New York and Virginia are the first states to enact laws that require schools to include mental health education in their curriculums. The New York legislation, which was written in 2015 and enacted on Sunday, directs all K-12 classrooms to get instruction about mental health as part of the overall health curriculum. Virginia's law, which is set to take effect this fall, is less wide-reaching, requiring mental health education for the first two years of high school. Glenn Liebman, CEO of the Mental Health Association in New York State, one of the lead groups that lobbied for the law, said, “We didn't fight for specific curriculum because we recognize that what is taught in one part of the state might not be relevant in another part of the state.” Psychiatric emergency care in New York State was historically provided primarily in the emergency rooms of general hospitals and often resulted in overcrowded emergency rooms and over-utilized acute inpatient hospitalization services. An increase in the use of emergency rooms in the 1980s raised concern about the timeliness, quality, and continuity of care for people needing psychiatric emergency services. As the Office of Mental Health (OMH) continued to concentrate the locus of mental health treatment, rehabilitation, and support services in the community, there was a recognized need to supp