



# Boulder County Co-Responder Annual Report

2023

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2023

For more information, please contact:

Jim Adams-Berger  
Manager of Strategic Initiatives  
Boulder County Community Services

[jadams-berger@bouldercounty.gov](mailto:jadams-berger@bouldercounty.gov)  
303-441-3839

*This report is dedicated to the memory of Jennine Hall-Camacho whose vision and tireless work to develop the Boulder County Co-Responder Project helped so many in our community. Her legacy will live on through the many lives she personally touched and the ongoing efforts of staff she so thoughtfully nurtured.*

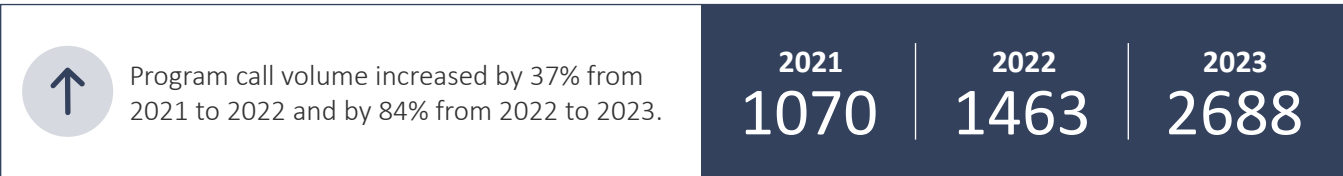
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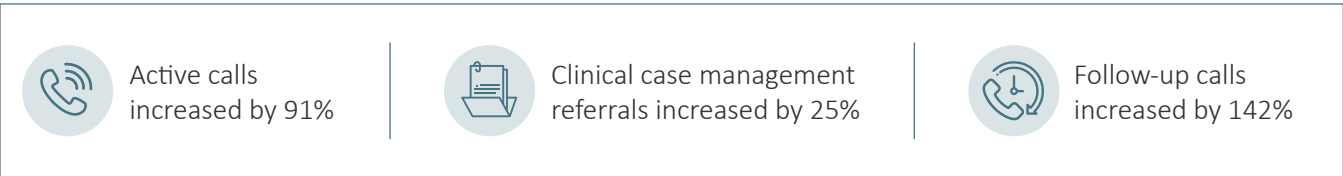
# Executive Summary: Boulder County Co-Responder Annual Report 2023

The Boulder County Co-Responder Program was launched in late 2020, pairing law enforcement and behavioral health professionals (Co-Responders) with expertise in mental health, addiction, counseling, and social work to respond to calls for service determined to have a behavioral health component. Program services also include clinical case management that provides ongoing support to community members following a service call or as a direct referral from law enforcement. The end of 2023 marked three full years of Co-Responder services since the program's inception. Over this time, the program experienced significant growth and community recognition and has resulted in numerous positive impacts on community health for over two thousand Boulder County residents. The following report highlights program impacts and successes over the first three years of implementation and outlines future directions for the program. This executive summary captures key program highlights.

## Boulder County Co-Responder Program Service Highlights



Additionally, from 2022 to 2023:

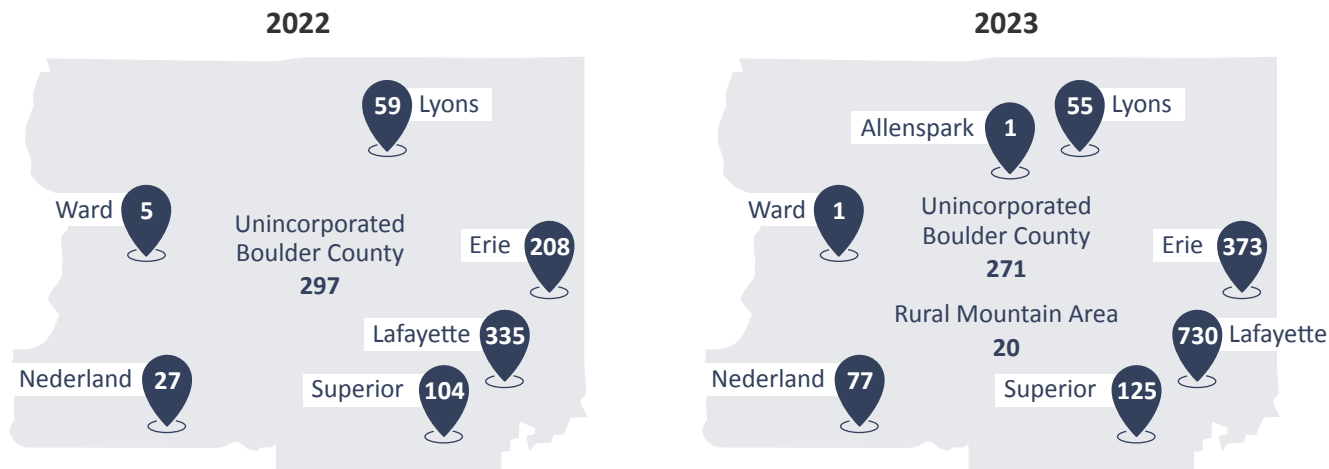


- 1 The percentage of adults over age 65 who received services from Co-Responders increased from 13% in 2022 to 21% in 2023, indicating that Co-Responders are filling a gap in services for older adults who need behavioral health support.
- 2 Support for mental health continued to be the top reason for active calls and clinical case management referrals across the county in 2023.
- 3 Lafayette saw the biggest growth in service utilization from 2022 to 2023, more than doubling the number of active calls and clinical case management referrals from one year to the next.
- 4 Lyons and Nederland, the two rural areas of Boulder County with nested Co-Responders, had high ratios of calls and clinical case management referrals for people experiencing homelessness, indicating that Co-Responders are filling a gap in services for unhoused individuals in these more remote areas of the county.
- 5 **Since the program began, 59% of contacts have been resolved with no law enforcement present on the scene.** This number has stayed constant even as the program has grown. A primary benefit of the Co-Responder Program is the ability to provide behavioral health interventions to community members that also allow law enforcement to return to service more quickly.








