

MEMORANDUM

To: Jennifer Place and Gina Olberding, Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention
From: Emily Johnson and Emily Santich, Colorado Health Institute
Re: Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Landscape Analysis
Date: December 22, 2022

The Colorado Health Institute (CHI) appreciates this opportunity to support the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention (CCPDAP)'s work. This memo summarizes stakeholder insights and data on support needed for people with opioid use disorders in Colorado. We are confident these findings will provide a strong basis to inform CCPDAP's funding strategy in 2023.

Background and Approach

This landscape analysis was primarily informed by the Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Stakeholder Meeting held on December 6, 2022. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Behavioral Health Administration, University of Colorado, Front Range Clinic, Southern Colorado Harm Reduction Association, Signal Behavioral Health Network, and consultants working in the opioid abuse prevention space.

During the meeting, stakeholders identified several populations as having barriers to accessing opioid use disorder treatment, including:

- People under age 18
- Tribal populations
- Pregnant persons
- Hispanic/Latino populations
- Black/African American populations
- Spanish speakers
- Migrant populations

CHI mapped opioid use disorder treatment locations overlaid with data from the list above to display population-specific access to treatment. Several maps in the appendix show close-ups of specific areas to highlight regions with high variation.

Stakeholders also identified an opportunity for hospitals to play a larger role in the addiction care system by initiating opioid use disorder treatment. As such, CHI mapped all hospital locations across Colorado.

The following data sources were used to develop these maps:

Source	Metrics Used	Date(s)
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Treatment Locator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opioid use disorder treatment facility locations Buprenorphine practitioner locations* 	2022
American Community Survey 5-year Estimates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Race/ethnicity Language spoken at home 	2017-2021
Behavioral Health Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobile health unit locations Opioid treatment program locations 	2022
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospital locations 	2022

* It is possible that not all buprenorphine practitioners in Colorado are included in SAMHSA's data tool, which may be a limitation of these data. Given time constraints, CHI was unable to compare SAMHSA's provider list with the state's.

Facilities that do not treat opioid use disorders are excluded from this analysis. In Colorado there are 285 facilities that provide opioid use disorder treatment, 1,097 buprenorphine providers, and 41 mobile health units.

Gaps and Opportunities

CHI's landscape analysis identified gaps and opportunities by geography, race/ethnicity, and underserved populations.

Geography

Key takeaway: The Eastern Plains and northwest Colorado have a low density of opioid use disorder treatment locations relative to the state average.

Map 1 displays opioid use disorder treatment provider and facility locations across Colorado. A higher density of services is available in metro areas, including along the I-25 corridor and in Grand Junction. Rural and frontier counties, especially Colorado's Eastern Plains and northwest regions, have a lower density of services.

Mobile health units have expanded access to opioid use disorder treatment services in the San Luis Valley; upper Arkansas Valley; and Clear Creek, Gilpin, Park, and Teller counties. However, no mobile health units exist in southeast Colorado.

Several counties are without any opioid use disorder treatment facilities, providers, or mobile units, including Cheyenne, Hinsdale, Jackson, Kiowa, Mineral, Ouray, and San Juan counties.

Race/Ethnicity

Key takeaway: Communities of color have less access to nearby opioid use disorder treatment locations.

Map 2 shows opioid use disorder treatment provider and facility locations overlaid with Black/African American (non-Hispanic/Latino) populations. Denver County and the westernmost parts of Arapahoe County have a relatively high density of services. However, in northeast Aurora, which is home to many Black/African American (non-Hispanic/Latino) Coloradans, very few services are available.

Map 3 shows opioid use disorder treatment provider and facility locations overlaid with Hispanic/Latino populations. Northeast Aurora, which is home to a relatively high percentage (between 36% and 90%) of Hispanic/Latino Coloradans, has a low density of opioid use disorder treatment services. The same is true in southwest Adams County near Commerce City.

Many Hispanic/Latino Coloradans live in Eagle and Lake counties. However, within those counties, services tend to be located in areas with fewer Hispanic/Latino residents.

Map 4 shows opioid use disorder treatment provider and facility locations overlaid with American Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic/Latino) populations. West central Boulder County is home to a relatively high percentage (13%) of American Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic/Latino) Coloradans compared with the state average (0.5%). This area has one mobile health unit nearby, yet there are dozens of opioid use disorder treatment locations in more urban and less racially diverse areas of Boulder County.

Southwest Colorado is home to the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute Tribes. Only one buprenorphine provider is located on the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation, with most services outside of tribal lands in Cortez and Durango.

Underserved Populations

Key takeaway: Only one in five opioid use disorder treatment facilities across Colorado accepts children/adolescents under age 18.

