



# **Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency Behavioral Health Division**

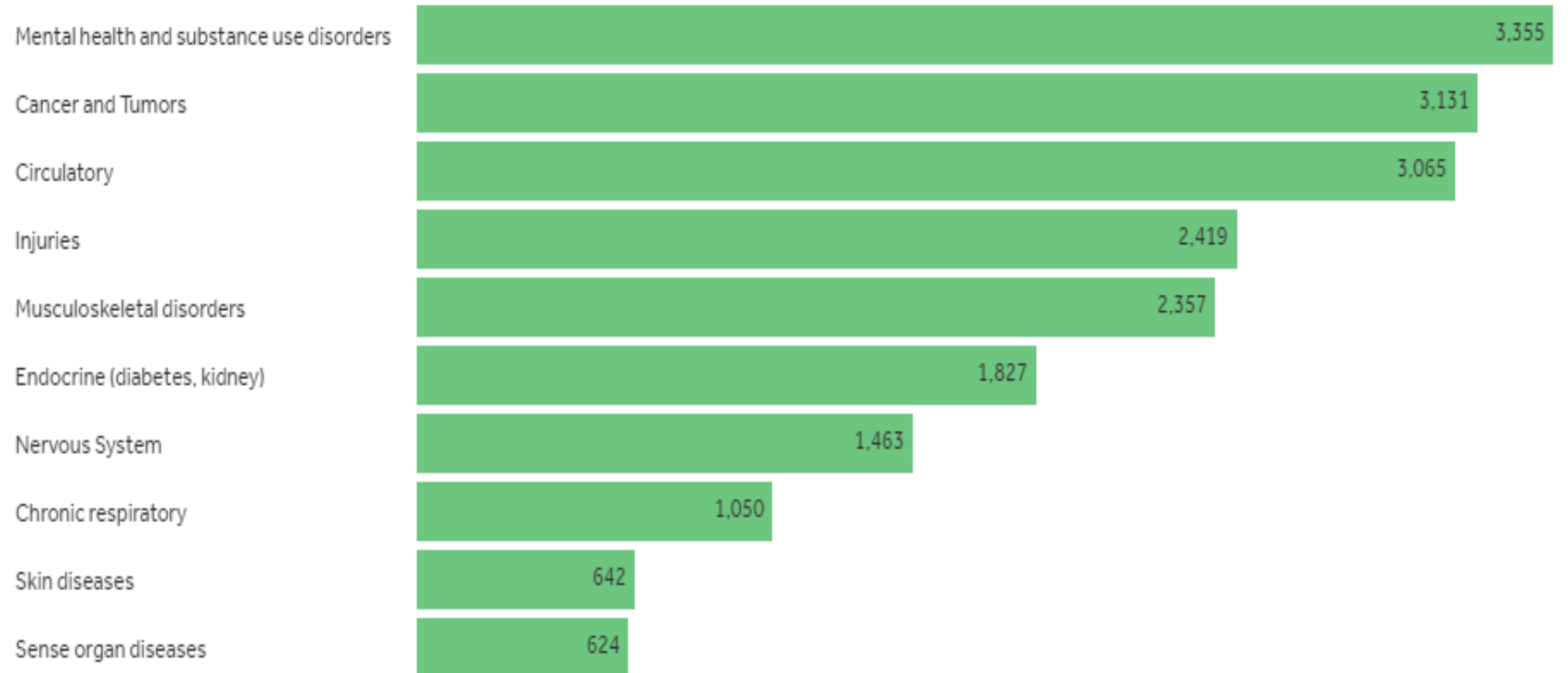
September 24, 2024

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Karen Kern, Deputy Director, Behavioral Health

# **Behavioral Health Burden**

# Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders are the leading causes of disease burden in the US

Age standardized disability adjusted life years (DALYs) rate per 100,000 population, both sexes, 2015

