**SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE**

**CHILDREN’S HOSPITALS, PEDIATRICIANS AND CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRISTS   
DECLARE MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY IN KIDS AND TEENS**

**CITY, STATE** – This week, Children’s Hospital Association (CHA), representing 220 children’s hospitals across the country, [declared a national mental health crisis in kids and teens](https://www.soundthealarmforkids.org/a-national-emergency/) along with partner organizations the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists.

“We join other children’s hospitals across the country in supporting this national declaration and urge Congress to take action for the sake of our children and families,” said CEO of CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL.

The national facts and statistics are compelling.

* Before the pandemic, [1 in 5 children](https://www.cdc.gov/childrensmentalhealth/basics.html) – anyone under age 18 – experienced a mental health condition on an annual basis.
* From 2007 to 2018, there was a [60% increase](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr69/nvsr-69-11-508.pdf) in the rate of suicide among 10- to 24-year-olds, making it the second leading cause of death for this age group.
* More than [half of adults (53%)](https://www.psychiatry.org/newsroom/news-releases/new-apa-poll-shows-sustained-anxiety-among-americans-more-than-half-of-parents-are-concerned-about-the-mental-well-being-of-their-children) with children in their household say they are concerned about the mental state of their children.

Locally/Regionally, NAME OF CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL has seen:

* INSERT DATA POINTS HERE

“The pediatric community is sounding the alarm for our kids’ mental health,” added CEO. “This emergency situation requires immediate attention. We must make every effort to improve access to critical behavioral and mental health resources at the local, state and federal levels.”

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