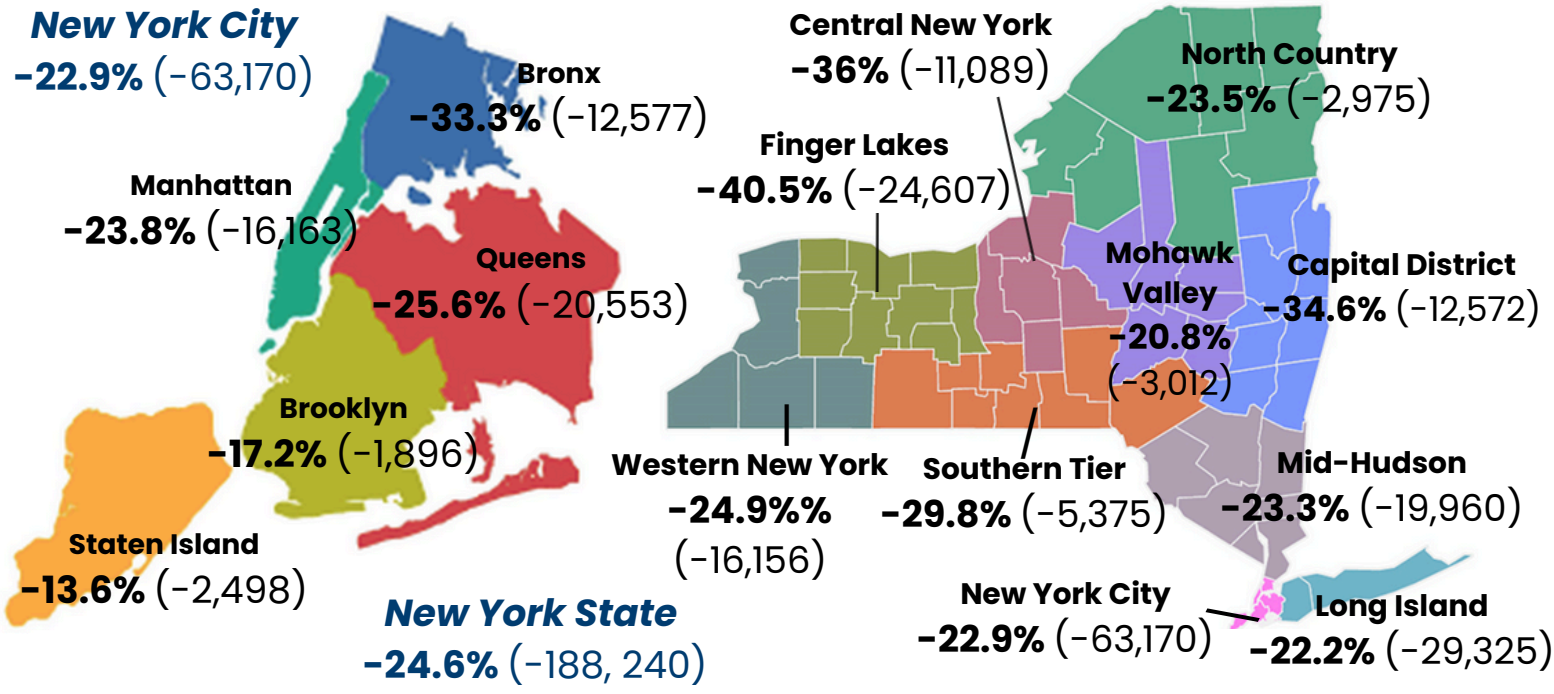
Home Health Care in Crisis Across NY State

Change in Access to Home Health Care 2019-2023
Updated August 25, 2024



Key: Bold percentage is estimated % change in Medicare enrollees receiving home health (HH) services in 2023 compared to 2019; nonbold numbers are estimated total number of Medicare enrollees unable to receive HH services between 2019 and 2023.

Source and methodology: Includes Medicare fee-for-service (FFS), Medicare Advantage (MA), and dually eligible enrollees. FFS enrollment and HH utilization data from CMS Market Saturation file (2019-2023). MA home health utilization estimated from proportion of MA enrollment (from CMS County Data File) x FFS home health utilization rate. Percent change and total loss of access calculated using 2019 utilization levels as a baseline.

