





Volume 1

The National Behavioral Health Landscape

The National Behavioral Health Landscape metrics demonstrate changes in coverage, population data related to payment for treatment, workforce changes, shifts in psychiatric hospitalization, and increasing access and coverage for people with serious mental illness (SMI). These are just a few key takeaways from Volume 1 of National Trends for Payers.

Key Findings

-  Commercial plans were still the primary insurer, at **48% of lives in 2022**, approximately a 4% reduction from 2011.^{1,2,3}
-  In 2021, an estimated **14.1 million adults** aged 18 or older were living with serious mental illness (SMI). The number represented 5.5% of U.S. adults.⁴
-  The United States will be **short about 178,000 full-time** behavioral health practitioners by 2035.⁵
-  Overall, psychiatric hospital bed capacity in the U.S. grew from **108,627 beds in 2016 to 136,232 beds in 2022**.⁶

Why It Matters

- Commercial plans are considering the impact of a more “public” market; with **Medicaid** growing from 15% in 2011 to 23% in 2022, and **Medicare** from 12% to nearly 15% during the same time period.^{1,2,3}
- Even with increased coverage, **access and affordability** continue to be major issues. Public plans in particular face thin margins hampering their efforts to address this.
- Health plans find the workforce issue concerning as **access and quality of care** for their members are their priority. There is an emphasis on policy and leveraging technology to reduce professional workforce burden.
- Much of this growth in capacity has been fueled by new **private psychiatric hospital beds**.*

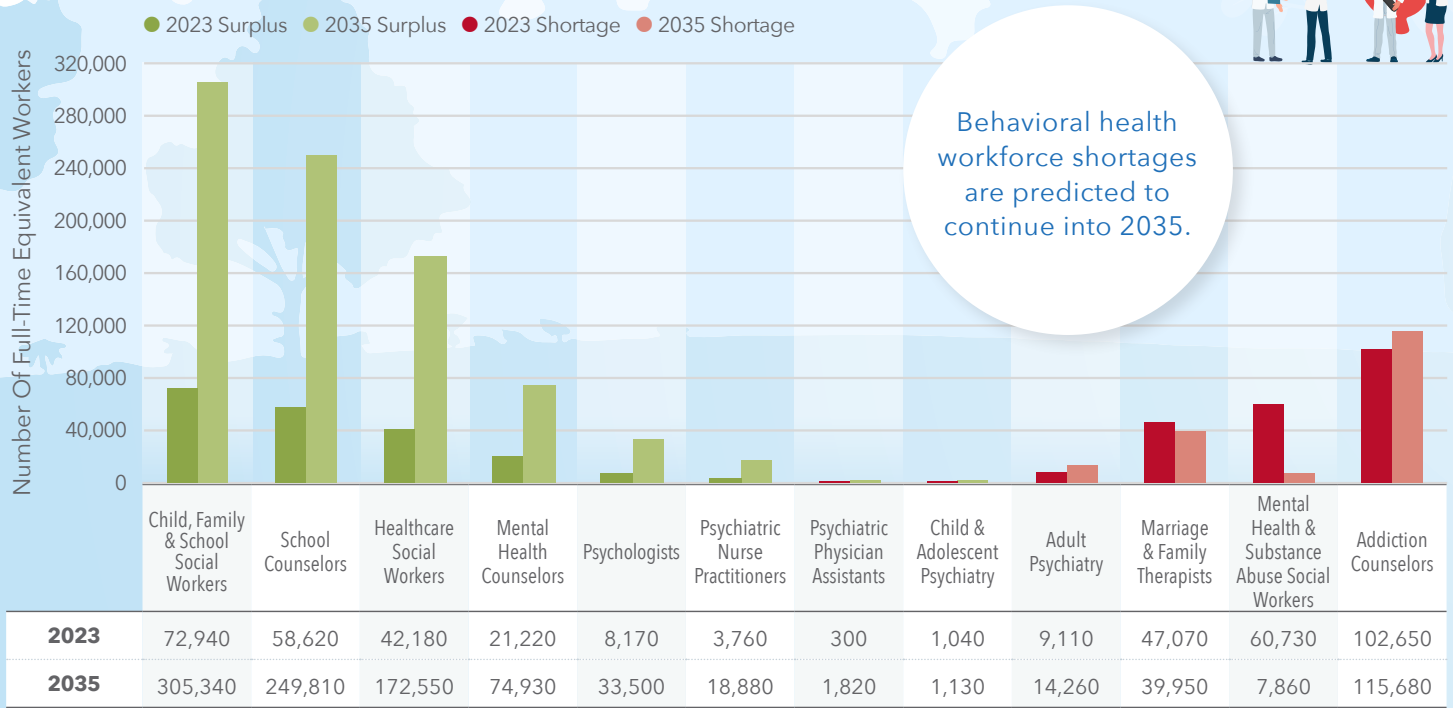
*These are hospital beds (not residential treatment center, skilled nursing facility, or community residential beds).

