




2022 ANNUAL REPORT



The Colorado Health Institute marked its 20th anniversary in 2022. Not only did the occasion give us a reason to celebrate our successes and thank our partners, it allowed us to reflect on how Colorado has changed, how CHI has changed, and how we've changed one another.

CHI was founded in 2002 to fill a need for nonpartisan, independent data and evidence-based analysis to support decision-makers. As our state has changed and as our health policy environment has become more complex, we've evolved into a mission-driven consultancy advancing the well-being of our communities through deep expertise and implementational know-how.

Our work has evolved to include a philanthropically supported Health Agenda that focuses on climate and health, behavioral health, and integrating systems of care. Our consulting work helps Coloradans — whether they be state and local government agencies, community groups, health systems, or others working toward more equitable health outcomes — better serve their communities by simplifying the complex, putting work in context, and advancing policies that make a difference.

I'm proud of what our team accomplished in 2022. We've helped the State of Colorado plan for the endemic phase of COVID-19 and provided guidance on how the state can address the needs of Coloradans living with Alzheimer's Disease. We've supported community organizations to better meet the needs of an aging population and provided data and strategic guidance for groups working to reduce homelessness and fight hunger. We're proud that we've helped local public health departments build bridges with diverse communities and improve their services for children and youth with special health care needs. We've also helped grow the next generation of health care leaders through a unique series of fellowships and training programs.

We're excited to share our impact. And we're grateful for your partnership.



Sara Schmitt
President & CEO

Advancing Health Equity in 2022

CHI's team is committed to advancing equity, both inside our organization and in our communities.

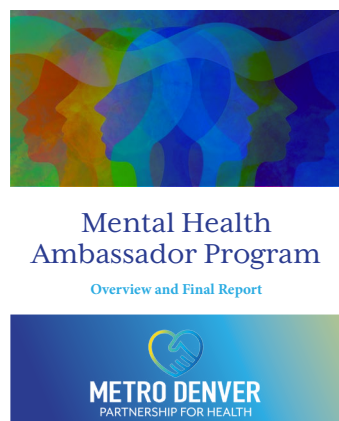


The Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Alliance (IDEA) at CHI

In 2022 CHI completed its first strategic plan for diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. It will serve as a roadmap for our priorities and activities over the next three to five years. This plan builds on work that has been underway since 2017 and includes specific goals, timelines, and accountability measures for areas such as employee recruitment, promotion and retention, organizational awareness, and more.

Task Forces

Support from our philanthropic funders allows our team members to share their expertise by serving on commissions and task forces. In 2022, CHI team members served on task forces including: the Colorado Direct Care Workforce Collaborative Action Group, the Colorado Maternal Mental Health Collaborative & Framework, Denver Asian American Pacific Islander Commission, and the Denver Commission on Aging.



Health Ambassador Programs

CHI continued to support the [Metro Denver Partnership for Health Community Ambassador programs](#)' efforts to broaden access to health in priority communities. In 2022, we helped ambassador organizations with training and resources on vaccinations and mental health. Because these ambassadors are trusted in their communities, they are able to get information and referrals to people who needed them.

CHI 2022 by the Numbers

Data and information aren't meaningful unless they reach the people who need them. That's why our team makes sure our research and analysis get out to our communities.

9 Eggheads webinars

that highlighted new reports and featured the work of our partners.



47 presentations

covering topics like health equity, climate change, and health care innovation.

3,182 people attended CHI presentations

in 2022, including health care providers, policymakers, and community members.

18 published works,

including 9 blogs and 9 reports.

12,613 followers

on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram

Our Initiatives

CHI is driving change on three issues that we believe must be addressed to advance health equity and well-being in Colorado. Read our [2022 Health Agenda](#) to find out why climate and health, behavioral health, and integrating systems of care are so important.



Climate and Health

- In April, CHI launched [Acclimate Colorado](#) to help Colorado communities drive planning and policy to adapt and respond to the health effects of climate change. We also created the Acclimate Action Team to guide our work.
- In June, we published [Think Globally, Adapt Locally](#), an expansion of CHI's 2019 health and climate index. People can use the new index to find their county's:
 - ▶ exposure to climate-related hazards.
 - ▶ health outcomes and access to care.
 - ▶ social factors that have been linked to vulnerable populations.
 - ▶ plans and perceptions related to climate change and health.
- To share this work, we presented [two Eggheads webinars](#) on the [health effects of climate change](#) and spoke to attendees of the National Network of Public Health Institutes' annual conference in New Orleans.



