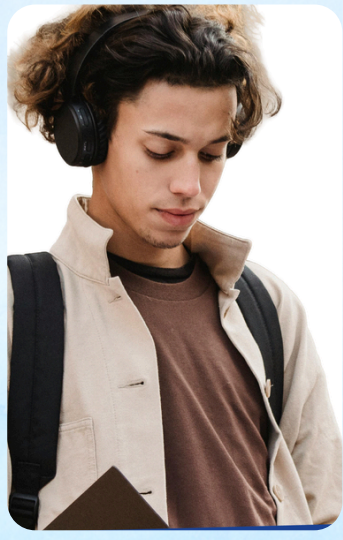


VOICES BEHIND THE NUMBERS

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH MAPPING REPORT



Voices Behind the Numbers: Children's Mental Health Mapping Report

Behind every number in the [Children's Mental Health Mapping Report](#) is a child, a family, a provider, and a community working to navigate a complex system of care.

This collection of anonymous quotes lifts up the voices behind the data. Their words reflect the challenges, gaps, strengths, and hopes that emerged throughout the mapping process.

Together, they remind us that improving children's mental health care requires listening closely, acting with urgency, and building a system that works better for every child and family.



*I was told a year, I was told 2 years...They're **not even keeping a waiting list** anymore.*

- Provider



*There is **no discussion** back and forth **between the psychiatric hospital**...to community psychiatrists or pediatricians...It's much more consistent with medical care. That is not happening with psychiatric care.*

- Pediatric Primary Care Provider



*If a child draws a picture of a handgun in school and they're 5 years old, they're going to be sent to the emergency room. [EDs are] filled with people with gunshot wounds and everything else. **Not a good place for a little kid.** The family would sit there for 7, 8 hours.*

- Out-Of-Home Provider



*The transportation won't go after 6 o'clock so they **won't be able to get a ride home.***

- Clinician describing IOP transportation challenges



***We [New Jersey] have great services. We have great resources, good quality of care.** We have almost everything that we could think of, but as I had said before, I think that there's just so many options, which is a good thing...*

- Outpatient Mental Health Provider



Maybe we can squeeze [them] in in October. This is August. **October!** It's gonna be \$750 for the first appointment, and then \$250 after that.

- Parent searching for a CAP appointment



He struggled for **8 years** with psychosis and addiction...I did everything that I could.

- Parent



We have kids here [hospital beds] for months, months...! It's that part of the system that is **not working at all.**

- Hospital Administrator



If they **don't have insurance, a lot of the partial programs won't accept them.** There's a huge wait list for any sort of charity care for the partial program.

- Hospital Clinician

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