



AXISHealth System

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



[AXIShealthsystem.org](https://axishealthsystem.org)

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Our Mission

We make a meaningful difference in the health of Southwest Colorado communities, working to integrate all aspects of healthcare and treat the whole person.



Cortez Integrated Healthcare staff participate in a photo booth for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The Women's Wellness Connection program was launched at the clinic in July. It provides free breast and cervical cancer screenings.

On the cover: Kirsten Howell, a Family Nurse Practitioner at Cortez Integrated Healthcare, does a well-baby check of patient Reese Saunders.

Axis Health System

BY THE NUMBERS

64 MEDICAL PROVIDERS & STAFF

17 DENTAL PROVIDERS & STAFF

138 BEHAVIORAL PROVIDERS & STAFF

59 ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

278 total DEDICATED & CARING INDIVIDUALS

LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



John Albright
PRESIDENT
La Plata County



Paul Nazaryk
VICE PRESIDENT
La Plata County



Karen Sheek
SECRETARY
Montezuma County



Chuck Forth
TREASURER
Montezuma County



Matt Dodson
Archuleta County



William Fisher, DDS
La Plata County



Bob Juskevich, MD
La Plata County



Fran Perrin
Dolores County



Marissa Talamante
Archuleta County



Gus Westerman
Dolores County



Bob Yearout
La Plata County

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP



Shelly Burke
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER



Pam Sharratt, Ph.D.
CHIEF OPERATING
OFFICER



Stacie Russell
CHIEF BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH OFFICER



Linc Pehrson
CHIEF INTEGRATION
OFFICER



Alex Conrad
CHIEF FINANCIAL
OFFICER



Luke Casias, MD
CHIEF MEDICAL
OFFICER

BOARD PRESIDENT MESSAGE



“We will be able to deliver better care in our communities by merging [with Center for Mental Health].”

Have we all had enough of Zoom calls, mask wearing, information overload, misinformation and too much isolation? How much change can we all bear?

We now live in a world of increasing climate uncertainty and too much strife – even among friends. In the midst of all of this, we have had to find new and more creative ways to deliver care to those who are ever increasingly in need. Our entire healthcare system is under the pressure of delivering better care with less funding. How do we manage this? At the risk of sounding naïve, my answer is to dig deeper and continue to look for the opportunity that is always inherent in the situation. This is indeed challenging, and I don’t believe anyone would argue that we live in exceptionally challenging times.

In light of this, the board of directors and staff at Axis have chosen to merge with the Center for Mental Health, a Community Mental Health Center based in Montrose with locations along the Western Slope. This move has been contemplated for several years, and over that time it became increasingly clear that this was the path we needed to take. There are many reasons for taking this step, but the overriding explanation is that we will be able to deliver better care in our communities by merging agencies. Speaking for our board of directors, we are very excited for the possibilities and benefits that come with this decision. This will entail some hard work and will stretch our capacities, and no doubt enhance and elevate the service we provide in the long term.

Though I don’t often have an opportunity to personally acknowledge our staff for the outstanding work they do, be assured that our board of directors recognizes and appreciates how difficult the last year and a half has been. We appreciate the dedication the staff has shown to Axis and the community. We continue to thrive and grow through the commitment and support we provide for each other.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Albright". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "A".

– **John Albright**
Axis Health System Board President

CEO MESSAGE



I am inspired by how Axis Health System staff continue to come together to ensure access to our continuum of care while also being part of key community-based solutions.

As a nonprofit, community healthcare provider, “community” is truly at the heart of everything Axis Health System does. Amidst a sustained public health crisis, we continue to find ourselves in strange times where things seem to be simultaneously fragmented yet focused, painful yet pivotal, trying yet transformational. It continues to be a time of both uncertainty and opportunity at the intersection of healthcare and community need.

The staff and Board of Directors of Axis Health System have tackled the challenges of the past year by keeping our mission of making a meaningful difference as our guiding light. There are numerous examples of our innovation and integration designed to both improve care and the coordination across systems to ultimately increase access to healthcare. This year we expanded our women’s health services, we were selected to participate in a national hypertension improvement program, we were part of bringing a new 40-unit permanent supportive housing program to Durango, and we partnered to create the first co-responder program with law enforcement in our region.

