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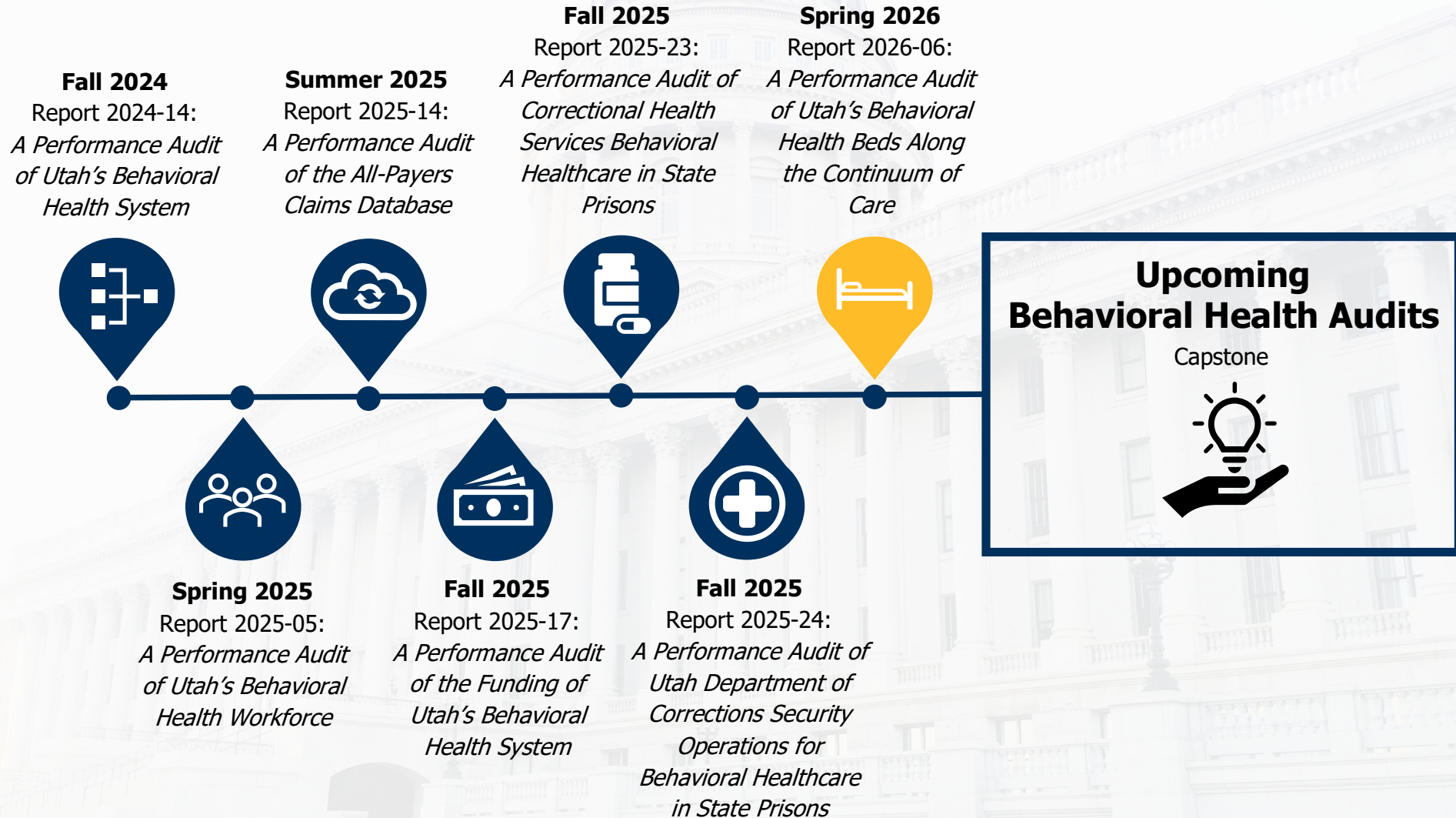
Heard in the Health and Human Services Interim Committee on 05/20/2026

A Performance Audit of Utah's Behavioral Health Beds Along the Continuum of Care: Aligning Capacity, Demand, and Systemwide Coordination

