



**DENVER HEALTH
CENTER FOR ADDICTION MEDICINE.**

2023 Annual Report

Letter from Directors

In 2023, the Center for Addiction Medicine (CAM) continued a broad range of efforts to support Denver Health and our partners in tackling the myriad of challenges our community members face related to substance use disorders.

Our hub and spoke model of care reached over 23,000 individuals with substance treatment services across our system for upwards of 78,000 substance-related visits in 2023. Upon examining persons treated, over half were between the ages of 25-44 years. Additionally, most patients treated were males (64%), over half were persons of color (52%), most were insured with Medicaid (59%), and 22% were persons experiencing homelessness.

Our CAM Community Voice Workgroup continued to host monthly CAM Community Advisory Meetings, for 327 unique touches with participants and earning a rating of 97% for the degree to which individuals with lived experience feel that their expertise is valued within the planning, implementation, and evaluation of CAM initiatives.

The Continuum of Care Workgroup inventoried correctional care services across the state to understand what addiction services are provided at each to better serve patients that are linked to Denver Health upon release or are transferred to or from the Denver County Jails. This team also inventoried all care coordination efforts across our system to prepare for potential reimbursement legislation and/or new payment models for these services (fingers crossed).

The Fiscal Growth and Financial Partnership Focus Area, in partnership with the Denver Health Foundation, secured an additional \$250K of philanthropic funds to sustain CAM's Community Advisory Meetings, Overdose Awareness Day events, and support CAM leaders' administrative time. CAM leaders also partnered with Utilizing Peers for Linkage, Innovation, and to Foster Thriving (UPLIFT) Team to build out a Peer Support Specialist career ladder and establish a learning collaborative and other supports to recruit and retain these incredible staff with lived experience.

The Knowledge Management Workgroup examined CAM's projects and the populations, substances, and strategic areas that they cover, and identified priority areas for future research and evaluation efforts with the top two identified as "Linkage and Navigation to Care" and "Peer Programs/Lived Experience". This team continued to work diligently on building out Continuum of Care Evaluation Models for Methamphetamine and Alcohol Use Disorder; progress is highlighted more on the right side of page 1.

CAM's education and training arm, the CAM Academy, hired two new staff to uplift the new initiative. We are happy to welcome Emily Elrick, our new Workforce Development Specialist, Tyler Espinosa, our new Staff Assistant, and River Trevino, our new Instructional Designer, to the team! In partnership with our amazing colleagues at the Denver Prevention Training Center, we were able to finalize and begin offering our first standardized workshop, Trauma Responsive Care. To learn more about the amazing start to CAM Academy, see page 2.

Our Inclusive and Compassionate Care Workgroup developed a "Words Matter" campaign, a transformative data-driven revelation revealing the use of stigmatizing language when discussing substance use disorders (SUD) in patient notes at Denver Health. The campaign includes several vital components, aimed at advancing our mission of promoting person-first, inclusive, and clinically accurate language. Understand more by reviewing our [Words Matter Language Guide](#).

The CAM is working creatively to facilitate our goal of coordinating the essential health services of persons with substance use disorders. We wish to thank all our partners for supporting our efforts. Wishing everyone a healthy and peaceful 2024.

Judith C. Shlay, MD, MSPH
Associate Director
Public Health Institute
at Denver Health
Medical Director
Center For Addiction Medicine

Brooke Bender, MPH
Administrative Director
Center For Addiction
Medicine

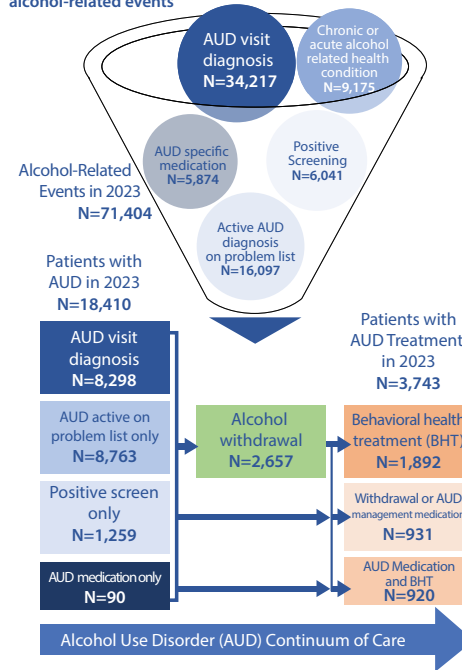
CAM DEVELOPS A MODEL TO TRACK PATIENTS WITH ALCOHOL USE DISORDERS ACROSS THE HEALTH SYSTEM

Understanding the prevalence of alcohol use disorder (AUD) in a healthcare system is a continued challenge. Alcohol use and treatment are documented differently across departments and clinicians, and stigma associated with alcohol use impacts how and for whom it is diagnosed and treated.

