

CCAP Priority: County Mental Health Crisis Funding

County-operated crisis systems are the backbone of Pennsylvania's behavioral health safety net—providing immediate, community-based care that prevents escalation, reduces hospitalizations, and limits involvement with law enforcement. Demand is rising rapidly, but funding has not kept pace.

Demand is Surging

- Crisis service utilization **increased 52%** from FY2023 to FY2024¹
- In FY2024, 601,484 individuals received county mental health services—12% required crisis intervention¹
- **26% of crisis service users** were children under age 18¹

This sharp growth reflects increasing behavioral health needs across all populations, especially among youth.

Insurance Coverage Loss

Following the expiration of enhanced premium tax credits under H.R. 1:

- **130,000 Pennie enrollees lost coverage in 2026²**
- Since the expiration of insurance credits, Pennsylvania's crisis walk-in centers have experienced an **18% increase** in the number of individuals without insurance coverage³.
- Based on current utilization rates, crisis centers statewide are projected to **incur approximately \$12.6 million in costs** over the next year to provide services to uninsured clients³.
- Counties are increasingly serving as the default provider of last resort

As access to routine care declines, more Pennsylvanians enter the system at the point of crisis—when care is most intensive and costly.

How Additional Funding Would Be Used

Targeted state investment would allow counties to strengthen and expand crisis services, with a primary focus on crisis walk-in centers, which provide immediate, in-person care and reduce reliance on emergency rooms and law enforcement.

- **Expansion of crisis walk-in centers**, including increased capacity to reduce wait times and meet growing demand
- **Clinical staffing and workforce stabilization**, addressing shortages and supporting timely assessments and interventions

- **Integration with mobile crisis and community-based services**, ensuring continuity of care beyond the initial crisis response

These investments ensure individuals receive the right care, at the right time, in the right setting—preventing escalation and reducing costly downstream impacts.

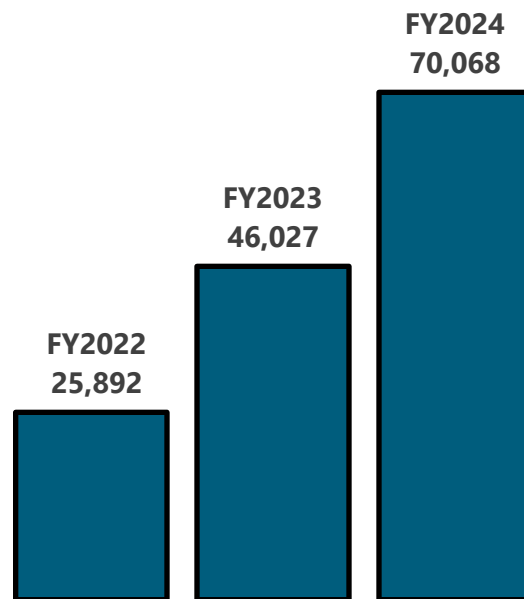
CCAP Request

Pennsylvania must make a sustained investment in county mental health crisis services to:

- Stabilize and expand crisis infrastructure
- Meet rapidly growing demand
- Ensure timely access to care in the least restrictive setting

Crisis services save lives—and reduce costs. Underfunding them shifts the burden to more expensive systems and leaves vulnerable Pennsylvanians without the help they need.

Number of Pennsylvanians Receiving Crisis Response Services, FY2022-2024



Data source: 2022, 2023, and 2024 Uniform Report Summary Output Tables, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration



1. Data source: 2022, 2023, and 2024 Uniform Report Summary Output Tables, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
2. PA Department of Insurance. Pennie Enrollment Data 2026
3. CCAP Survey of walk-in crisis centers, March 13, 2026. The results presented rely on a sample of facilities across the Commonwealth