

# Mental Health Workforce and Education

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# Table 1: Overall Mental Health Rankings, Mountain West, 2022

Category	Arizona	Colorado	Nevada	New Mexico	Utah
Overall Ranking	49	37	51	35	43
Prevalence of Mental Illness Ranking	32	45	46	43	47
Access to Care Ranking	46	21	39	20	26
Mental Health Workforce Availability	710:1	270:1	460:1	250:1	290:1

\*Adapted from “The State of Mental Health in America 2022” by Mental Health America

Cheche, O. K., Thymianos, K., Gilbertson, K. M., Beavers, K., Saladino, C. J., Brown, W. E. (2022). “The State of Mental Health in the Mountain West.” The Data Hub at The Lincy Institute & Brookings Mountain West. *Health Fact Sheet No. 13* 1-4.

Available at: [https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/bmw\\_lincy\\_health/12](https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/bmw_lincy_health/12)

## Table 2: Overall Mental Health Rankings, Top 5, 2022

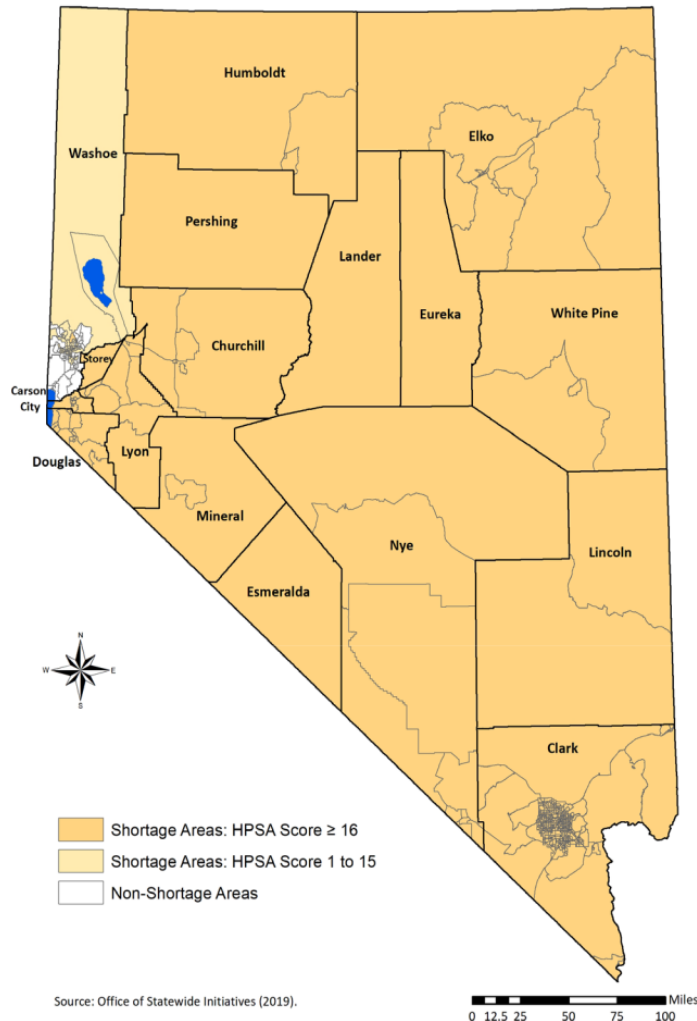
Category	Massachusetts	New Jersey	Pennsylvania	Connecticut	Vermont	Nevada
Overall Ranking	1	2	3	4	5	51
Prevalence of Mental Illness Ranking	26	1	6	9	50	46
Access to Care Ranking	2	24	8	9	1	39
Mental Health Workforce Availability <small>(<a href="http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/">http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/</a>)</small>	150:1	420:1	450:1	240:1	210:1	460:1

\*Adapted from “The State of Mental Health in America 2022” by Mental Health America

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# Mental Health Workforce Shortages



