



DEBORAH DEVAUX  
CHAIR

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION

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DAVID M. SELTZ  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 25, 2026

Timothy Carroll  
Clerk of the House  
24 Beacon Street, Room 145  
State House  
Boston, MA 02133

Michael Hurley  
Clerk of the Senate  
24 Beacon Street, Room 335  
State House  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Clerks of the Massachusetts House and Senate,

Pursuant to Section 145 of Chapter 126 of the Acts of 2022, I am pleased to share the latest publication from the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission (HPC), *Emergency Department Boarding in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts*. This report is also available on the [HPC's website](#).

This report updates previous emergency department (ED) boarding research through 2024, and found that, while the number of ED patients who boarded has grown since 2020, there has been a slight decrease in behavioral health (BH) ED boarding from 2022 to 2024, perhaps as a result of multifaceted policy interventions. Overall, the percentage of ED visits that resulted in boarding rose from almost seven percent in 2020 to 11 percent in 2024. The percentage of BH-related visits that boarded increased from 31 percent in 2020 to 37.5 percent in 2024, a decrease from the high of 40 percent in 2022.

In addition to expanding on previous ED boarding research, the HPC issued evidence-based policy recommendations to address the burden of ED boarding that are outlined in the report. Please see the attached document for the HPC's full report and accompanying policy recommendations, and please do not hesitate to reach out to the HPC's Deputy Chief of Staff, Ashley Caunter, at [Ashley.Caunter@mass.gov](mailto:Ashley.Caunter@mass.gov) with any questions.

Thank you,

David Seltz  
Executive Director, Massachusetts Health Policy Commission

CC:

Senator Michael J. Rodrigues, Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator John Velis, Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery  
Representative Mindy Domb, House Chair, Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery  
Senator Cindy F. Friedman, Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Health Care Financing  
Representative John J. Lawn, Jr., House Chair, Joint Committee on Health Care Financing