To address these challenges, the CAM Knowledge Management Workgroup developed an enhanced method for identifying patients with alcohol use disorder (AUD) and tracking their engagement with different types of treatment. This work builds off previous CAM efforts to develop a continuum of care model for patients with opioid use disorder (OUD), found on page 2. CAM has also developed a similar model for Methamphetamine Use Disorder, which can be found [here](#).

The figure shows how multiple types of alcohol-related events now go into creating an AUD continuum of care in 2023. The traditional method of using visit diagnoses only captured 8,298 (45%) of the 18,410 patients with an AUD in 2023. Among all Denver Health patients with an AUD in 2023, approximately 3,743 (20%) received pharmacological or behavioral health treatment at Denver Health.

Model for identifying patients along the alcohol use disorder (AUD) continuum of care at Denver Health in 2023 using alcohol-related events



The AUD model was developed through chart review and subject matter expert engagement with clinical partners, feedback from the CAM Community Voice Advisory Meeting, and a survey of clinicians regarding treatment practices. Over 170 Denver Health clinicians took the AUD treatment survey – the final report can be found [here](#).

Moving forward, CAM continues to develop data systems and methods to understand substance use across the health system. These data can inform clinical decision making to ensure that patients receive the best care possible and provide clinicians and leadership with quick and accurate information about the burden of substance use disorders across the system, gaps and opportunities for additional investment, and engagement in the many types of substance-related treatment Denver Health offers.

Promotional Efforts



40 News Items
related to CAM
community awareness:
770+ million story exposures nationally



7,000+ community members
reached through Online CAM
Overdose Awareness efforts



CAM Patient and Staff Stories
[Watch new CAM promotional videos](#)

CAM ACADEMY 2023 REPORT [🔗](#)



2023 CAM ACADEMY

The Center for Addiction Medicine (CAM) Academy was developed to provide trauma-responsive addiction medicine education and technical assistance across federal regions seven and eight. The CAM Academy was made possible by philanthropic donors and federal grant funds, of which we are so appreciative.

RESEARCH & EVALUATION

Awards: [🔗](#)

2023 **27** 21 Denver Health Awards

Projects: [🔗](#)

2023 **20** Active Projects

Publications: [🔗](#)

All Published manuscripts

Grants:

2023 **\$14.4M**

Conferences: [🔗](#)

2023 **4** Conferences, with 6 total abstracts presented.

Evaluation Model: [🔗](#)

2021-2022 OUD Continuum of Care report

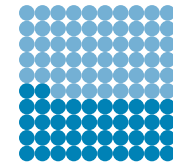
INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

Emergency Department Treatment on Demand + Inpatient Addiction Consult Social Work:

830

UNIQUE PATIENTS

In 2023, we continued to provide services to link patients from the emergency department with opioid use disorder and the inpatient hospital setting with any substance use disorder to ongoing outpatient treatment. Significantly more patients were reached through this service in 2023 (830 unique patients) compared to 2022 (570 unique patients).



42% PATIENTS LINKED



69% PATIENTS RETAINED

Summary 2023

Substance Agnostic*: 830 unique patients[‡], 944 episodes, 42% linked[†] (396 episodes linked), 69% 90-day retention[‡] (272 episodes retained)

Opioid Use Disorder: 514 unique patients[‡], 585 episodes, 97% inducted[§] (567 episodes inducted), 49% linked[†] (289 episodes linked), 62% 90-day retention[‡] (179 episodes retained)

Stimulant Use Disorder: 53 unique patients[‡], 59 episodes, 24% linked[†] (14 episodes linked), 86% 90-day retention[‡] (12 episodes retained)

Alcohol Use Disorder: 240 unique patients[‡], 266 episodes, 30% linked[†] (79 episodes linked), 89% 90-day retention[‡] (70 episodes retained)

Overdose: 25 unique patients[‡], 25 episodes, 40% linked[†] (10 episodes linked), 80% 90-day retention[‡] (8 episodes retained)

***Substance Agnostic** category includes 9 episodes for a substance other than opioids, alcohol, or stimulants.

‡ **Unique patients** do not add up to substance agnostic total across categories because patients could have multiple episodes with different primary substances and be counted individually among substance specific groups and only once in the substance agnostic category.

† **% linked** linked is calculated by the number linked over the number of episodes.

‡ **% 90-day retention** is calculated by the number of retained for 90 days over the number that linked ever. In 2023, 90-day retention is calculated based on the length of the SUDT episode.

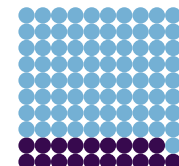
§ **% inducted** inducted is calculated by the number of episodes with induction over the number of episodes (and only for OUD).

Substance Treatment Line:

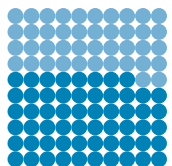
411

CALLS

This program offers a phone line for community members seeking substance-use screening, referrals, and information related to accessible opioid and other substance treatment options.