In thinking back over the year, another prominent example was the work we did to stand up community “pop-up” vaccine clinics as part of the public health response in our communities. Over the course of several months, Axis Health System staff from across our region mobilized each week, working long hours and weekends with key community partners and volunteers to provide much-needed early vaccine access. Ultimately, we provided over 5,000 vaccines as part of the public health response efforts.

Being on the frontlines of community-based healthcare as the needs continue to evolve often requires flexibility and resiliency from our team. I am inspired by how Axis Health System staff continue to come together to ensure access to our continuum of care while also being part of broader community-based solutions. I hope as you look through this year’s retrospective lens, you will see the same dedication to making our mission come alive that I do.

As an essential community healthcare provider, we will continue to work, grow, learn and adapt in order to continue to make a meaningful difference. Part of this learning and adaptation next year will include completing the recently approved merger with our longtime partner, the Center for Mental Health. This merger will allow us the scale and consolidation of talent and resources to continue our work of reducing health disparities and evolving how care is delivered.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shelly Burke', written in a cursive style.

– Shelly Burke

Axis Health System Chief Executive Officer

Providing our Community with Integrated Healthcare



Your mind and body are connected, and so is our health system.

Our integrated healthcare combines medical, dental and behavioral healthcare (counseling, psychiatry and substance use treatment). Integrating these services keeps patients healthier. Patient and provider satisfaction with care is higher. Patients save time and money by accessing comprehensive care in one location.

Our care is patient-centered to ensure each person's values, needs and goals are respected. This is why we are recognized by the National Committee on Quality Assurance as a Patient-Centered Medical

Home (PCMH), the highest national recognition a primary care practice can receive.

PCMH emphasizes concepts of care coordination, team-based care and population health management. This recognition demonstrates that our clinics are well managed and provide high-quality care.

In 2021, Axis was also awarded the Advancing Health Information Technology (HIT) for Quality award. This recognizes our advances in telehealth, patient engagement interoperability and collection of social determinants of health to increase access and advance quality of care.



Behavioral Healthcare

Everyone hurts sometimes. You're not alone. Our providers offer a variety of options for counseling, psychiatry and substance use treatment, including individual and group therapy, family therapy, case management, DUI services, Medication Assisted Treatment, vocational counseling and referrals.



Durango Police Department and Axis Health System teamed up to launch the Co-Responder (CORE) program in late February. CORE team members are shown above, from left: Molly Rodriguez, Matt Teague and Officer Forrest Kinney. The cross-disciplinary team responds to behavioral health crises, which can include mental health, substance use and social issues, such as homelessness and family conflicts.



“Our Behavioral Health teams continued to provide excellent, compassionate and consistent care to our communities this year as the pandemic marched on. Although this is simply part of our core business, in extraordinary times our ability to be flexible on our care delivery without sacrificing quality behavioral health care was remarkable.”

– Stacie Russell, LPC, Chief Behavioral Health Officer

Medical Care

Our medical providers include family physicians, general practitioners and family nurse practitioners. They provide comprehensive primary care, preventive care and chronic disease management at clinics in Durango, Pagosa Springs, Cortez and Dove Creek.

OUR
MEDICAL
CARE
SAVES
LIVES



A COVID-19 vaccination is administered by Amy Allen, RN, MSN, Axis Health System's Senior Director of Nursing, in January 2021.



