

New Hampshire Hospitals Face a Difficult 2023

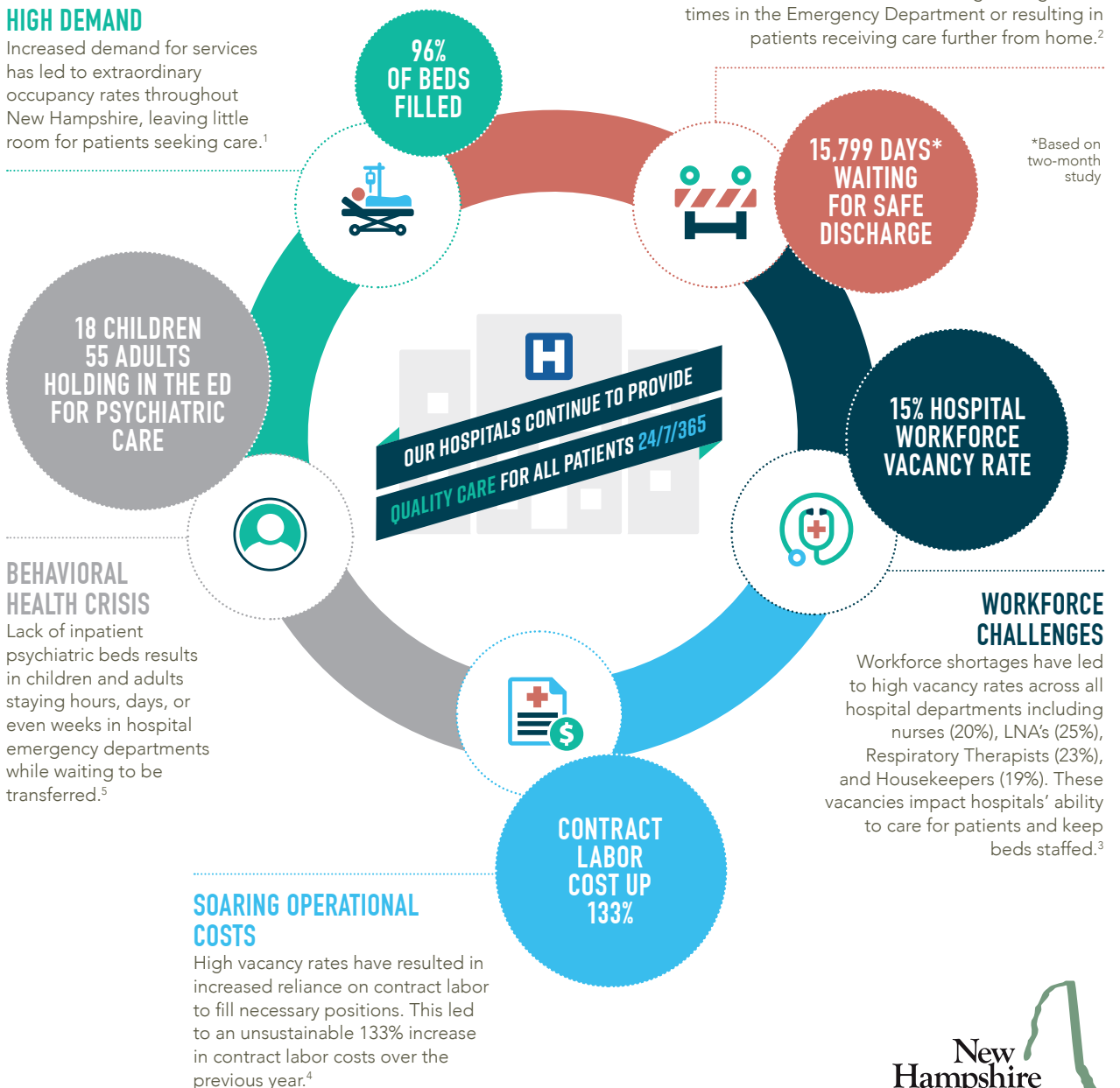
Unprecedented circumstances are converging, making the job of New Hampshire hospitals and caregivers incredibly challenging.

SYSTEMIC BARRIERS TO DISCHARGE CREATING A BOTTLENECK

Many patients remain in the hospital longer than necessary because they cannot be safely discharged to an appropriate setting based on various "barriers" to discharge. These patients fill hospital beds needed for acute care leading to longer wait times in the Emergency Department or resulting in patients receiving care further from home.²

HIGH DEMAND

Increased demand for services has led to extraordinary occupancy rates throughout New Hampshire, leaving little room for patients seeking care.¹



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS

Lack of inpatient psychiatric beds results in children and adults staying hours, days, or even weeks in hospital emergency departments while waiting to be transferred.⁵

SOARING OPERATIONAL COSTS

High vacancy rates have resulted in increased reliance on contract labor to fill necessary positions. This led to an unsustainable 133% increase in contract labor costs over the previous year.⁴

WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

Workforce shortages have led to high vacancy rates across all hospital departments including nurses (20%), LNA's (25%), Respiratory Therapists (23%), and Housekeepers (19%). These vacancies impact hospitals' ability to care for patients and keep beds staffed.³

SOURCES

1) Daily average occupancy rate reported in NHHA COVID-19 Daily Update 1/1-1/22/23. Occupancy rates based on staffed beds and include non-behavioral health Emergency Department holds.

2) The 15,799 patient days is based on a 2-month snapshot. See [2022 Barriers to Discharge Report](#) for more details.

3) NHHA October 2022 Vacancy and Turnover Report.

4) NHHA Labor Cost Study 2022

5) Daily average reported in NHHA COVID-19 Daily Update 1/1-1/22/23