19% CALLERS REFERRED



58% CALLERS LINKED

100% answered or received call back, 33% received SUD information, 19% callers referred internally, 58% linked internally to treatment. Significantly more community members were served through this program in 2023 (411 unique calls) compared to 2022 (249 unique calls).

CAM OVERVIEW



Goal

To coordinate the essential health services for persons with substance use disorders

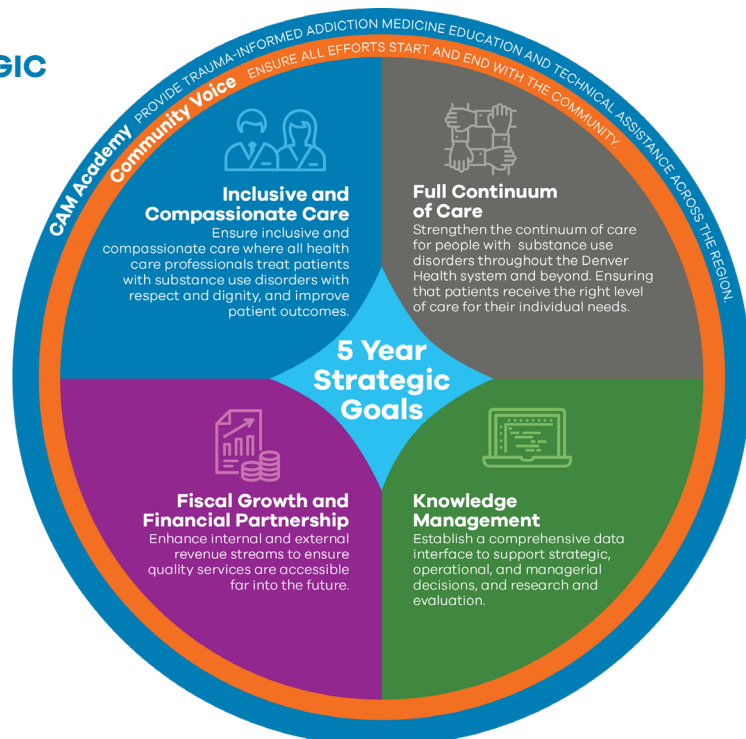
Vision

To be a compassionate model for the prevention and treatment of substance misuse, to transform lives and to educate all

Guiding Principles

Dignity and equity
Community collaboration
Passionate and professional
Innovative prevention, treatment, research and education

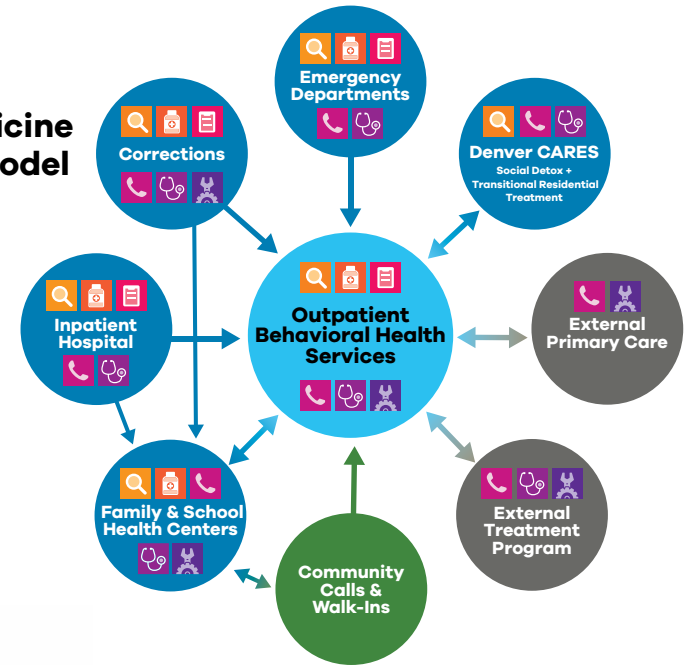
5 YEAR STRATEGIC GOALS



For more information please visit our website www.DenverHealth.org/CAM or email us at: CAM@dhha.org

Center for Addiction Medicine Hub & Spoke Model

- Identification/Diagnosis
- Opioid Induction
- Outpatient Behavioral Health Services Intake
- Referral
- Treatment
- Opioid Maintenance



WHAT IS NEXT FOR CAM

- Agency-wide Words Matter Campaign
- New CAM CAS Scholarship Program implemented to increase knowledge and skills of existing DH staff
- Final full Continuum of Care Evaluation Models for Methamphetamine + Alcohol
- Integration Meetings to bring together partners across clinical departments to coordinate patient care
- Implement new grants from Denver Opioid Abatement Council + Colorado Opioid Abatement Innovation Challenge Funding
- Formal launch of CAM Academy, including a renovated space and Addiction Medicine 101 standardized workshop
- CAM Community Advisory Meeting new annual celebration for participants to recognize the time and expertise they provide to CAM
- New 5-Year Strategic Plan