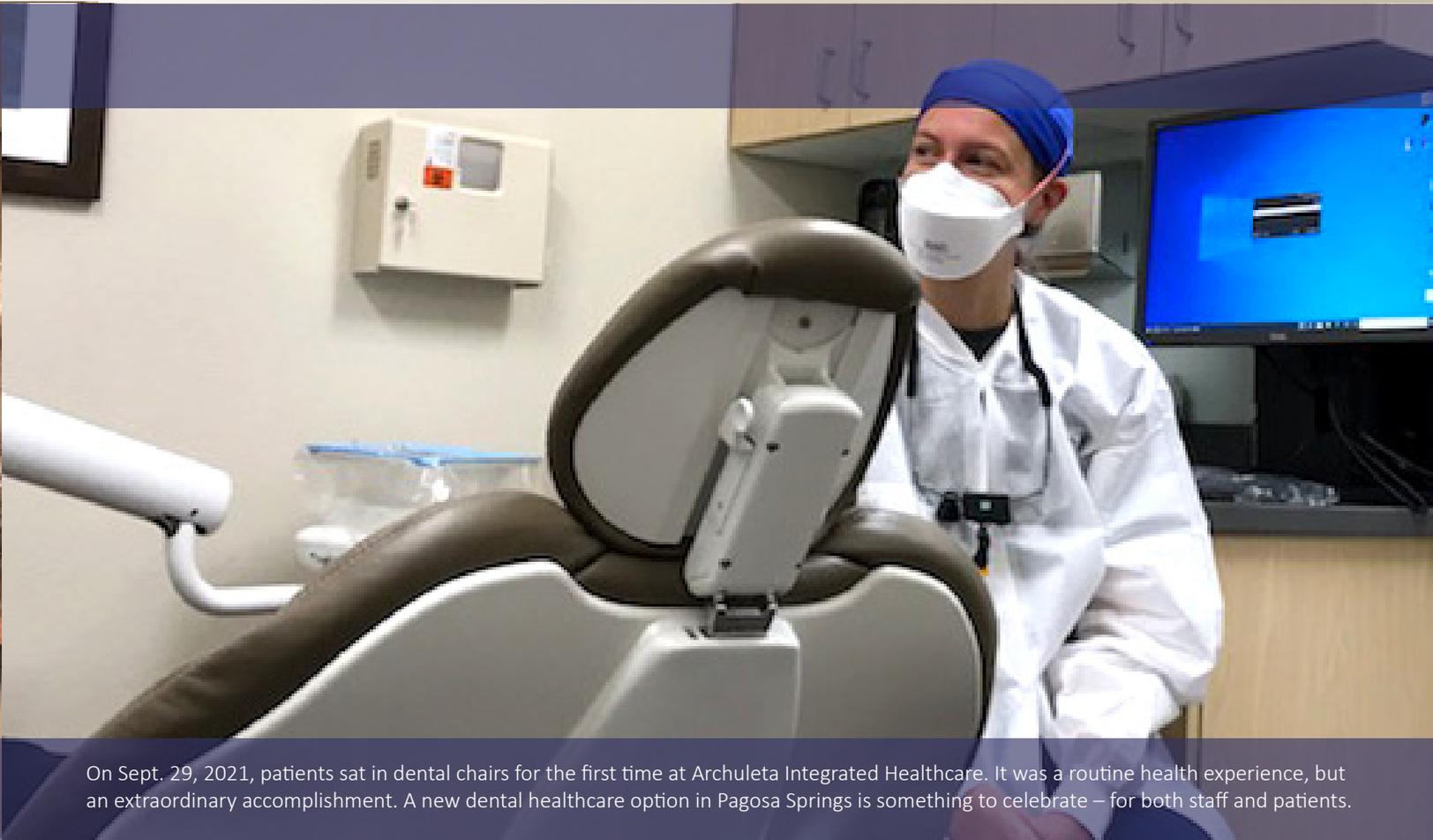
TITLE X SERVICES

This year, Axis Health System began offering the Sexual Health & Family Planning Program (Title X) in Archuleta and La Plata counties. Title X ensures that every person – regardless of where they live, how much money they make, their background, or whether or not they have health insurance – has access to basic, preventive reproductive healthcare.



Dental Care

Patients can access oral health services at five Axis Health System locations. Our dentists and hygienists encourage preventive care with regular dental exams and cleanings. Our teams also offer emergency and restorative dental services. This includes x-rays and fillings, extractions, root canals and crowns.



On Sept. 29, 2021, patients sat in dental chairs for the first time at Archuleta Integrated Healthcare. It was a routine health experience, but an extraordinary accomplishment. A new dental healthcare option in Pagosa Springs is something to celebrate – for both staff and patients.

