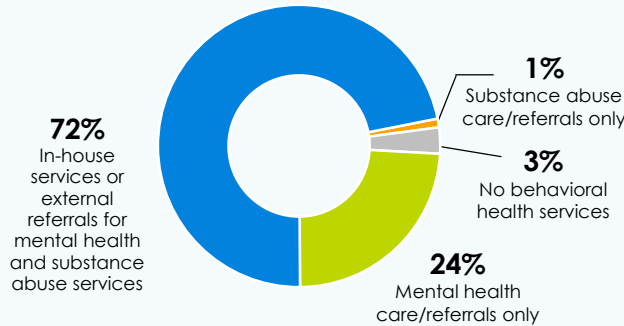


Core operating support provides community health centers (CHCs) with the flexible funds to respond to new challenges and opportunities while continuing to provide critical and connected services, including behavioral healthcare. To inform the field and evolving conversation on [behavioral health integration](#) in the safety net, our 2014-2015 survey of core support grantees included a focus on behavioral health. **Below are the key findings.**



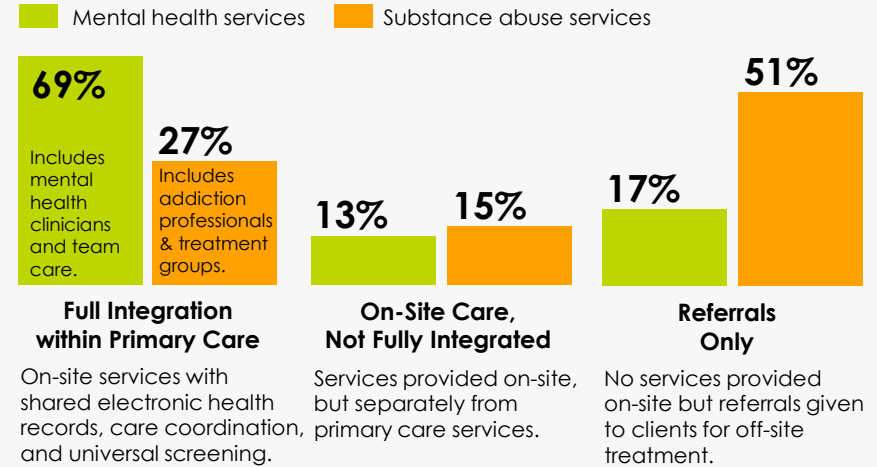
Since 2003, Blue Shield of California Foundation has provided general operating support to community health centers (CHCs) across California through its [Core Support Initiative](#). Between 2014 and 2015, **217 CHCs** received Foundation core support grants.

### Behavioral Health Services Offered



The vast majority of CHCs (72%) offer in-house mental health and substance abuse services or external referrals to their patients. Only 3% offer no behavioral services.

### Strategies for Addressing Behavioral Health



### Behavioral Health Staffing

Most CHCs use licensed mental health providers and primary care staff to deliver behavioral health services to their patients, but far fewer use these personnel to provide substance abuse services.

	Mental health	Substance abuse
Licensed staff *	83%	51%
Primary care staff	65%	44%
Community health workers	34%	23%
Peer providers	17%	14%
Addiction specialists	n/a	29%

\* Includes LCSWs, LMFTs, and psychologists

### Use of Standardized Assessment Tools

Most CHCs use standardized assessment tools to measure patients' progress with mental health treatment, but less than half use tools to measure patients' progress with substance abuse treatment.