Health and Human Services Interim Committee

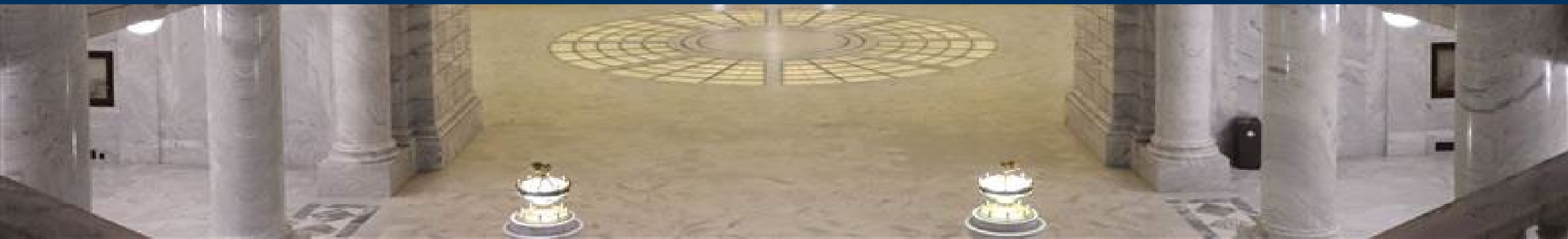
May 20, 2026

Seventh Audit in the Behavioral Health Series





**Utah Does Not Know
Its Behavioral Health Bed Needs**