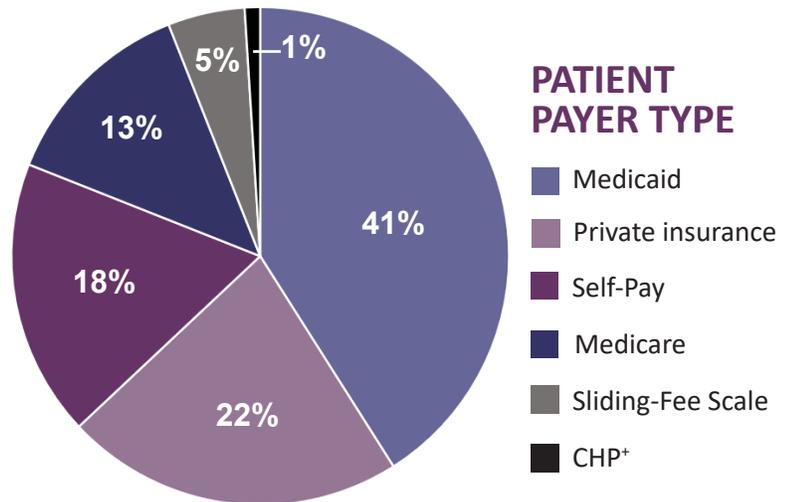
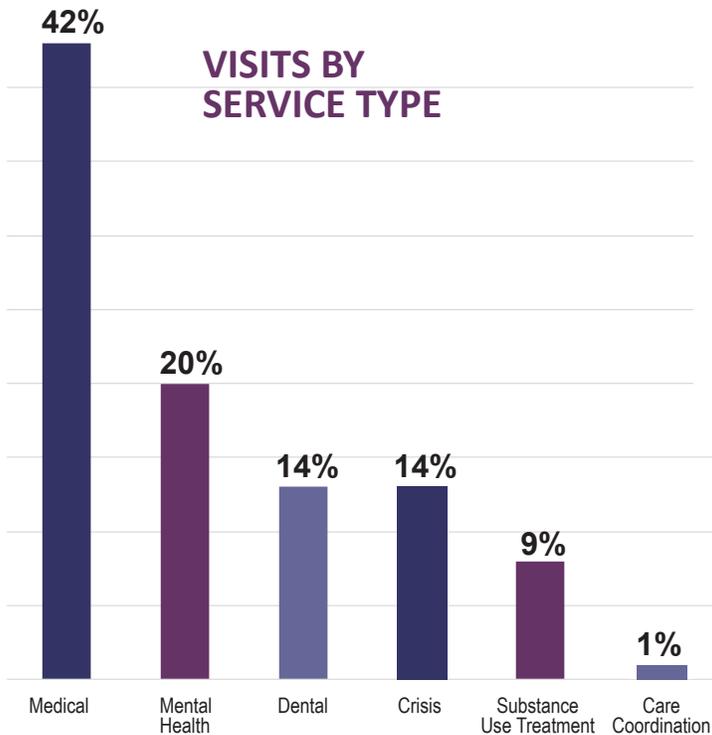
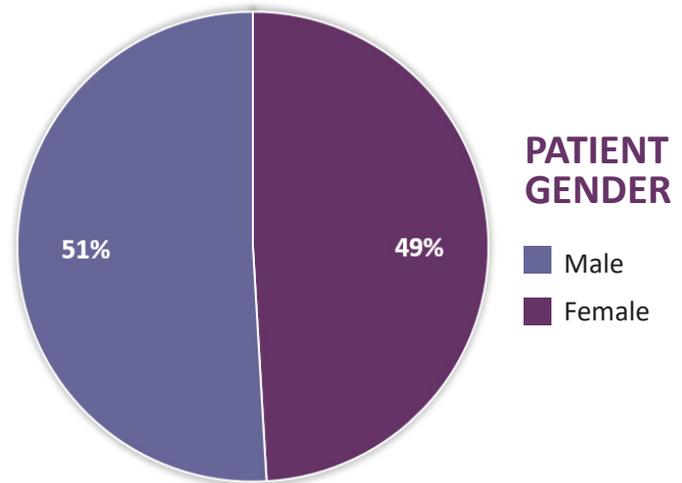
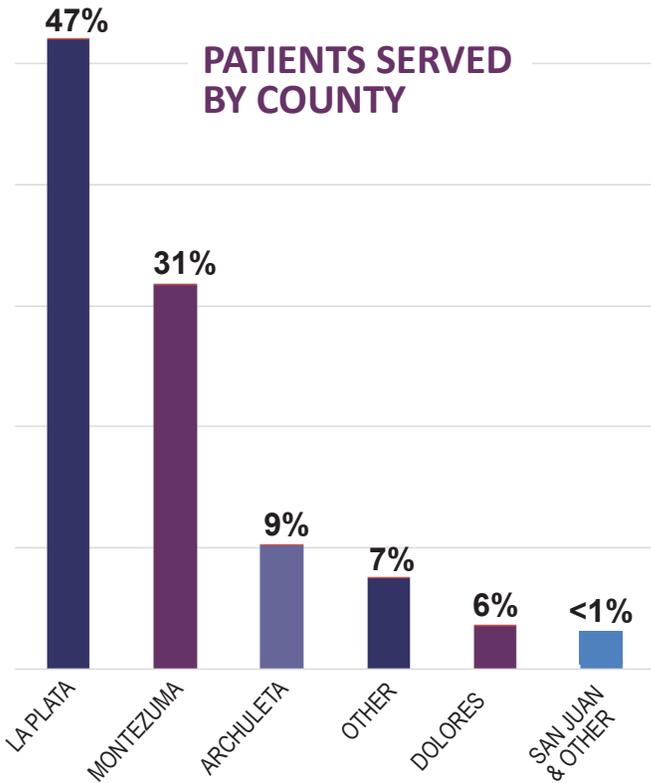
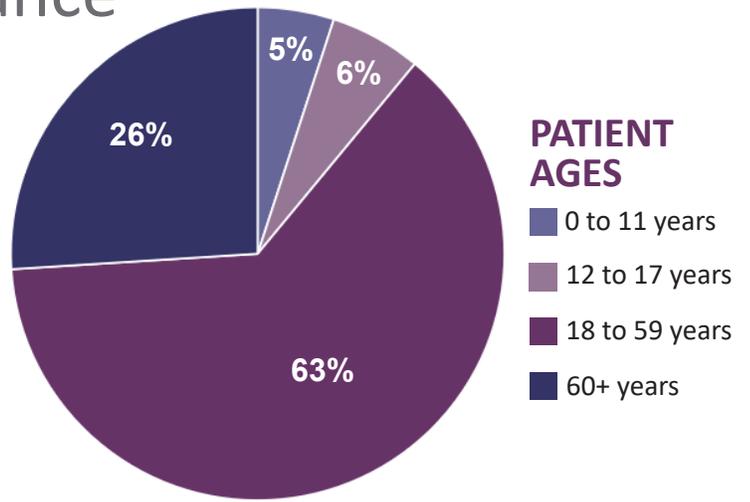