Map 5 shows opioid use disorder treatment provider and facility locations overlaid with populations who speak a language other than English at home. The San Luis Valley and I-70 mountain corridor are two areas that have a relatively high percentage of Coloradans ages 5 and older who speak a language other than English at home. In the San Luis Valley, services are located near a high percentage of the population that speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, in Garfield and Eagle counties, opioid use disorder treatment services are in areas where a smaller percentage of the population speaks a language other than English at home.

Map 6 identifies opioid use disorder treatment facilities that accept children and adolescents under age 18 for treatment. Of the 285 facilities that treat opioid use disorders in Colorado, 20% (59 locations) treat youth. Of these, just seven are in rural or frontier counties.

In parts of Phillips, Lincoln, and Prowers counties, between 30% and 54% of the population is under 18; however, no opioid use disorder treatment facilities in these areas accept children or adolescents.

Map 7 identifies opioid use disorder treatment facility locations with a program or group specifically tailored to pregnant/postpartum people. Of the 285 facilities that treat opioid use disorders in Colorado, 40% (112) have a program or group for pregnant/postpartum people. A higher concentration of these programs is in urban areas and along Colorado's eastern plains, with fewer programs for pregnant/postpartum people along the Western Slope.

Hospital Locations

Key takeaway: Engaging hospitals could increase access to opioid use disorder treatment services, especially in rural and frontier counties.

Map 8 shows hospital locations across Colorado. During the December 6 meeting, stakeholders indicated that an opportunity exists for hospitals to play a larger role in the addiction care system by initiating opioid use disorder treatment. Engaging hospitals could help expand access to opioid use disorder treatment, especially in rural and frontier counties that currently lag behind urban areas in treatment availability.

