

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As the Executive Director of the Adams County Health Department, I am proud to highlight the collective impact of community-based organizations and behavioral health



Dr. Kelly Weidenbach,  
Executive Director of Adams  
County Health Department

providers in addressing our county’s pressing behavioral health challenges. Together, we recognize the urgent need to tackle the complex interplay of individual, social, and structural factors affecting mental health and well-being across our community. With support from diverse funding sources, including crucial contributions from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and Opioid Abatement funds, our collaborative efforts are dedicated to enhancing access to behavioral health services and supports while combatting complex issues such as suicide, overdose, and substance misuse.

The 2023 Adams County Behavioral Health Services and Supports Assessment stands as a seminal report, documenting the point-in-time landscape of behavioral health challenges and existing capacity within our community to address the behavioral health needs of our community members, and providing tangible recommendations for mitigating and addressing these challenges. This report is intended to reflect our shared commitment to understanding and addressing the complex behavioral health landscape in our county. Through this assessment, we have highlighted concerning trends in poor mental health rates, deaths by suicide, and drug overdose, as well

*ACHD safeguards and improves its community’s health and well-being so that all residents have the opportunity to be healthy, valued, safe, and thriving. ACHD values Belonging, Courage, Community Leadership, Collaboration, and Justice. These values guide the ACHD’s work and have informed the approach of this assessment.*

as disparities and inequities in service availability and access. With a deep understanding of the socioeconomic factors, structural racism, and social environments exacerbating these challenges, we have identified practical actions to drive positive change and ultimately improve the wellbeing of our community members.

Key recommendations emerging from the assessment center on bolstering the capacity and collective impact of our community-based organizations and behavioral health providers (See Table 1). These recommendations underscore the importance of workforce expansion, universal screening, integrated care, improved care coordination, and strengthened public health support. By uniting our efforts and aligning our resources, we aim to bridge service gaps and disparities, paving the way for a more accessible, available, and equitable behavioral health services continuum for all residents of Adams County.

As we navigate the shared challenges faced by our diverse population, it is clear that our strength lies in our collective action. By harnessing the power of collaboration and building upon the strengths of our community-based organizations and behavioral health providers, we are poised to make a lasting impact on the mental health and well-being of our residents. Together, we will continue to strive towards a more resilient and thriving Adams County, where every individual has access to the support and resources they need to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.

Table 1: Summary of Recommendations

Recommendation A	Expand the behavioral health workforce in Adams County.
Recommendation B	Increase universal screening, referral, and integrated care for behavioral health within all critical settings, including schools, primary care, and specialty services.
Recommendation C	Improve and increase care coordination and case management among providers, systems, and across jurisdictions.
Recommendation D	Provide public health leadership that engages critical behavioral health partners to improve access to behavioral health services and supports and integrate promotion and prevention strategies.