“You can expect to be cared for like family. Your oral health concerns will be taken seriously, and we will work together to find the best solutions tailored to you.”

– Dr. Katie Baron, DDS

DASHBOARD: At a glance

TOTAL PATIENTS SERVED IN FY 2021:
12,519



BY THE NUMBERS

180 VETERAN PATIENTS

328 PATIENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Patient Experience

June 2021 Patient Satisfaction Survey 1,073 responses across all locations

92% of patients felt satisfied with the care provided

96% of patients felt their provider explained things in a way that was easy to understand

91% of patients would recommend their provider to a friend or family member

94% of patients felt their healthcare provider listened to the reasons for their visit

96% of patients felt they were treated with dignity and respect

92% of patients felt their provider encouraged them to participate in their care plan and goals



Axis Health System staff enjoyed meeting 1,400 freshmen during the 2021 Fort Lewis College Student Services Fair. Students and their families learned about the Axis Care Hotline, Medicaid enrollment, Title X and comprehensive care at La Plata Integrated Healthcare.



“My favorite part of my job is taking care of our patients... I am able to share with them that we are here for them with compassion and empathy.”

– Aleena Robson, MA at Dove Creek Integrated Healthcare

10 WAYS WE SUPPORT COMMUNITY

National Hypertension Control Initiative

Patients with uncontrolled hypertension receive self-monitoring blood pressure devices (SMBP), and staff collect data from the devices to create treatment plans. The program also includes outreach and patient education materials.

Espero Resident Support and Therapy

On-site support and therapy is provided to tenants of Espero Apartments, a Durango housing community that opened in October 2021. The facility serves people with low incomes who have been homeless and are living with a disabling condition.

Sexual Health & Family Planning Program (Title X)

This program in La Plata and Archuleta counties ensures that everyone has access to basic reproductive healthcare. Services include: birth control options, pregnancy testing and counseling, annual exams and STD/STI testing and treatment.

Authorized Veterans Affairs Provider

Axis proudly serves veterans in Southwest Colorado through the Mission Act. Authorized care refers to medical or dental care that is approved and arranged by Veterans Affairs to be completed in the community.