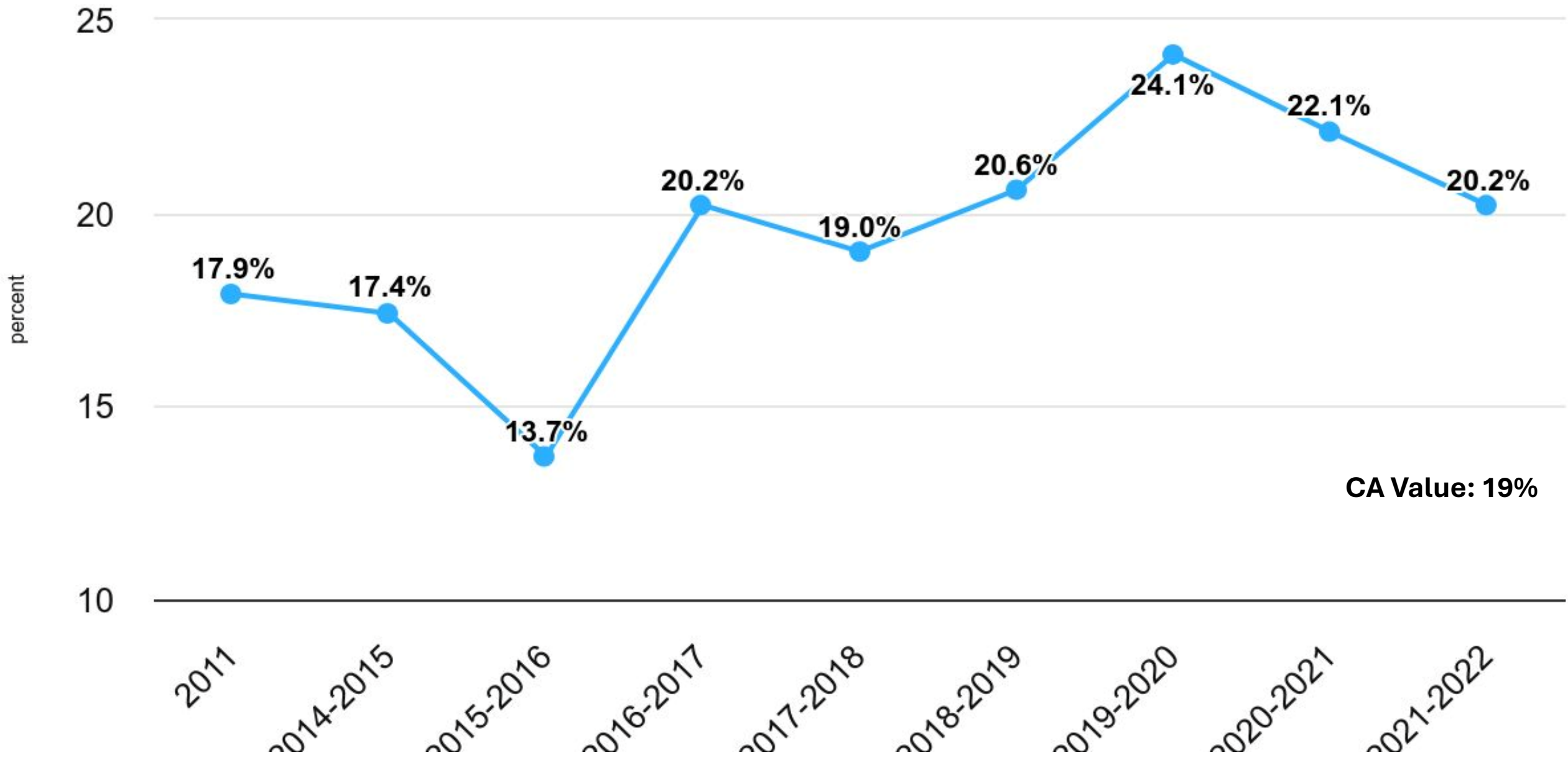


DALY, or the Disability-Adjusted Life-Year, is a metric that combines the burden of mortality and morbidity (non-fatal health problems) into a single number. One DALY can be thought of as one lost year of "healthy" life.

DALYs for a disease or health condition are calculated as the sum of the Years of Life Lost (YLL) due to premature mortality in the population and the Years Lost due to Disability (YLD) for people living with the health condition or its consequences: **DALY = YLL + YLD**

# Adults Who Ever Thought Seriously About Suicide

## County: Santa Cruz



# Santa Cruz County's Student Sadness/Hopelessness in the Past 12 Months

Grade 7

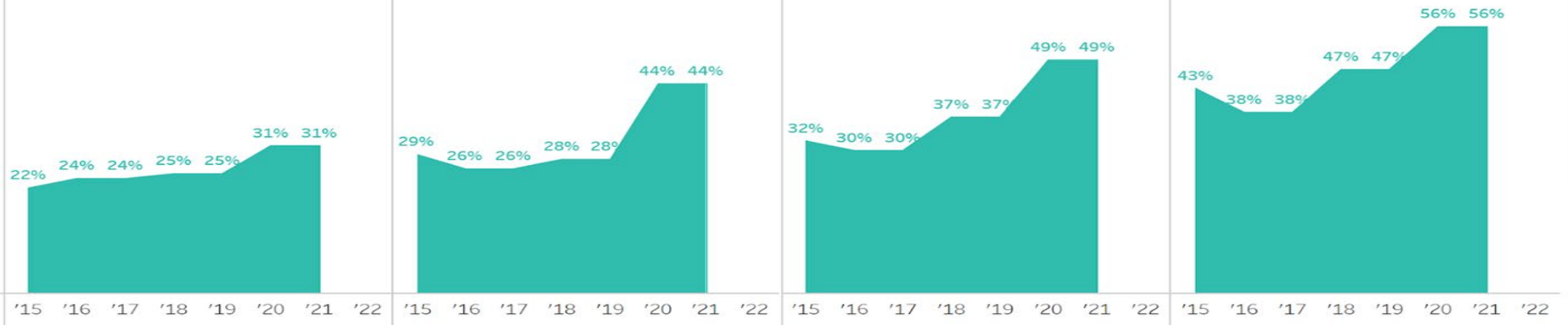
Grade 9

Grade 11

Non. Trad.

Approximately 75% of mental illness manifests between the ages of 10 and 24. Since adolescents have the lowest rate of primary care utilization of any demographic group, it makes early warning signs difficult to detect.

All Students



# Maternal Mental Health Santa Cruz County

## Postpartum Depression Rates by Race/Ethnicity



## Postpartum Depression Rates by Payment Source



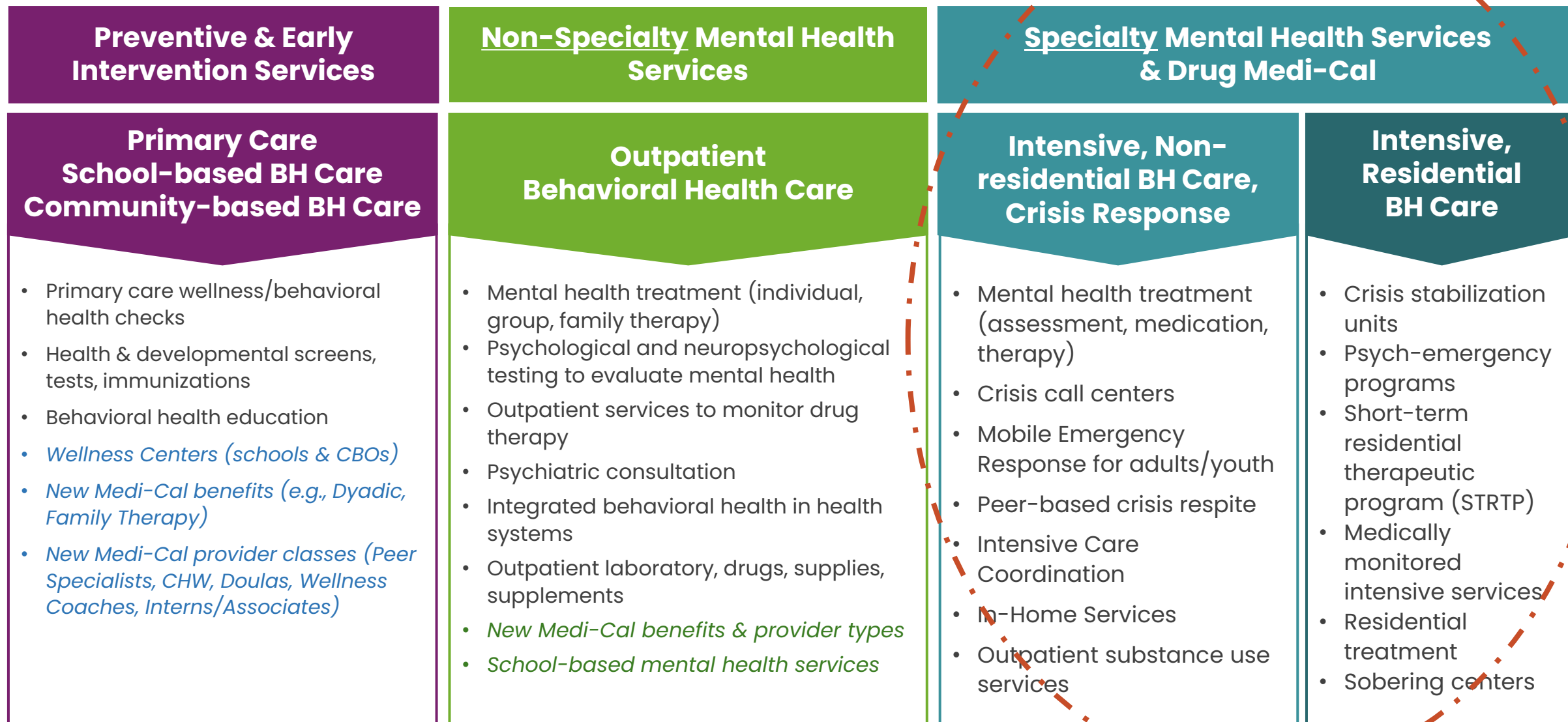
## Postpartum Depression Rates by Household Income





