



Office of Rural Health

Area Health  
Education Center

# Children, Families, Health and Human Services Interim Committee

January 21, 2022

# Montana Office of Rural Health & Area Health Education Center

- Dedicated to improving access to quality healthcare for rural Montana by providing collaborative leadership and resources to healthcare and community organizations.
- To enhance access to quality healthcare, particularly primary and preventive care, by improving the supply and distribution of healthcare professionals through community and academic educational partnerships.

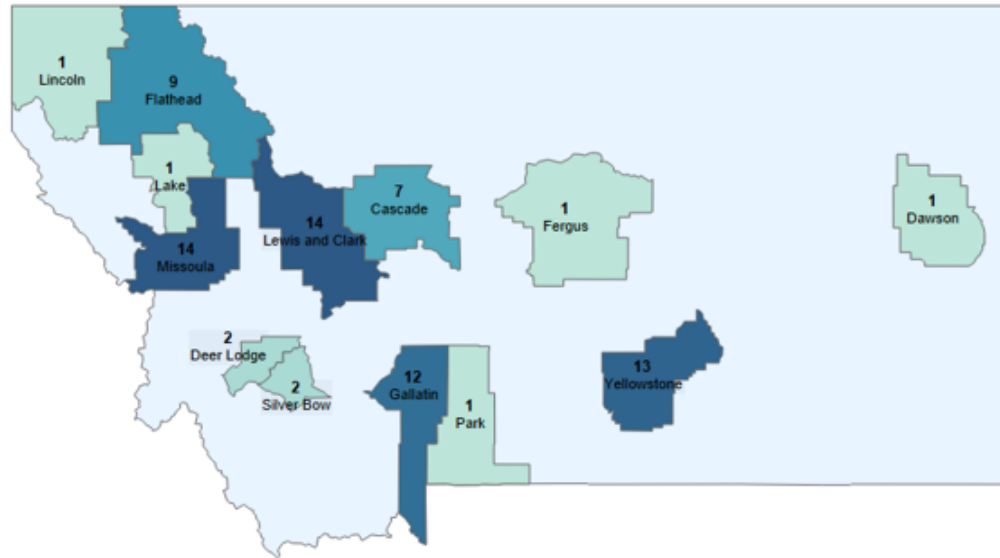


# Challenges

- Maldistribution and shortage of professional behavioral health providers
- Workforce availability in rural Montana
- Unable to reimburse for many behavioral health paraprofessional work

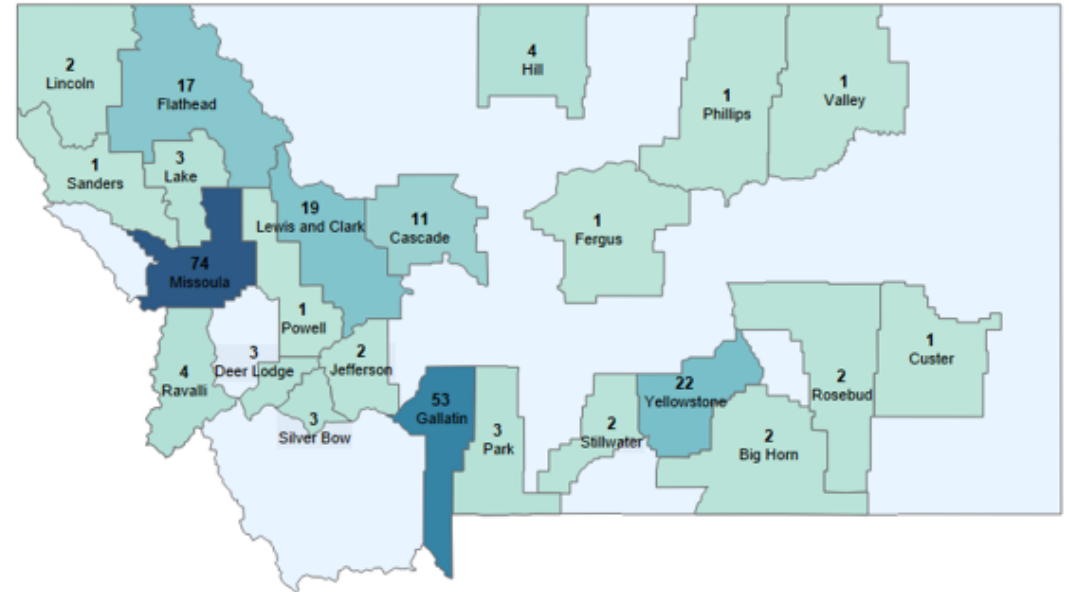


### NUMBER OF PRACTICING PSYCHIATRISTS BY COUNTY



Data source: WIM Tracking LLC. Data does not include providers within correctional settings, state facilities, Veterans Affairs, or Indian Health Services. (December 2021). Psychiatrists associated to Frontier Psychiatry are not included in this map as the providers offer tele visits.

