

North Carolina State University
RESEARCH PROJECT FACT SHEET

Title of Study: Distribution and Use of Psychiatric Beds in North Carolina

Principal Investigator: Alan R. Ellis, PhD, MSW

What are some general things you should know about research studies?

You are being asked to take part in a research study. Your participation in this study is voluntary. You have the right to be a part of this study, to choose not to participate or to stop participating at any time without penalty. The purpose of research studies is to gain a better understanding of a certain topic or issue. You are not guaranteed any personal benefits from being in a study. Research studies also may pose risks to those that participate. In this consent form you will find specific details about the research in which you are being asked to participate. If you do not understand something in this form it is your right to ask the researcher for clarification or more information. A copy of this consent form will be provided to you. If at any time you have questions about your participation, do not hesitate to contact the researcher(s) named above.

What is the purpose of this study?

The purpose of this study is to describe how psychiatric beds are distributed across North Carolina, what influences the use of psychiatric beds in the state, and how the distribution of psychiatric beds relates to the distribution of other mental health resources.

What will happen if you take part in the study?

As part of this study, we are contacting staff members of North Carolina hospitals that have licensed psychiatric beds. Those who agree to participate will be asked to take 5-10 minutes to answer about 5 questions related to psychiatric bed use at the hospitals where they are employed.

Risks

We plan to engage participants as representatives of their organizations rather than as individuals, and we will ask no personal questions; therefore, risk to participants is minimal.

Benefits

We plan to use the study findings to facilitate mental health policy discussions in North Carolina. The study may also benefit participants and their organizations by helping participants reflect about local access to psychiatric services. Indirectly, the study may lead to improved access to psychiatric services in North Carolina and may inform policy discussions in other states.

Confidentiality

We may openly share the hospital-level data we collect on psychiatric bed licensing and use. However, the identity of participants and participants' perceptions about psychiatric bed use will be kept confidential to the full extent allowed by law. This confidential information will be locked in a file cabinet and/or stored securely on password-protected computers. No reference will be made in oral or written reports that could link specific participants to the study or to their comments about psychiatric bed use.

Compensation

You will not receive anything for participating.

What if you have questions about this study?

If you have questions at any time about the study or the procedures, you may contact the researcher, Alan R. Ellis, at CB 7639, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695 or (919) 515-9303 or arellis@ncsu.edu.

What if you have questions about your rights as a research participant?

If you feel you have not been treated according to the descriptions in this form, or your rights as a participant in research have been violated during the course of this project, you may contact Deb Paxton, Regulatory Compliance Administrator at dapaxton@ncsu.edu or by phone at 1-919-515-4514.