# Continuum of Care:

## Medi-Cal Behavioral Health (BH) Care System



# **County Behavioral Health Services and Responsibility**



# County is the Specialty Behavioral Health Safety Net



- Adult Outpatient Mental Health and Full-Service Partnership Teams
- Children's Outpatient Mental Health
- Outpatient SUDS

County  
Behavioral  
Health Clinics



- Prevention and Early Intervention
- Community Mental Health Support
- Residential MH and SUD Services
- NTP Services
- Peer Respite and Center-based Services

Community  
Behavioral  
Health Services

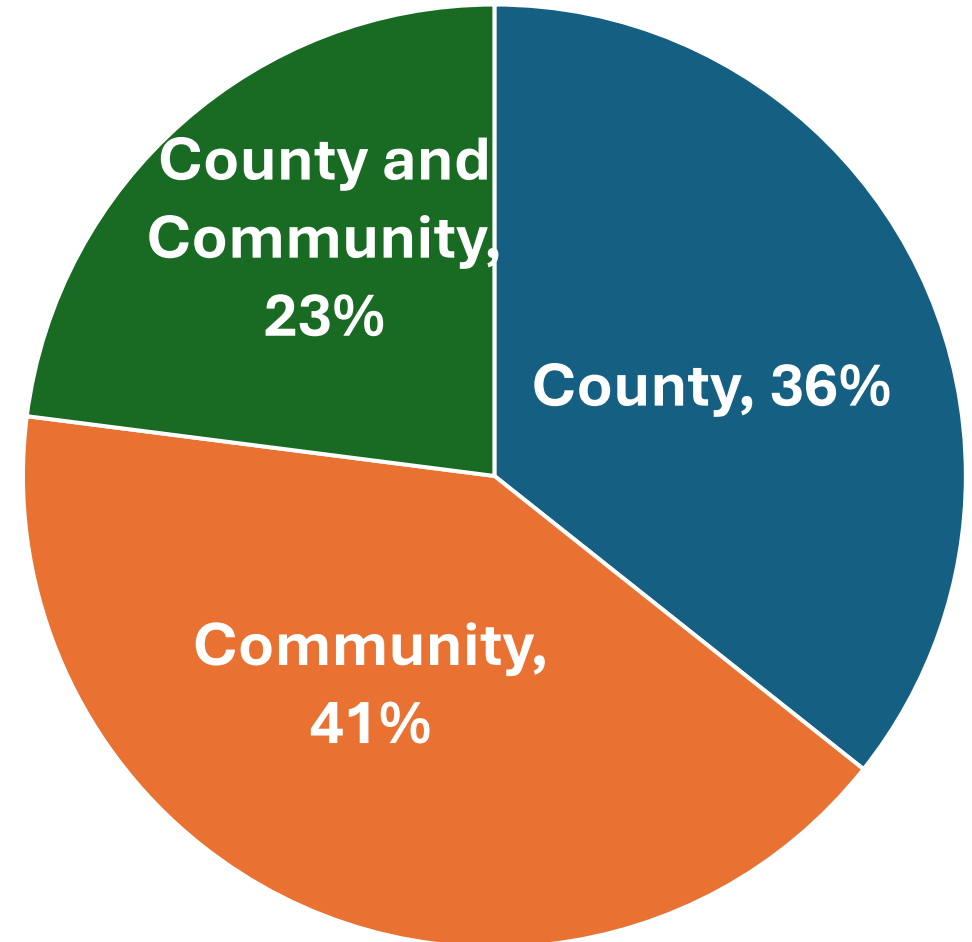
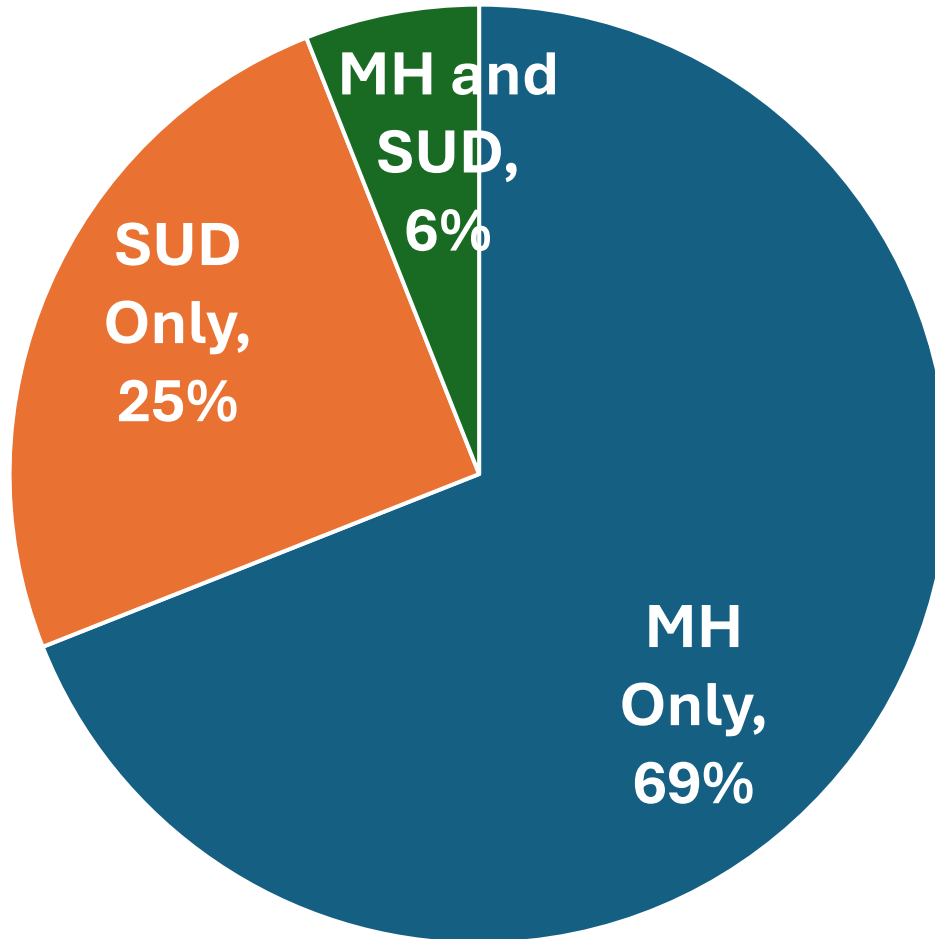