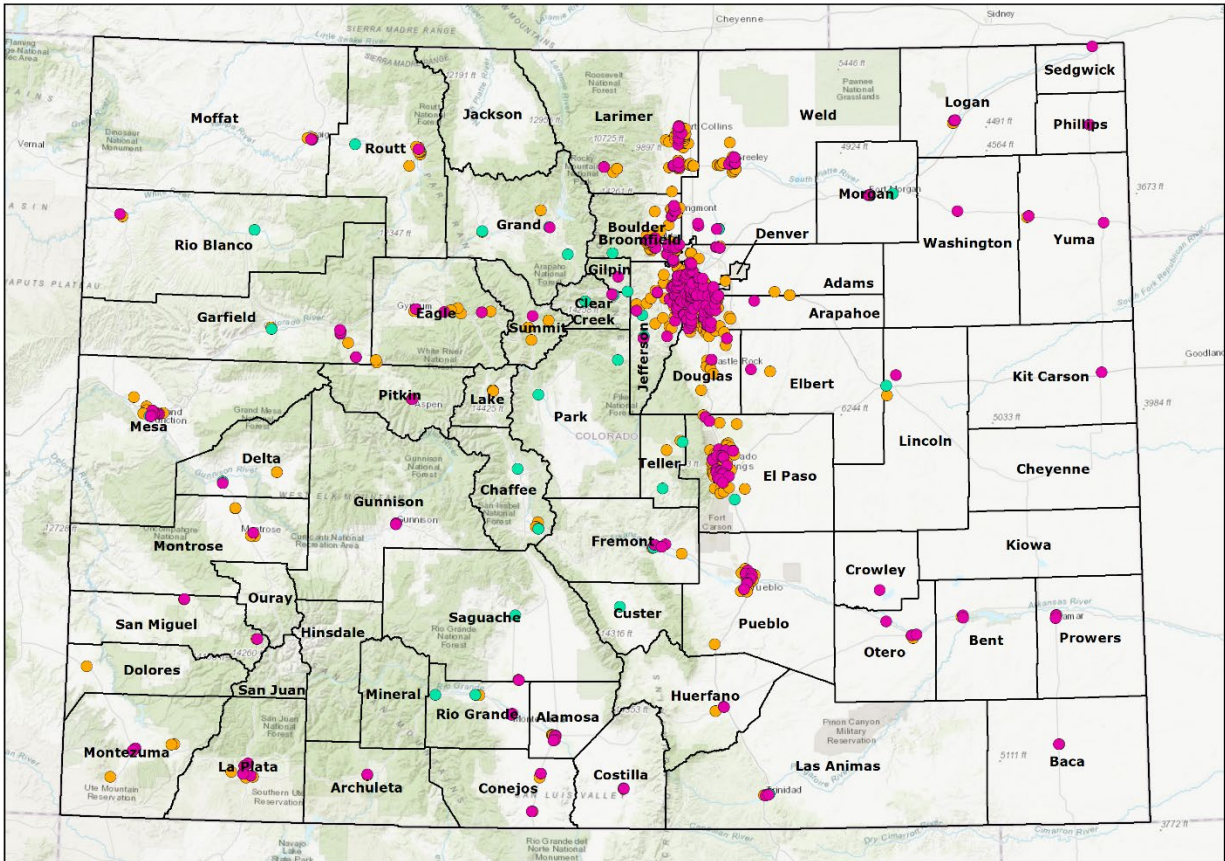
Conclusion

This memorandum, which shares findings and maps from CHI's landscape analysis, is a tool for CCPDAP to consult as it makes funding decisions in 2023.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this important work. Please reach out to Emily Santich at santiche@coloradohealthinstitute.org with any questions.

Appendix: Maps

Map 1. Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Facility and Provider Locations Across Colorado

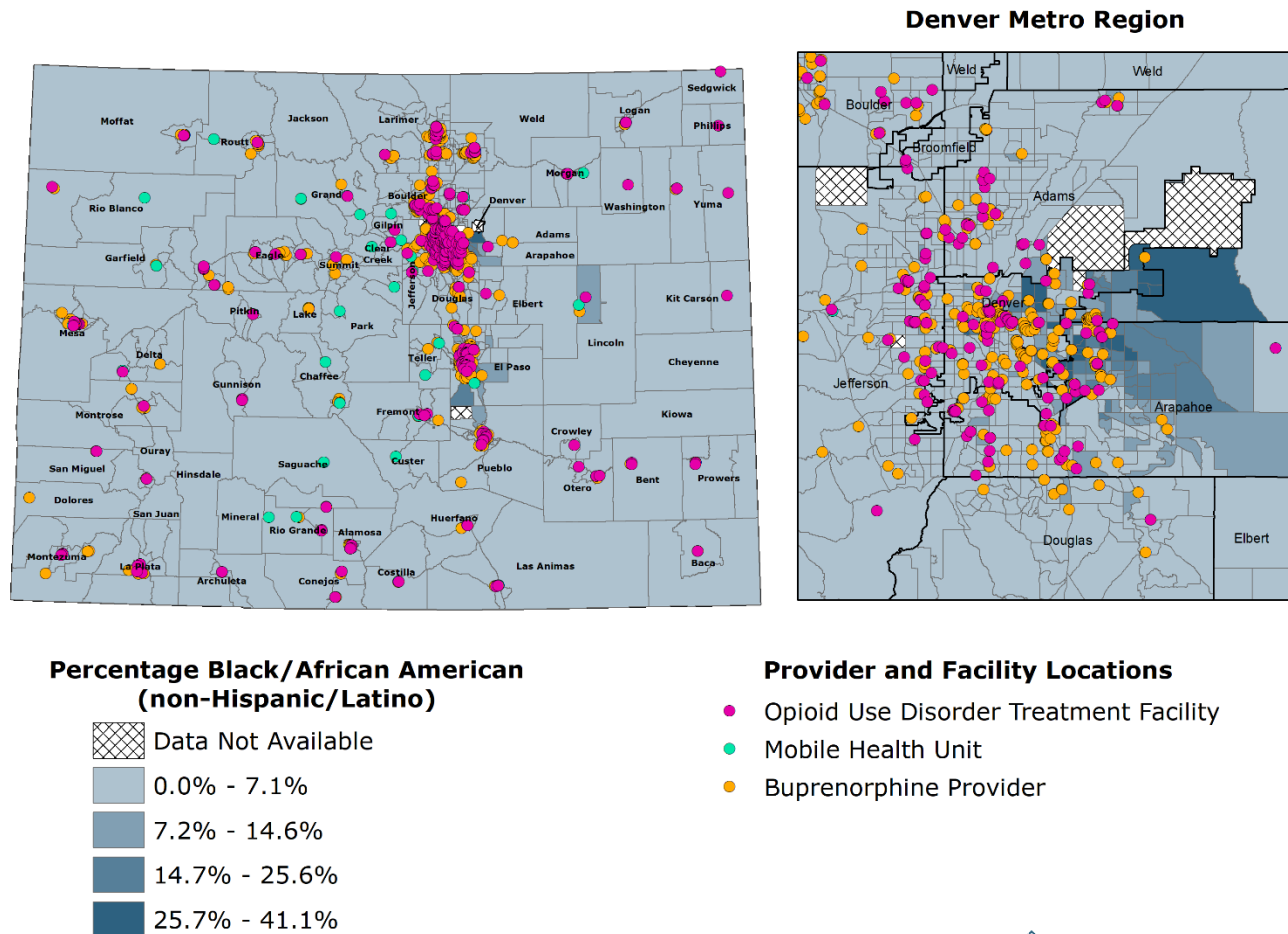


Provider and Facility Locations

- Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Facility
- Mobile Health Unit
- Buprenorphine Provider

