



Out-of-County Inpatient Admissions, January 1, 2011 – December 31, 2016

A Data Brief from Allegheny HealthChoices, Inc.

September 2017

Purpose

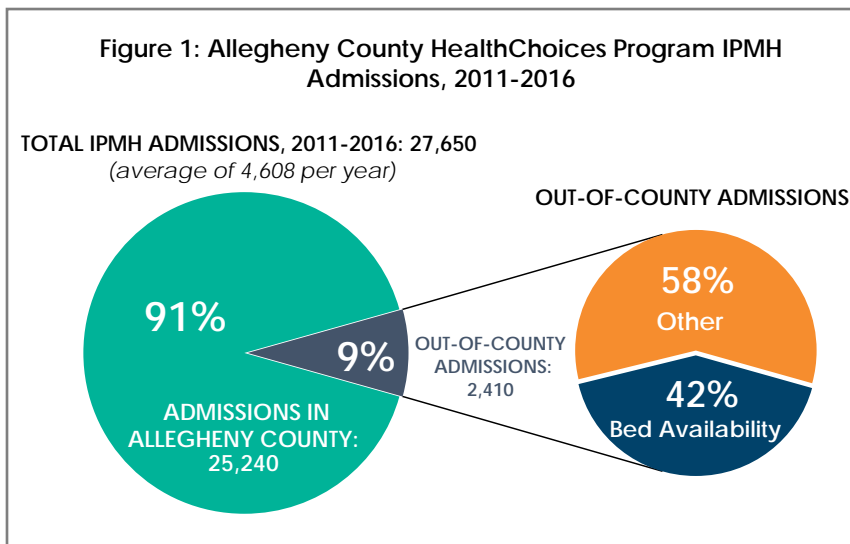
This data brief provides a review of inpatient mental health (IPMH) admissions from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2016 as reported by Community Care Behavioral Health, the behavioral health Medicaid managed care organization in Allegheny County, and the Allegheny County Department of Human Services. This analysis also examines the role of bed availability in driving out-of-County admissions and the volume of non-residents committed involuntarily¹ to Allegheny County IPMH facilities.

Why this Analysis Matters

The closure of Mayview State Hospital in December 2008 raised concerns over whether the loss of state hospital long-term beds would lead to depleted bed availability for individuals with acute mental health needs. To monitor IPMH accessibility, Allegheny HealthChoices, Inc. (AHCI) regularly reviews the use of IPMH services for Medicaid enrollees in Allegheny County and surrounding areas using all available data from Community Care Behavioral Health and Allegheny County Office of Behavioral Health.

Key Findings:

- Out-of-County Admissions Are Down**
 Total IPMH admissions have increased in tandem with eligibility since 2011, yet the number of Allegheny residents admitted to out-of-County facilities is trending downward. Nine out of every 10 Allegheny County HealthChoices IPMH admissions between 2011 and 2016 occurred in Allegheny County facilities.
- Fewer Out-of-County Admissions Are Due to Bed Availability**
 Of the nine percent of IPMH admissions that occurred out-of-County between 2011 and 2016, fewer than half (42 percent) were the result of bed availability² issues. Despite an increase in the number of youth seeking out-of-County care for bed availability reasons in 2016, total out-of-County admissions attributed to bed availability issues have fallen by more than a third (37 percent) since 2011.³
- Non-Resident Involuntary Commitments Are Decreasing**
 Since peaking in 2013, the number of non-Allegheny County residents involuntarily committed to Allegheny County IPMH facilities continues to decline.⁴



¹ In this report, “involuntary commitment” (also known as a 302) refers to an application for emergency evaluation and treatment for persons who are dangerous to themselves or others due to a mental illness.

² Bed availability issues occur when a bed is unavailable based upon reasons such as gender of the person or room restrictions (i.e., MRSA).

³ A difference of proportions test showed that this trend was statistically significant, p<0.05.

⁴ A difference of proportions test showed that this trend was statistically significant, p<0.05.

Allegheny County HealthChoices IPMH Admissions

Total IPMH admissions have increased since 2011, but that increase has mirrored the growth in HealthChoices eligibility in Allegheny County. Between 2011 and 2016, total IPMH admissions averaged about 4,600 per year.

Out-of-County admissions represent a small, and declining, component of total IPMH admissions for Allegheny County HealthChoices members. The total number of out-of-County admissions fell 17 percent between 2011 and 2016. Both youth (<18) and adult (18+) admissions declined over this time. (See Table 1).