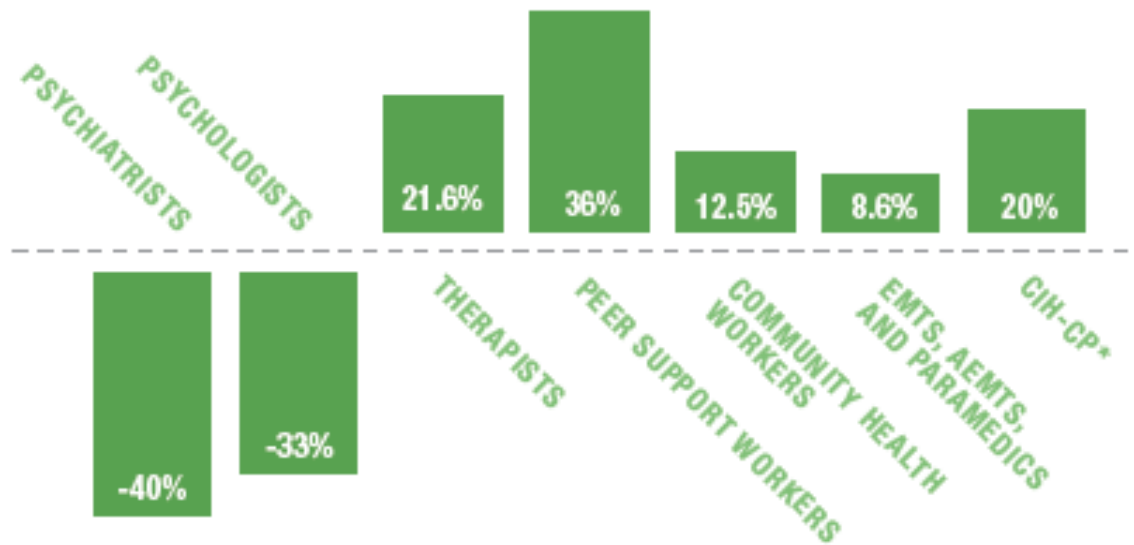
### NUMBER OF ACTIVELY LICENSED PSYCHOLOGISTS BY COUNTY



Data source: Montana Department of Labor and Industry Licensing Bureau (November 2021)

## Behavioral Health Workforce: Professionals and Paraprofessionals

Montana employment estimates 2017-2020



\*Community Integrated Health-Community Paramedics



# Opportunities

- Support training opportunities for paraprofessionals and professionals in rural MT
- Credentialing of Community Health Workers
- Explore stackable credentials, starting with high school opportunities
- Cross training of paraprofessional behavioral health staff, including in integrated behavioral health



### **Behavioral Health Workforce Education & Training - Professional Track**

The goal of this program is to increase access to quality and culturally appropriate behavioral health services in Montana's counties in eastern and north central Montana.

## **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL TRAINING GRANTS (HRSA)**

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- Two 4-year HRSA grants in Montana (MORH/AHEC at MSU and UM)
- Stipend support for rural clinical training
- BHWET East cohort includes students & residents from:
  - MSU Psych/Mental Health Doctor of Nursing Practice,
  - MSU Billings Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling,
  - Montana Track at Billings Clinic, a regional track of the University Washington Psychiatry Residency Training Program.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER

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- Estimated that 108 Community Health Workers (CHW) are active in Montana.
- 12.5% increase from 2017 to 2020.
- Eighty-eight individuals have completed the AHEC CHW training program to date.
- A community health worker remains uncertified in Montana.

