

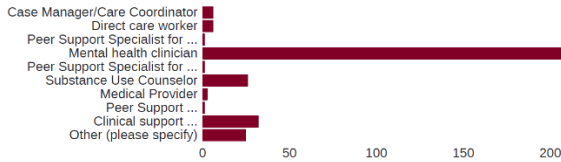
# Maine Behavioral Health Access Point in Time Study

January-February, 2024

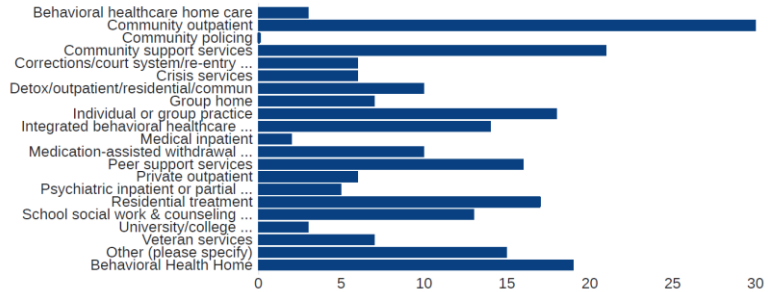
50 Organizations, 277 Individual Providers

## Demographics

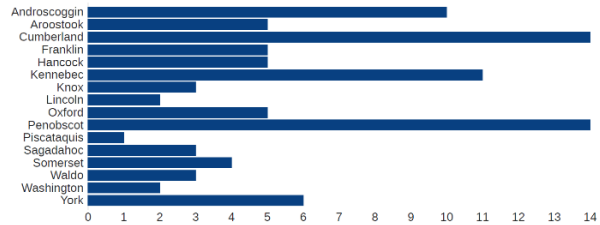
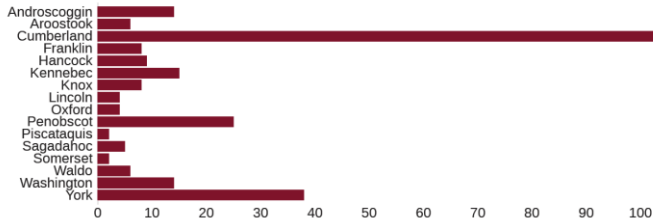
### Individual Provider Roles



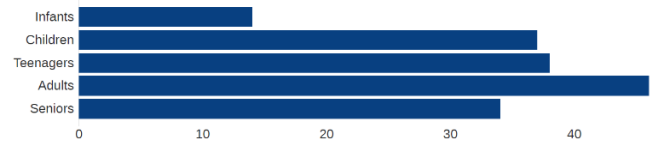
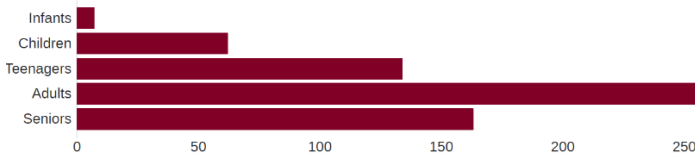
### Organizational Provider Service Types



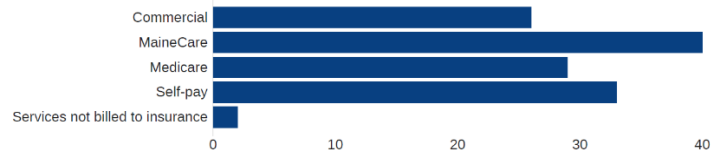
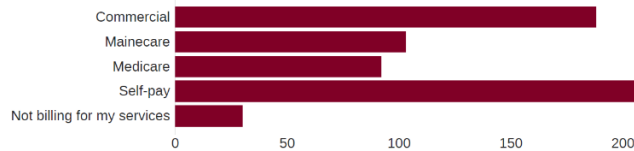
### County of Primary Office Setting



