

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IN MORGAN COUNTY

Contact: mcmmentalhealthtaskforce@gmail.com



The Morgan County Mental Health Task Force (MCMHTF) envisions a community where all individuals are supported and equipped to achieve mental health wellbeing. Comprised of over 100 members representing more than 60 organizations, the MCMHTF is using the Strategic Prevention Framework to equip residents, service providers, and stakeholders to collaboratively assess and address the mental health needs of the community.

BY THE NUMBERS	Morgan County	Indiana
Deaths by suicide per 100,000 people (age-adjusted, 2018-2022)	20	16
Frequent mental distress (age-adjusted, 2022)	20%	18%
Opioid prescription dispensations per 1,000 people (2023)	733.1	555
Drug overdose deaths per 100,000 people (2020-2022)	36	38
Lack of social and emotional support (2022)	23%	25%
Mental health provider ratio (2024)	990:1	470:1
Feelings of loneliness (2022)	32%	32%

“If I had to sit down with someone and have an eye-opening conversation about mental health comparing Morgan County to our surrounding counties to highlight what a resource desert Morgan County can be, I would talk to people about how much of a stigma there is with mental health in Morgan County and also its relationship to poverty and substance use disorder. Let us enlighten you, educate you, and share our stories of what we do deal with on a daily basis here in Morgan County and how the resources that are already here can be expanded upon or enhanced in some way. I think there are a lot of good people in the county doing the work, but we definitely need support from outside of the county to come in and help Morgan County move forward.”

Jimmanee Spears
Community Liaison
Firefly Children & Family Alliance

COSTS OF UNTREATED MENTAL ILLNESS IN INDIANA

In the US, approximately one in five individuals experience mental illness each year, yet less than half receive treatment.

The increased demand for services has outpaced the provision of care, leaving millions of people untreated or with unmet treatment needs:

- Approximately 429,407 Hoosiers had untreated mental illness in 2019
- Untreated mental illness was associated with **\$4.2 BILLION** in annual societal costs in Indiana
 - \$3.3 billion in indirect costs
 - \$708.5 million in direct health care costs
 - \$185.4 million in nonhealth care costs



Untreated and undertreated mental illness is associated with profound long-term consequences, including reduced quality of life, productivity losses, worsening overall health, unemployment, and involvement with the criminal justice system.

“For a long time, I didn’t understand substance use disorder. I didn’t understand homelessness. I didn’t understand how a person or family could find themselves without a home or a community or in a state of dysfunction. I didn’t get it. Then there came a point in my life where I was broken, and I was suffering myself from the pain and the horror of opioid use disorder. And I learned first-hand that there are times in our lives when we need someone else to come along and offer a hand.”

Justin White
Mental Health Advocate
Mt. Gilead Church

These findings make the case for action and should be considered by policymakers, clinicians, and employers when allocating societal resources and funding to:

- Strengthen the mental health provider workforce
- Improve access to mental health services
- Ensure that policies enable providers to use the full range of treatment options
- Reduce barriers to treatment initiation such as transportation challenges
- Increase awareness and reduce stigma around mental illness
- Encourage employers to support mental health initiatives