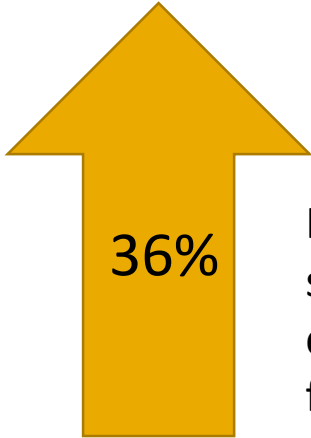
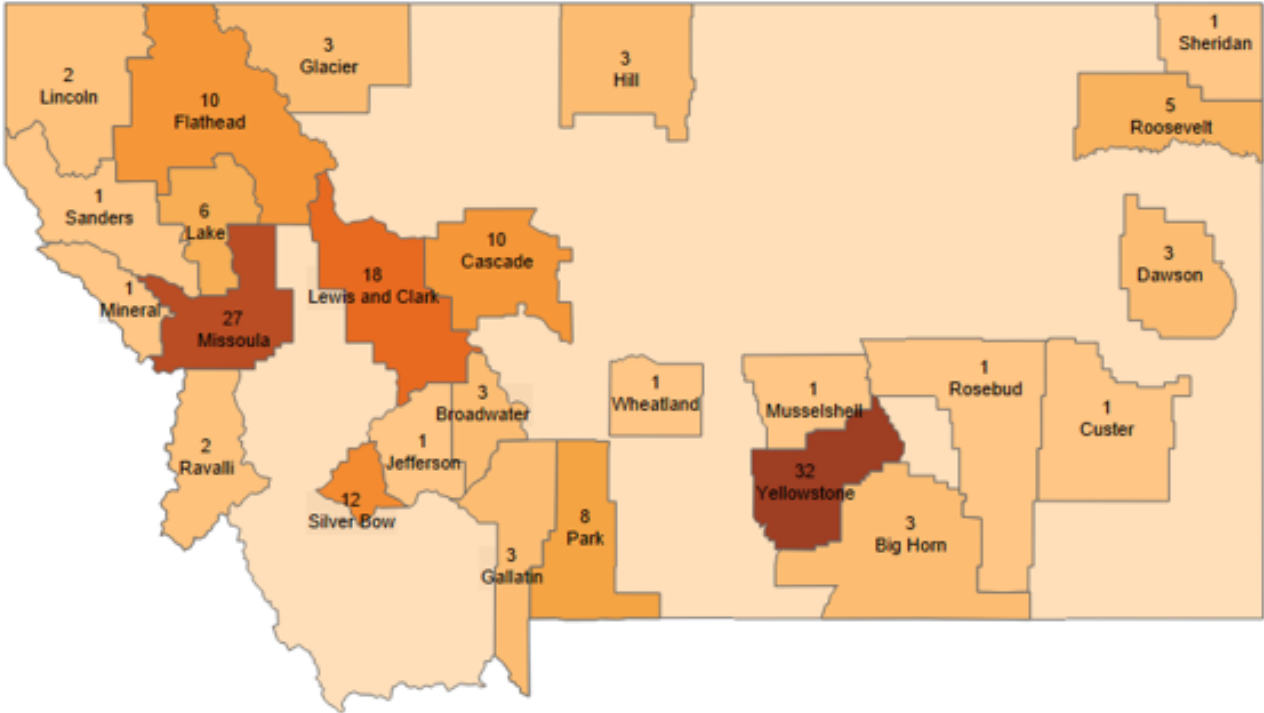


### Community Health Worker Program

The Montana Community Health Worker (CHW) training provides the knowledge and skills necessary to become a Community Health Worker.



# NUMBER OF ACTIVELY LICENSED PEER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS BY COUNTY



Increase in peer support specialists certified in Montana from 2017 to 2021.

Data source: Montana Department of Labor and Industry Licensing Bureau (November 2021)

# COMMUNITY INTEGRATED HEALTH (CIH)

Twelve individuals currently hold community integrated health (CIH) endorsements in Montana; another 20 have recently completed the training and are in the process of completing clinicals. Further individuals are currently enrolled in the MedStar training program.

The current endorsement holders are in:

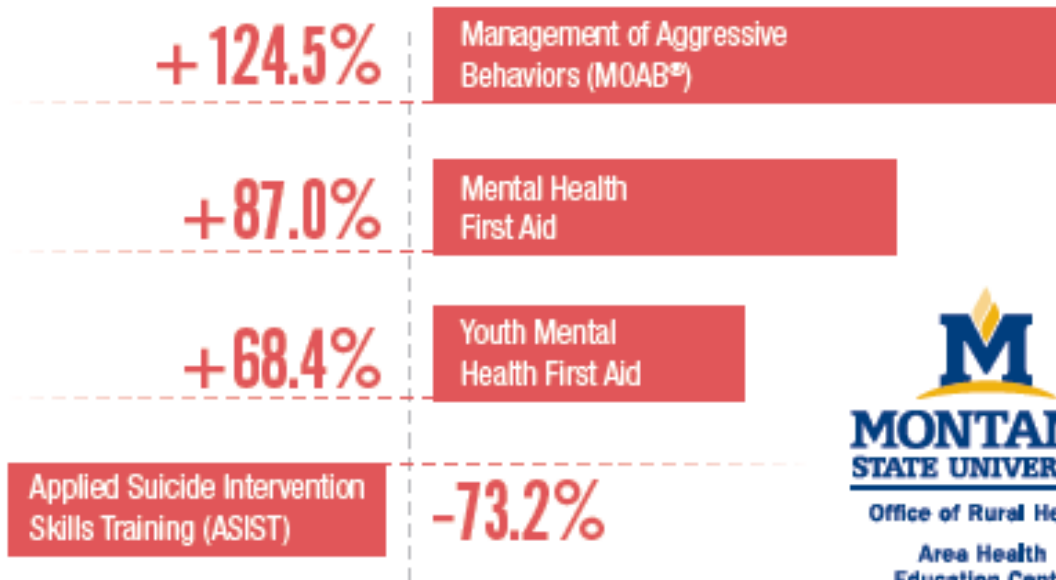
- Jefferson County, 1
- Cascade County, 2
- Ravalli County, 3
- Carbon County, 1
- Lewis & Clark County, 3
- Valley County, 2