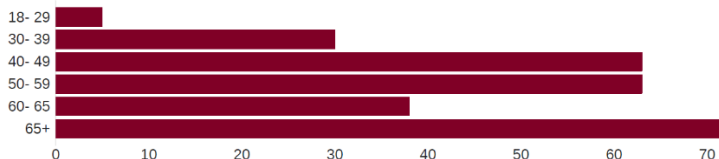
### Ages Served



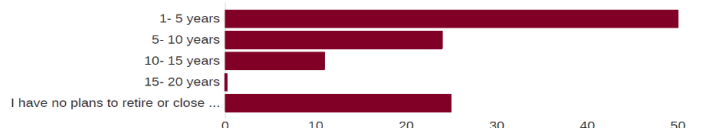
### Insurance Types Accepted



### Age of Individual Providers



### Plans to Retire for Those Age 60+



## Preliminary Finds: Maine Behavioral Health Access Point in Time Study, January-February 2024

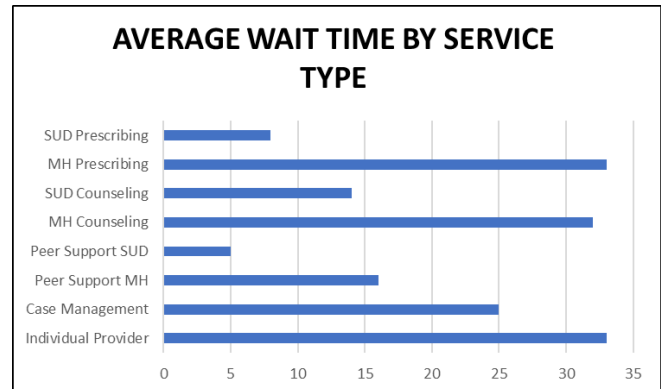
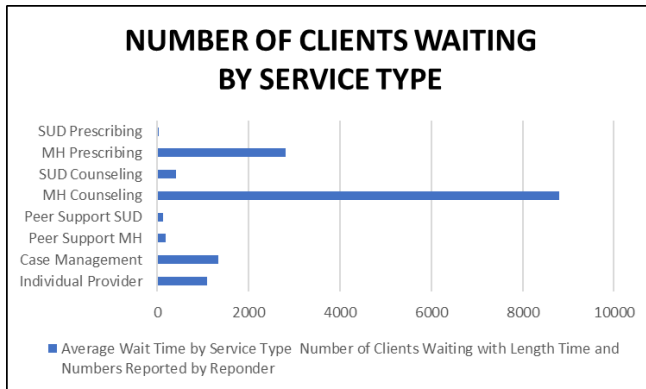
Maine’s behavioral health workforce is experiencing critical shortages, significantly impacting behavioral health access.

8,913 clients are waiting for mental health counseling for an average of 32 weeks

2,849 waiting for mental health prescribing for an average of 33 weeks

1,394 waiting for case management services for an average of 25 weeks

1,694 waiting for services from independent providers for an average of 33 weeks.



### Themes

*“We have **closed** geographic areas as mileage and time to travel takes away from billable time.”*

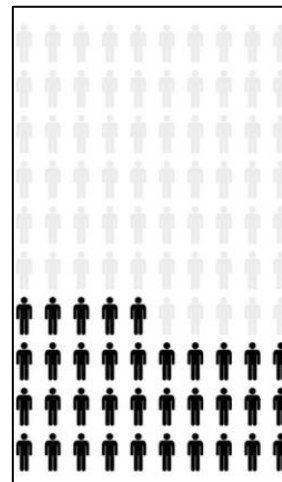
*“We **cannot keep up with the needs and demands** for services within the communities we serve.”*

*“Residential **services - reduced** by 30%, outpatient clinical services – reduced drastically, and school services reduced by 20-30%”*

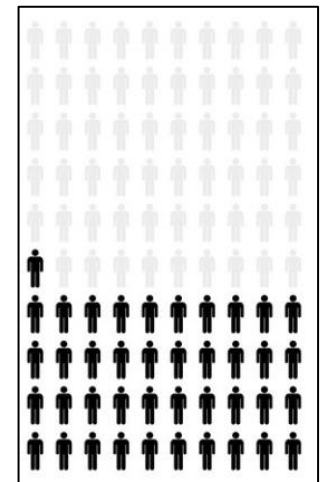
*“Hiring difficulties and insufficient rates of reimbursement have significantly limited our ability to grow specific programs to meet community needs, especially outpatient therapy programs.”*

*“The delay in access to services is difficult to see.”*

- Organizations report 26 vacancies for every 100 behavioral health providers and support staff.
- 40% of responding individual providers are age 60+, 45% of whom report plans to retire in 5-10 years.



35 vacancies reported for every 100 Mental health Clinicians



41 vacancies for every 100 Case Managers

Support our behavioral health workforce by funding and passing:

- LD 632, The Social Work Education Loan Repayment Program (\$500K/year)
- LD 1990, to Establish the Commission to Evaluate Requirements for Licensing of Social Workers (\$3,750)
  - LD 997, to Reduce Workforce Barriers for Mental Health Professionals in Maine (\$920K/year)
- LD 1718, Encourage Participation in Maine’s Essential Support Workforce Through Access to Higher Education (\$500K/year)
  - LD 2140, the Social Work Licensing Compact