

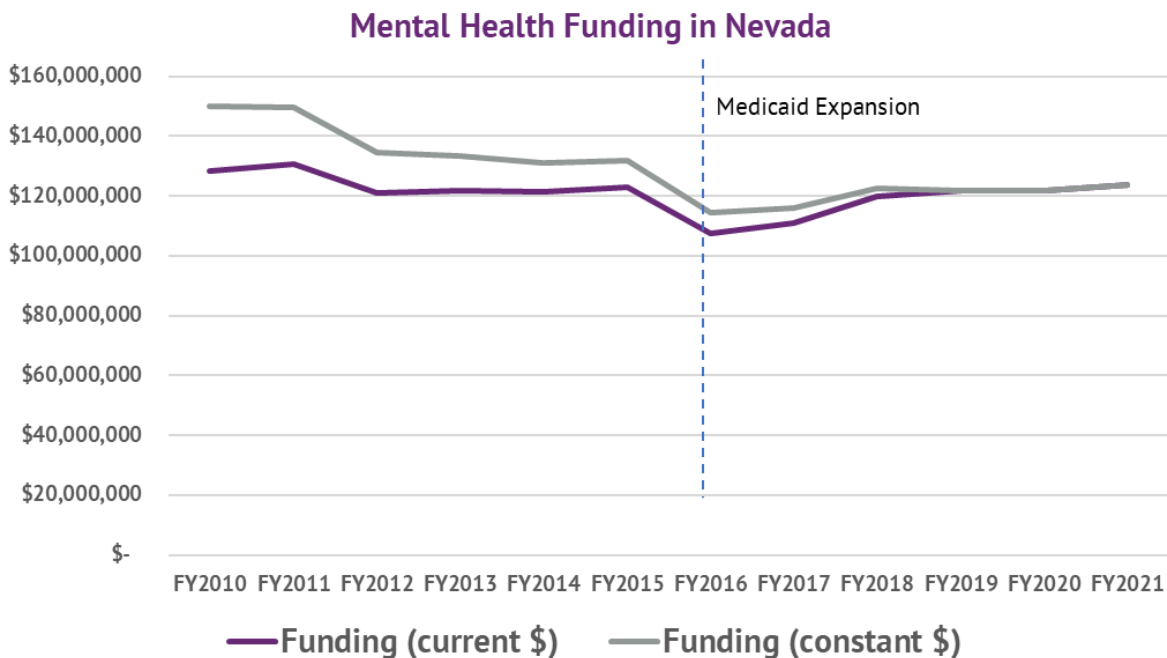
## Mental Health Spending in Nevada

**Background:** In recent years, Nevada’s behavioral health system has been the subject of widespread concern and attention. Following several high-profile issues that attracted media attention, including the loss of accreditation at the Rawson-Neal Psychiatric Hospital in 2013, then-Governor Brian Sandoval convened the Behavioral Health and Wellness Council to address governance. Despite efforts to improve the overall behavioral system through regionalization and reorganization, Nevada’s behavioral health system continues draw concern of Nevada’s leaders and receive low marks on national rankings. For example, Nevada ranks 51<sup>st</sup> overall in Mental Health America’s [2020 State of Mental Health in America Report](#), which considers 15 factors evaluating youth and adult mental health status and resource availability. Specifically, Nevada ranked 49<sup>th</sup> in Access to Care and 51<sup>st</sup> in Youth Mental Health.

**Data:** Within the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) is dedicated to improving the physical and behavioral health and wellness of Nevadans. The division has 27 budgets devoted to public health matters; enforcement of laws and regulations pertaining to public health; prevention of disease and disability; and behavioral health care, including access to mental health and substance abuse and prevention treatment services.<sup>1</sup>

A review of Nevada’s budgetary data indicates that General Fund expenditures for mental health have declined over time.<sup>2</sup> As Figure 1 reveals, there is a slight decrease in General Fund support in the 2015-2017 biennium from 2013-2015 levels. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2010, General Fund support for behavioral health was **\$150.0 million** (constant dollars); in FY 2021, General Fund support for behavioral health was **\$123.5 million** (constant dollars), reflecting an **18 percent decrease**.

Figure 1. Mental Health Funding in Nevada, General Fund, FY 2010 - FY 2021



<sup>1</sup> Nevada Legislature. 2019 Appropriations Report.

[https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/fiscal/Appropriation%20Reports/2019AppropriationsReport/2019\\_80th\\_AppropriationsReport.pdf](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/fiscal/Appropriation%20Reports/2019AppropriationsReport/2019_80th_AppropriationsReport.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> The DPBH budget consists of the following facilities and programs: Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (SNAMHS); Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (NNAMHS); Rural Clinics; Lake’s Crossing Center; Behavioral Health Prevention and Treatment; Alcohol Tax Program; and Problem Gambling. Figure 1 includes General Fund appropriations for Behavioral Health Prevention and Treatment, SNAMHS, NNAMHS, and Rural Clinics, which accounts for 89-95 percent of the DPBH budget funded by the State’s General Fund.