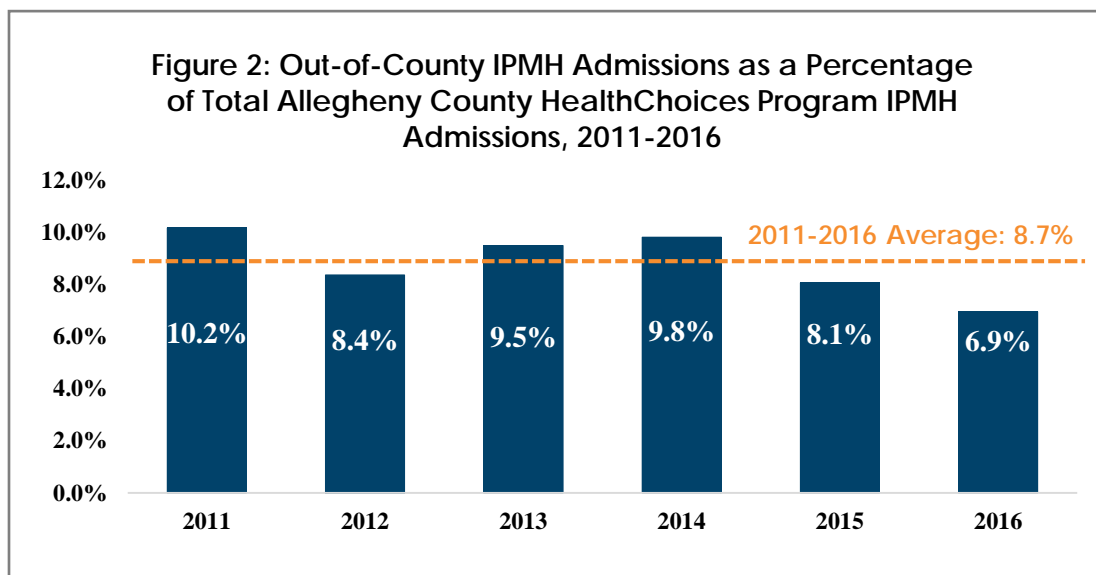
A Note on Data Limitations

This analysis examines **Medicaid IPMH admissions** (admissions of individuals with only Medicare or commercial insurance to Allegheny facilities are not included). The inability to capture Allegheny HealthChoices members with acute mental health needs *not admitted* is a limitation in this analysis, as well as the lack of data on non-residents with voluntary admissions to Allegheny County IPMH facilities.

Table 1: Allegheny County HealthChoices IPMH Admissions, 2011-2016

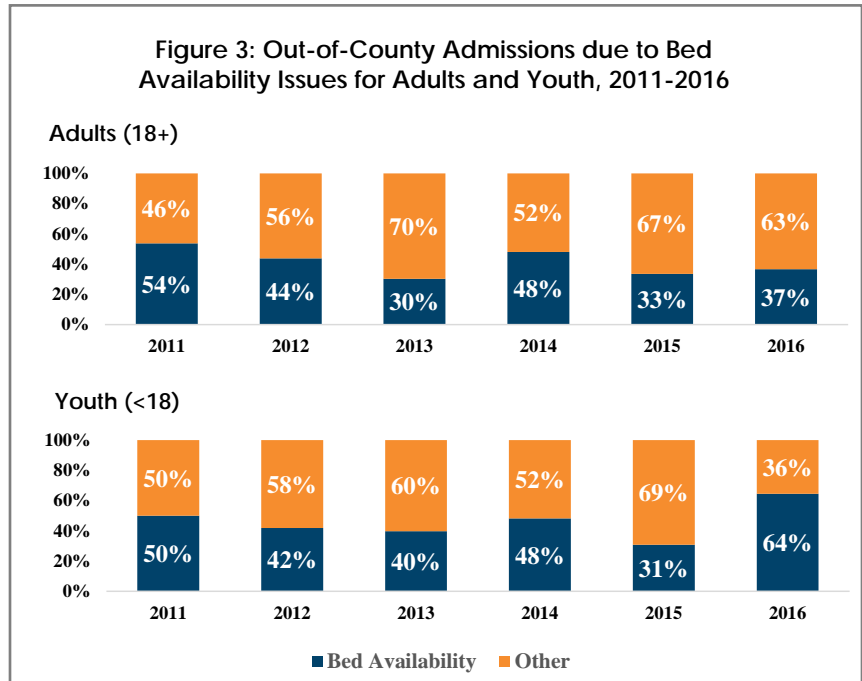
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total 2011-2016	Trend	Change 2011-2016 # %
HealthChoices Eligibility	207,593	203,265	203,509	205,508	235,628	255,138	381,295		47,545 23%
Total IPMH Admissions	4,486	4,413	4,301	4,198	4,807	5,441	27,646		955 21%
Out-of-County IPMH Admissions									
Adults (18+)	384	295	340	358	344	333	2,054		-51 -13%
Youth (<18)	72	74	68	54	39	45	352		-27 -38%
Total	456	369	408	412	383	378	2,406		-78 -17%

Between 2011 and 2016, roughly nine out of every 10 Allegheny County HealthChoices IPMH admissions occurred in Allegheny County facilities. As shown in Figure 2, out-of-County admissions as a percentage of total IPMH admissions are trending downward. In 2016, the percentage of IPMH stays out-of-County was 7 percent, a significant decline from 10 percent in 2011.



