue to be inspired by the tremendous work that all of you are continue to do day in and day out to take care of your patients and staff during these challenging times...and honored to be your partners in supporting those efforts.
- Stay safe, be well.



Questions?

Steve Ahnen, President
New Hampshire Hospital Association
603/415-4250
sahren@nhha.org