Figure 2 presents mental health spending (in constant dollars) and year over year change.

Figure 2. Mental Health Funding in Nevada, Change Over Time

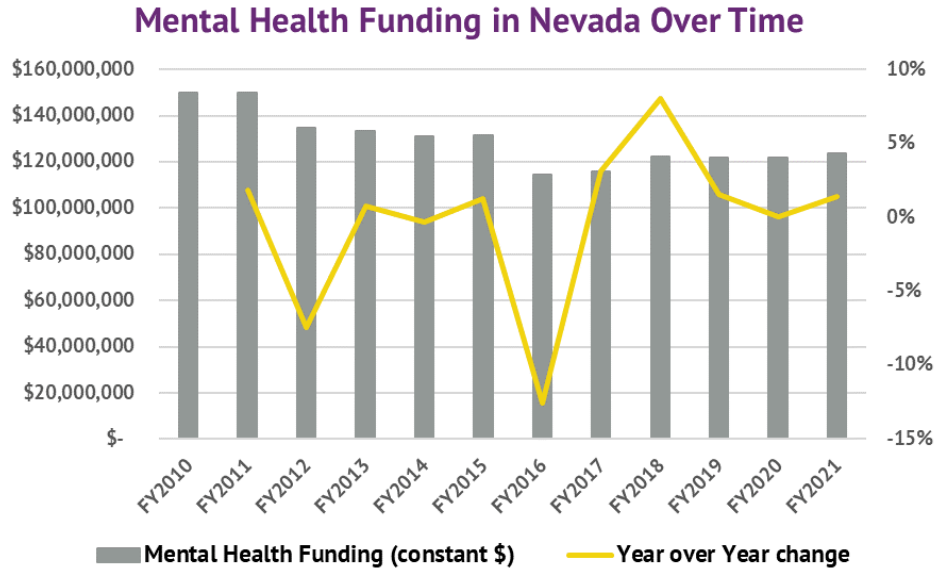
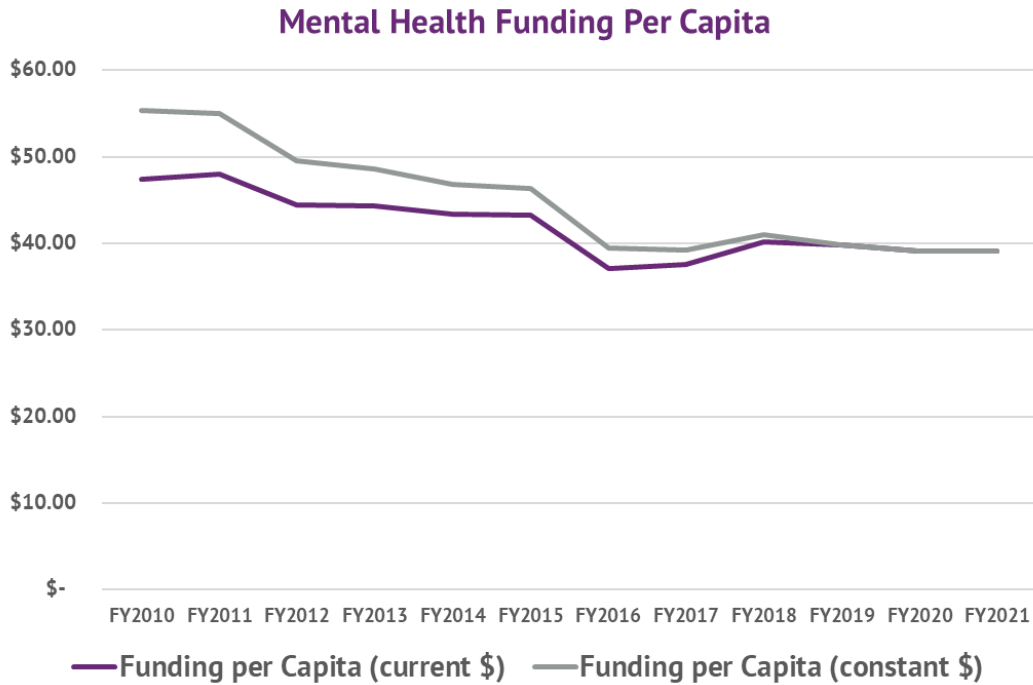


Figure 3 presents mental health spending per capita in both current and constant dollars. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2010, mental health funding per capita was **\$55.34** (constant dollars); in FY 2021, mental health funding per capita was **\$39.09** (constant dollars), reflecting a **29 percent decrease**.

Figure 3. Mental Health Funding Per Capita in Nevada



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