## Training Programs

MORH/AHEC Training Programs Year 3 to Year 4



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**STACKABLE  
CERTIFICATION  
PROGRAM  
COMPLETERS**

Data sources: Montana  
Area Health Education  
Center (AHEC)

	<b>Year 1 &amp; 2 (2017-19)</b>	<b>Year 3 (2019-20)</b>	<b>Year 4 (2020 –21)</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Community Health Worker Supervisor Training</b>	8	4	0	12
<b>Fundamentals of Behavioral Health</b>	6	4	0	10
<b>Management of Aggressive Behaviors</b>	474	335	752	1,561
<b>Mental Health First Aid</b>	39	77	144	260
<b>Youth Mental Health First Aid</b>	61	76	128	265
<b>Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training</b>	25	41	11	77
<b>Questions, Persuade, Respond (suicide prevention)</b>	0	1	0	1

# INTEGRATED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ACROSS MONTANA

Integrated behavioral health (IBH), blends the delivery of behavioral health and medical healthcare services. Integration is approached in a variety of methods; collaboration of medical and behavioral health providers, co-location of services, or cross-departmental unification of clinic operations may be components of an IBH program.

The Montana Healthcare Foundation's (MTHCF) IBH Initiative has supported IBH development in **13 FQHCs**, **32 CAHs**, **6 hospitals**, and **3 Urban Indian Health Centers UIHCs**. MTHCF Meadowlark Initiative grantees include **1 FQHC**, **5 CAHs**, **8 hospitals**, and **1 tribal health department**.

## County Designation

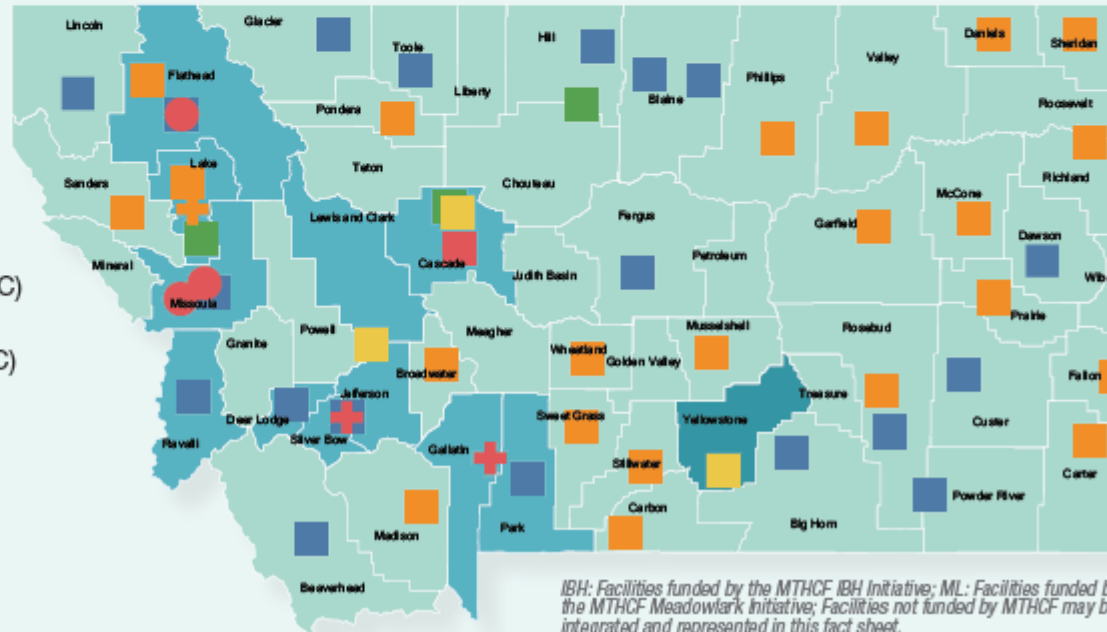
- Frontier
- Rural
- Urban

## Facility Type

- Urban Indian Health Center (UIHC)
- Hospital
- Community Health Center (FQHC)
- Critical Access Hospital (CAH)
- Tribal Health

## IBH Initiative

- IBH
- + IBH & Meadowlark
- Meadowlark (ML)





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## Contact Information

**Kailyn Mock, Director of MORH/AHEC**

[kailyn.mock@montana.edu](mailto:kailyn.mock@montana.edu)

**Beth Ann Carter, Assistant Director/Behavioral Health  
Workforce**

[beth.carter@montana.edu](mailto:beth.carter@montana.edu)