Job Loss, COVID, and Health

Poor Mental Health Persisted Even After Laid-Off Workers Found New Employment

JANUARY 2022

Coloradans' mental well-being took a turn for the worse during the COVID-19 pandemic, and people who lost their jobs were especially likely to report poor mental health.

One in four respondents (23.7%) to the 2022 Colorado Health Access Survey (CHAS) reported poor mental health—a jump of more than 8 percentage points since 2019. Moreover, almost half of people who lost their jobs during the pandemic reported poor mental health (44.4%). They were also more likely to report that their general health was worse than those who did not lose their jobs. What's more, this disparity persisted even for people who got a new job.

In the wake of the pandemic, Colorado's political leaders are contemplating a variety of large investments in mental health. These findings support that perspective.

Key Takeaways

- People who lost their jobs during COVID-19 pandemic reported 8% higher rates of poor mental health than those who kept their jobs during the pandemic progression.
- As policy makers deploy federal relief money, they should not overlook seemingly separate areas of behavioral health and economic recovery are intertwined.

Mental Health in Colorado's LGBTQ+ Communities

MARCH 2022

Figure 1: Job Loss Hit Hard When COVID Arrived in Colorado

Colorado's political leaders are contemplating a variety of large investments in mental health. These findings support that perspective.

Acceptance of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and non-binary gender identities and expressions in the LGBTQ+ community. But being LGBTQ+ can also have significant impacts on mental health.

Being LGBTQ+ may not be a stressor in itself, but it can be a source of stress when combined with other factors such as racism, sexism, and homophobia in the U.S. healthcare system. LGBTQ+ individuals are more likely to report poor mental health and are more likely to be in need of mental health services. This is likely due to a variety of factors, including:

- Discrimination in the workplace
- Stigma and prejudice
- Lack of access to mental health services
- Risk of violence

Key Takeaways

- A 40% increase in Colorado adults reported having poor mental health, compared to 74.8% of respondents, regardless of gender, race, or ethnicity.
- The disparity in mental health was greatest among transgender, non-binary, and gender diverse Coloradans, with 23% of whom reported having poor mental health.
- Policy initiatives are underway to improve access to mental health care for people in need of services.

Methodology

CHAS combined responses of people identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or gender diverse (LGBTQ+) for analysis. The "Q" is intended to include people who identify themselves as transgender, non-binary, and gender diverse. This report uses the term "LGBTQ+" to refer to all respondents who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or gender diverse.

The CHAS questionnaire asks respondents about their mental health and whether they have ever been diagnosed with a mental health condition. This report uses the term "LGBTQ+" to refer to all respondents who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or gender diverse.

Diverse State, Diverse Needs

Coloradan's Needs and Experiences Highlight Demand for Culturally Responsive Care

JULY 2022

No two people have the same needs and experiences when they visit a doctor. Characteristics like language, cultural identity, sexual orientation, and previous experience with trauma can all shape a person's health care needs.

Health care providers who deliver culturally responsive care are more sensitive to these diverse values, beliefs, and behaviors. Receiving culturally responsive care is associated with better health outcomes and more positive experiences with the health care system.

According to the 2022 Colorado Health Access Survey (CHAS), about one in 14 (6.9%) Coloradans reported needing health care that was responsive to a particular need or part of their identity, most often due to their disability, language, sexual orientation, or experience with violence or abuse.

People who reported that their identity or personal history made a difference in the care they received were more likely to report being treated with less respect by health care providers. They were also more likely to avoid getting health care when they needed it due to their fear of being treated unfairly.

Colorado providers and policymakers are working to strengthen family and community care across the health care workforce, but they do more to ensure that the health care system meets the unique needs of all Coloradans.

Key Takeaways

- In 2022, nearly 7% of Coloradans (over 188,000 people) reported needing health care that was responsive to at least one unique need, such as language, sexual orientation, culture, disability, or experience with trauma.
- People who reported needing culturally responsive care were disproportionately likely to report being treated with less respect by health care providers. They were also more likely to avoid seeking health care when they needed it due to their fear of being treated unfairly.
- Having access to culturally responsive care can reduce health disparities and improve patients' health in the health care system.