- Specialty Mental Health Plan (MHP)
- Drug Medi-Cal – Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS)

County  
Administered  
Health Plans

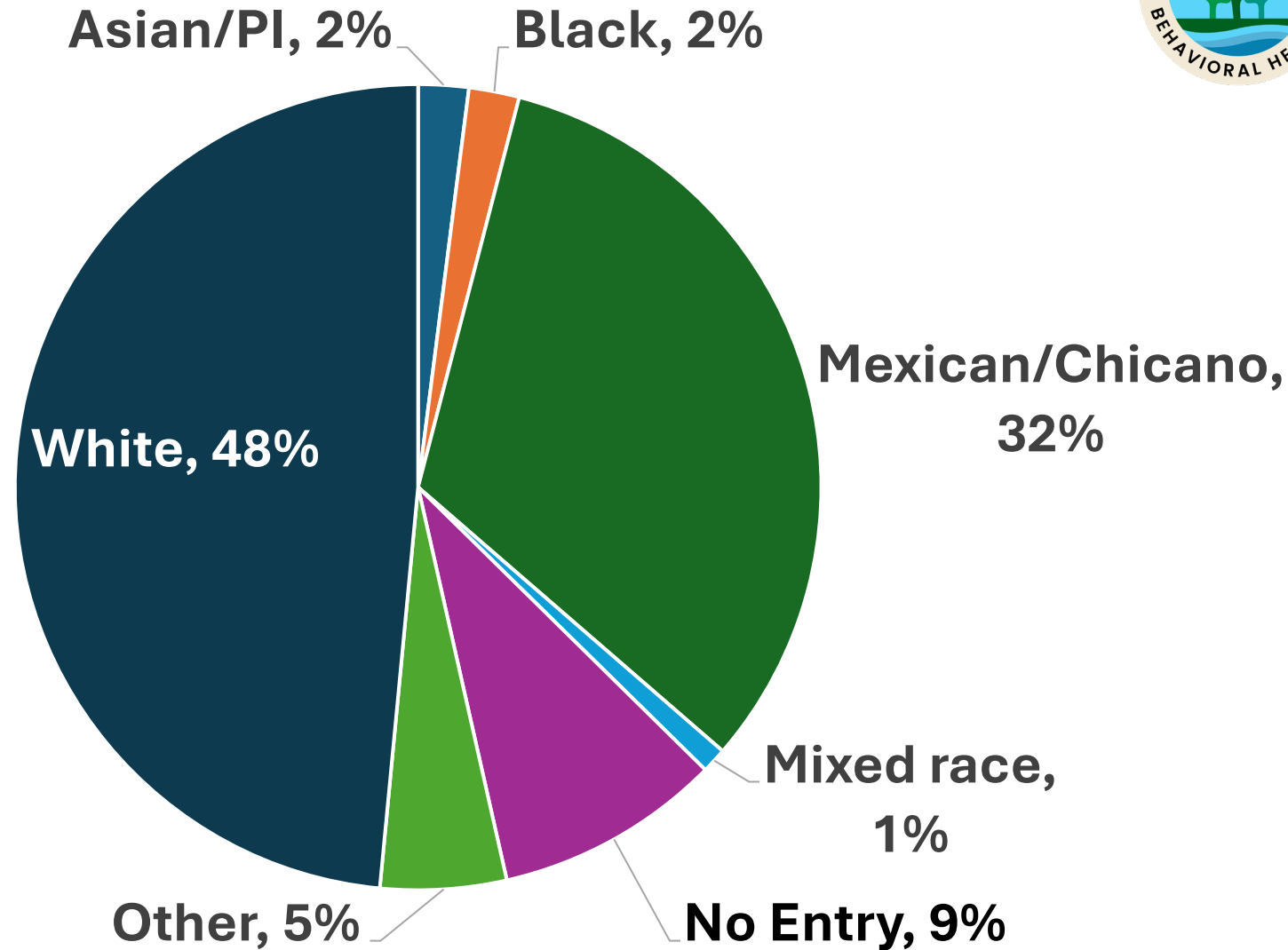


# CY 2023 Clients Served – Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services

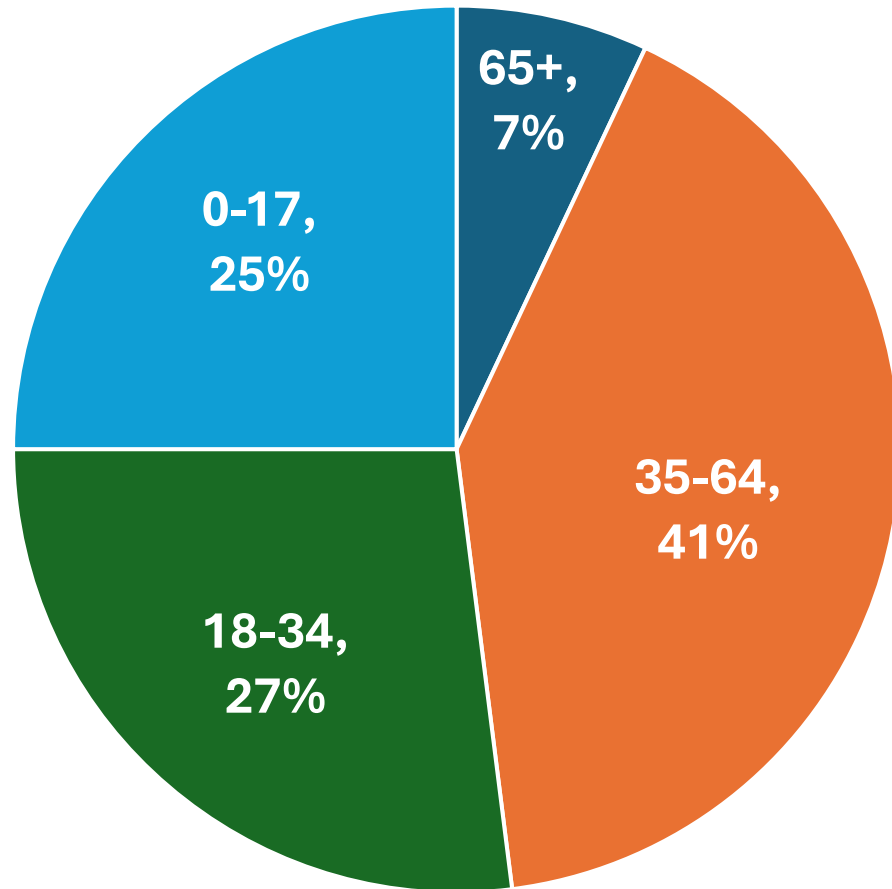


# CY 2023 – Client Demographics

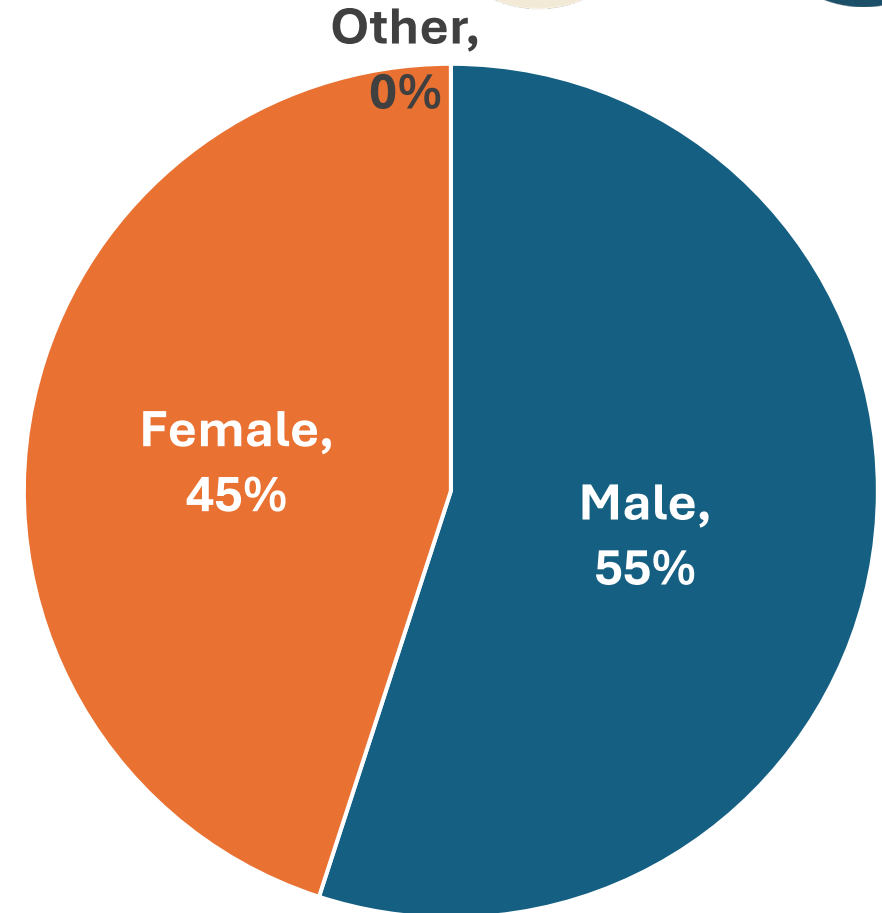
## – Race



# CY 2023 – Client Demographics Age and Gender

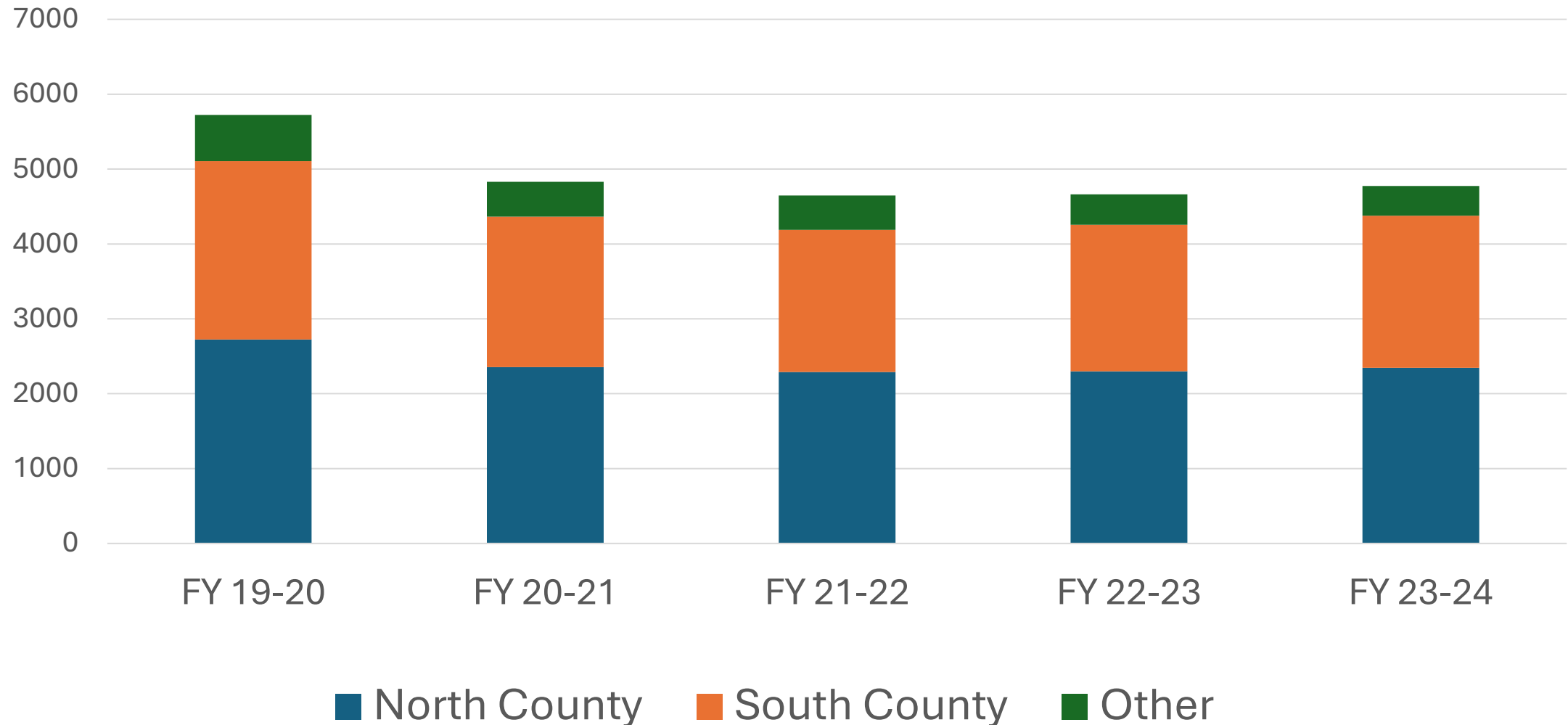


AGE

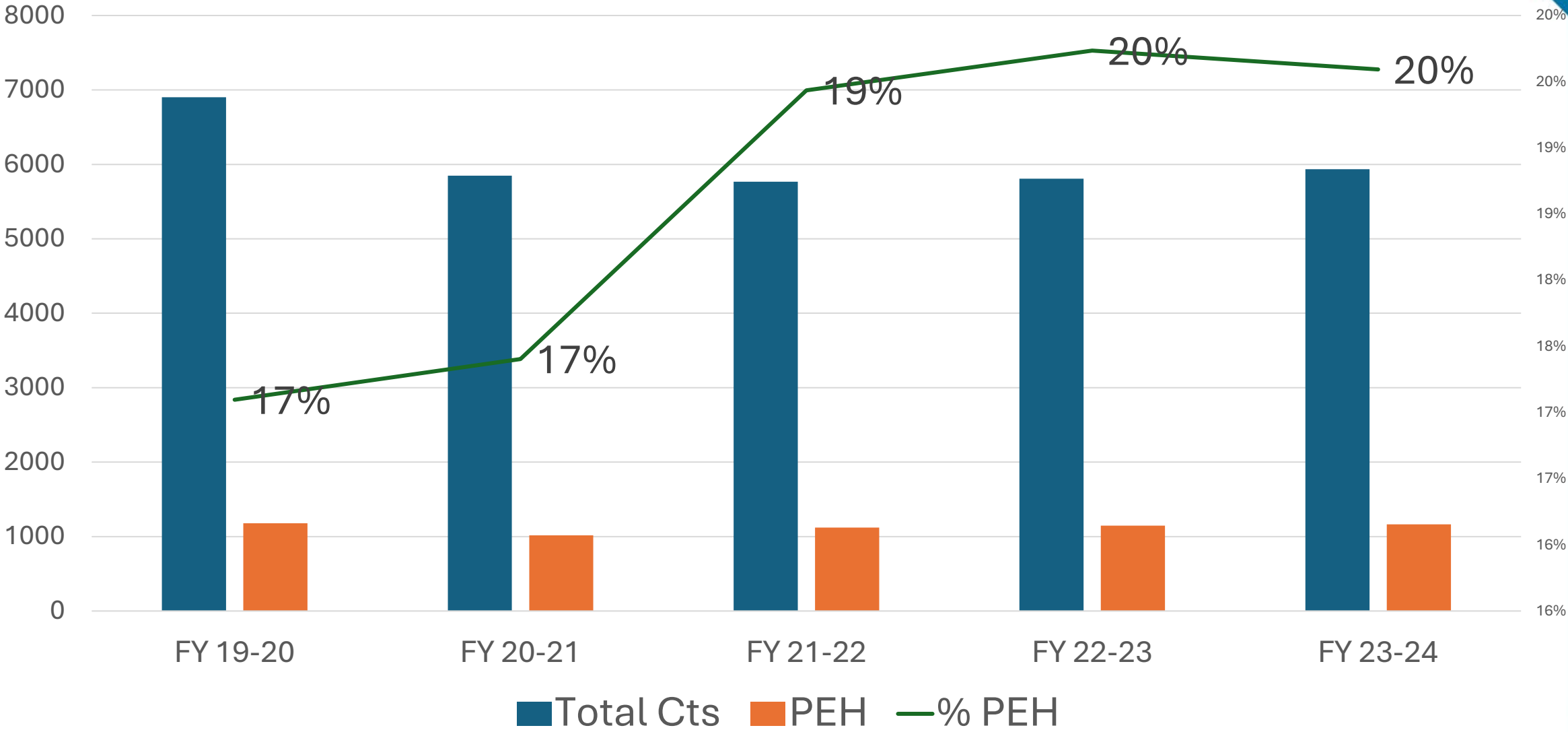


GENDER

# Santa Cruz County BH System of Care Geographic Distribution FY 19-20 through FY 23-24

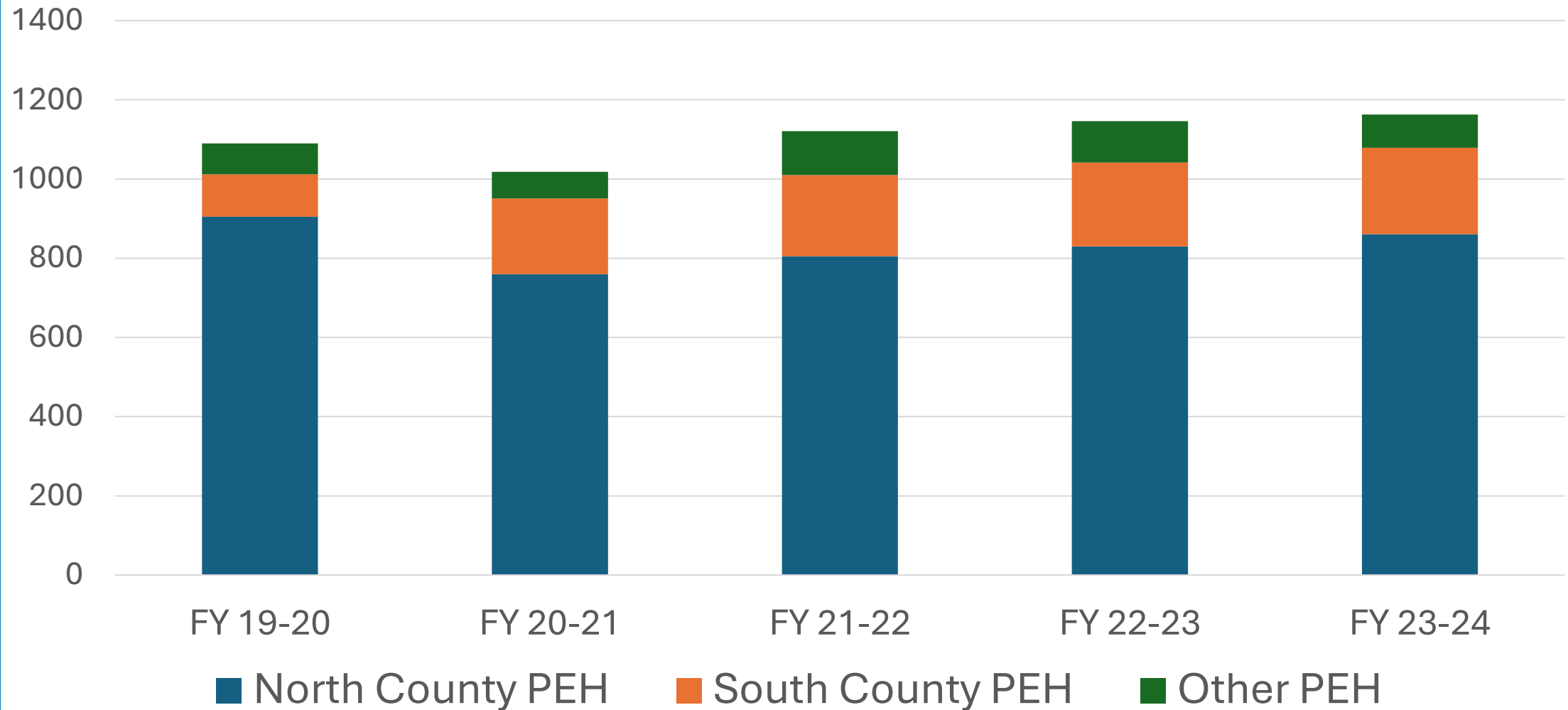


# Santa Cruz County BH System of Care Clients Served by FY with % Experiencing Homelessness



■ Total Cts ■ PEH — % PEH

# Santa Cruz County BH System of Care Clients Experiencing Homelessness Geographic Distribution FY 19-20 through FY 23-24



# Homelessness Rate in Residential BH Settings

Mental Health  
Residential

42%  
Homeless

SUD  
Residential

57%  
Homeless



# **Challenges Unique to Santa Cruz County**

# Limited Statewide Capacity Strains our Local System

“California faces shortages of psychiatric beds at all three r levels of adult inpatient and residential care”

“Hard-to-place populations contribute disproportionately to bottlenecks in the existing system”

Statewide shortfall of psychiatric beds to meet current demand: 1,971 Acute beds and 2,796 Sub-Acute beds.

**“Central Coast Region: Need for 474 additional Acute Care beds, 448 Sub-Acute beds, and 408 community residential beds (*total of 1,330 additional beds needed*)**



# Santa Cruz County has the highest rental costs in the nation



*"In Santa Cruz County, where **40% of households are renters**, the hourly wage needed in 2023 for a two-bedroom home is **\$63.33 — an annual income of \$131,720 —** which would require a minimum-wage earner to work **4.1 full-time jobs.**"*

## Average hourly wage needed to afford a two-bedroom home in California

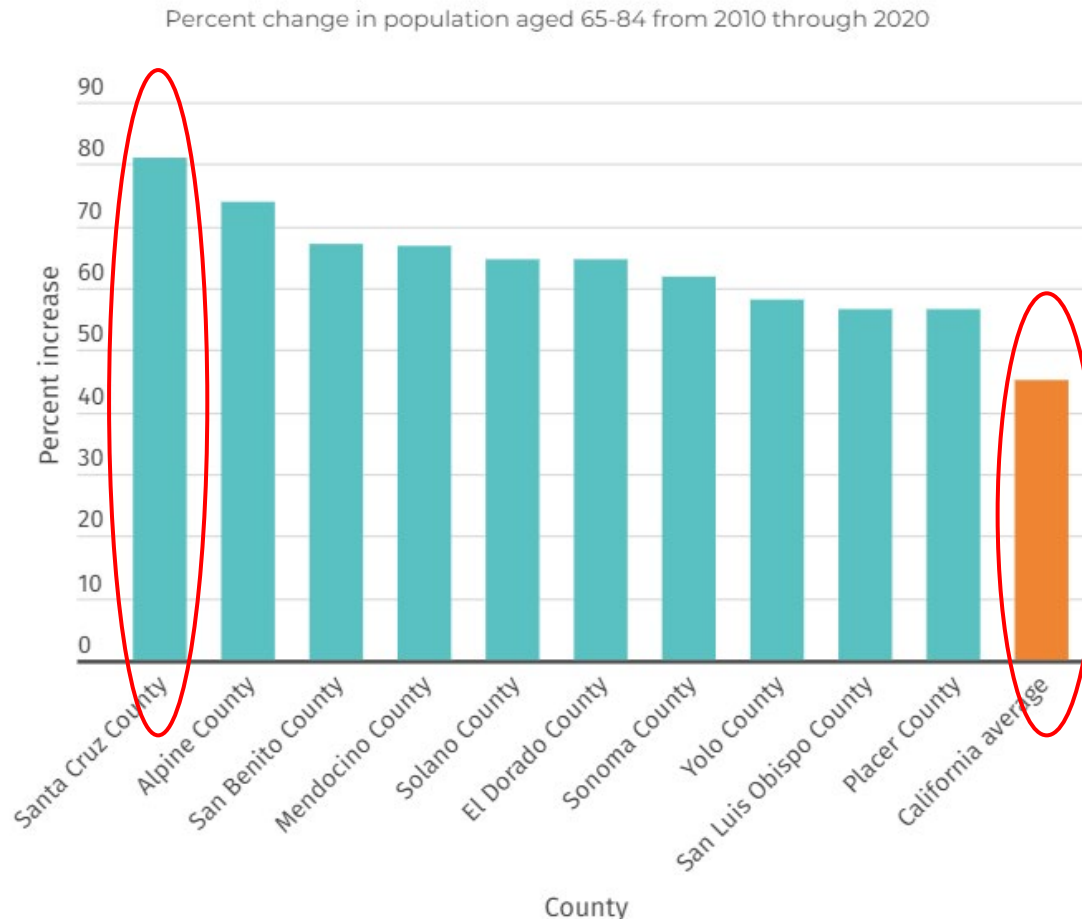
Assuming one full-time worker in household

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Metro area	Hourly wage ▼
Santa Cruz-Watsonville	\$63.33
San Francisco	\$61.31
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara	\$56.56
Salinas	\$51.44
Santa Maria-Santa Barbara	\$51.29
Santa Ana-Anaheim-Irvine	\$48.83
Oxnard-Thousand Oaks-Ventura	\$46.63
Oakland-Fremont	\$46.25

# Aging Demographics

Santa Cruz County's 65-84 population grew the fastest of any county in California