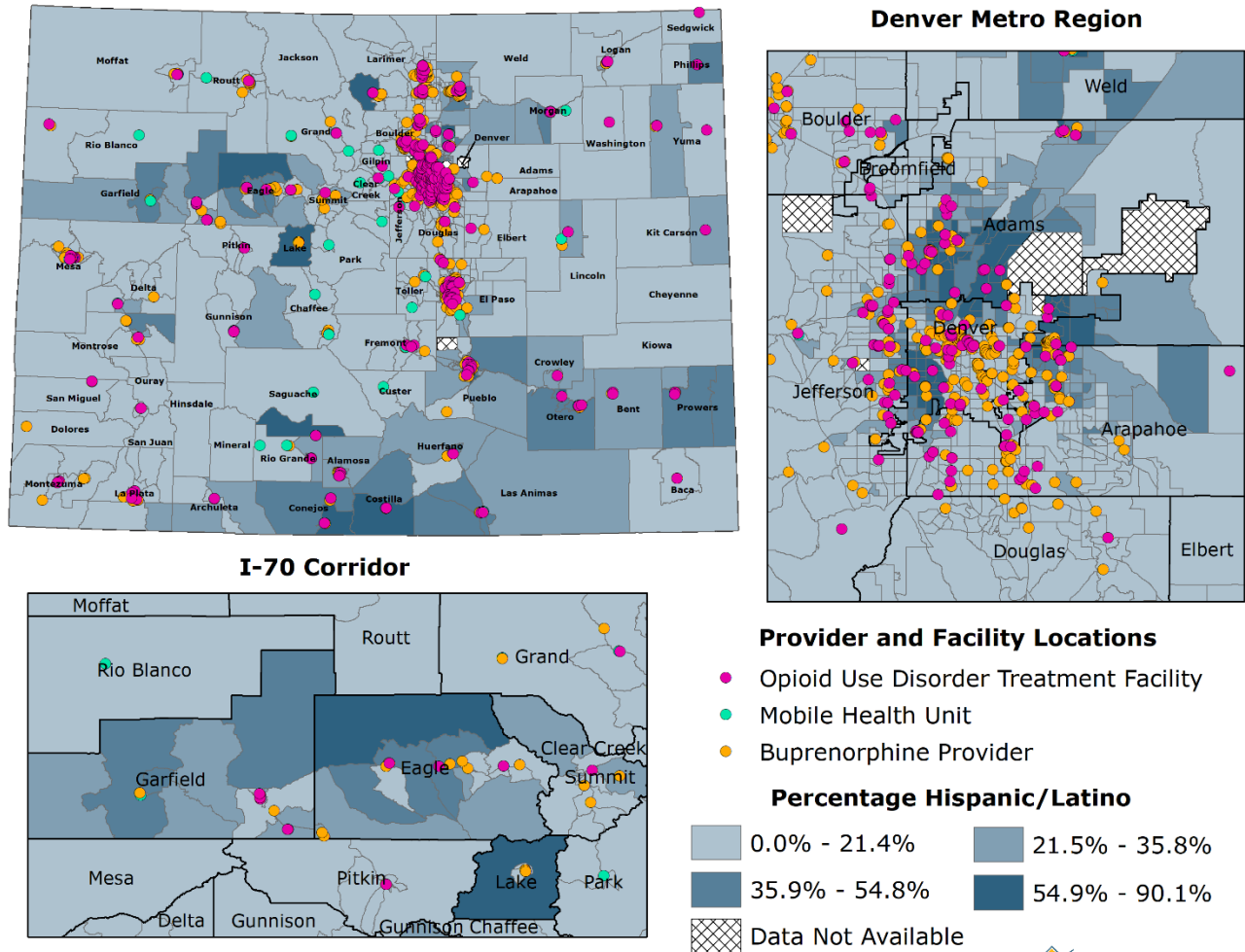
Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2022), Colorado Behavioral Health Administration (2022)

Map 2. Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Locations Compared With Population Densities of Black/African American (non-Hispanic/Latino) Coloradans



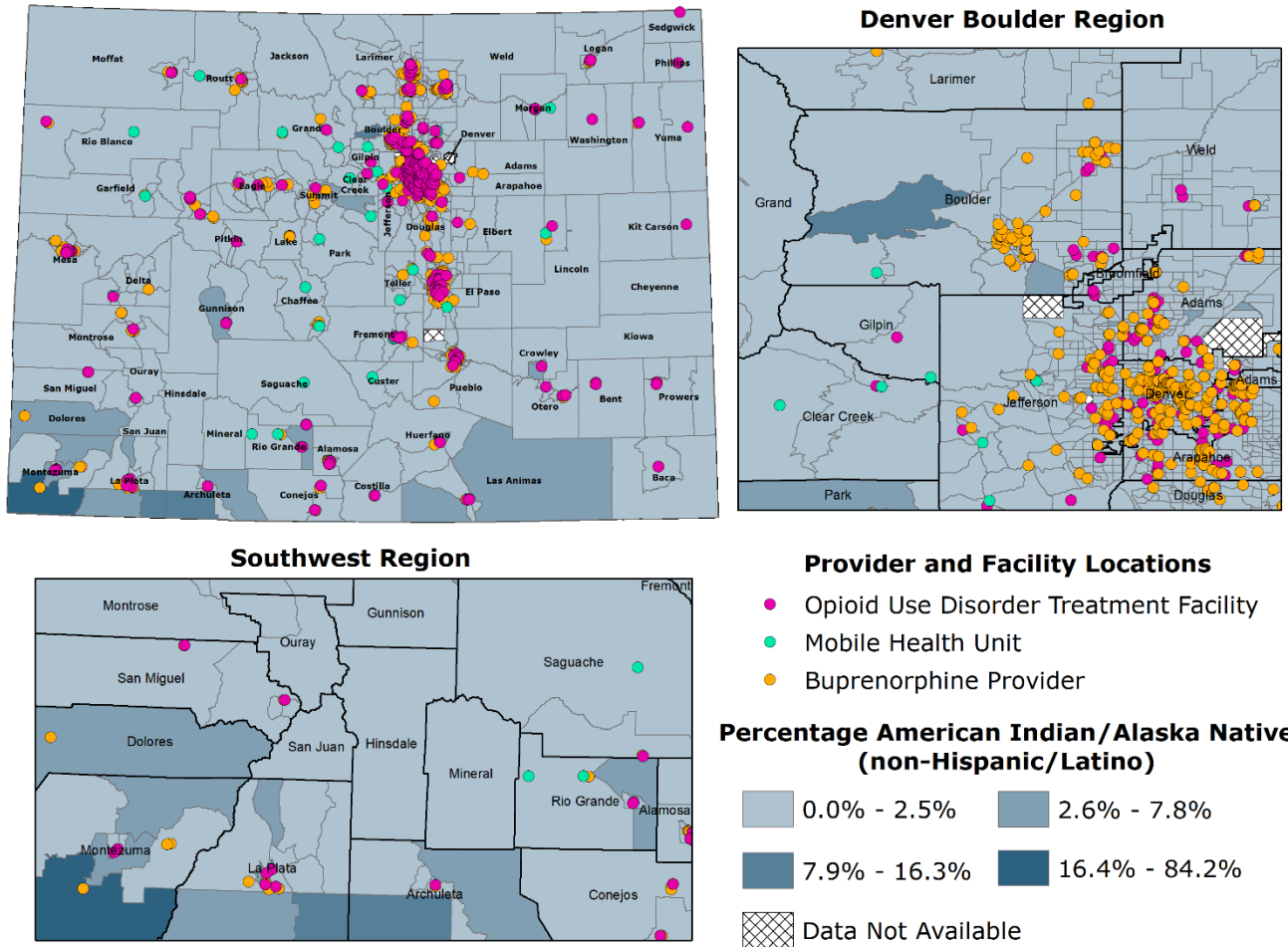
Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2022), Colorado Behavioral Health Administration (2022), American Community Survey 5-year Estimates (2017-2021)

Map 3. Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Provider and Facility Locations Compared With Population Densities of Hispanic/Latino Coloradans



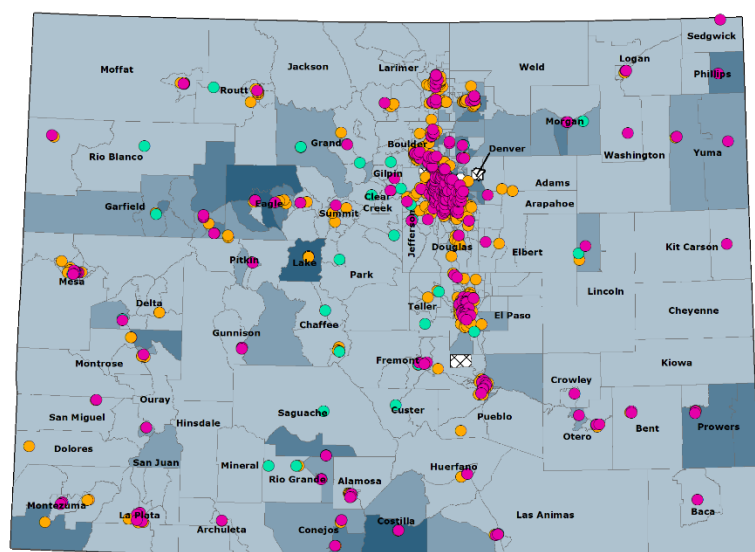
Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2022), Colorado Behavioral Health Administration (2022), American Community Survey 5-year Estimates (2017-2021)

Map 4. Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Provider and Facility Locations Compared With Population Densities of American Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic/Latino) Coloradans

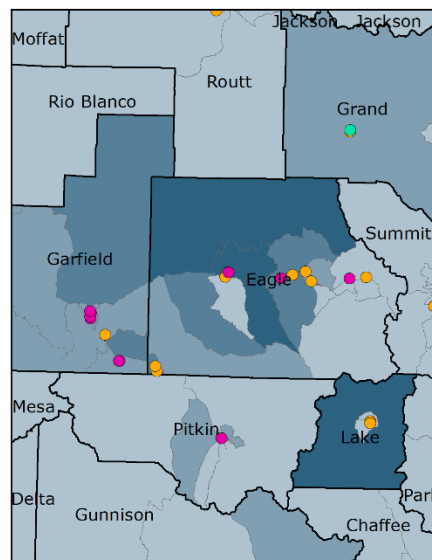


Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2022), Colorado Behavioral Health Administration (2022), American Community Survey 5-year Estimates (2017-2021)

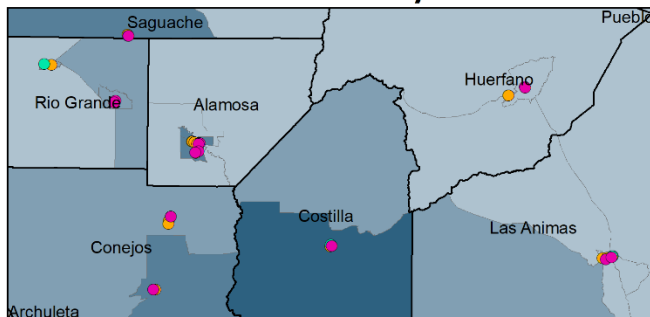
Map 5. Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Provider and Facility Locations Compared With Population Densities of Coloradans Who Speak a Language Other Than English at Home



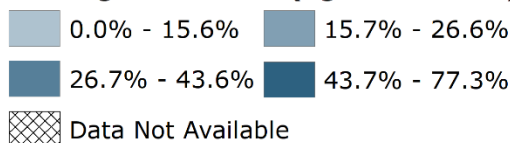
I-70 Mountain Corridor






San Luis Valley



Percentage Who Speak a Language Other Than English at Home (Age 5 and Over)

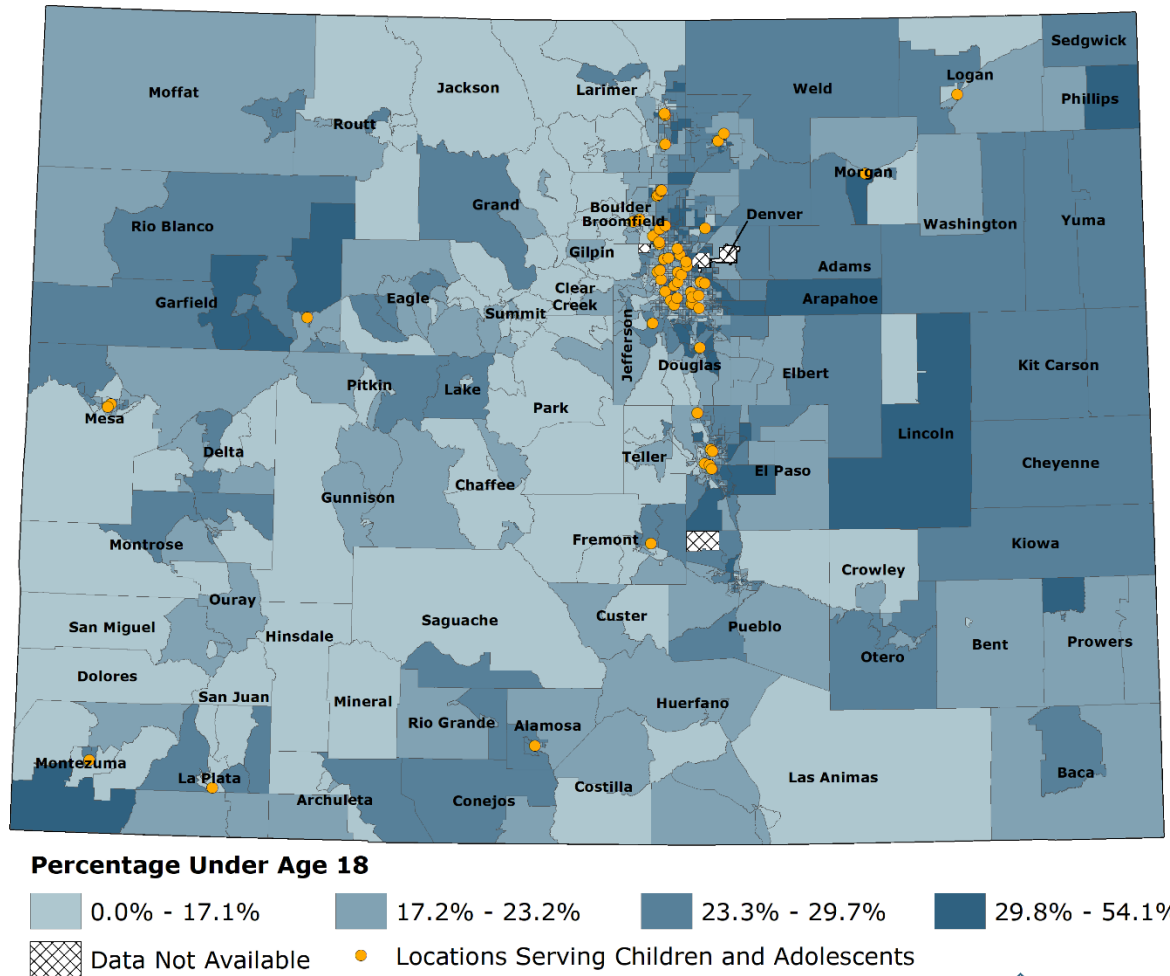


Provider and Facility Locations

-  Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Facility
-  Mobile Health Unit
-  Buprenorphine Provider

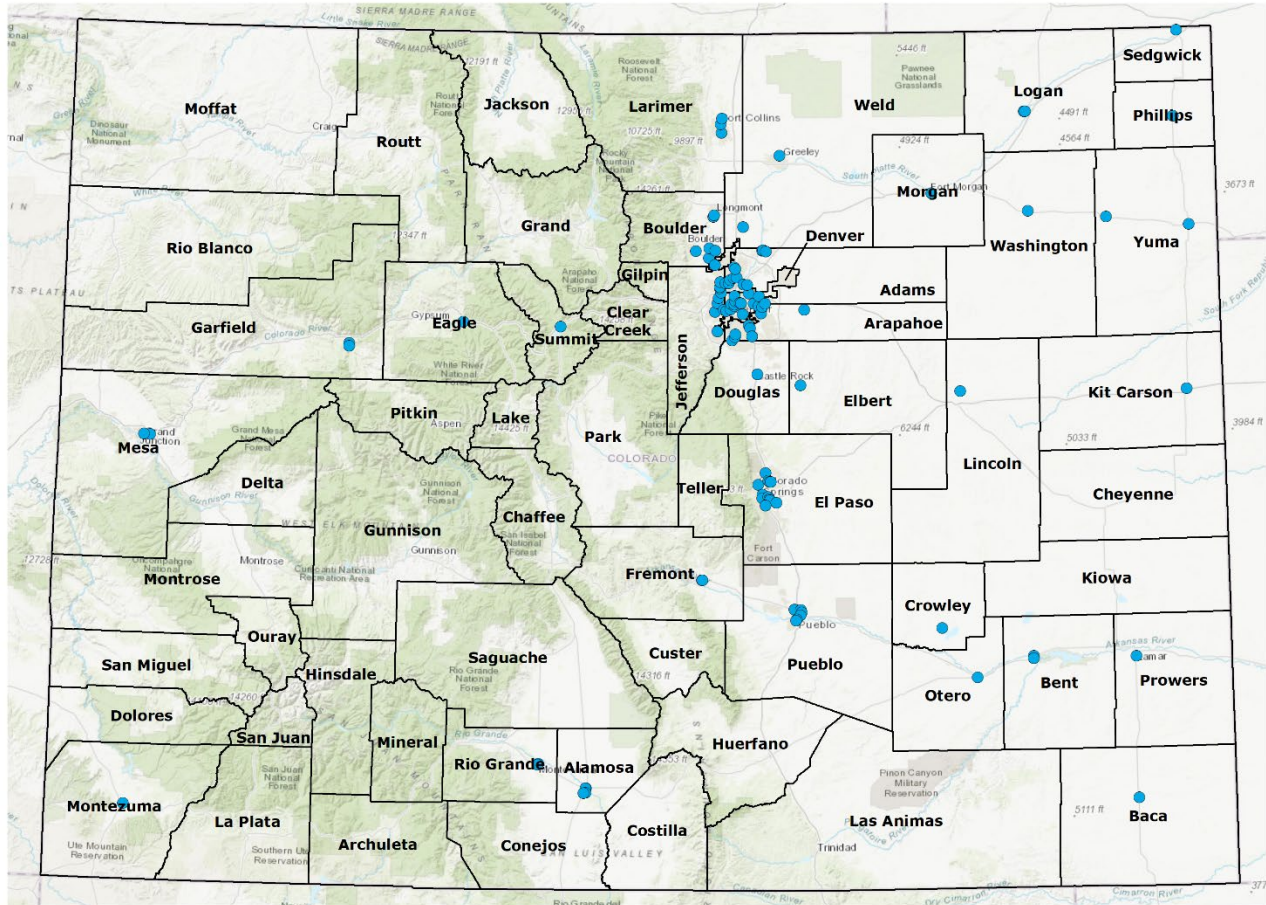
Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimates (2017-2021), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2022), Colorado Behavioral Health Administration (2022)