- 3 million Nevadans reside in a mental health care health professional shortage area or “HPSA” or 94.5% of the state’s population, including 100% of Clark County and Carson City residents
- 16 single-county mental health care HPSAs, including all 14 rural and frontier counties in Nevada

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Initiatives at



# What it Takes to be Average – Mental Health

Profession	Number per 100,000			Number Needed to	
	Population			be Average	
	US	Nevada	Clark	Nevada	Clark
Clinical Professional Counselors	45.4	10.3	10.7	1,074	1,062
Licensed Clinical Social Workers	35.7	35.1	32.2	18	107
Marriage and Family Therapists	22.1	28.4	29.7	(193)	(233)
Psychiatrists	15.6	9.0	8.7	202	211
Psychologists	30.0	14.5	11.5	474	566

Reproduced with permission from Dr. Packham. Source: Nevada Health Workforce Research Center (2021).

# School Behavioral Health Provider Shortages

Provider Type	Nevada Ratio	Recommended Ratio	Need
School Psychologist	1:1,866	1:500	3.7 times as many
School Social Worker	1:8,730	1:250	35 times as many
School Counselor	1:544	1:250	Twice as many

# NEBRASKA

- 2004 Nebraska Legislature (LB1083): Nebraska Behavioral Health Services Act
  - “...promote activities in research and education to improve the quality of behavioral health services, **the recruitment and retention of behavioral health professionals**, and the availability of behavioral health services.”
- 2009 Nebraska Legislature (LB603): Behavioral Health Workforce Act
  - Introduced by Health and Human Services Committee
  - “The Legislature finds that there are **insufficient behavioral health professionals in the Nebraska behavioral health workforce...**”

# University of Nebraska: Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN)

- 2009 Nebraska Legislature (LB603): Behavioral Health Workforce Act
  - Creates BHECN to be administered by University of Nebraska Medical Center
    - Add 2 additional Psychiatry residents yearly
    - Fund 5 doctoral-level Psychology internships (+5 in 3 years)
    - Train BH professionals in telehealth
    - Analyze workforce trends
    - Establish learning collaborative with other higher education institutions and stakeholders
    - Develop 2 interdisciplinary BH training sites each year
    - Legislative report every 2 years

<https://unmc.edu/bhecn/>



# University of Nebraska: Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN)

- Engage and Recruit
  - Ambassador Program: connect high school students with resources and mentors to engage interest in BH professions (rural and urban underserved areas)
- Prepare and Train
  - Connect college students to training and mentoring opportunities with emphasis on interprofessional training
  - Fund residency, practicum, and intern positions
- Retain and Support
  - Support regional professional development trainings
  - Emphasis on provider wellness

**\$1,385,160 from general fund FY10      \$1,696,385 from general fund FY21**  
**\$25 Million in ARPA funds (LB1014, 2022)**

# A Decade of BHECN

- 2010-2021: connected with more than 5,000 high school and college students
- Strengthened partnerships with 18 academic institutions in the state to collaborate on training and workforce retention
- 40 Integrated Behavioral Health Clinics established (25 in rural counties)
- BH jobs website (327,000+ hits) <https://nebhjobs.com/>
- 2010-2020:
  - **32%** increase in psychiatric prescribers
  - **39%** increase among psychologists and mental health therapists