### Location of Community Members

In 2022 and 2023, most calls and referrals for service occurred in Lafayette. The percentage of calls and referrals for service in Lafayette increased from 32% in 2022 to 44% in 2023. Three Co-Responders were nested across Erie, Lafayette, and Nederland throughout the year to better serve community members in these localities.



### Program Successes and Future Opportunities

In the past year, the Co-Responder Program has had many successes due to the continued expansion of the program and the ongoing development of relationships with law enforcement and community members. The key successes in 2023 were:

-  Facilitated increased diversion from the criminal justice system
-  Provided cross-training to law enforcement and community agencies
-  Used data to advocate for individuals and analyze the trends in community need
-  Expanded service delivery models and staff
-  Continued growth of services in rural areas of Boulder County

### Expansion of Hours and Personnel

Over the last year, the Co-Response Team has seen increases in community contacts from Co-Responders riding with Officers during part of their shift. This has also allowed the Team to really get to know the law enforcement partners and be flexible to the needs of each department and local community. In addition, due to the growth of the Co-Response Team, staff hours have expanded, allowing the Team to provide more frequent and timely support to community members.

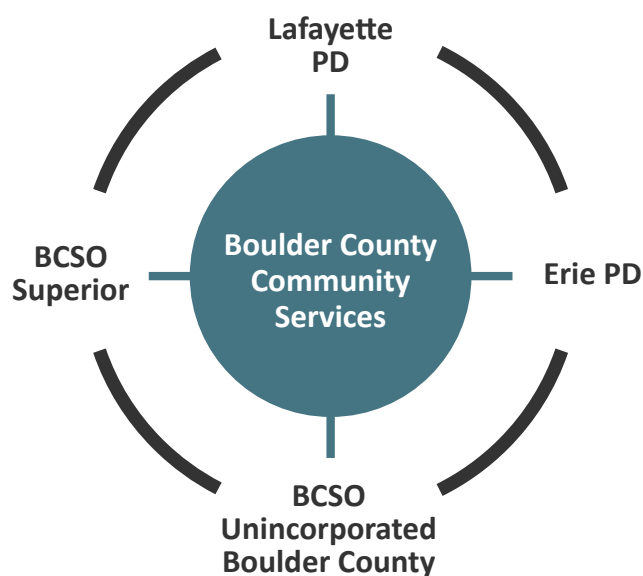
# Introduction

Jurisdictions across the country are reimagining public safety and focusing on expanding crisis response efforts by implementing Co-Responder programs. Though varied in description and delivery, each follows a police-based intervention that partners trained law enforcement and behavioral health professionals responding to behavioral health crises. Data in this report are from January 2021 to December 2023, with a greater focus on the data gathered from January to December 2023.

## History of Boulder County Co-Responder Program

The Boulder County Co-Responder Program was created through a collaborative partnership between Boulder County Community Services and the Boulder County Sheriff's Office with support from a five-year grant from the Colorado Office of Behavioral Health (OBH), now the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA).

The Co-Responder Program was launched in late 2020, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when the need for behavioral health service support was augmented in ways that were new and challenging for the region. Initially, the Co-Responder Program Team focused on implementing the hub and spoke model. This model designates Boulder County Community Services as the **"hub"** with four **"spoke"** agencies (Lafayette Police Department, Erie Police Department, Boulder County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) Unincorporated Boulder County, and BCSO Superior) contracting with the hub to support local communities. Although Co-Responders are housed in specific locations, they are cross-trained to support any individual in need within Boulder County.



### The "Hub"

The hub component of this model is housed within Boulder County Community Services, which provides administrative and clinical oversight to the spokes in the network. The hub centralizes resources, information, and practice standards that can be directed out to Co-Responders when needed, maximizing efficiency across the entire system.

### The "Spokes"

The spokes are the local law enforcement agencies where Co-Responders are nested in each community. Co-Responders provide primary and secondary response as well as Clinical Case Management services. Co-Responders are cross-trained so they can provide services in other communities that are part of this larger service structure.



In its early implementation, program leadership went out to specific areas of the county and spoke with local leaders about the Co-Responder Program. In these conversations, the goal was to explore the idea of having town or cities cover the costs of Co-Responders in their community, with the county paying for the administrative support of those staff and services. This would allow these local areas to have access to co-response services while not having to cover the full cost of the program in their area.

The first area of the county that chose to fund a full-time Co-Responder in their community was the Town of Erie, and that Co-Responder started in January of 2021. This was a huge success, and the data showed that having a Co-Responder nested in the local police department allowed for increased collaboration and understanding between the Co-Responders and law enforcement, as well as more interactions with community members through active calls, clinical case management referrals, and follow-up calls.

After that initial success with Erie, a Co-Responder was nested in the Superior Sub-station in January 2022. The Town of Lafayette followed suit and nested two Co-Responders in their department in March and May of 2022. Data show that nesting these Co-Responders in local departments results in increased contact with community members through active calls and clinical case management referrals.

## **Development of Co-Responder Services Around the County**

Over the last five years, program staff and geographic response have expanded with additional funding from the Towns of Erie and Superior, the City of Lafayette, Boulder County Departments of Community Services and Housing and Human Services, and funding from the Department of Local Affairs to support a Co-Responder in Nederland. In addition to the original four "spoke" agencies, the City of Louisville was added as a jurisdiction (or "spoke") in 2024. Further, despite higher call volume in more densely populated areas of Boulder County, Co-Responders are also providing services to other small localities, such as Ward, and rural mountain areas.

As the program has evolved over the years, and the number of Co-Responders has increased, the Team saw a need to hire a dedicated Clinical Case Manager to support the growing volume of referrals from law enforcement and requests for follow-up services. The Clinical Case Manager now works directly with both law enforcement and Co-Responders to ensure that the program is meeting the needs of all community members receiving services.