CONGRESS: Stop Harmful Cuts Impacting Home Health Access

To increase bed capacity for new patients, hospitals are desperately trying to discharge more patients to home health agencies. But years of persistent workforce shortages made worse by major Medicare cuts have left tens of thousands of NYS residents without needed home health care.

- **CMS slashed Medicare home health reimbursement by 19.89%** from 2020-24, and is proposing an additional **-4.067%** payment reduction for 2025, bringing the combined total cuts to **23.96%**.
- **Wage index cuts worsen the impact** in many NYS regions: NYC and Westchester will receive an additional -4.2% cut wage index cut; Long Island receives an additional -5% cut.
- **MA plans typically pay 30% less** than FFS, and use Medicare FFS cuts to justify their rates.

NY DELEGATION: Please co-sponsor and pass the Preserving Access to Home Health Act (S.2137/H.R.5159) to stop CMS from making permanent and temporary payment cuts

-24.6% est. change in home health access from 2019 to 2023 in NYS.

188,000 est. total Medicare enrollees who needed but did not receive home health care 2020-2023.

19.89% total Medicare home health payment cuts 2020-2024 (FFS).

8.2%-9% proposed CY2025 payment cut in NYC, LI, Westchester (PDGM budget neutrality and wage index adjustment).

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VNS Health Home Health Care in Crisis Across NY State

Home Health Access in VNS Health Counties Served 2019-2023

Source: CMS Updated August 25, 2024

County	Est. Percent Medicare Enrollees Receiving Home Health: 2019	Est. Percent Medicare Enrollees Receiving Home Health: 2023	Est. Percent Change in HH Access: 2019-2023	Est. number of Medicare Enrollees Unable to Receive HH: 2019-2023	Proposed 2025 Medicare FFS Cuts (4% Rate Cit + Wage Index Cut)
Bronx	6.8%	4.6%	-33.3%	-12,577	8.2%
Kings	8.5%	7.0%	-17.2%	-11,378	8.2%
Queens	7.7%	5.7%	-25.6%	-20,553	8.2%
New York	7.9%	6.0%	-23.8%	-16,163	8.2%
Richmond	7.6%	6.6%	-13.6%	-2,498	8.2%
Suffolk	9.2%	7.0%	-23.85%	-15,240	9%
Nassau	8.9%	7.1%	-20.4%	-14,085	9%
Westchester	7.7%	5.7%	-26.0%	-10,707	8.2%

About VNS Health

VNS Health proudly provides high-quality home and community-based care to more than 50,000 New York State residents each day, mostly concentrated in downstate regions. This includes Medicaid plans that support more than 35,000 mostly homebound seniors, people with disabilities, and people living with HIV/AIDS. A nonprofit, VNS Health is the largest certified home health agency (CHHA) and hospice in NYS; and a licensed home care agency (LHCSA) with 5,500+ 1199SEIU home health aides.

Impact of Home Health Crisis on VNS Health Patients

- New York's largest home health agency, VNS Health could admit only 50% of home health referrals in 2023, down from 2/3 of referrals in 2020).
- VNS Health had to turn away nearly 18,000 patients in 2023 due to workforce shortages.
- To increase access, VNS Health raised nurse wages 15% over 2 years, plus implemented financial incentives for working in "home health deserts" and increased spending on frontline worker safety and transportation.

