

IMPACT REPORT



**DENVER HEALTH
FOUNDATION™**

**CENTER FOR
ADDICTION MEDICINE**
RELEASED SEPTEMBER 2024





INTRODUCTION

Denver Health Foundation is deeply grateful for your contribution this year. Your gift supports vital addiction medicine programs at Denver Health, making a profound impact on our community and helping to build a healthier, thriving Denver.

Denver Health has been a cornerstone of our community since 1860, committed to providing exceptional health care for everyone. Today, our system serves a quarter of Denver residents—270,000 patients annually—through a comprehensive network that reaches every corner of our city.

Our Behavioral Health initiatives, including the Center for Addiction Medicine (CAM), are crucial in addressing the diverse needs of our community. In 2023, CAM's hub-and-spoke model served more than 23,000 individuals with substance treatment services, resulting in more than 78,000 visits. Your support enables us to continue this essential work, ensuring accessible care for all. Thank you for being a part of Denver Health's journey towards building a healthier, thriving community through your transformational giving.

Achievements and Impact

Top Accomplishments

Program Expansion

CAM has successfully integrated new services, including mobile methadone programs and enhanced Electronic Health Record tools, to better track and support patient discharge processes.

Certified Addiction Specialist Program

Developed in collaboration with community partners, this program offers scholarships to financially challenged individuals and fosters community engagement through monthly advisory meetings. CAM engaged 68 unique individuals with lived experience, contributing over 500 hours to inform our substance use disorder programs.

“Words Matter” Campaign

Launched at the Overdose Awareness Day event on August 31, 2023, this campaign engaged more than 100 attendees, with 95 individuals signing a pledge to promote respectful language about the challenges of substance use disorder. By the end of 2024, the goal is to have 250 Denver Health employees sign the pledge and train at least three local media establishments.

Community and Patient Stories

CAM’s patient-centered approach has transformed lives by emphasizing that even small steps can

lead to significant progress in recovery. These incremental achievements are vital in building confidence and sustaining long-term change for individuals overcoming substance use disorders. Here are a few examples:

Sobriety House Partnership

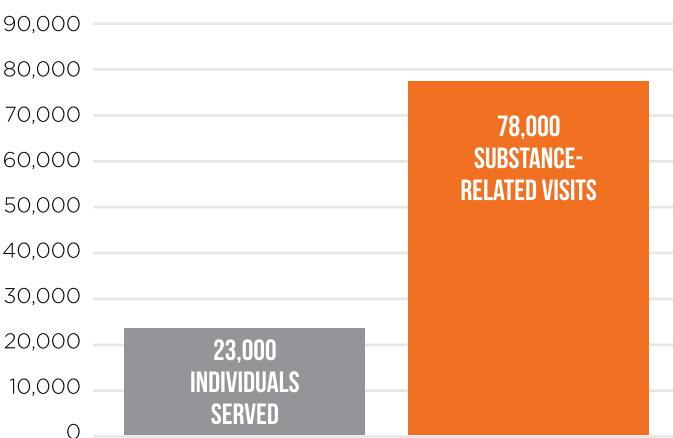
A patient achieved 34 days of sobriety—the longest in 20 years—thanks to the commitment of CAM staff and enriching recovery activities. She plans to transition to Phase II and secure permanent housing with a \$1,900 voucher.

655 Broadway Transitional Housing Program

A 62-year-old patient, new to treatment, successfully transitioned to permanent housing and attended her first Outpatient Behavioral Health Services (OBHS) appointment, marking a powerful step in her recovery journey.

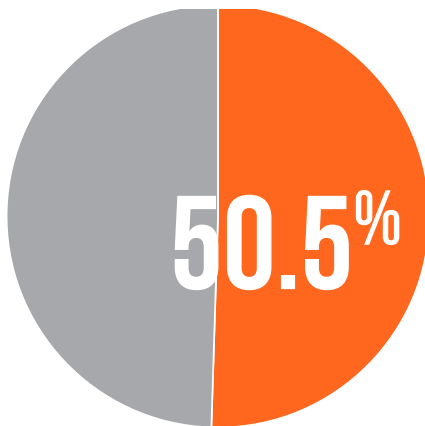
Program Reach

In 2023, CAM served more than 23,000 individuals, resulting in more than 78,000 substance-related visits