# Service Profile

Critical data are captured each time a Co-Responder responds with law enforcement or receives a referral and provides services. This section of the report summarizes data from 2022 and 2023 on service profiles, representing the type of service (active calls, clinical case management referrals, and follow-up calls), as well as key characteristics of community members served (such as gender, ethnicity, race, and age).

## Total provision of services

Services provided by the Co-Responder Program are made up of three types:

- 1

**Active Co-Responder Calls:**  
A Co-Responder is contacted and arrives after law enforcement is on scene, or a Co-Responder is riding with law enforcement and arrives on scene with the officer.
- 2

**Clinical Case Management Referrals:**  
A request is made for a clinical case manager only (non-active call).
- 3

**Follow-up Calls:**  
Calls that could include law enforcement with a Co-Responder, Co-Responder only, or clinical case manager follow-up with an individual who was previously in contact with the Co-Responder Program either through an active call or clinical case management referral.

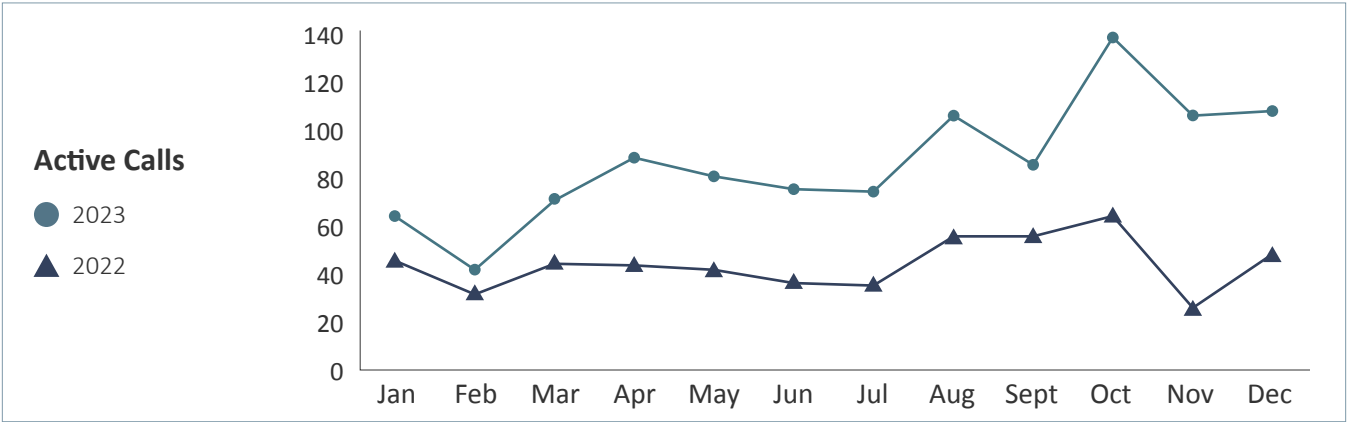
This continued increase in each service area over time reflects the overall expansion of Co-Response services across the county, the addition of Co-Response staff in various communities, and the growth of partnerships with law enforcement, as calls to the scene and clinical case management referrals are facilitated by law enforcement.

	2022	2023
Active Co-Responder Calls	544	1,040
Clinical Case Management Referrals	491	613
Follow-ups After Calls	428	1,035
Total	1,463	2,688

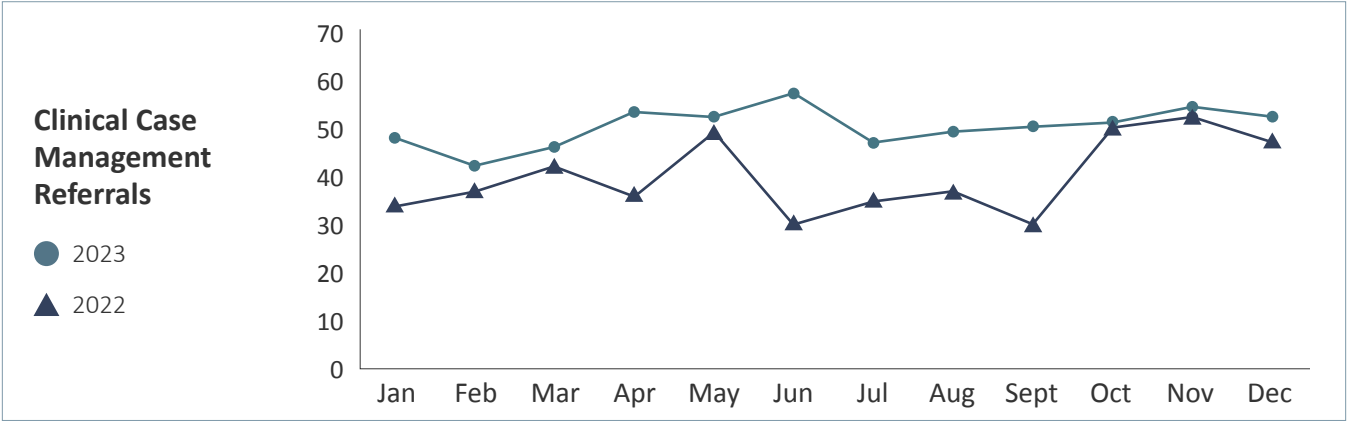


While call totals varied month to month across 2023, there was an increase in the overall volume of calls for all three service types in 2023.