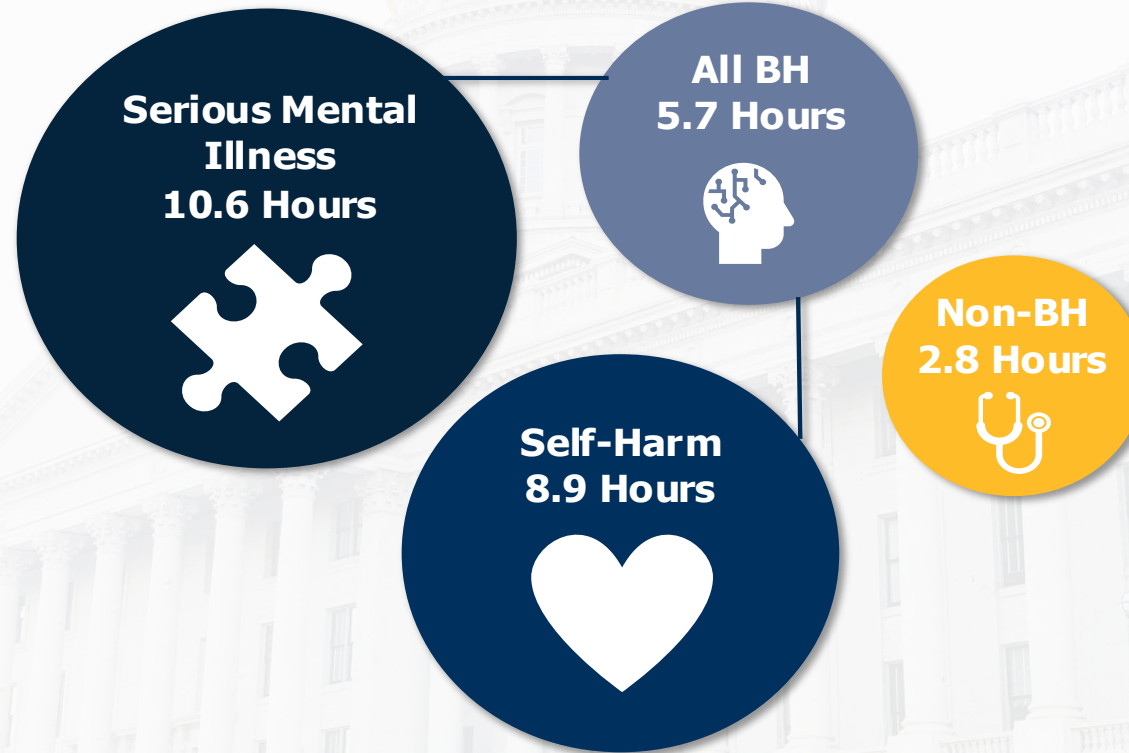




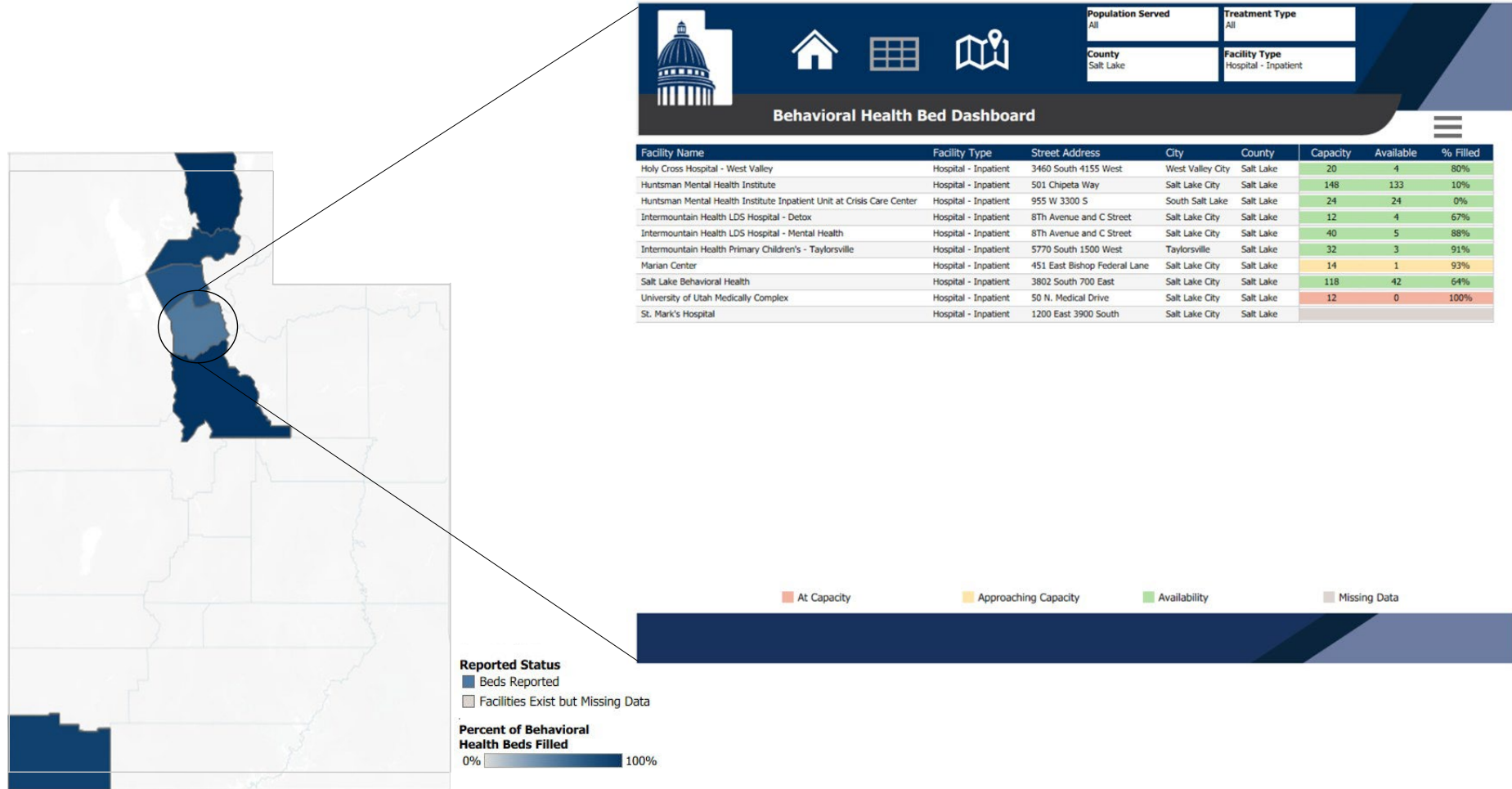
Chapter 1

Limited System-Wide Governance Over Behavioral Health Bed Resources Drives Financial, Operational, and Clinical Inefficiencies