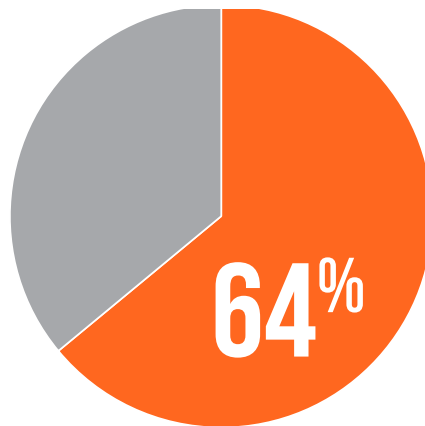
Age Distribution

More than half of CAM patients are aged 25-44



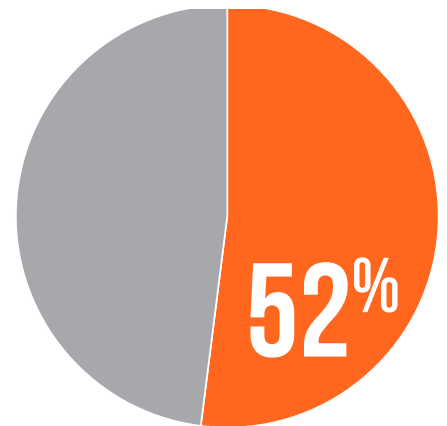
Gender Distribution

64% are male



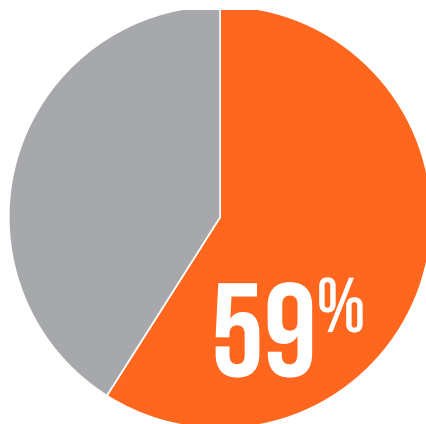
Race Distribution

52% are persons of color



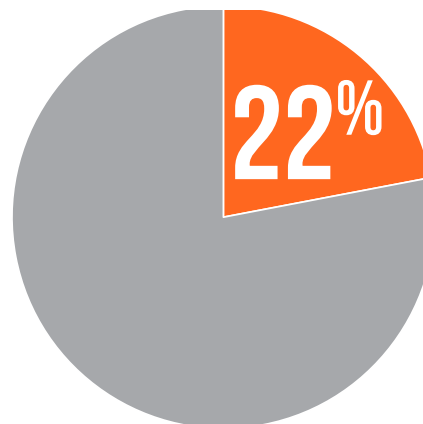
Insurance Type

59% are insured with Medicaid



Experiencing Homelessness

22% are experiencing homelessness



Future Goals and Directions

Looking ahead, CAM aims to expand its reach and improve services by:

- Increasing community partnerships to enhance service accessibility.
- Continuing to develop innovative treatment programs tailored to diverse patient needs.
- Engaging more patients and family members to stop the intergenerational cycle of addiction.