Map 6. Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Facilities that Accept Patients Under 18 for Treatment Compared With Population Densities of Coloradans Under Age 18



Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2022),
 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates (2017-2021)

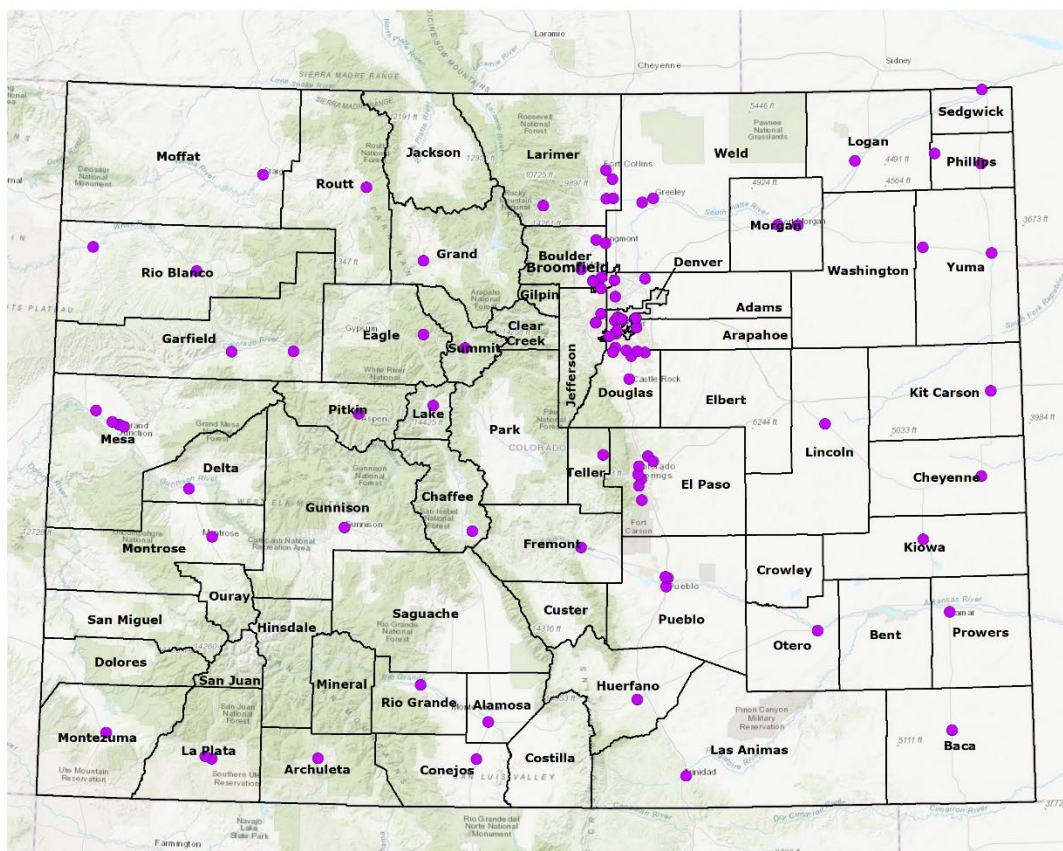
Map 7. Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Facilities With a Program or Group for Pregnant or Postpartum People



- Locations with a program or group for pregnant or postpartum people

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2022)

Map 8. Hospital Locations Across Colorado



● Hospital Locations

Source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (2022)