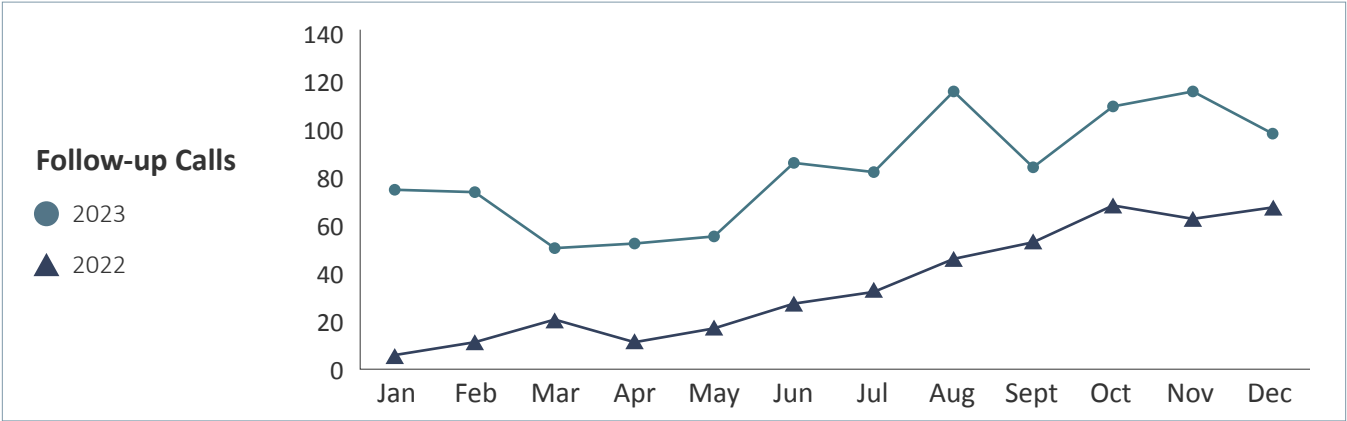
The largest increase in active Co-Responder calls was in October, when calls more than doubled from 2022 to 2023.



The largest increase in clinical case management referrals was in June when calls nearly doubled from 2022 to 2023.



Follow-up calls increased across 2022 and continued to increase over the course of 2023 as more Co-Responders were nested in communities and built relationships with local organizations and law enforcement officials.

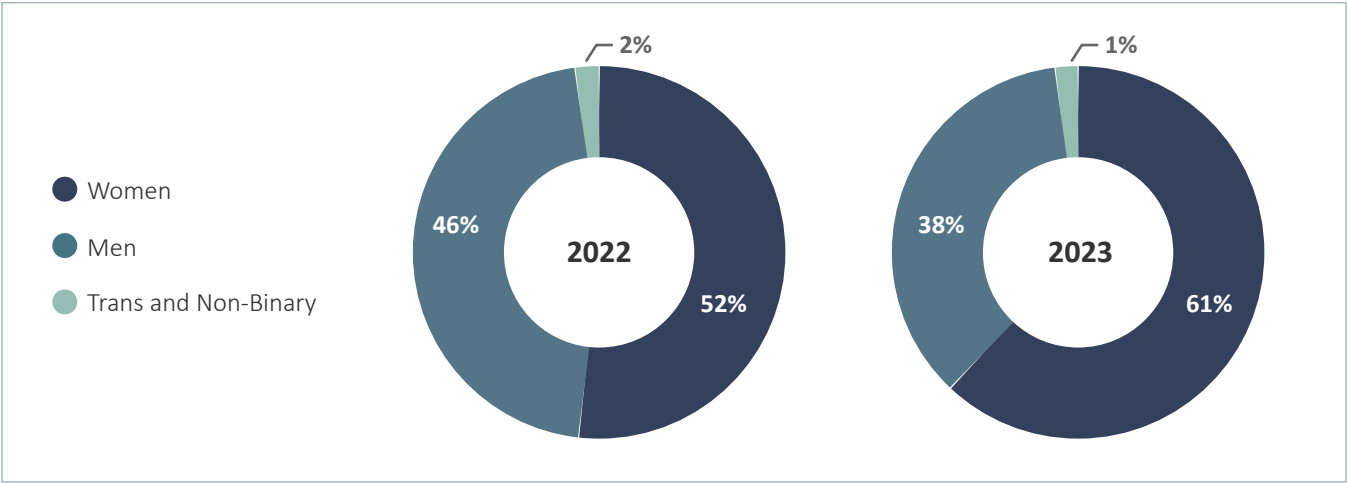


Demographics

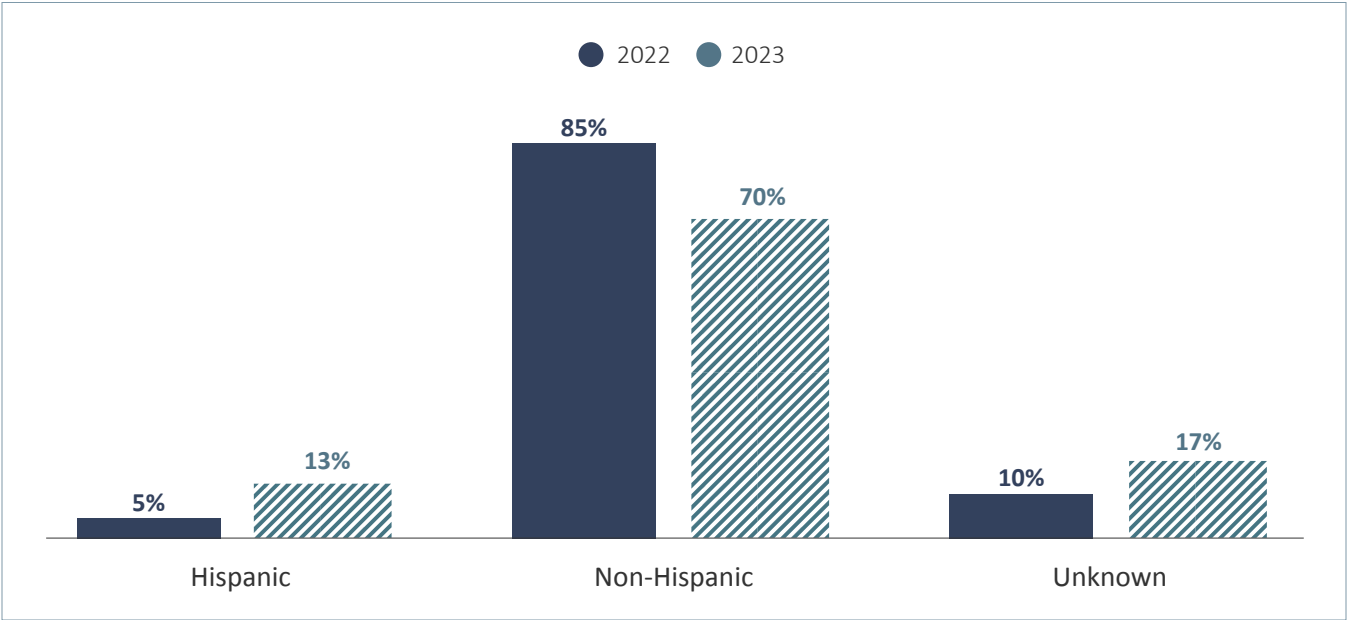
The data below describe the demographics of community members who received services from the Co-Responder Program. “Community member” is used to describe someone who received services on scene with a Co-Responder and law enforcement, as well as individuals who are referred directly to the Co-Responder Program for clinical case management services.