Behavioral Health

- CHI published reports that focused on the factors driving poor mental health and the unequal rates of poor mental health in some communities.
- We reported on the [behavioral health crisis in Colorado's LGBTQ+ communities](#).
- We published on the relationship between [job loss and mental health](#) and the [social factors influencing mental health](#).
- CHI partnered with government agencies and health systems to recommend improvements and processes to better care for the mental health needs of our communities, including [justice-involved individuals](#) and pregnant and postpartum parents.

Integrating Systems of Care

- CHI gathered a variety of partners together with the goal of improving person-centered care through a [social health information exchange \(S-HIE\)](#). This included hosting the [first S-HIE regional meeting](#) to plan for the future.
- For the Metro Denver Partnership for Health, we convened members of the S-HIE Community Board and learned about their health care needs and challenges. Learning from people with firsthand experience ensures that our work meets the needs of the people we serve.
- CHI led a work group for the Department of Human Services Office of Behavioral Health to develop policy recommendations for statewide care coordination.

The Hitchhiker's Guide to Social-Health Information Exchange
The best source of advice for those who want to attend the First Annual Convening of the Metro Denver Social-Health Information Exchange initiative
APRIL 19 & 20, 2022

WELCOME
Social-Health Information Exchange is big. Really big.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20
Special Acknowledgement: We respectfully acknowledge the 25th anniversary of the Colorado High School League and its dedication today to work to support the health and safety of everyone in our schools, neighborhoods, and communities.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Welcome, Going the Distance

1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Leveraging our Integrative Governance Structure: How we will keep advancing S-HIE together

1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.
Strategizing for a Successful Year: Workshops discuss their roles in tackling challenges and opportunities ahead

2:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Fuel Up/Break Time

2:30 p.m. - 4:05 p.m.
Defining our Commitments to the Overall S-HIE Initiative: Workshops seek partner commitments to put into action in 2022

4:05 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Closing Remarks: Monitoring our Energy and Momentum in 2022

need to know
CHI of the Denver Metro S-HIE Initiative:
collaborate and align technology, connecting community resources and the people they serve.

Integrative Governance Organizational Chart

OPEN ASSEMBLY
Members: All stakeholders in support of integrative governance

COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Members: Integrating health and community members

COMMUNITY BOARD
Members: Community members and community-based organizations

IMPLEMENTATION WORKGROUP
Members: Technical implementation, governance, and programmatic support

SUSTAINABILITY WORKGROUP
Members: Technical implementation, governance, and programmatic support

ACCOUNTABILITY WORKGROUP
Members: Technical implementation, governance, and programmatic support

Review these resources to prepare for the convening:

- Metro Denver Social Health Information Exchange website
- Advancing a Coordinated Ecosystem for a Social Health Information Exchange (S-HIE) in Colorado shortlink
- S-HIE Value Proposition shortlink
- S-HIE Efficacy Webinars (optional) shortlink

Additional resources:

- Colorado's Office of Health Innovation shortlink
- San Diego Community Information Exchange shortlink
- The Gravitly Project: Social Interventions Research & Evaluation Network (SIREN) shortlink

Convening Communities and Growing Leaders

CHI is committed to developing leaders in health policy. In 2022 we partnered to provide these important programs.

Hot Issues in Health

After three years of being apart, we came together again at [Hot Issues in Health](#), CHI's signature event. More than 200 people attended with 350 more joining online for our first hybrid Hot Issues. Participants — who ranged from students and advocates to health care providers and policymakers — gathered to network and learn about [the state's most pressing health issues](#). The event featured a variety of notable speakers, including Gov. Jared Polis.

With support from our sponsors, we were able to provide our most inclusive and accessible conference yet. We translated all conference materials into Spanish and offered real-time Spanish interpretation and online captioning.

Aspen Ethical Leadership Program

Together with the University of Colorado Center for Bioethics and Humanities and the Aspen Center for Social Values, CHI presented the [Aspen Ethical Leadership Program](#) to a cohort of 50 national health care leaders. During the four-day program, attendees practiced ethical decision-making and debated challenging topics, such as artificial intelligence in health care and equity in telehealth.

American Society of Clinical Oncology

Our team brought a customized version of the Aspen program to oncology leaders through our partnership with the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

Milbank Fellows Program

We also facilitated the [Milbank Memorial Fund Fellows Program](#). This nine-month program for leaders in state agencies and legislatures included intensive seminars, workshops, and one-on-one coaching. The program also provided opportunities for fellows to talk and work with their peers, as well as engage with a network of ethical leaders across different industries.

