Mental health and substance use disorders make a significant impact on the health of individuals, families and communities. Depression, anxiety and substance abuse issues carry a high burden of disease and disability in the U.S., and result in a substantial cost to families, employers and health systems. By 2020, mental and substance use disorders will surpass all physical diseases as a major cause of disability worldwide.

- **1 in 5** Americans has a mental disorder
- **60%** of adults with mental illness do not receive treatment
- **$740B** annual costs related to crime, lost work productivity and health care due to substance abuse
- **1:529** only 1 behavioral health provider for every 529 people

Public health efforts are essential to stemming the growing tide of these harmful and costly issues, and the Colorado School of Public Health is charting the course toward a healthier future by:

- advancing the integration of physical and mental health care
- promoting overall well-being
- focusing on prevention and early intervention across the lifespan
- educating current and next-generation leaders in health
STRATEGY

The Colorado School of Public Health has developed a four-pronged strategy to advance its ambitious vision for tomorrow. By taking a comprehensive approach to addressing the complex mental health challenges facing our country today – and by drawing upon top talent, innovative research and a constellation of resources across our three university campuses – we are uniquely poised to help usher in a new era of integrated population health.

Enhance research portfolio:
We will build on the impressive volume of mental and behavioral health research is underway here today, including community-based participatory initiatives, clinical and community trials, policy work and health services research.

Train current and future workforce:
We strive to become a trusted authority in this ever-evolving field by expanding our capacity to train the current and future workforce. We aim to ensure that professionals in the public and behavioral health realms are informed and competent in the nuances of both fields.

Develop unique educational programs:
We are ideally positioned to fulfill a great unmet need nationally by creating the first graduate-level educational programs at the intersection of behavioral health and public health in the region.

Bridge research and practice communities:
We take a lifespan approach to mental health promotion and have partnerships with perinatal providers, early childhood centers, K-12, medical practices, corporations, community centers and first responders, to name a few. We will continue to work closely with communities to ensure the research and methods we pioneer will improve health in Colorado and beyond.

PARTNERSHIP

Join the Colorado School of Public Health in revolutionizing mental health in the United States, and make a meaningful difference in countless lives. Together, we will transform the future.

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