

1 **Mental Health Care Study Amendments**

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Stewart E. Barlow**

Senate Sponsor:

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3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5 This bill requires the University of Utah to conduct a study.

6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

7 This bill:

8 ▶ requires the University of Utah to conduct a study on wait times and barriers for a child to  
9 see a therapist.

10 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

11 None

12 **Other Special Clauses:**

13 None

14 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

15 ENACTS:

16 **53B-17-1002**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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18 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

19 Section 1. Section **53B-17-1002** is enacted to read:

20 **53B-17-1002 . Mental health access study.**

21 (1) The University of Utah shall conduct a comprehensive study of wait times and barriers  
22 to accessing pediatric mental health care in Utah, which shall:

23 (a) measure and analyze the average time between a child's initial referral to a mental  
24 health appointment and the date of the first available appointment;

25 (b) identify factors affecting wait times, including:

26 (i) geographic location;

27 (ii) insurance type;

28 (iii) provider availability;

29 (iv) specialty care needs; and

30 (v) other relevant barriers to access;

- 31       (c) compare wait times across different:  
32           (i) geographic regions of the state;  
33           (ii) types of mental health providers;  
34           (iii) practice settings; and  
35           (iv) payment models;  
36       (d) include both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods; and  
37       (e) survey parents regarding experiences accessing care.  
38       (2) The University of Utah shall:  
39           (a) develop appropriate methods to collect data while protecting patient privacy;  
40           (b) comply with all applicable state and federal privacy laws; and  
41           (c) ensure all data is deidentified before inclusion in any reports.  
42       (3) The University of Utah shall submit to the Health and Human Services Interim  
43       Committee and the Behavioral Health Commission created Section 26B-5-702:  
44           (a) a preliminary report of findings before May 31, 2026  
45           (b) a final report, including policy recommendations, before May 31, 2027.  
46       Section 2. **Effective Date.**  
47       This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.