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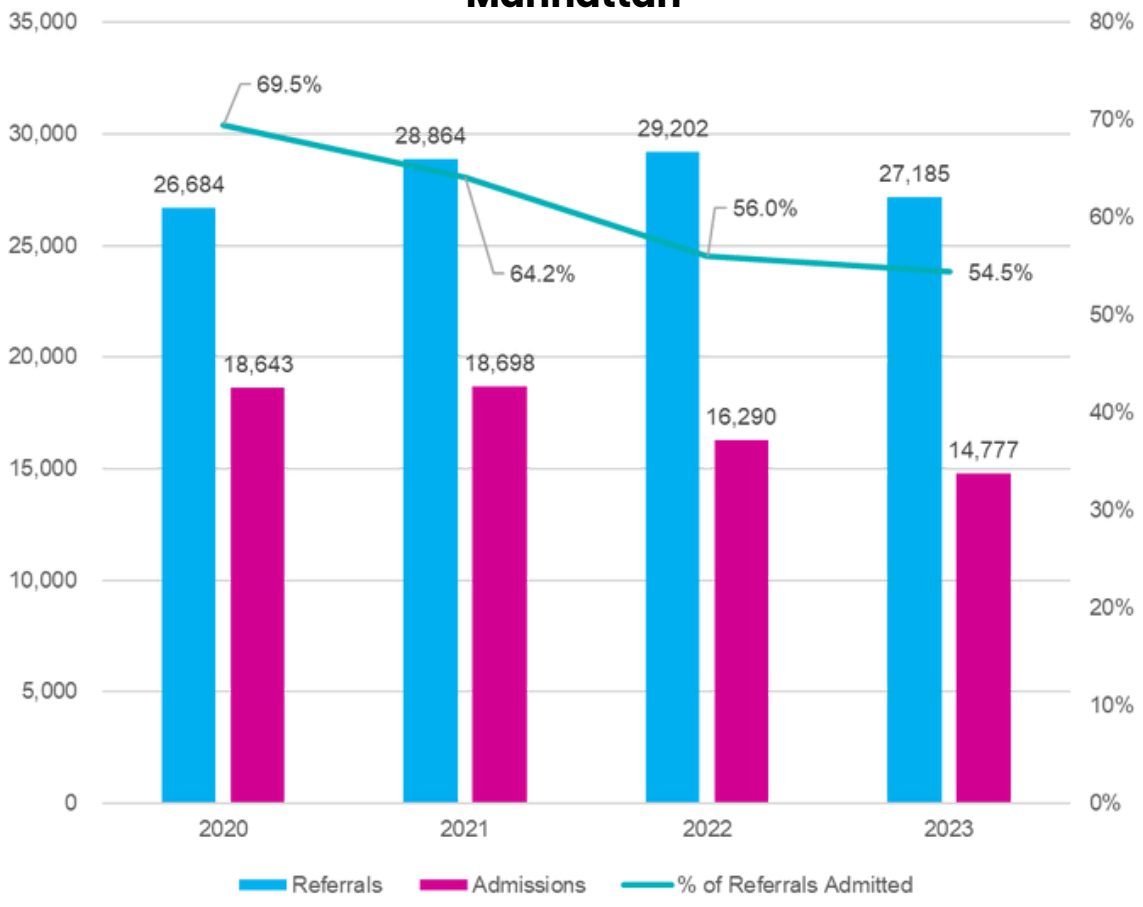
VNS Health Home Health Referrals, Total Admissions & % Admitted (1/4)

Source: VNS Health

All VNS Health Service Areas (NYC, Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester)



