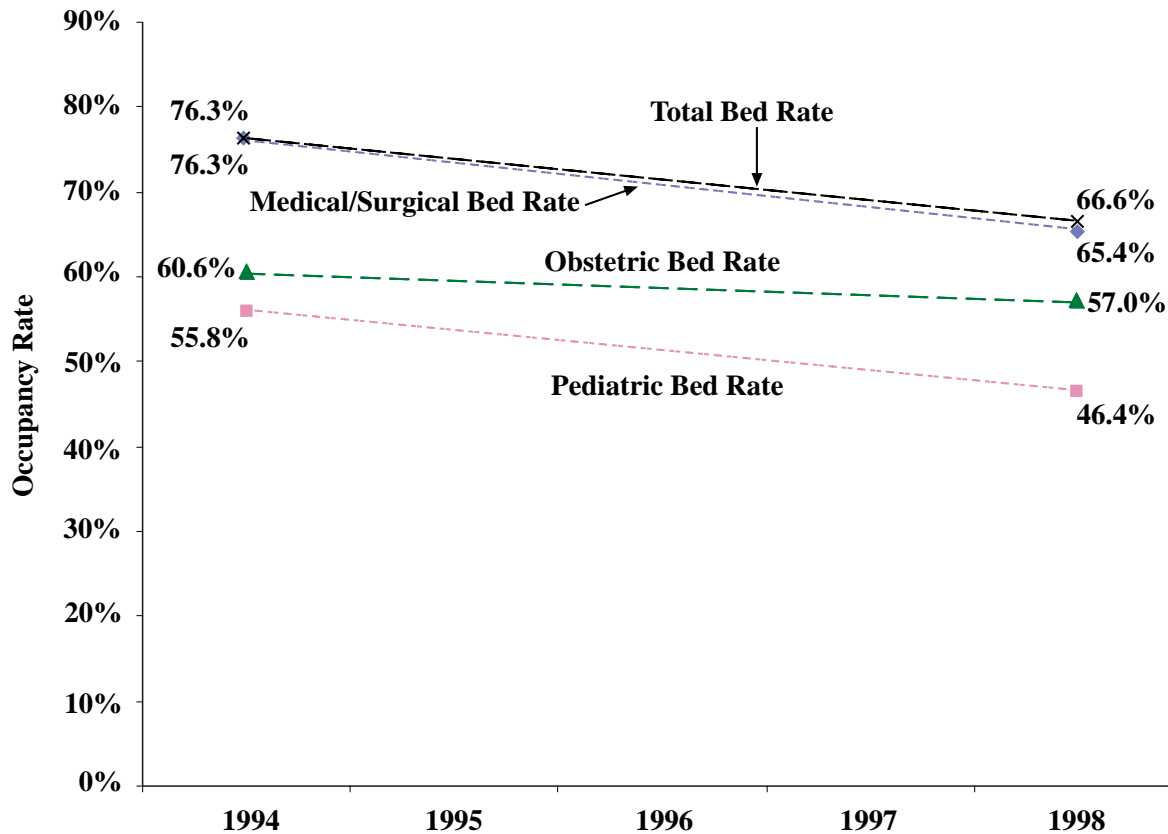


The Facts About... New York State Hospital Capacity

**Occupancy Rates of
New York State Hospital Beds
1994 - 1998**



Source: *New York State Department of Health's Hospital Occupancy Quarterly Reports for the fourth quarter of 1994, using year to date figures and second quarter data for 1998. Second Quarter figures for 1998 offer the most complete number of hospitals reporting.*

In 1998, an average of 34 out of 100 hospital beds were empty in New York State, according to Department of Health data based on certified bed capacity reported by the hospitals. While some excess capacity is considered by health officials to be essential for communities to address emergencies and epidemics, too much excess capacity is considered a wasteful use of limited community health-care dollars.

Prior to 1997 when New York State set hospital rates, the Department of Health projected ideal occupancy levels of 80-85% for acute care medical/surgical beds and 65-70% for acute care pediatric beds, according to its report, "Acute Care Bed Need Methodology Background for the Derivation of 1996 Adult and Pediatric Bed Need." The lower percentages applied to rural areas and the higher percentages applied to urban communities. The optimum occupancy levels took into account the need for unexpected, emergency admission demands. The chart above illustrates that statewide occupancy levels in 1998 are well below those optimum levels.

