Repair Maryland's Behavioral Health System of Care

Maryland's behavioral health system of care is broken.

Hospital emergency departments are often the first point of contact or the facility of last resort for individuals suffering from a behavioral health crisis. When behavioral health patients seek care in emergency departments, data show they are sicker and require more intense intervention.

A hospital emergency department is not the most appropriate care setting for most patients suffering from a behavioral health crisis—patients require a soothing setting with less stimulation and holistic care. MHA and Maryland hospitals support solutions to improve the state's behavioral health system of care.

200K

emergency department visits in Maryland a year seeking care for:

- Mental health
- Substance use disorders
- Life stressors/crisis
- Suicidal ideation
- Stress-related physical symptoms

OVER 12%

More behavioral health patients in hospital EDs

Sicker when they get to the hospital



a year

1 in 19 among
Medicaid

recipients

100 patients

of ED visits are related

to behavioral health

Rising from **10.5%** in 2013

on any given day, in Maryland EDs wait for an inpatient psychiatric bed.*



