

Supplemental Online Content

Leyenaar JK, Freyleue SD, Bordogna A, Wong C, Penwill N, Bode R. Frequency and duration of boarding for pediatric mental health conditions at acute care hospitals in the US. *JAMA*. Published online November 18, 2021. doi:10.1001/jama.2021.18377

eAppendix. Survey Questions

This supplemental material has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about their work.

eAppendix. Survey Questions

“Boarding” is defined by the Joint Commission as “the practice of holding patients in the ED or another temporary location after the decision to admit or transfer has been made.” The purpose of this survey is to determine the frequency of pediatric mental health boarding, and to understand hospitals’ approach to caring for children and adolescents who are experiencing mental health boarding. We anticipate that the survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Please complete this survey for the hospital where you spend the majority of your clinical time. Thank you for your time!

Questions about your hospital

How would you describe your hospital type?

Freestanding children’s hospital
Children’s hospital nested in a general hospital
General hospital with a pediatric unit
Other (please specify other type of hospital):

How many general pediatric (non-newborn, non-ICU) beds do you have at your hospital? _____

How would you describe your hospital’s emergency department:

Pediatric ED
General ED with board-certified pediatric ED providers
General ED without board-certified pediatric ED providers
Other (please specify other emergency department):

Do you have licensed inpatient pediatric psychiatric beds at your hospital?

No
Yes

How would you describe the location of your hospital?

Urban
Suburban
Rural

Please provide the zip code of your hospital: _____

Questions about Mental Health Boarding

Please focus your responses to these questions on the pediatric population, including children and adolescents <18 years of age. All questions refer to boarding for mental or behavioral health indications. Please consider youth who are boarding without acute medical issues, as well as those who board following medical clearance (e.g., resolution of care for ingestion or other active medical issues). This may include children and adolescents with medical co-morbidities.

Does your hospital board children and adolescents while they await inpatient psychiatric care?

Yes
No

If no – thank you for participating in this survey [survey ends].

If yes – continue

Are you involved in the care of children and adolescents who board at your hospital while they await inpatient psychiatric care?

Yes
No

If no – thank you for participating in this survey [survey ends].

If yes – continue

Where do children and adolescents experience mental health boarding at your hospital? (select all that apply)

- In the ED, in a space designated for pediatric mental health care
- In the ED, in a space not designated for pediatric mental health care
- On an inpatient or observation unit, in a space designated for pediatric mental health care
- On an inpatient or observation unit, in a space not designated for pediatric mental health care
- Other, please describe:

SKIP LOGIC FOR QUESTIONS BELOW

Please estimate how many children and adolescents experience mental health boarding in your ED on a typical day?

Please estimate how many children and adolescents experience mental health boarding in an inpatient or observation unit at your hospital on a typical day? _____

Please estimate how many children and adolescents experience mental health boarding in another location at your hospital (outside of the ED and inpatient units) on a typical day? _____

For these questions, it is important to focus only on your hospital’s inpatient or observation units. If applicable, the next section will ask about the emergency department. Please specify how frequently the following structures and processes are in place for a child/adolescent who boards on an inpatient or observation unit at your hospital:

	NEVER	SELDOM	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	ALWAYS	UNKNOWN
Private room						
One-on-one safety observation (aka “sitter”)						
Camera monitoring of patient room						
Restrictions on use of cell phone or other electronics						
Restrictions on who can visit (<i>please respond with pre-COVID policies</i>)						
Restrictions on movement/activity (e.g., restricted to the inpatient unit with the exception of medically necessary tests)						
Behavioral management plan written by mental health professional						
Standing orders for behavior escalation medications (e.g., Haldol)						
Psychiatric medication initiation or changes						
In-person psychotherapy by mental health professional (e.g., cognitive behavioral therapy)						
Telehealth psychotherapy by mental health professional (e.g., cognitive behavioral therapy)						

For these questions, it is important to focus only on your hospital’s ED. Please specify how frequently the following structures and processes are in place for a child/adolescent who boards in the ED at your hospital:

	NEVER	SELDOM	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	ALWAYS	UNKNOWN
Private room						
One-on-one safety observation (aka “sitter”)						
Camera monitoring of patient room						
Restrictions on use of cell phone or other electronics						
Restrictions on who can visit (<i>please respond with pre-COVID policies</i>)						
Restrictions on movement/activity (e.g., restricted to the ED with the exception of medically necessary tests)						
Behavioral management plan written by mental health professional						
Standing orders for behavior escalation medications (e.g., Haldol)						
Psychiatric medication initiation or changes						
In-person psychotherapy by mental health professional (e.g., cognitive behavioral therapy)						
Telehealth psychotherapy by mental health professional (e.g., cognitive behavioral therapy)						

Taking into account boarding in inpatient or observation units, the ED and all other locations at your hospital, please estimate the average duration of boarding for a patient at your hospital? Please specify as the number of hours. _____

Taking into account boarding in inpatient or observation units, the ED and all other locations at your hospital, please estimate the proportion of patients who board for the following durations of time (response must add up to 100%):

Proportion of patients who board for less than 24 hours: enter 0-100%

Proportion of patients who board for 24-72 hours: enter 0-100%

Proportion of patients who board for more than 72 hours: enter 0-100%, Please check that this number plus the two numbers entered above add up to 100. If they do not, please make the necessary correction before proceeding.

Who is the attending physician for youth who board at your hospital (select all that apply)

ED physician

Pediatric hospitalist

Pediatric intensivist

Other, Please specify other Attending Physicians:

Do you have a written policy regarding which pediatric patients board in the ED versus the inpatient unit?

Yes

No

Unsure

Do you have an electronic health record order set for care of youth who are boarding at your hospital?

Yes

No

Unsure

Do you have a clinical practice guideline or care pathway for care of youth who are boarding at your hospital?

Yes

No

Unsure

Do you track patient safety and/or. quality of care measures among youth who are boarding at your hospital?

Unsure

No

Yes

How has the prevalence of mental health boarding at your hospital changed since March 2020 when COVID-19 was declared a State of Emergency?

Smaller number of children and adolescents are boarding

No change in the number of children and adolescents are boarding

Greater number of children and adolescents are boarding

How has the duration of mental health boarding at your hospital changed since March 2020 when COVID-19 was declared a State of Emergency?

Children and adolescents are boarding for a shorter amount of time

No change in the duration of boarding

Children and adolescents are boarding for a longer amount of time

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME! WE WILL DISTRIBUTE A SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOLLOWING ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES.