California’s Behavioral Health Crisis
Millions of Californians are not getting the care they need for mental health or substance use disorders.

About two-thirds of adults with a mental illness and two-thirds of adolescents with major depressive episodes lack treatment.

An estimated 1 in 5 adults experiences a mental health condition in any given year.

The annual health care costs for people with a behavioral health condition are about 3.5 times higher than the costs for people without such a condition.

Funding hasn’t kept pace
Nationally, the share of spending to care for mental health condition decreased from 6.3% in 2009 to a projected 5.5% in 2020.

Mental health professionals
California doesn’t have enough providers to meet the state’s needs. By 2028, the gap will be even wider.

Supply of psychiatrists in California vs. need
By 2028: Unmet need gap widens by 171% as supply of psychiatrists shrinks by 34%.

Supply of non-MD mental health providers in California vs. need
By 2028: Unmet need gap widens by 51% as supply of non-MD providers shrinks by 5%.

Source: Healthforce Center at UCSF California’s Current and Future Behavioral Health Workforce, February 2018; Coffman, Bates, Geyn, and Spetz
Note: “Non-MD Mental Health Providers” include psychologists, licensed marriage family therapists, licensed professional clinical counselors, and licensed clinical social workers

© California Hospital Association 2021