Manhattan



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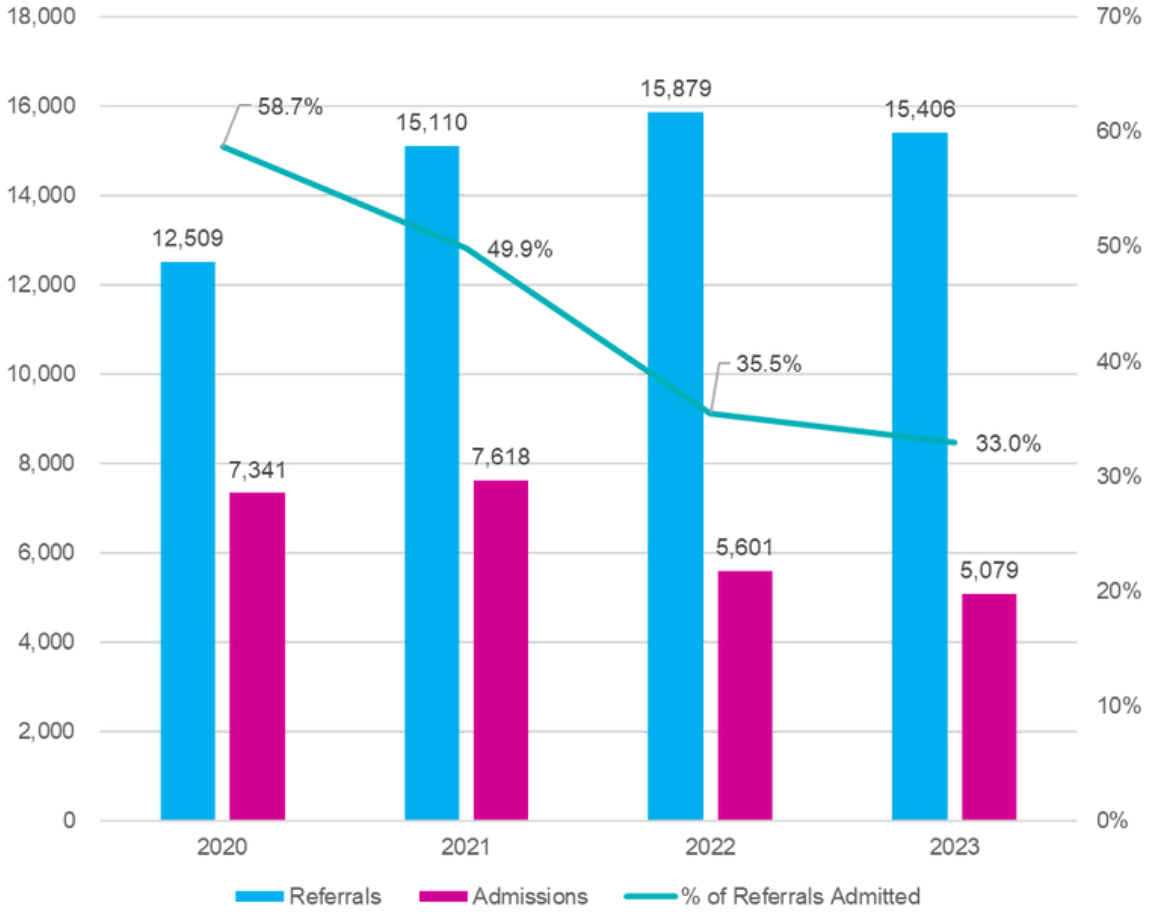
VNS Health

Home Health Care in Crisis Across NY State

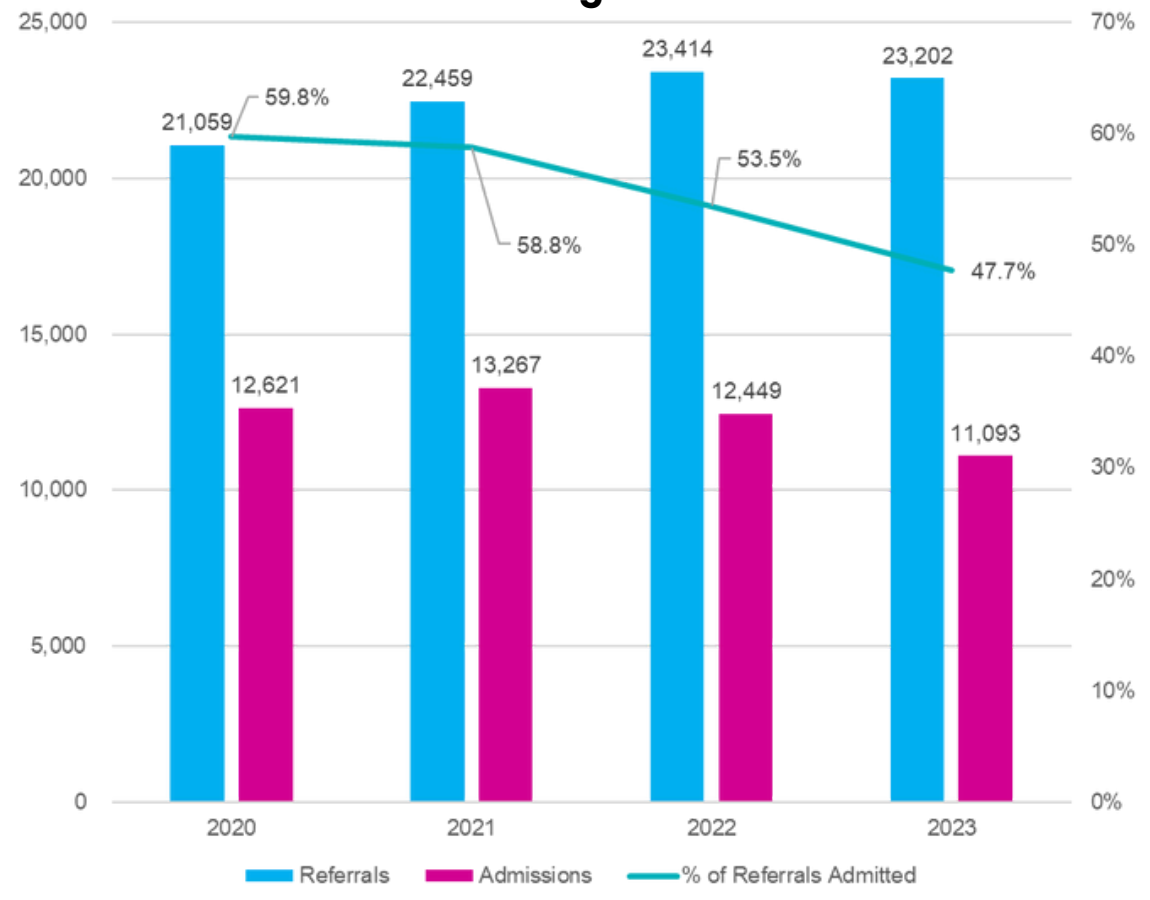
VNS Health Home Health Referrals, Total Admissions & % Admitted (2/4)