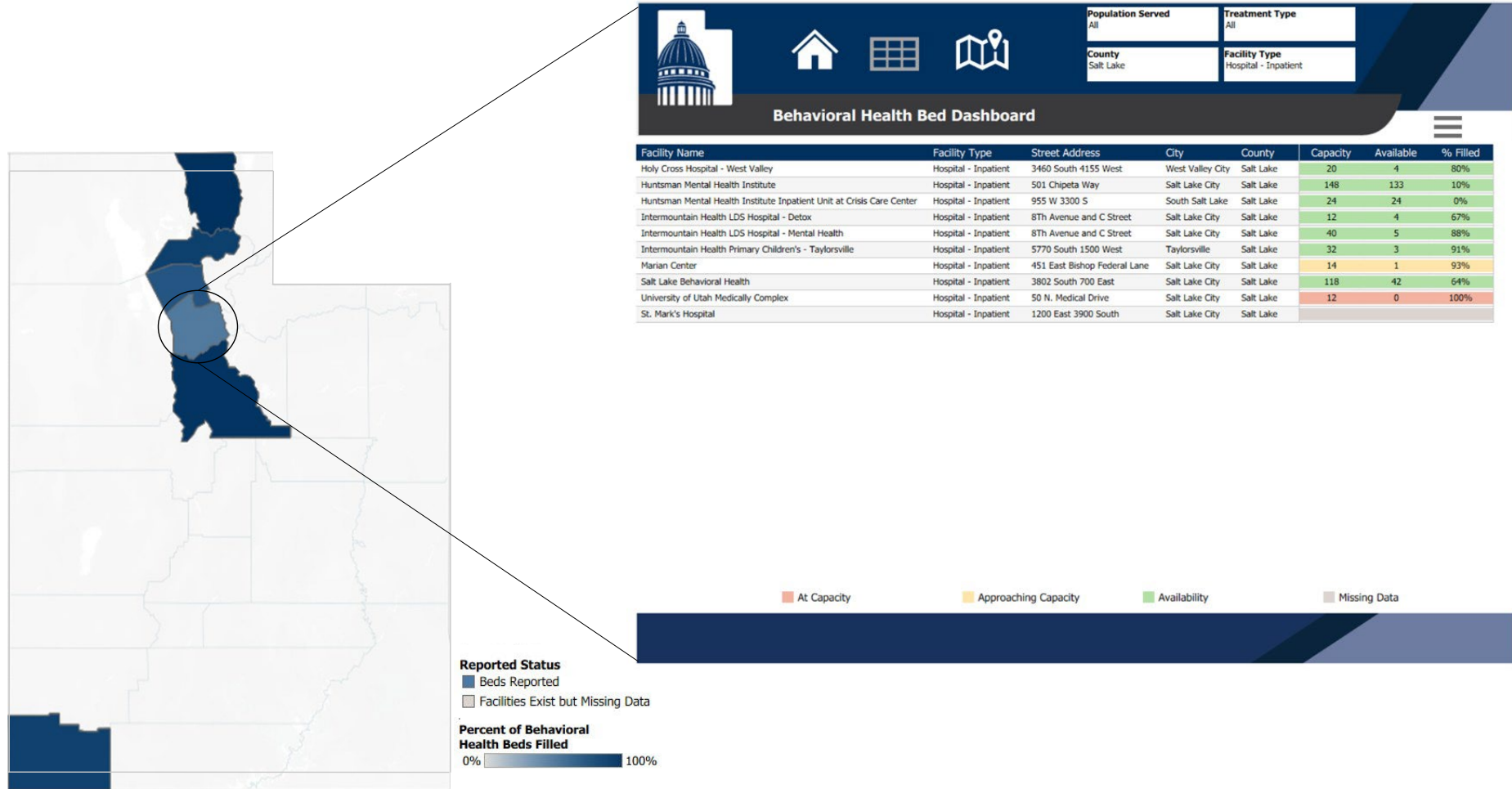
Emergency Department Stays

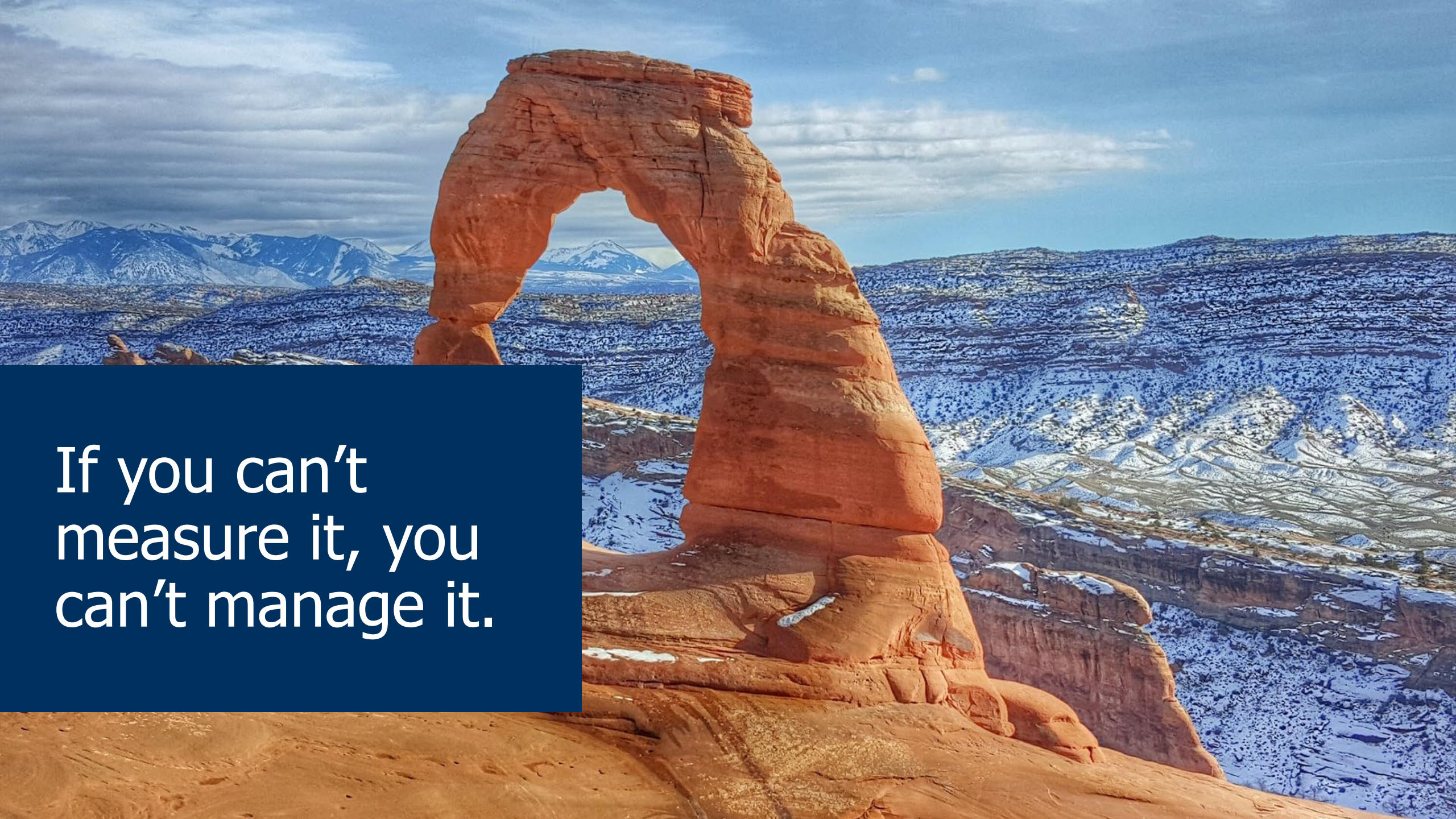


Behavioral Health Beds Dashboard



Behavioral Health Beds Dashboard





If you can't
measure it, you
can't manage it.

Legislative Action



- The Legislature should consider requiring the Department of Health and Human Service's Office of Substance Use and Mental Health to implement a bed registry and use this registry alongside other data sets to identify areas of greatest need in the system.

Legislative Oversight

- The Office of Substance Use and Mental Health should implement a real-time and comprehensive bed registry and to provide access to information for stakeholders, providers, and the public and mine data over time to determine need.
- The Office of Substance Use and Mental Health should conduct a longitudinal study of where patients are "stuck" in the system to identify the specific care levels with the highest unmet demand.



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