Senior Reach

On-site support is provided for the well-being, independence and dignity of at-risk older adults in La Plata County. Services include short-term counseling, referral to resources and depression screenings.

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Co-Responder Program (CORE)

Axis behavioral health specialists partner with City of Durango Police Department officers to enhance the coordination of effort and response capacity.

Women's Wellness Connection

Breast and cervical cancer screenings are provided free of charge to eligible women in Montezuma and Dolores counties. The program also includes pap tests, pelvic exams mammogram referrals and health navigators.

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)

Comprehensive care includes the use of medications and therapy for recovery from opioid use and to help protect against overdose.

Healthcare for the Homeless

Services connect patients experiencing homelessness to sustainable housing, case management and wraparound healthcare.

Jail-Based Behavioral Health Services

Program builds relationships to help inmates engage in care while incarcerated and provides support after their release.

Heart of Axis

The Heart of Axis Annual Employee Giving Campaign awarded a total of \$15,000 in the 2021 funding cycle. This fund provides employees the opportunity to donate charitably and to direct these funds to support a wide range of unmet community and patient needs. Funds are held and managed by the regional Onward! A Legacy Foundation, based out of Montezuma County.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS AWARDED \$10,000

- Housing Solutions of the Southwest
- Oak Tree Resources
- Renew
- Resilient Colorado
- 4 The Children

PATIENT PROJECTS AWARDED \$5,000

- Gas cards for patients in Archuleta County and Montezuma County
- Shower Punch Cards for Archuleta County patients
- Recreation items for residents of Espero Apartments
- Bus tokens for patients at Columbine Behavioral Healthcare
- Thrift-store vouchers for patients in Archuleta County
- Birth certificates and "Honor Pod" items for inmates in Jail-Based Behavioral Health Services



Peggy Blackmer, left, and Dawn Roof of Cortez Integrated Healthcare hold items for the Blood Pressure Monitoring Program. The employee-led Heart of Axis Committee funded this Patient Project as part of the 2020 giving campaign.

“It’s fun to see what amazingly creative ideas my co-workers have [through Heart of Axis Patient Projects] as to how we can make a difference in the lives of our patients. I always learn a lot about what others do in different areas of our agency and how together, we are one team.”