Most individuals with out-of-County admissions between 2011 and 2016 (58 percent) reported reasons other than bed availability, such as provider or geographic preference, for seeking IPMH services outside of Allegheny County. Total out-of-County admissions attributed to bed availability issues fell to 39 percent in 2016 from 53 percent in 2011.

The trends diverge between adults and youth. Figure 3 shows the percentage of out-of-County admissions due to bed availability for adults and youth between 2011 and 2016. While youth generally reported “other” reasons more frequently than bed availability issues, there was a statistically significant increase in the percentage of admissions attributed to bed availability in 2016 (29 of 45 admissions in 2016, up from 12 of 39 in 2015)⁵. Changes in capacity for Allegheny County facilities offering Diversion and Acute Stabilization (DAS)⁶ may have contributed to this increase. In addition, construction on Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic’s (WPIC) IPMH units may have affected the availability of child/adolescent beds.



Non-Allegheny County Resident Admissions to Allegheny County IPMH Facilities

In addition to tracking total Allegheny HealthChoices IPMH admissions, AHCI analyzes available data on involuntary IPMH commitments of non-County residents in Allegheny County hospitals to capture another component of IPMH access.⁷ Figure 4 shows total involuntary commitments of non-Allegheny County residents from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2016. Since hitting their peak in 2013, involuntary commitments of non-County residents have declined significantly.

Eighty percent of non-County resident involuntarily commitments in 2016 came from eight counties. As shown in Table 2⁸, Westmoreland County residents had the most involuntary commitments to Allegheny County facilities in 2016 (155), likely due to the proximity of Allegheny County hospitals relative to Westmoreland County borders.

⁵ A difference of proportions test was conducted to determine statistical significance, p<0.05.

⁶ Diversion and Acute Stabilization (DAS) is an acute treatment facility that provides an alternative to inpatient hospitalization for children and adolescents and features a variety of services that prepare residents for integration back into the community.

⁷ Voluntary admissions from non-Allegheny County residents often occur as well. A limitation to this report is the lack of data in this area.

⁸ Note that the 28 counties included in the “other” category each had fewer than 10 IPMH admissions to Allegheny County.

Figure 4: Involuntary IPMH Commitments of Non-Allegheny County Residents, 2011-2106

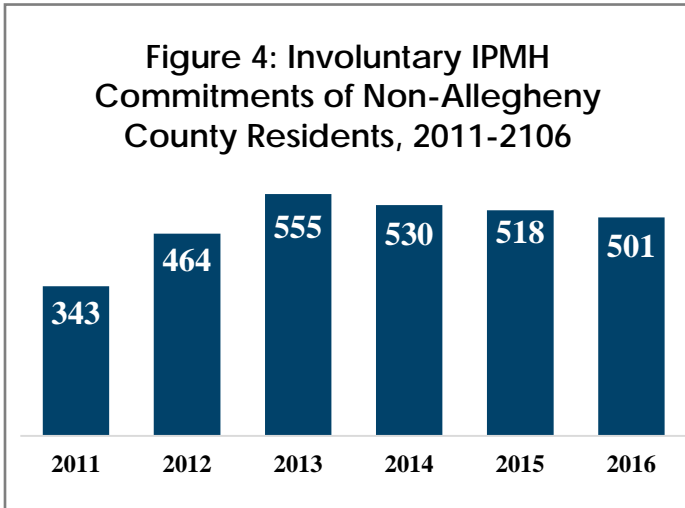


Table 2: Involuntary IPMH Commitments of Non-Allegheny County Residents by County, 2016

County	# of Admits
Westmoreland	155
Washington	58
Beaver	56
Armstrong-Indiana	44
Butler	37
Erie	23
Fayette	15
Venango	11
Combined Other Counties	102
Total of Admits	501

Most out-of-County residents committed involuntarily within Allegheny County in 2016 went to Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic (WPIC) (299), followed by the Veterans Affairs Hospital (65), and Forbes Regional Hospital (60). WPIC serves the most non-County residents due to its specialization and expertise in psychiatric care.

Conclusion

This review of trends in IPMH admissions reveals overall declining out-of-County admissions and fewer out-of-County admissions attributed to bed availability issues. These findings, coupled with the reduction in non-County residents admitted involuntarily to Allegheny facilities, do not raise any immediate concern about IPMH capacity. However, a more comprehensive assessment would require capturing the experience of any members with IPMH needs that did not receive care and, as a result, do not show up in the admissions data upon which this brief was constructed.

AHCI will continue to monitor out-of-County IPMH admissions and outside admissions to track IPMH accessibility for Allegheny County HealthChoices members.



444 Liberty Ave, Suite 240 | Pittsburgh, PA 15222 | www.ahci.org | 412-325-1100

AHCI's mission is to assure equitable access to quality, cost-effective behavioral health care that promotes positive clinical outcomes, recovery, and resiliency.

AHCI is a contract agency of the Allegheny County Department of Human Services' Office of Behavioral Health.