

# Children's services

## The right care today for a healthier tomorrow

Culminating mental health challenges for young people, made worse by the pandemic, have initiated the Surgeon General and leading children's health organizations in issuing declarations of a youth mental health crisis.¹ Even before COVID-19, 1 in 6 children aged 2–8 in the U.S. had been diagnosed with a mental, behavioral or developmental disorder.² The prevalence of depression among adolescents aged 12–17 has steadily increased—and more than doubled—from 8% in 2010 to 17% in 2020, while the rate of treatment has only nominally increased.³ Certain demographic groups have been disproportionately affected, including girls, of which the prevalence of depression has increased from 11.9% in 2010 (4.4% among boys) to 25.2% in 2020 (9.2% among boys).³

During the pandemic, an increasing number of children were seen in emergency departments (EDs) for mental health-related care. From mid-March to October 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported a 24% increase in mental health-related ED visits among children aged 5–11 and a 31% increase in youth aged 12–17, compared with the same period in 2019.<sup>4</sup> Twelve percent of adolescents in 2020 had serious thoughts of suicide, 5.3% made a suicide plan and 2.5% attempted suicide.<sup>5</sup>

As a health plan, you serve youth and families from all walks of life, and some may be experiencing this mental health crisis more than others. Magellan Healthcare has a proven approach grounded in over 50 years of helping youth and families thrive. In doing so, we have enabled our clients to effectively serve these members and lower costs of care.

### Helping youth and families

- » Identify and build upon strengths, motivations and goals
- » Prioritize needs with a plan of care
- » Access high quality, appropriate and beneficial care to achieve the desired results
- » Address social determinants of health, including building a community support system
- » Learn coping, and crisis and family management skills
- » Live together safely, independently and with hope

### **Helping providers**

- » Understand member needs and family dynamics
- » Do their jobs efficiently and effectively through tools, resources and support
- » Learn and develop through ongoing training, coaching and consultation
- » Navigate state mandates and eligibility systems to facilitate timely reimbursement

#### **Strengthening communities**

- » Facilitating better functioning/stabilized families
- » Creating economic opportunities for community support services
- » Connecting community resources, providers and stakeholders to better serve community needs
- » Supporting and sponsoring community charitable endeavors



Explore the award-winning research that underpins our model of care for serving children, youth and their families at MagellanHealthcare.com/ Monographs.

#### Magellan Youth Leaders Inspiring Future Empowerment (MY LIFE)

The award-winning MY LIFE program provides a healthy outlet for youth who have experience with mental health, substance abuse, juvenile justice or foster care-related issues to create positive change for themselves and others in their communities. Founded in 2008, more than 500 MY LIFE meetings and events have taken place, inspiring thousands of youths and adults alike.

In response to COVID-19, Magellan launched the Stay Home for MY LIFE virtual youth fest series, featuring inspirational speakers, uplifting entertainment, fun activities and more. Register for upcoming free events and watch recordings of previous events at MagellanHealthcare.com/MYLIFE/Stay-Home.

#### Improving outcomes for youth and families

- » 72% of children in Louisiana show improvements in clinical functioning
- » 66% of dependent children in Florida from vulnerable situations were able to remain in lower levels of care and avoid inpatient care
- » 65% savings to care for Wyoming youth in Magellan's High-Fidelity Wraparound program vs. inpatient care

Through our evidence-based children's model of care, built around a compassionate, individualized approach, and our hands-on, dedicated clinical and peer support team members who are part of the communities we serve, we help families live happier, healthier, more independent lives.

> Learn more about how our customized solutions for children are making a difference at MagellanHealthcare.com/Youth.







- 1. December 7, 2021, HHS press release on the Surgeon General's Advisory addressing the youth mental health crisis, and October 19, 2021, AAP-AACAP-CHA declaration of a national emergency in child and adolescent mental health
- 2. CDC data and statistics
- 3. SAMHSA 2020 National Survey of Drug Use and Health, youth mental health trend tables
- 4. November 13, 2020, CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report
- 5. SAMHSA 2020 National Survey of Drug Use and Health, youth mental health tables

