

# IMPACT REPORT



**DENVER HEALTH  
FOUNDATION™**

**PSYCH LIBRARY**

**RELEASED SEPTEMBER 2024**



# INTRODUCTION

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Denver Health Foundation is immensely grateful for your support of our Behavioral Health programs, which are making a transformative impact on the community. Your contributions enable us to continue providing vital services through initiatives like the Adolescent Psych Library, helping to build a healthier and more inclusive Denver.

Denver Health has been a steadfast pillar of our community since 1860, dedicated to delivering exceptional health care for all. Serving a quarter of Denver residents—270,000 patients annually—our extensive network reaches every corner of our city.

The Adolescent Psych Library is a cherished part of our Behavioral Health efforts, enhancing the therapeutic environment for patients aged 12-17 and offering a diverse range of resources to support mental health recovery and education.

# Achievements and Impact

## Top Accomplishments

### **Curation and Diversity**

The Psych Library has expanded its collection with intentional curation by librarians and educators to include books in Spanish, diverse genres, and representations of various identities. This includes fiction, history, graphic novels, and canonical literature, appealing to a wide range of interests.

### **Window and Mirror Books**

The library uses a teaching approach that gives students access to stories that reflect their own identities or introduces them to different ones, helping them feel understood and encouraging empathy.

### **Canonical and New Books**

Classic literature allows patients to keep up with educational requirements, while new books attract patients and signal that they are deserving of fresh, unused items.

# Community Impact and Patient Stories

The Psych Library serves multiple purposes beyond being a resource for reading materials:

### **Therapeutic Benefits**

Books provide solace and escape, with reading serving as a clinical indicator of increased focus and commitment to recovery. For instance, a patient recently found a book featuring a character with braids like their own, which was empowering and validating.

### **Empowerment and Choice**

In a highly restricted environment, the library offers patients a sense of autonomy and empowerment through choice.

### **Patient Stories**

The library frequently sees children who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. Finding characters who share similar identities or trauma histories helps normalize their experiences and strengthens their confidence.

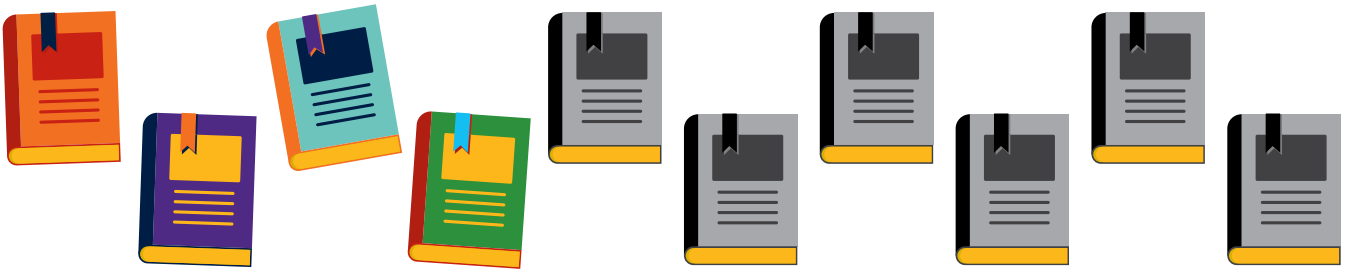
## Age Distribution

The library specifically serves patients aged 12-17, catering to adolescents in the Psych Ward.



## Diversity in Content

Over 40% of new titles feature protagonists from underrepresented backgrounds, reflecting our commitment to inclusivity.



## Program Reach

In 2023, the Psych Library served hundreds of adolescent patients, becoming an integral part of their therapeutic journey.





## Book Access and Patient Empowerment

Although replacing missing or stolen books is not ideal, it's important to recognize the significance these books hold for many patients. For some, the books in the Adolescent Psych Library may be among the few they have ever owned, making it difficult to fault them for taking a book home, especially if they are unlikely to re-access it after their stay.

In cases where it's clear that a patient has formed a strong attachment to a particular book and has limited access to books at home, we ensure that they can take the book with them. This is especially true for patients transitioning from foster care to residential housing, where personal belongings are often few. In these instances, the ability to bring home a beloved book provides not just comfort but a sense of continuity and ownership, empowering patients as they move forward in their recovery journey.

## Fostering Belonging and Identity

The Adolescent Psych Library plays a vital role in helping patients feel understood and accepted by offering books that reflect diverse identities and experiences. By providing stories that resonate with

patients' own struggles and backgrounds, the library fosters a sense of belonging and self-discovery, which is crucial to their mental health recovery and personal growth.

## Financial Overview and Support

Philanthropic support is crucial for the Psych Library's operations, allowing us to expand our collection and make resources more accessible to patients. Donor contributions ensure that all individuals have access to materials that support their mental health recovery, regardless of their financial situation.

# CONCLUSION

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The Psych Library is an invaluable resource within Denver Health's Behavioral Health programs, providing patients with access to diverse and engaging materials that support their mental health recovery. Thanks to your generous support, we continue to enhance the library's offerings and create an inclusive environment where every patient feels represented and valued.

Together, we are transforming lives and building a healthier, thriving Denver. Your contributions make this vital work possible, and we deeply appreciate your commitment to our mission.





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