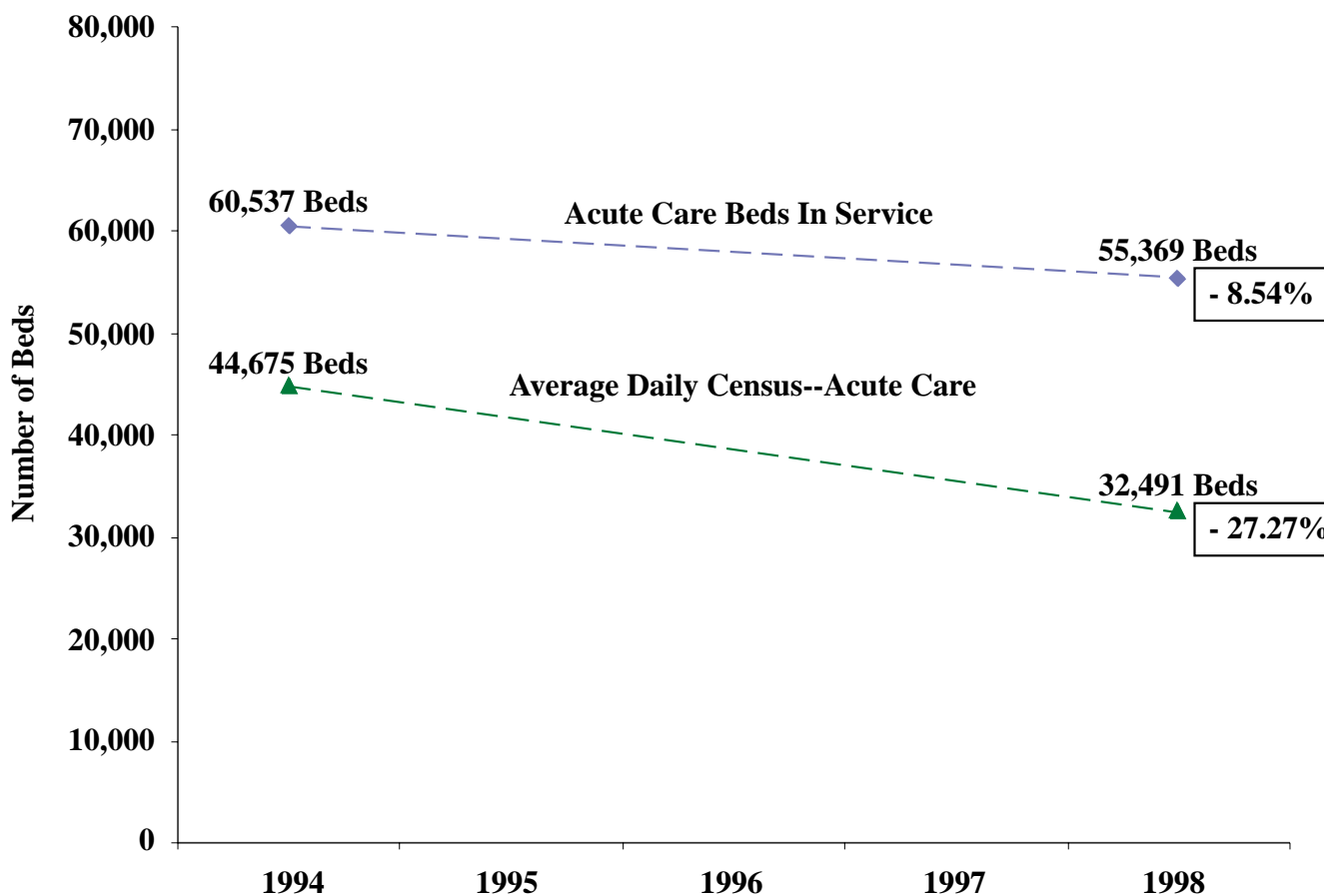
The Facts About... New York State Hospital Capacity



Less Demand and Use of Hospital Beds

New York State hospitals have been reducing the number of beds in service due to less need for them, but the rate of patients using the beds is falling at a much faster pace, according to [data collected by the Department of Health](#).

New York State Hospitals Bed Reductions and Daily Use Reductions 1994 - 1998



Source: Calculated from Occupancy by Service Data from the New York State Department of Health's Hospital Occupancy Quarterly Reports for the fourth quarter of 1994, using year to date figures and second quarter data for 1998. Second Quarter figures for 1998 offer the most complete number of hospitals reporting.

