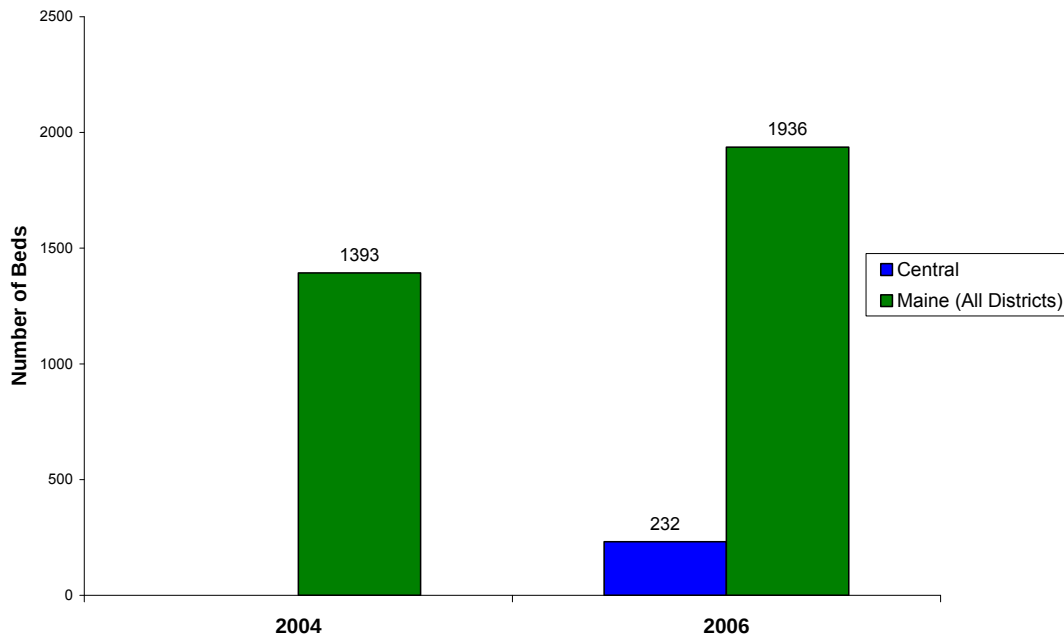


Healthcare System Surge Capacity **Average Number of Emergency Department Beds**

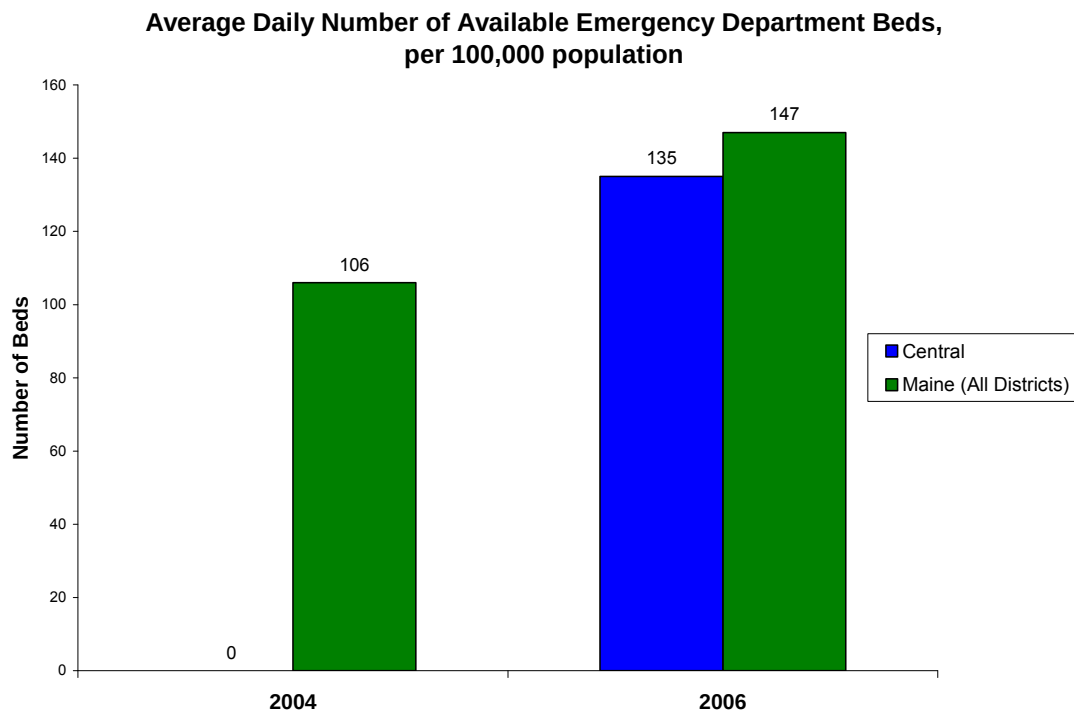
The term surge capacity may be generally defined as the relative ability of any organization or entity to continue to provide services when challenged by demands for those services that are significantly beyond ongoing capacity. Surge demands are often immediate in nature and may offer little warning. Integration of public and private medical capabilities with public health and other first responder systems is required to assure that Maine's healthcare and public health systems are capable of responding well to events that demand surge capacity in response to extreme public health emergencies, or high-impact events, such as a hurricane, severe ice storm or widespread biological or chemical attack.

The Maine CDC, Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness works with partners statewide to develop operational healthcare system surge plans for the medical response to public health emergencies. Assessment of medical surge capacity in the State provides evidence of its current status and recent contributions to its improvement. There are a variety of indicators with which to assess surge capacity including the number of available hospital emergency department beds. This measurement defines the average number of emergency department beds available on any day, for a specific district and for the state.

Average Daily Number of Available Emergency Department Beds



Source: 2004/2006 MeCDC Hospital Assessment Report



Source: 2004/2006 MeCDC Hospital Assessment Report