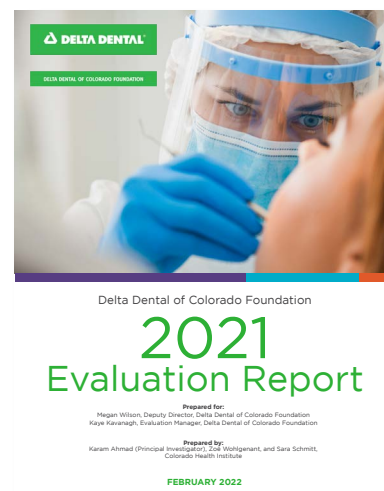



Helping People Do Good Work to Support Health

A key piece of our work in 2022 was to help leaders make strategic decisions and implement programs that support the health of all Coloradans.

Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation

CHI partnered with Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation to publish an [oral health report that explored insurance coverage and access](#), as well as the unequal social and racial factors discouraging people from visiting the dentist. Our team also convened Delta Dental's fourth annual learning circle, where over 70 grant-funded community groups across Colorado shared their data, evaluation, and research.



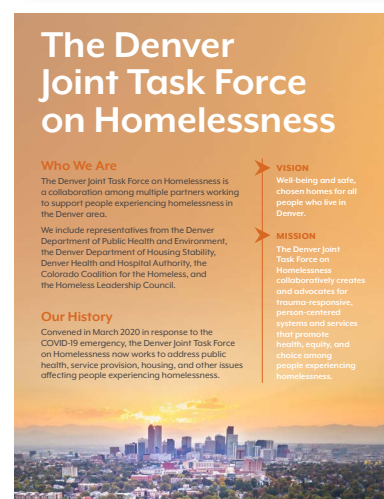
Colorado Rural Hospitals

CHI worked with health systems across the state to complete their community health needs assessments.

- We led focus groups and talked to community members in Durango, Pueblo, Cañon City, and Summit County for Centura Health.
- We collected data for Middle Park Health in Grand and Jackson counties.
- We conducted a survey and held community meetings for San Luis Valley Health.

Denver Joint Task Force on Homelessness

CHI led meetings and helped the Denver Joint Task Force on Homelessness develop its [strategic plan](#).



Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment

Our team helped the state advance care and treatment of people with Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias by preparing [a report on public health policy options](#). Our recommendations aimed to reduce risk and increase early detection among older Coloradans.

And as the state of Colorado continued to adapt its COVID-19 response, CHI brought together stakeholders to provide insight and guidance on the changes necessary to move from a pandemic to endemic response.

Jewish Family Service

We also joined with Jewish Family Service to listen to the [opinions of older adults and caregivers in the Denver metro and Boulder regions](#). This process helped to identify health disparities among older adults and determine ways to better serve their needs.



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YEARS OF IMPACT

Created an annual networking and collaboration space for people working in health policy.

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CHI convened experts in 2019 to inform a strategy for spending national opioid lawsuit settlements to address the state's opioid epidemic.

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YEARS OF IMPACT

CHI's Colorado Health Access Survey is an important data source for community health organizations across the state.

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CHI

YEARS OF IMPACT

2022 marked CHI's 20th anniversary. We looked back on our impact over the past 20 years and are grateful for the support of Colorado's health policy community. We have done important research, used data to analyze policy, and guided Colorado's leaders on key health issues. We are proud to have

helped shape Colorado's health policy landscape.

As we look to the future, CHI will continue to provide creative solutions and data-driven insights to help Colorado become the healthiest state in the nation.

Pictured: Images from CHI's social media campaign.

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YEARS OF IMPACT

CHI incubated the state's health benefits exchange, which now arranges health coverage for a quarter million Coloradans.

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CHI helped develop the Regional Health Connectors program, a statewide workforce that strengthens connections between health care and local resources.

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CHI documented the effectiveness of the Affordable Care Act and estimated the impacts of its potential repeal.

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Early in the pandemic, state leaders turned to CHI to find examples from around the world for responding to COVID-19.

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For years CHI has presented independent data and analyses to legislative decision-makers, providing nonpartisan forums for discussion.

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YEARS OF IMPACT

CHI created a model to estimate unmet needs in child care across the state, which took into account family preferences for the type of care needed.

CHI's Core Funders

Caring for Colorado
FOUNDATION



THE
COLORADO
TRUST

A Health Equity Foundation

ZOMA

Read CHI's [2022 Financial Statement](#)



COLORADO HEALTH INSTITUTE



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