

Access to Behavioral Health Care in Michigan

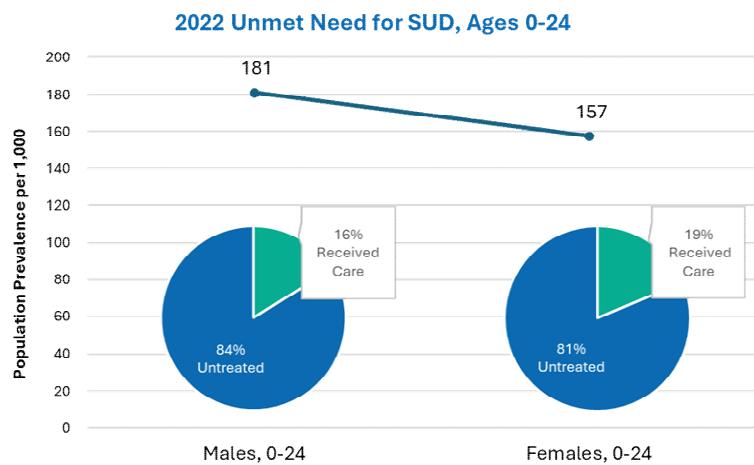
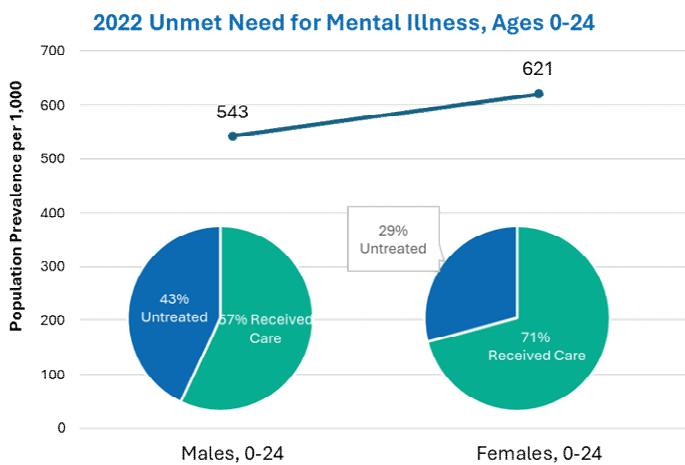
Young People Population, 2022

Project Summary

Access to behavioral health care in Michigan remains a significant concern, with unmet needs leading to delays in care, financial strain, and reduced health and wellbeing. This study updates the assessment of any mental health illness (AMI) and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment access using 2022 administrative claims data for those with private insurance, Medicaid, or Medicare. Access is measured by the percentage of individuals with behavioral health needs who received at least one treatment in the study year. While this measure doesn't evaluate care quality or completeness, it offers an updated view to track changes since 2019 and establishes a new benchmark for future evaluations of behavioral health needs after the pandemic.

Unmet Need for Behavioral Health Care in Michigan – Young People

- ▲ The prevalence of AMI and SUD is highest among young adults aged 18-24. Men are at greater risk for SUD and women have a higher prevalence of AMI.
- ▲ Prevalence of AMI in Michigan young people increased for both males and females ages 0-24, and access to treatment increased for females ages 18-24 — showing lower rates of untreated in 2022.
- ▲ Male children (ages 0-17) had a higher prevalence of AMI than female children (ages 0-17). However, in the 18-24 age group females had a significantly higher prevalence of AMI than males in 2022.
- ▲ For males ages 0-24 the share untreated for AMI was 45% (for 0-17) and 41% (for 18-24), for females ages 0-24 the share untreated was 23% (for 0-17) and 35% (for 18-24) in 2022.
- ▲ Across all years, unmet SUD care needs remained much higher than for AMI. In 2022 86% of both males and females (ages 18-24) with SUD went untreated.



Barriers to and Recommendations for Access for Behavioral Health Care

- ▲ While Michigan has made meaningful progress in maintaining and enhancing behavioral health service delivery, ongoing attention to the needs of young people and strategic policy development will be essential for future success.
- ▲ To expand access, state policymakers and other stakeholders can continue to act to: reduce administrative barriers within schools, and implement statewide data monitoring systems to monitor youth mental health programs and progress.

Details on specific findings and recommendations are available in the full report.