The population most likely to be served by the Co-Responder Program across 2022 and 2023 was white, non-Hispanic, with an average age of 45.

Since the start of the Co-Responder Program, men and women have received services from Co-Responders in almost equal numbers; however, in 2023 there was an increase in women receiving services.



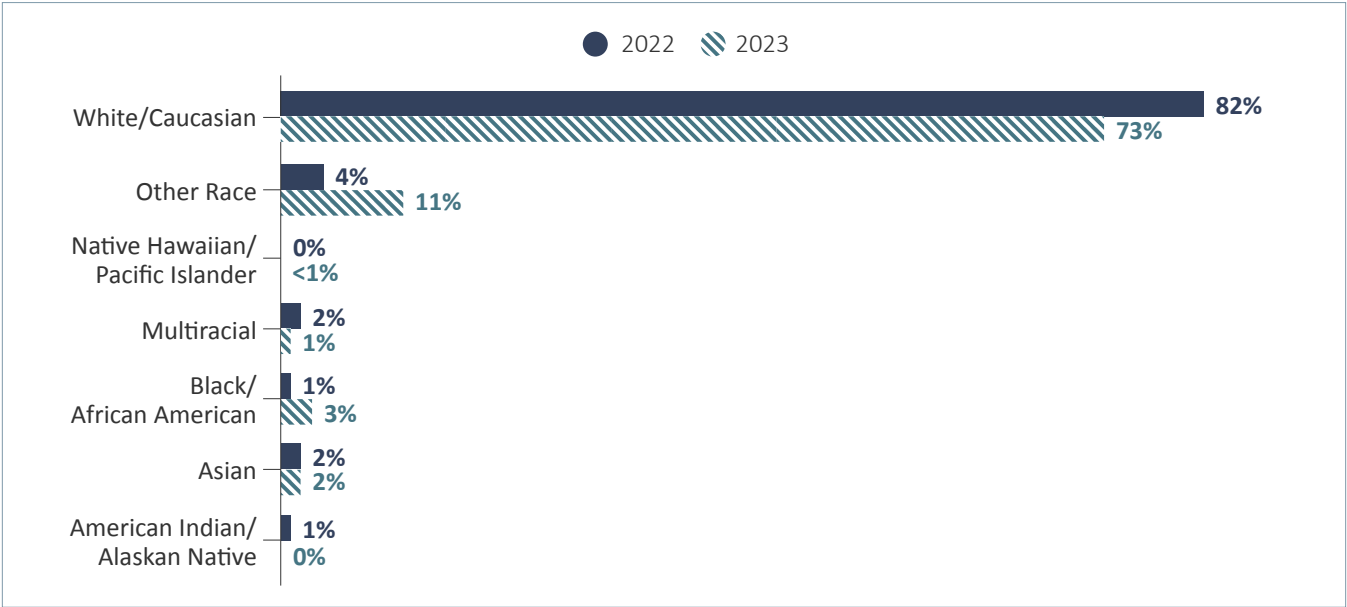
The percentage of community members who identified as Hispanic increased from 5% in 2022 to 13% in 2023.



Note: Due to minimal contact, some community members may have chosen not to provide ethnicity information or may not have been asked for this information, resulting in an “unknown” designation.