Source: VNS Health

Bronx



Kings



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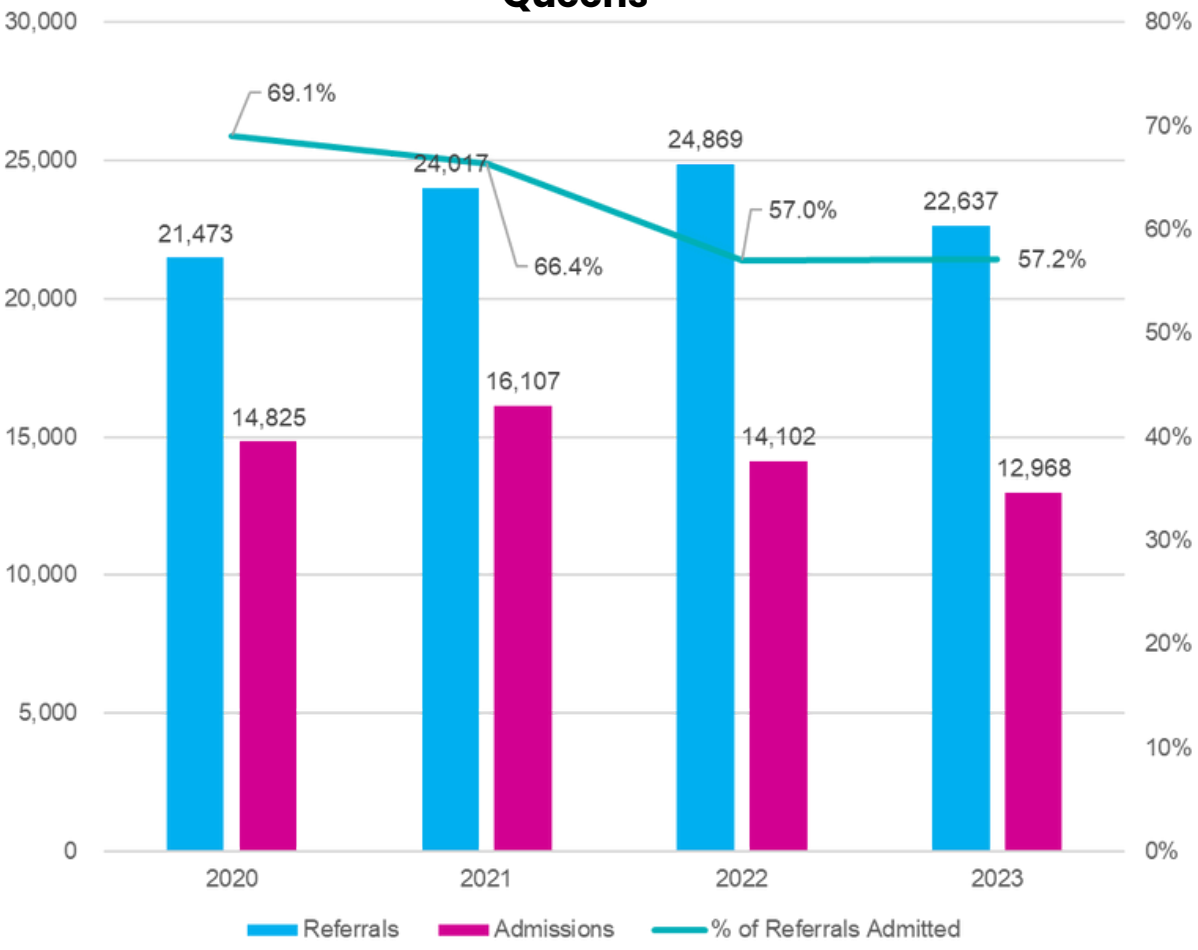