– Jessica Fucito, Executive Assistant and Grievance Coordinator

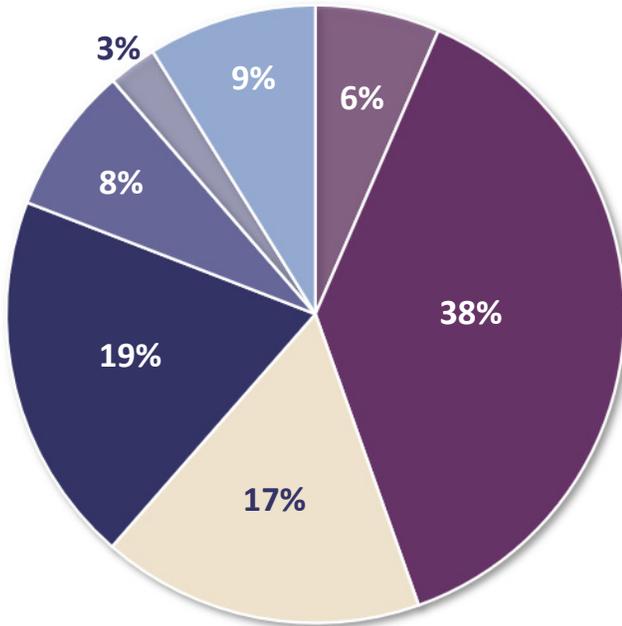


FINANCIALS: At a glance

FY 2021 REVENUE

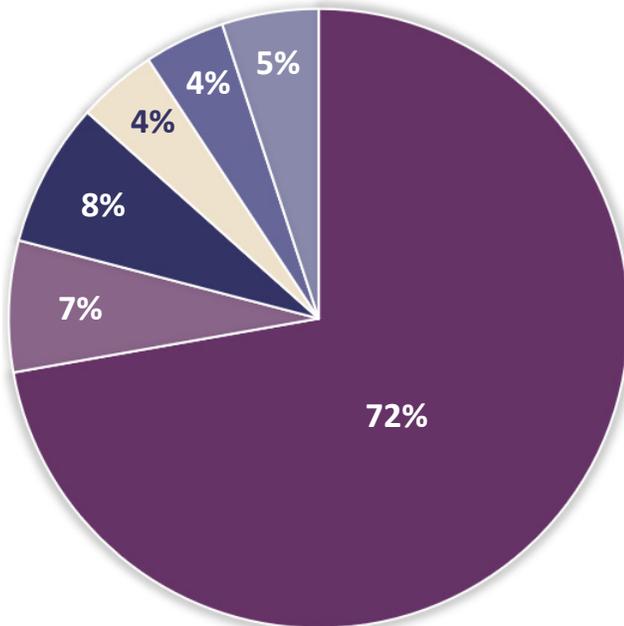
- Public insurance
- Private insurance
- State
- Federal *
- Local
- Other

* Axis Health System proudly partners with the federal Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which provided approximately 16.8% of the organization's annual operating budget.



FY 2021 EXPENSES

- Personnel
- Other
- Operating
- Client Care
- Occupancy
- Professional Fees



THANK YOU FUNDERS

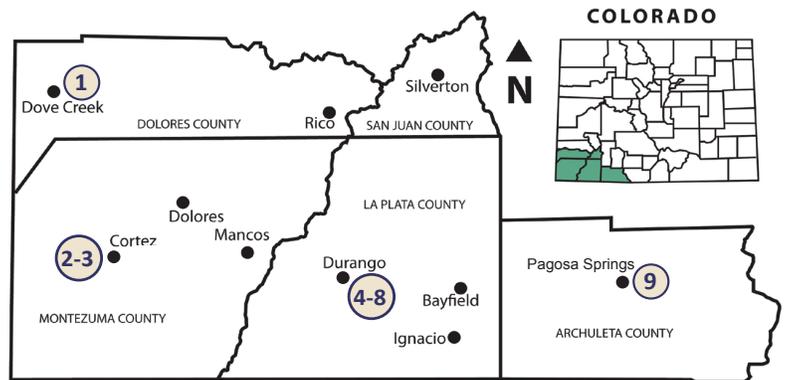
Axis Health System funding was provided by:

- City of Cortez
- City of Durango
- Colorado Department of Health and Environment
- Colorado Office of Behavioral Health
- Delta Dental
- Denver Foundation Colorado Health Access Fund
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Health Resources & Services Administration
- La Plata County
- Montezuma County
- Dolores County
- Rocky Mountain Health Plans
- The Colorado Health Foundation
- Town of Bayfield
- Town of Ignacio
- Town of Mancos
- Town of Pagosa Springs
- Town of Dove Creek
- West Slope Casa

LOCATIONS

We have served Southwest Colorado since 1960. Our nine locations serve a five-county region, which includes Dolores, Montezuma, La Plata, San Juan and Archuleta counties.

 **AXIS CARE
HOTLINE** | We're here for you.
24/7 local response to your crisis & behavioral health needs
970.247.5245



1
**DOVE CREEK
INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE**
495 West Fourth Street, Dove Creek, CO 81324
Main: 970.677.2291 • Dental: 970.677.3644



2
**CORTEZ
ORAL HEALTH CLINIC**
101 South Maple Street, Suite B, Cortez, CO 81321
970.565.1800



3
**CORTEZ
INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE**
691 East Empire Street, Cortez, CO 81321
970.565.7946



4
**CORPORATE
OFFICE**
185 Suttle Street, Durango, CO 81303
970.335.2444



5
**COLUMBINE
BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE**
281 Sawyer Drive, Suite 100; Durango, CO 81303
970.259.2162



6
**CROSSROADS
AT GRANDVIEW**
1125 Three Springs Blvd.; Durango, CO 81301
970.403.0180



7
**LA PLATA
INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE**
1970 East Third Avenue, Durango, CO 81301
970.335.2288



8
**DURANGO
ORAL HEALTH CLINIC**
2530 Colorado Avenue, Suite A, Durango, CO 81301
970.335.2442



9
**ARCHULETA
INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE**
52 Village Drive; Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
970.264.2104

Axis Health System is a provider of Colorado Crisis System Services. Funded in part by the Colorado Department of Human Services.



AXIShealthsystem.org • 24/7 Axis Care Hotline: 970.247.5245

Corporate Office: 185 Suttle Street; Durango, Colorado, 81303

Your health... We're in this together.