With funding from Baptist Community Ministries, the Louisiana Public Health Institute conducted an assessment on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Greater New Orleans behavioral health system (mental health and substance use services). We surveyed and talked to more than 150 service providers and clients from Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, and Plaquemines parishes to understand existing gaps and opportunities.

### Findings & Opportunities

- **79% of providers said** client behavioral health needs were higher or much higher.
  - **Opportunity**
    - Reimburse services provided by Peer Support Specialists and Community Health Workers.

- **Inpatient and residential care facilities reduced capacity, delaying treatment access.**
  - **Opportunity**
    - Expand comprehensive crisis stabilization services.
    - Add a Level III crisis receiving center.

- **Existing gaps in opioid treatment programs (OTPs) were exacerbated.**
  - **Opportunity**
    - Allow the establishment of new OTPs and methadone dosing sites.

- **88% of providers said** their stress levels were higher or much higher.
  - **Opportunity**
    - Support provider organizations in enhancing supportive services for staff.

The full report and additional information about findings and opportunities are available at [https://lphi.org/BCM-COVID](https://lphi.org/BCM-COVID).