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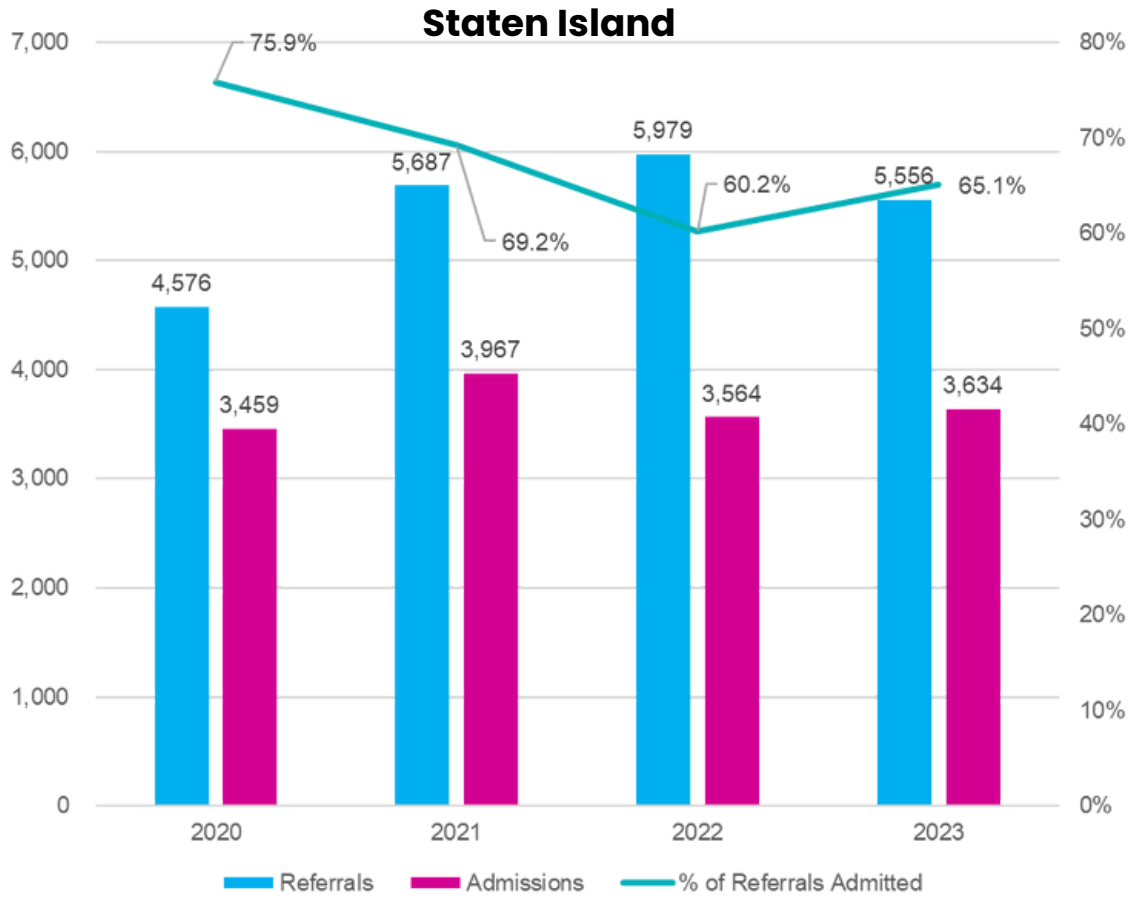
VNS Health Home Health Referrals, Total Admissions & % Admitted (3/4)

