

Mental health and substance use are critical public health concerns. CPEHN, in partnership with local organizations, compiled this overview of the state of mental health and substance use issues and access to care in the county, as well as key recommendations for advancing equity.

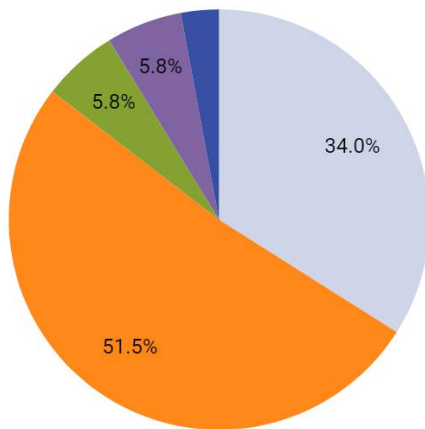


County Demographics

Race / Ethnicity

U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program (PEP), 2016

● White
 ● Latino
 ● Black
 ● Asian/Pacific Islander
 ● Native American



Primary Language Spoken

U.S. Census Bureau, Statistical Atlas, 2015

Spanish	37%
Asian-Pacific Islander (including Tagalog, Chinese, & Korean)	2%

Health Facts¹

- 413,565 (46%) of Kern County residents are enrolled in Medi-Cal
- 100,763 Kern County residents were enrolled through Medi-Cal Expansion
- 10% in Kern County suffer from psychological distress; mental health has been identified among the top community health need
- 17% of Kern County residents report their health status as fair or poor, similar to all Californians

Poverty

California Health Interview Survey, 2015


	Below 100% FPL	Below 200% FPL	Above 300% FPL
Kern County	22%	55%	32%
California	19.8%	39.5%	46.5%

¹ Sources: California Department of Health Care Services (2017); California Department of Finance (2017); UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, California Health Interview Survey (2015); Mercy Hospitals Bakersfield Kern Community Health Needs Assessment (2016).



Delivery of Services

Medi-Cal enrollees receive mental health and substance use services primarily through Medi-Cal Managed Care plans (MCPs) and Kern County’s Mental Health Plan (MHP). Kern County’s two MCPs and the county MHP provide Medi-Cal services through a coordinated system of care in which enrollees may receive a portion of their care from the MCP and other portions from the MHP depending upon their mental health and substance use care needs. *MCPs in Kern: (1) Kern Family Health Care; (2) Health Net Community Solutions.*

Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans (MCPs)	Service Coordination & Referral	County Mental Health Plan (MHP) [§]
MCPs and their subcontractors primarily deliver outpatient mental health services including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outpatient individual or group therapy Medication management Psychological testing Outpatient supplies, labs, & medications Psychiatric consultation 	MCP & MHP 	The MHP provides specialty services for adults meeting medical necessity criteria and children including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitative mental health services Targeted case management Psychiatric inpatient hospitalization EPSDT, including supplemental services <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 10px;">[§] Access services 24/7 by calling 1-800-991-5272.</p>

- In the Works:**
- 2 housing developments providing nearly 80 housing units upon completion.
 - Project Care integrating mental services to expand the behavioral health workforce
 - Kern County Mental Health Clinic providing mental health emergency services
 - Whole Person Care Pilot Program providing approximately 2,000 Medi-Cal enrollees with additional care coordination services.



Community Recommendations to Advance Equity

CPEHN facilitated community dialogue meetings across 4 regions in Southern California in late 2016 (Los Angeles, San Diego, Ventura, and the Inland Empire) to identify recommendations.

Policy & Practice	Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Create a workforce pipeline for jobs in the behavioral health field. ■ Using non-traditional setting as access points services and incorporating peer/ cultural brokers as part of the mental health system. ■ Expand the use of the promotora model designed to fit the needs of the community. ■ Facilitate opportunities to work with law enforcement on behavioral health issues. ■ Participate in the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System, expanding substance use treatment services for Medi-Cal enrollees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Work with community organizations, clinics, and advocates to break the stigma of seeking mental health and substance use services. ■ Educate people on their rights, regardless of immigration status. ■ Encourage the use of these vital services for communities of color. ■ Educate county officials on community recommendations to improve access to services and culturally appropriate services.

CPEHN is currently organizing partners in Kern County to research specific recommendations for Kern County.