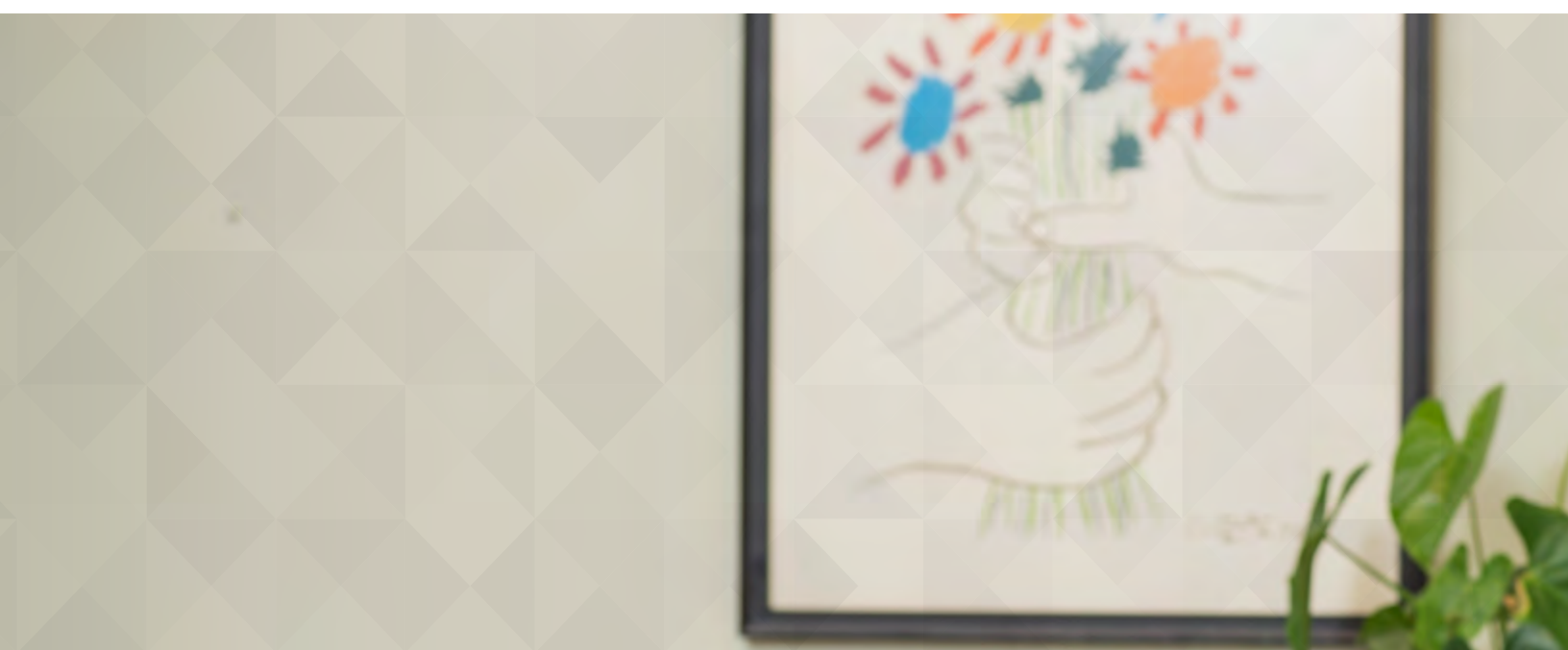
Community Engagement

Community advisory meetings play a vital role in shaping CAM's services. Engaging 68 unique

individuals with lived experience, these meetings have provided valuable insights that inform our substance use disorder programs. Participants have contributed more than 500 hours to ensure our initiatives reflect their needs and experiences.

Financial Overview and Support

Philanthropic support is crucial for CAM's operations, helping us maintain and expand essential services. Donor contributions enable CAM to provide comprehensive care to all patients, regardless of their financial situation, ensuring no one is turned away when they are ready to receive treatment. Your generosity ensures that all patients, regardless of their ability to pay, receive exceptional care in their time of need.



CONCLUSION

Since 2019, the financial burden of providing unpaid care for residents of the City and County of Denver has surged, escalating from \$42 million to \$102 million in 2023. However, the city's payment for care for patients ineligible for health insurance has remained flat, which is placing a growing strain on the health system. According to the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) 2024 Hospital Financial Transparency Report, uninsured patients represent 17% of Denver Health's patient base, which is significantly higher than other Front Range hospitals.

Philanthropic giving through Denver Health Foundation is crucial in addressing the financial challenges posed by rising levels of uncompensated care.

Denver Health Foundation's efforts are not just about raising funds—they are also about enhancing the quality and accessibility of health care. These philanthropic initiatives support critical Behavioral Health programs like the Center for Addiction Medicine (CAM). Your generosity ensures that all patients, regardless of their ability to pay, receive exceptional care. The combined support from foundations, individual donors, and community partners is vital in maintaining the health and well-being of Denver's diverse population and addressing health inequities across the community.

We deeply appreciate your commitment to our mission. Together, we are transforming lives and building a healthier, thriving Denver.





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