Source: U.S. Census  
Chart: Max Chun



- Santa Cruz County's 65-84 age bracket grew by 81%, compared to 45% statewide
- Increased costs to the Specialty Mental Health Plan for complex or institutional care with co-occurring medical and cognitive issues

Chart obtained from Lookout Santa Cruz <https://lookout.co/santacruz/civic-life/story/2023-07-24/aging-population-as-santa-cruz-county-grays-impending-silver-tsunami-has-service-providers-worried>

# Compounding Issues



## Workforce Challenges

- 27% County BH Division vacancy rate
- Limited pool of applicants
- Subject of Grand Jury report

## Higher Education

- Local schools (Cabrillo Community College, UCSC) do not offer Behavioral Health-focused programs
- Competition with Monterey and Santa Clara Counties (SJSU, CSUMB) for interns and grads

## Housing Stock and Market

- Unfavorable to candidates
- Limited low- or very low-income or HUD Housing
- High cost of housing/property also impacts ability to site residential or housing programs

# **Growing Services, Facilities and Infrastructure**

# Santa Cruz County BH System of Care Watsonville Service Providers



- County Behavioral Health Clinic – Freedom Blvd.
- Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance (PVPSA)
- Community Connections – Mariposa Center
- Encompass Community Services
- Community Action Board
- Front St, Inc.
- Montecito Manor
- Pacific Clinics
- Janus





- **Low Barrier Navigation Center (LBNC) Temporary Housing**
- **24/7 On-site Resident Services and BH IHART team**
- **Priority for placement – CARE Act Participants**
- **Joint Project with Housing for Health**

- \$10.2m to develop temporary housing for people experiencing homelessness and serious mental illness or co-occurring disorders.
- \$2.6m from Whole Person Care dollars requiring a housing focus

# **Behavioral Health Bridge Housing**



# No Place Like Home (NPLH)



## Leasing:

- Bienestar (Live Oak)
- Tabasa Gardens (Watsonville)
- Sparrow Terrace (Watsonville)

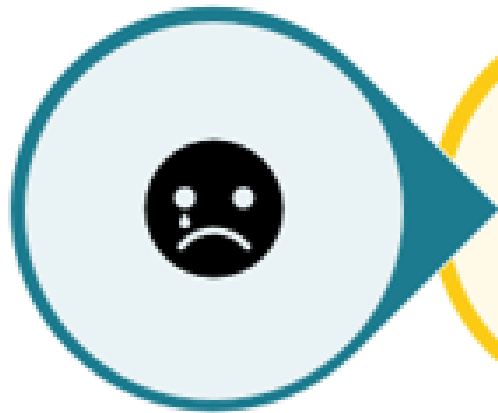
# County Behavioral Health: Crisis Now Model

High Tech  
Crisis Call  
Center

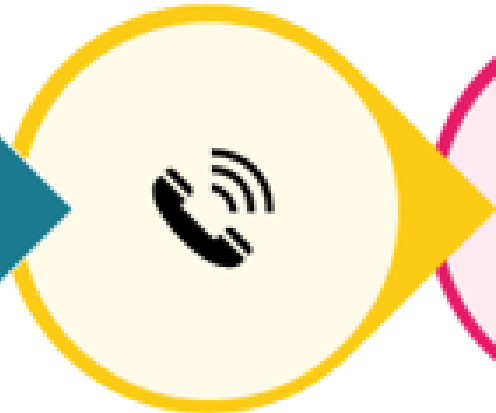
24/7 Mobile  
Outreach  
Crisis Teams

Facility-Based  
Crisis Center

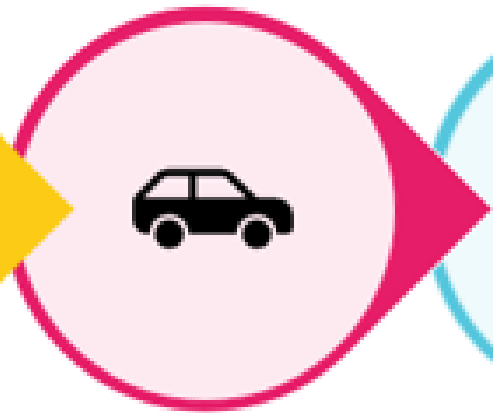
Evidence-Based  
Practices



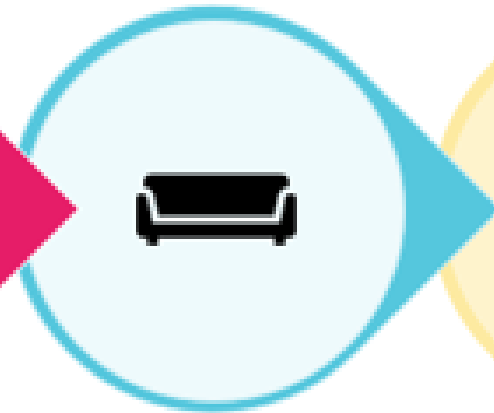
Person in Crisis



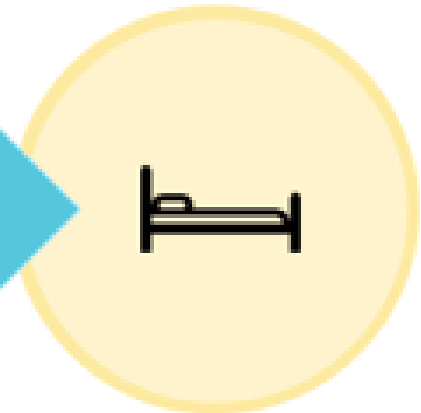
Crisis Call Center



Mobile Crisis Team



23-Hour Stabilization



Short-term Stabilization

# Children and Youth BH Continuum Roadmap: Specialty “Severe”

## Specialty Mental Health Services & Drug Medi-Cal (SMHS)



## County Mental Health Plan

### County Behavioral Health

- 24/7/365 Mobile Response (Crisis Now)
  - **Grants & Medi-Cal**
  - **County/Community Partnership**

## Youth Crisis Residential & Stabilization Unit



- 8-chair Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU)
- 16-bed Crisis Residential Program (CRP)

**Opportunities: Meeting the Moment**

# Opportunities: Meeting the Moment



- Without permanent housing, we will not be able to stop cycle of chronic homelessness and support people on a recovery path.
- County and jurisdictional partnerships are crucial to advancing the health of our community members
  - Expanding housing infrastructure for chronically homeless

# Funding

## Prop 1:

- Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA)
- Bond BHCIP infrastructure support

## Measure K:

- 1 million for homelessness
- 1 million for housing

## CORE

- Homelessness prevention and intervention services

# Questions?

Thank You



Salud Mental y  
Tratamiento del Uso  
de Sustancias

