

Table 1. Characteristics of Behavioral Health ED Visits Before and After Implementation of Behavioral Health Observation

	Total Sample (N = 3759)	Before Implementation of Behavioral Health Observation, Oct 2021-Sept 2023 (N = 1877)	After Implementation of Behavioral Health Observation, Oct 2023-Sept 2025 (N = 1882)	P-value
Age				< 0.001
5-9	508 (14%)	218 (12%)	290 (15%)	
10-11	574 (15%)	272 (14%)	302 (16%)	
12-14	1315 (35%)	717 (38%)	598 (32%)	
15-17	1362 (36%)	670 (36%)	692 (37%)	
Sex				0.0218
Female	2110 (56%)	1089 (58%)	1021 (54%)	
Male	1649 (44%)	788 (42%)	861 (46%)	
Race and Ethnicity				0.1808
NH American Indian/Alaska Native	2 (0%)	2 (0%)	0 (0%)	
NH Asian	133 (4%)	67 (4%)	66 (4%)	
NH Black/African American	735 (20%)	344 (18%)	391 (21%)	
Hispanic	1397 (37%)	689 (37%)	708 (38%)	
NH White	1182 (31%)	612 (33%)	570 (30%)	
Other	310 (8%)	163 (9%)	147 (8%)	
Insurance Payor				0.6465
Public	1788 (48%)	879 (47%)	909 (48%)	
Private	1932 (51%)	979 (52%)	953 (51%)	
Other/Self-Pay	39 (1%)	19 (1%)	20 (1%)	
Primary Visit Diagnosis				< 0.001
Suicide or self-injury	1250 (33%)	713 (38%)	537 (29%)	
Depressive disorders	442 (12%)	183 (10%)	259 (14%)	
Anxiety disorders	298 (8%)	124 (7%)	174 (9%)	
Mental health symptoms	268 (7%)	167 (9%)	101 (5%)	
Other	522 (14%)	219 (12%)	303 (16%)	
Non-mental health	979 (26%)	471 (25%)	508 (27%)	
ED Length of Stay, h	6 [5, 8.2]	7 [5, 8.2]	6 [5, 8.2]	0.0005
0-<6 h	1369 (36%)	623 (33%)	746 (40%)	
6-<12h	1781 (47%)	960 (51%)	821 (44%)	
12-<18h	328 (9%)	190 (10%)	138 (7%)	
18-<24h	186 (5%)	64 (3%)	122 (6%)	
24-<36h	78 (2%)	32 (2%)	46 (2%)	
36-<48h	10 (0%)	2 (0%)	8 (0%)	
48-<72h	6 (0%)	5 (0%)	1 (0%)	
≥72h	1 (0%)	1 (0%)	0 (0%)	
Annual behavioral health bed-hours	30671	15329	15342	
Disposition				0.0005
Discharged	2262 (60%)	1039 (55%)	1223 (65%)	
Transferred to psychiatric facility	155 (4%)	106 (6%)	49 (3%)	
Admitted to medical unit	673 (18%)	478 (25%)	195 (10%)	
Admitted to psychiatric unit	630 (17%)	231 (12%)	399 (21%)	
Other	39 (1%)	23 (1%)	16 (1%)	
Return ED visit for mental health concern within 7 days	93 (2%)	30 (2%)	63 (3%)	0.0008
Return ED visit for mental health concern within 30 days	237 (6%)	96 (5%)	141 (7%)	0.0034

NH: Non-Hispanic, ED: Emergency Department