Behavioral Health Workforce Supply & Demand, 2023 & 2035⁵

Health plans will need to develop strategies and innovative solutions for addressing workforce challenges as they work with states as well as potential complaints from clients and consumers about access issues across the nation.



Surplus/Shortage In 2023 & 2035



Behavioral health workforce shortages are predicted to continue into 2035.

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 1. OPEN MINDS. (2023). OPEN MINDS Market Intelligence Payers Proprietary Database.
 2. Collins, S.R., Lauren, H.A., & Relebohile, M. (2022). *The State Of U.S. Health Insurance In 2022: Findings From The Commonwealth Fund Biennial Health Insurance Survey, 2022*
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 10. Oss, M. E. (2023, September 6). *Sustainability, Growth & Strategy: The Management Practices That Drive Success*. OPEN MINDS. <https://openminds.com/market-intelligence/resources/going-the-distance-managing-through-times-of-uncertainty/>
 11. Oss, M. E. (2023, May 12). *Remember The New Competition*. OPEN MINDS. <https://openminds.com/market-intelligence/editorials/remember-the-new-competition/>



National Trends

Improving health equity, increasing access to inpatient treatment, and coverage for people with serious mental illness (SMI) continues to be the focus nationally.

1

Health Equity & Service Payment^{7,8}

As the market moves to address health equity, service payment should be taken into consideration to cover health equity activities.



2

Number Of Psychiatric Hospital Beds Increase⁶

While this doesn't address the issue of outpatient access, more hospital beds can impact access to higher level services.



3

Coverage For Persons With A Serious Mental Illness (SMI)⁹

Coverage for persons with SMI has grown across all major health insurance programs. Access and affordability continue to be a challenge for adults living with SMI. Of that population, **5.5%** were uninsured in 2022.



4

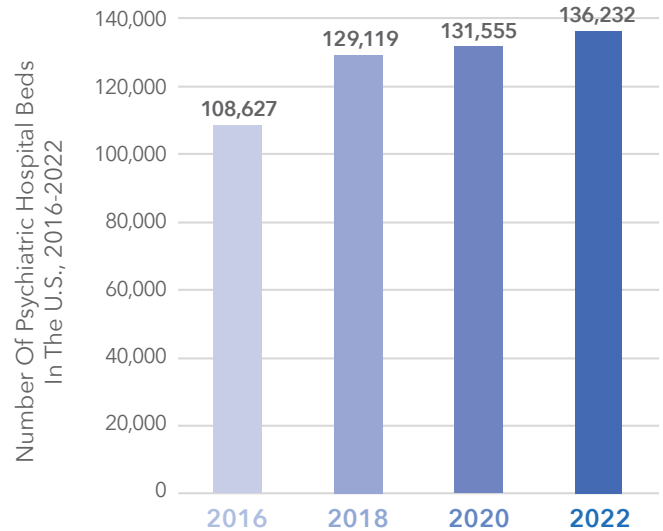
Whole Person Health: Integrated Behavioral Health (BH) & Physical Health (PH)^{10,11}

As part of the "BH carve-in" movement, the integration of BH and PH is a high priority model for most major health plans. It fits well with the health equity initiatives.



Number Of Psychiatric Hospital Beds* In The U.S., 2016-2022⁶

While rates of any mental illness (AMI) and SMI increase, hospital bed increases have slowed.



*These are hospital beds (not residential treatment center, skilled nursing facility, or community residential beds).

The Impact Of Non-Traditional Health Care Providers^{10,11}

- The potential of retail health clinics is still an issue for most health plans.
- The issue with out-of-market competitors is similar to any industry where traditional "non-industry" markets diversify into new markets.
- Health plans may lose clients to innovative health care products that fit better than some of the traditional models and can contribute to workforce challenges.
- This may also have an impact on pricing used by the health plans.



Scan The QR Code To View The Entire Guide:

► **Volume I:** The National Behavioral Health Landscape

Discover Volumes II & III Online:

► **Volume II:** The State Behavioral Health Landscape

► **Volume III:** Health Plan Population

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1. OPEN MINDS. (2023). OPEN MINDS Market Intelligence Payers Proprietary Database.
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