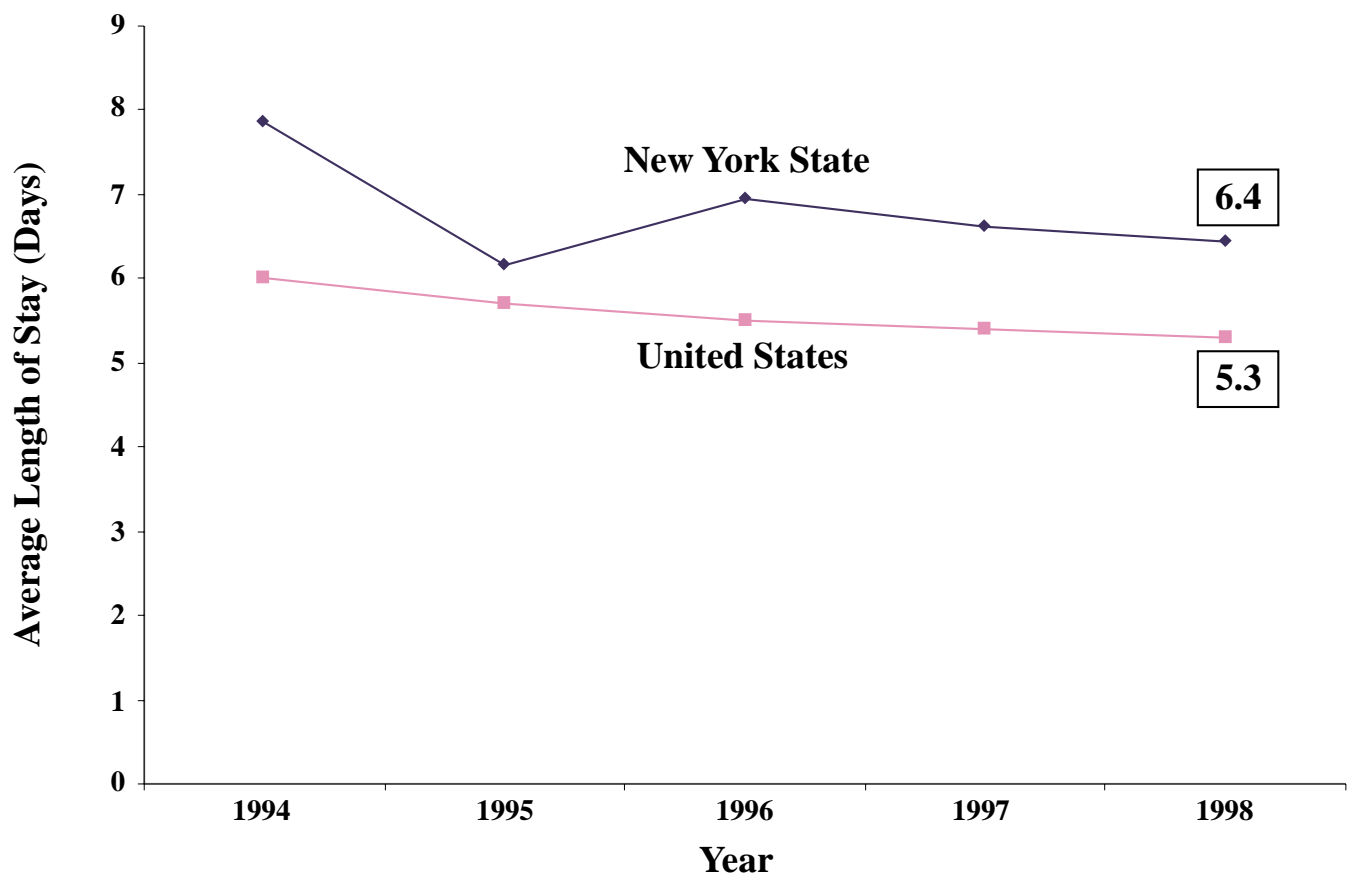
The Facts About... New York State Hospital Capacity