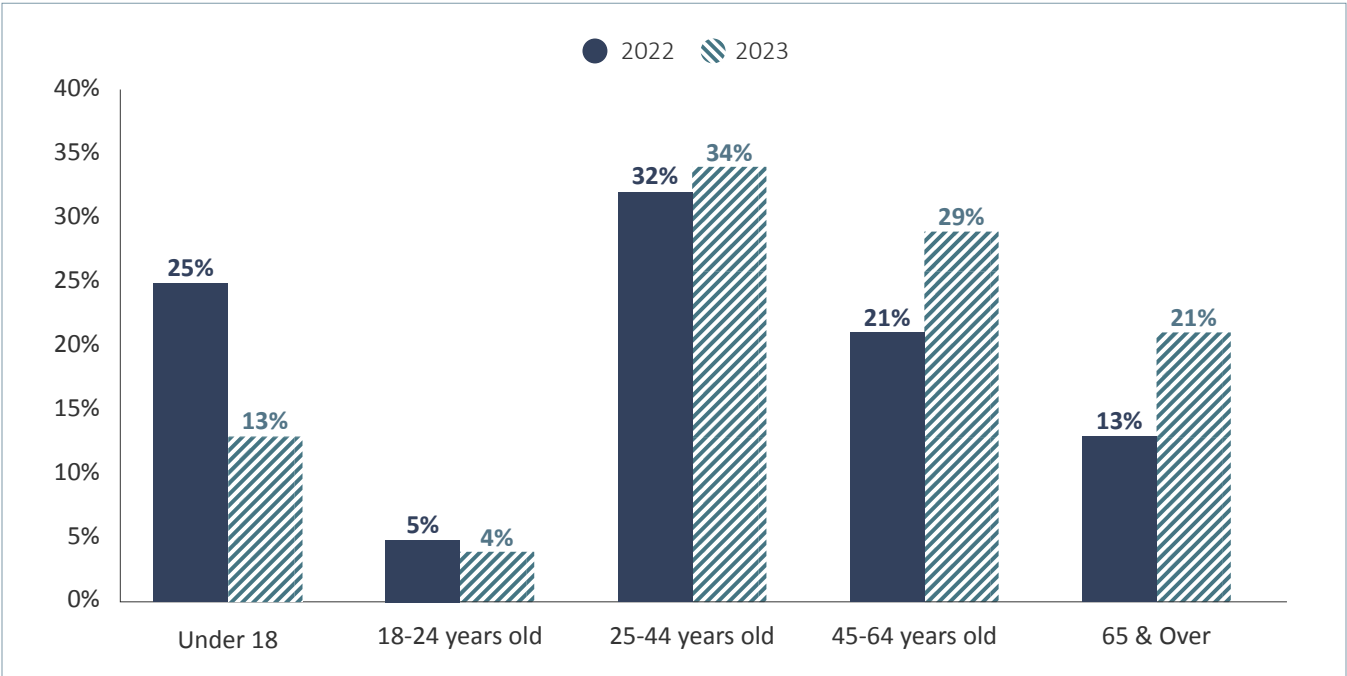


**The majority of community members served by the Co-Responder Program reported their race as White/Caucasian in both 2022 and 2023.**



In 2022, no community members served by the Co-Responder Program reported their race as Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. In 2023, less than 1% of community members reported their race as Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and American Indian/Alaskan Native.

**In 2022 and 2023, most community members were between 25 and 44 years old.**



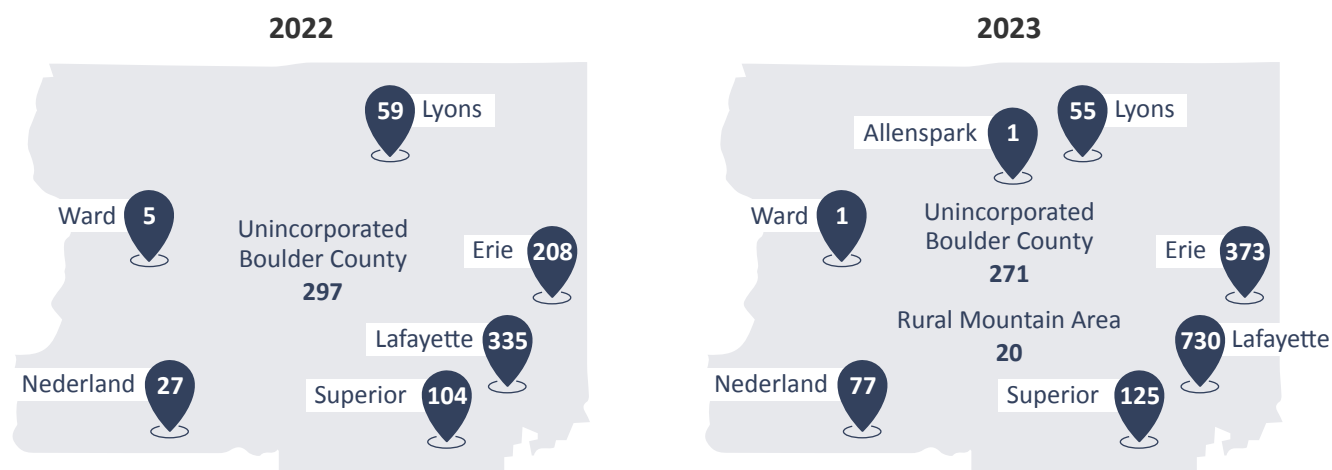
The average age of community members has gone up since the first year of Co-Responder services in 2021, when the average age for community members was 38. In 2022, the average age for community members who received Co-Responder services was 39. This increase in average age, along with the increase in the number of community members over the age of 65 who received services from Co-Responders, shows that co-response is filling an important gap in services for older adults in Boulder County.

# Contact Profile

This section describes details about Co-Responder services, including location, length, and the types of interventions provided through the program. This section includes data from active Co-Responder calls and clinical case management referrals.

## Location of Community Members

In 2022 and 2023, most calls and referrals for service occurred in Lafayette. The percentage of calls and referrals for service in Lafayette increased from 32% in 2022 to 44% in 2023.



The table below shows the totals of all active calls and clinical case management referrals per month in 2023 in each area of Boulder County served by the Co-Responder Program.