Source: VNS Health

Queens



Staten Island



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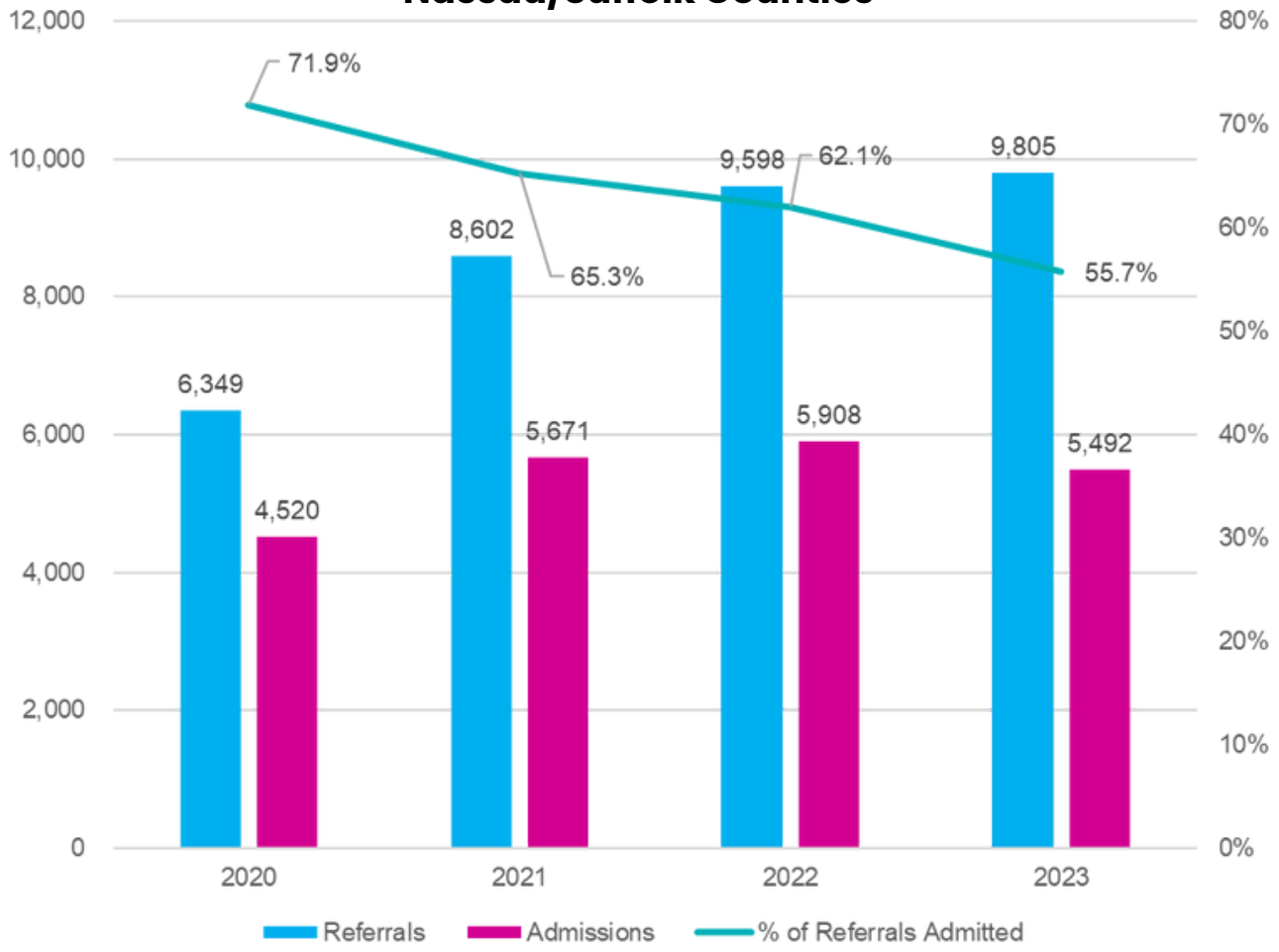
VNS Health