Excess Capacity Grows As Average Lengths of Stay Decline

New York State hospitals have among the longest average lengths of stay for patients in the nation, adjusted for severity of cases. Hospitals have been reducing the lengths of stay to enhance quality performance, but current levels remain far longer than national averages. As patient stays are reduced, occupancy rates will drop as well, unless excess capacity is reduced. The following charts illustrate current trends on average lengths of stay. [For state data, click here.](#) [For U.S. data, click here.](#)

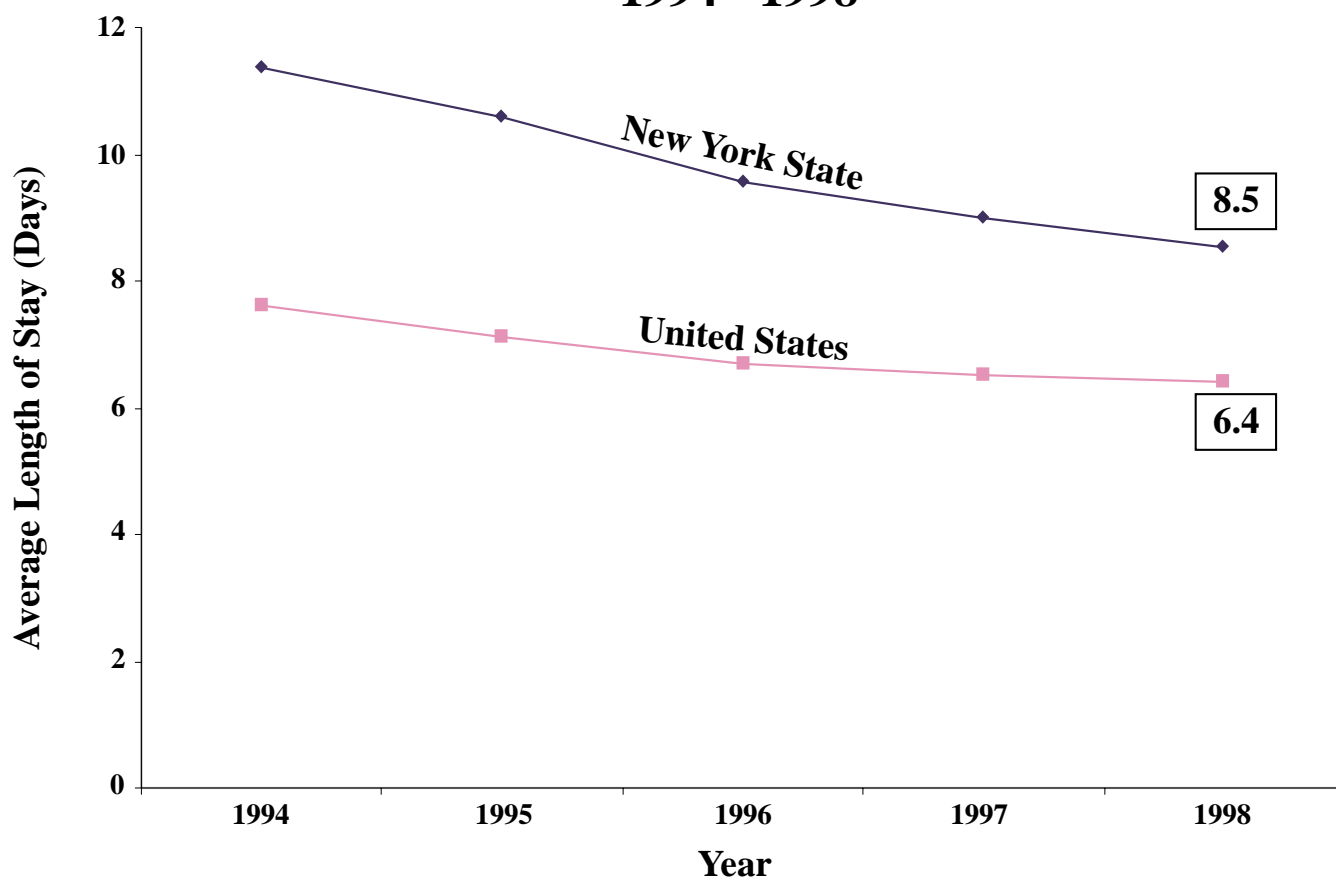
Average Length of Stay - All Ages 1994 - 1998



Source: New York State Department of Health, Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS).
Health Care Financing Administration, based on data reported by the American Hospital Association.