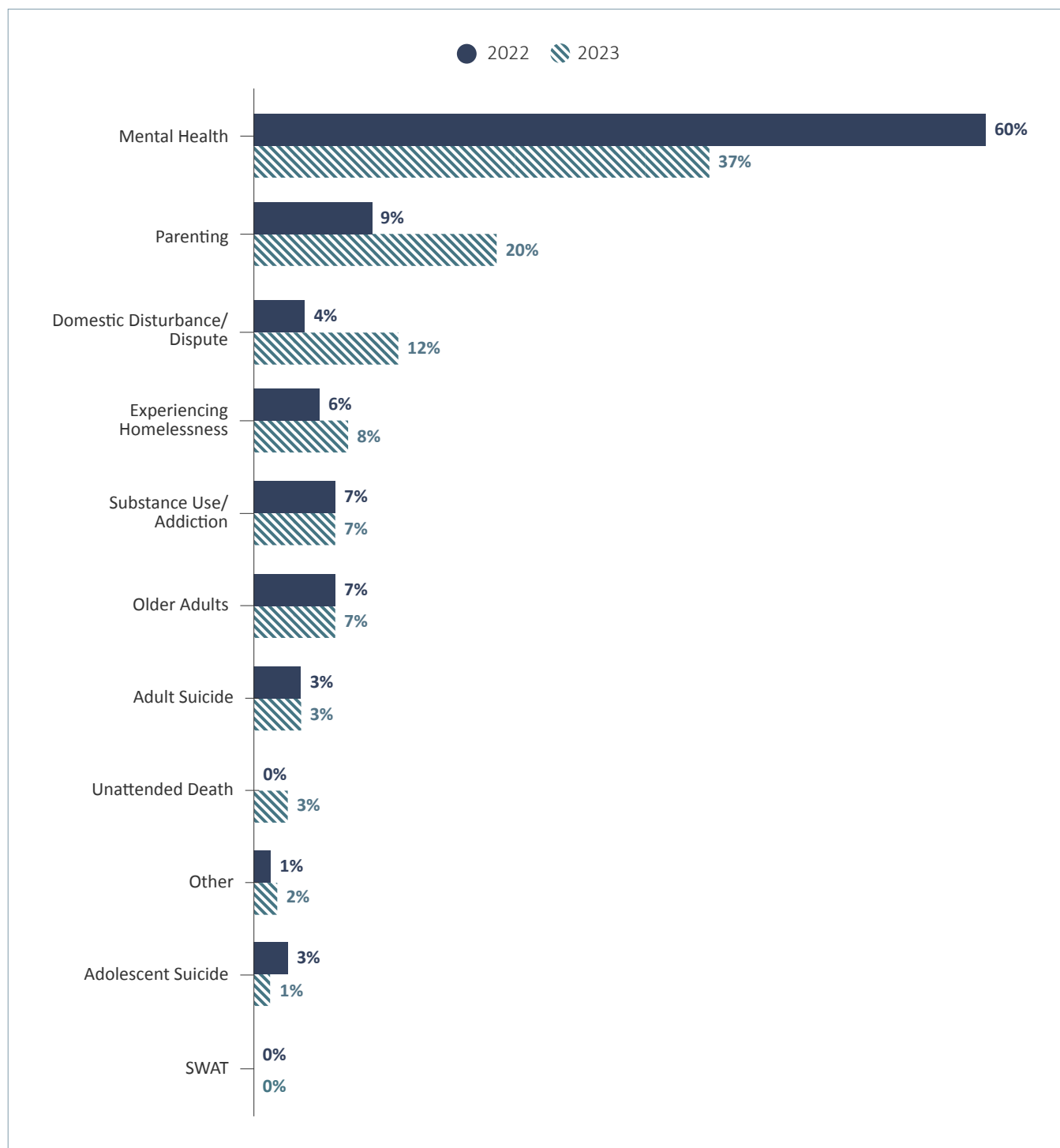
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Unincorporated Boulder County	20	20	18	23	38	24	19	29	20	41	7	12	271
Allenspark	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Erie	20	18	29	22	17	36	29	43	32	36	48	43	373
Lafayette	48	18	51	68	54	44	50	56	72	97	72	85	730
Lyons	7	7	4	11	4	0	8	5	3	0	5	1	55
Nederland	3	2	3	5	9	9	7	16	1	8	9	5	77
Rural Mountain Area	1	0	0	2	3	5	4	1	1	0	1	2	20
Superior	13	5	13	12	9	15	15	6	8	8	19	2	125
Ward	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	113	85	118	143	134	133	132	156	137	190	161	151	1653

## Nature of Co-Responder Provided Service

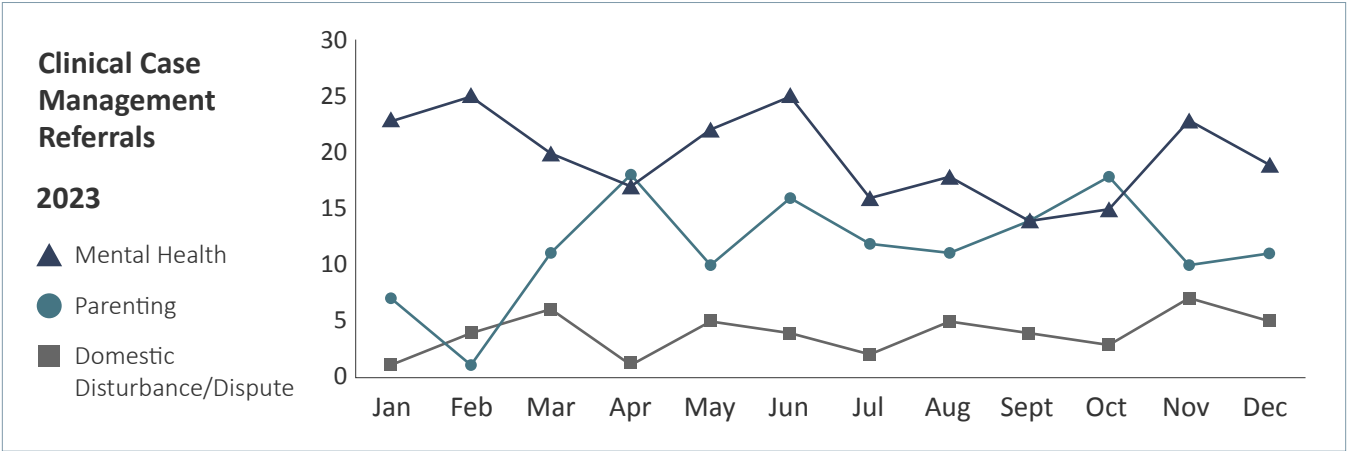
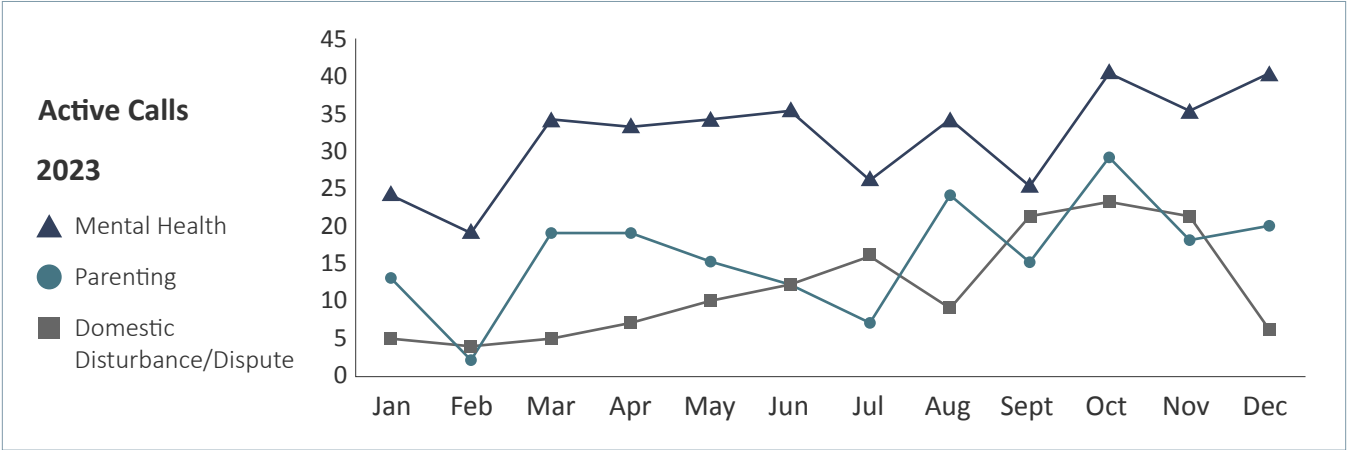
### Service Data