Home Health Care in Crisis Across NY State

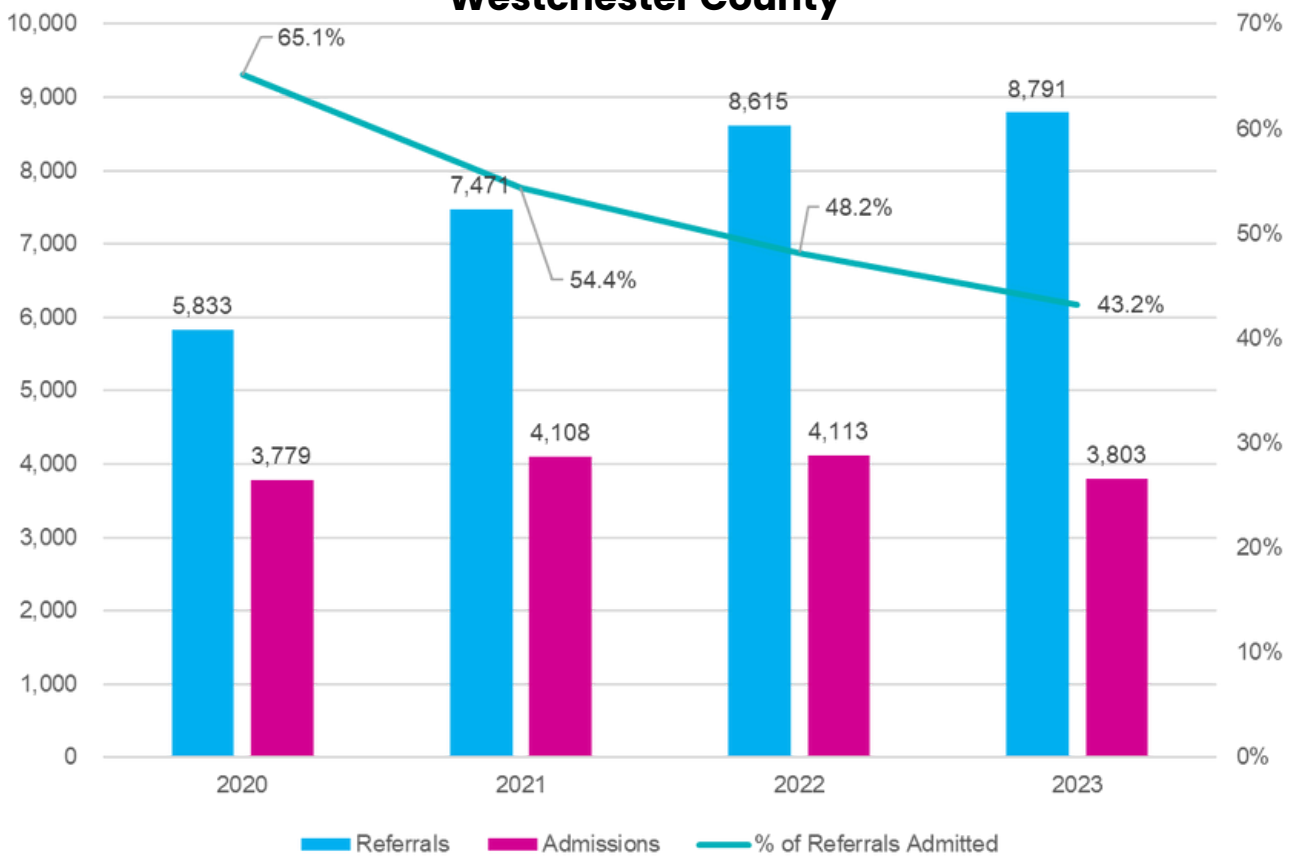
VNS Health Home Health Referrals, Total Admissions & % Admitted (4/4)

Source: VNS Health

Nassau/Suffolk Counties



Westchester County



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