

VERSION 2.0 WORK IN PROGRESS: Behavioral Health – What Have We Learned from Accredited Health Departments? July 2018



The Public Health Accreditation Board is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to improving and protecting the health of the public by advancing and ultimately transforming the quality and performance of state, local, tribal, and territorial public health departments.



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This document summarizes what PHAB has learned about how accredited health departments are addressing behavioral health. It compiles information from the following sources:

- An analysis of the Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIPs) of accredited health departments; and
- Descriptions provided in the Annual Reports.

CHIPs

PHAB reviewed the CHIPs of 216 accredited health departments and categorized their indicators. Approximately 650 indicators related to behavioral health. The majority of behavioral health-related indicators addressed access to care. Examples of indicators include:

- Decrease rate of mental health emergency department visits;
- Decrease % of people self-reporting 1-9 poor mental health days in a 30-day period; and
- Expand options for drug free housing for recovering addicts in treatment.

The following list provides the most common topics of behavioral health indicators in CHIPs, with the number of indicators in parenthesis:

Access to care

- Access to mental health providers (169)
- Access to substance use treatment (39)
- Access to related screenings (19)

Indicators related to prevalence

- Other drug use/dependence (98)
- Alcohol dependence/abuse (69)
- Suicide (60)
- Prescription drug abuse/opioids (39)
- Poor mental health days (35)
- Depression and anxiety (34)
- Substance use-related mortality (20)

Annual Reports

As part of the required annual reporting process, accredited health departments are asked to describe their work in an emerging public health area. Thirty health departments opted to discuss their efforts related to behavioral health. (Seven of these health departments wrote about behavioral health in multiple years.) The following describes the types of activities

that these health departments describe. (The numbers in parentheses indicates the number of times this activity was mentioned in an Annual Report; one Annual Report could include multiple types of activities.)

- Plans and interventions to address the opioid epidemic (24)
- Identification of behavioral health as an area in need of attention/focus (6)
- Interventions tailored to specific community needs:
 - Violence and sexual violence (2)
 - Postpartum Mood & Anxiety Disorders (1)
 - Integration of primary care, mental health, and public health (2)
 - Suicide prevention (1)
 - Taking a trauma-informed approach to programs (1)