

Improving Quality and Data-Driven Decisions

Promoting access to high-quality behavioral healthcare reduces stigma, improves outcomes, and ensures effective use of state resources. We leverage Ohio data and continuous quality improvement processes to expand the availability of patient-centered community behavioral health services.

2026 – 2027 Budget Priorities

1. **Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics:** This partnership with the Ohio Department of Medicaid creates a system of integrated care dedicated to treating the whole person.
2. **State Block Grants:** By consolidating community funding streams into **six state block grants** — Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder, Prevention Services, Criminal Justice, Recover Supports and Crisis — we'll offer greater local flexibility in how funds are spent and improve the data we collect to analyze local trends and ensure fiscal accountability.
3. **Statewide EHR Procurement:** Technology including electronic health records (EHR) helps us better demonstrate the impact of essential services and track patients across health systems.
4. **Department Name Change:** By changing our name to the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health, we will retain our mission while modernizing our outlook.

Why it Matters

Investing in data:

- **Focuses resources** where they're needed most.
- **Puts behavioral health on even footing** with tech used by hospitals and physician practices.
- Helps public health officials, policymakers, and the public **understand evolving behavioral health** trends.
- Informs the **development and implementation** of targeted evidence-based interventions.

By the Numbers

- Approximately **21.5 million** adults in the United States have a co-occurring disorder.¹ Those with a chronic physical health condition are roughly **2x as likely** to experience a behavioral health disorder compared to the general population.
- More than **500 Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics and CCBHC grantees** are operating in **46 states**, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico.
- In total, CCBHCs and grantees are serving an estimated **3 million** people nationwide. **50%** of CCBHCs provide same-day access, **84%** see patients within one week, and **93%** see patients within 10 days. The national average wait time for behavioral health services is **48 days**.²
- A recent survey of nearly **300** behavioral health leaders across Ohio showed that the words “addiction” and “mental health” might carry a negative stigma that prevents individuals from engaging with our system. **More than 70%** of those surveyed said “behavioral health” was more aligned with integrated care and better reflects the field today.
- **27** states and U.S. territories use “Behavioral Health” within the names of their department, divisions or programs.

¹ SAMHSA, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, [2022 National Survey on Drug Use and Health \(NSDUH\) Releases](#) (2022).

² The National Council for Mental Wellbeing, CCBHC Impact Report, [2024 CCBHC Impact Report](#) (2024).