The Facts About... New York State Hospital Capacity

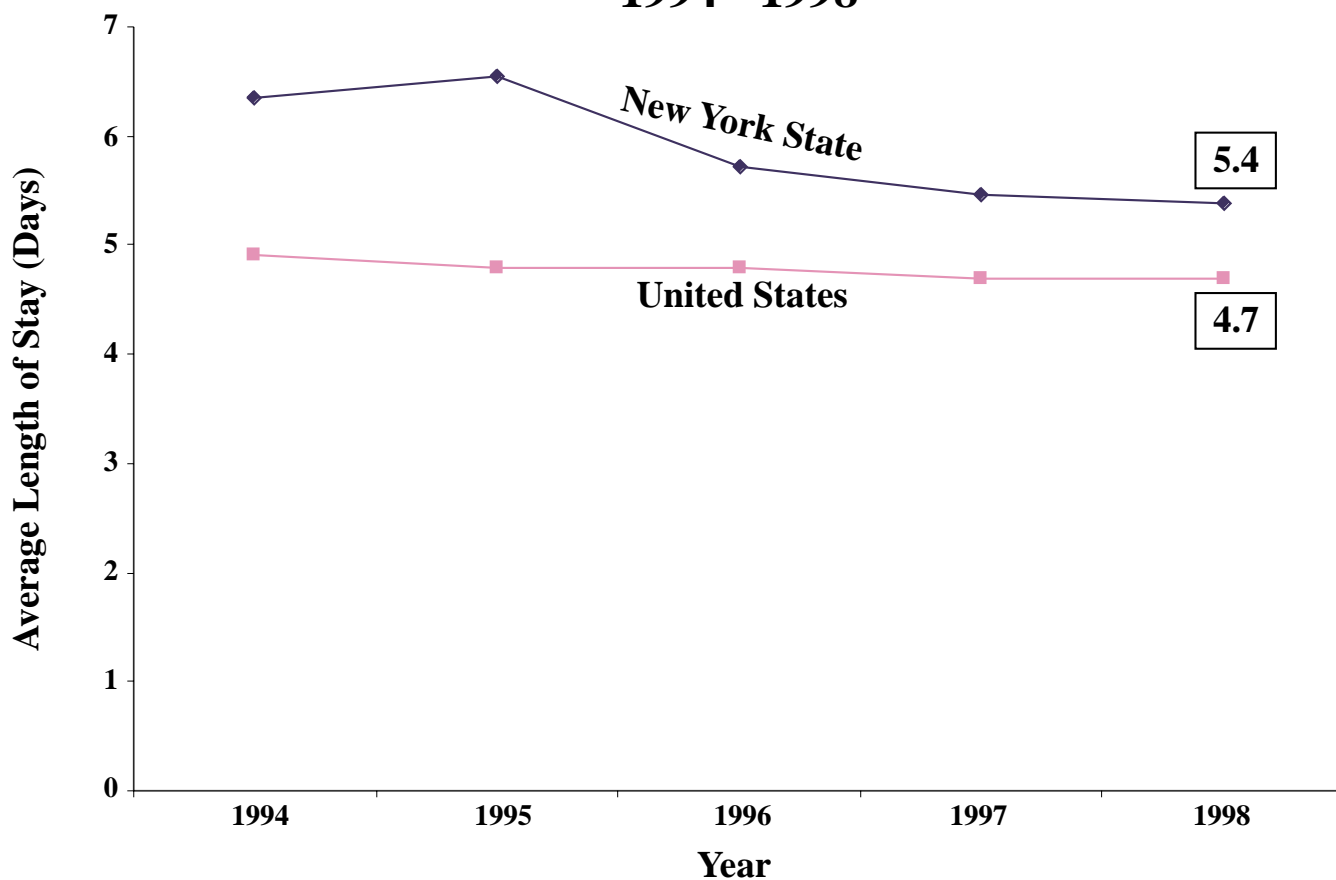
**Average Length of Stay
Patients Aged 65 Years and Older
1994 - 1998**



Source: New York State Department of Health, Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS).
Health Care Financing Administration, based on data reported by the American Hospital Association.

The Facts About... New York State Hospital Capacity

Average Length of Stay Patients Under The Age of 65 1994 - 1998



Source: New York State Department of Health, Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS).
Health Care Financing Administration, based on data reported by the American Hospital Association.