# Illinois Version

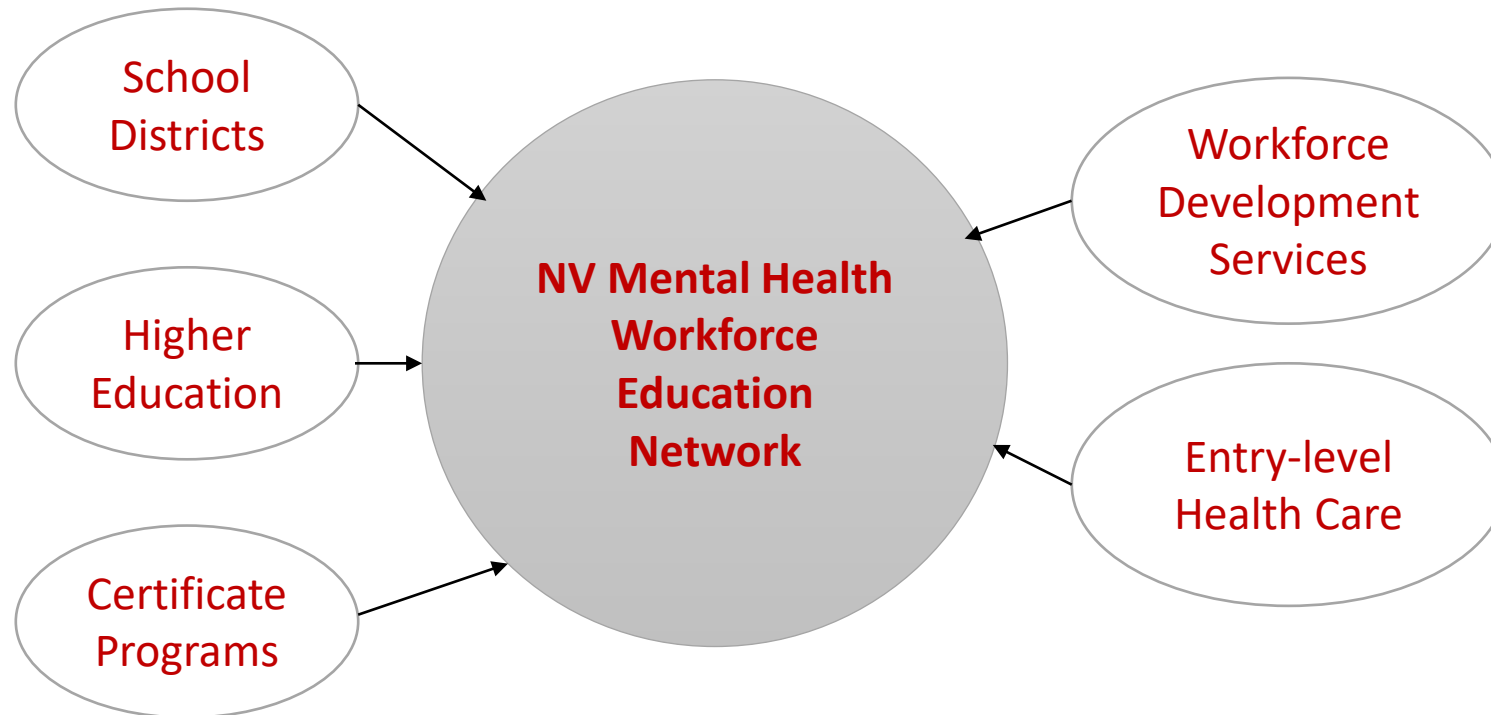
- House Resolution (2018): Declare Mental Healthcare Emergency
- HB5111 (2018): Created Behavioral Health Workforce Education Center Task Force
- HB158 (2021): Created Behavioral Health Workforce Education Center of Illinois
  - Requires the Board of Higher Education to select a public institution of higher education to administer the Center within 90 days of the effective date of the Act, with a goal of leveraging workforce and behavioral health resources to produce reforms. Subject to appropriation, the Center must be operational on or before July 1, 2022.
  - Initial investment of **\$6 Million**; funding from DHHS and IBHE
  - Open end of 2022/beginning of 2023

❖ Kansas exploring the BHECN model

# Proposal:

## Nevada Mental Health Workforce Education Network

- Create statewide network of partners based on BHECN model
  - Education, employers, policy makers, state entities, community groups, insurance
  - Administered under NSHE
- Constructed with various entry points into NSHE



# Proposal:

## Nevada Mental Health Workforce Education Network

- Recruitment into careers
- Mentor matching in geographic locations
- Workshops and conferences for licensed professionals
- Data tracking
- Statewide mental health jobs board



# Questions?

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