This section of the report includes data on services provided by the Co-Responder Program and includes active calls and clinical case management referrals.

**In 2023, mental health support accounted for 37% (n=616) of Co-Responder active calls and clinical case management referrals (down from 878 or 60% of calls in 2022), followed by calls related to parenting, domestic disturbance/dispute, and persons experiencing homelessness.**

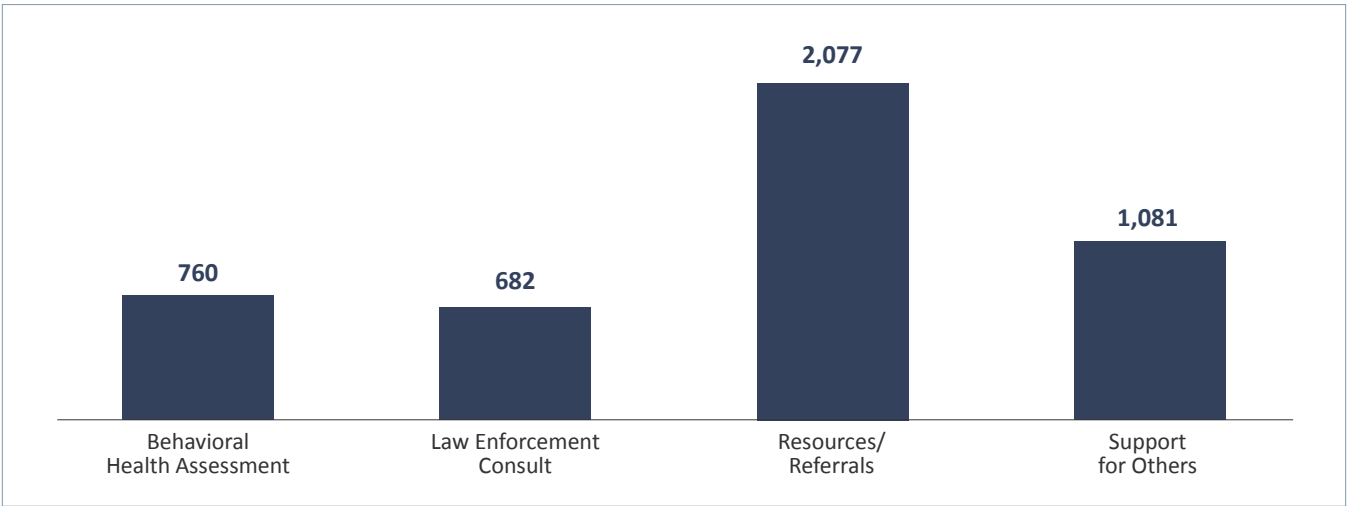


Below are the top three service types broken out by month for 2023. Contacts related to mental health remain the most common type of active call and clinical case management referral.



Co-Responders often offer multiple services to individuals and families in need during a single contact. Data provided below highlight supports for community members’ primary, secondary, and tertiary needs. Because multiple services can be offered during a single contact, totals are greater than the number of calls or referrals.

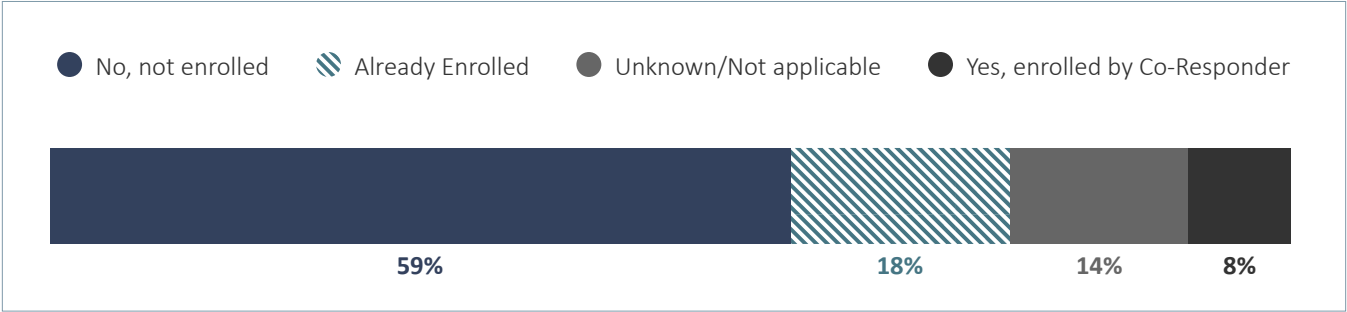
**In 2023, the most commonly delivered service was resources and referrals.**



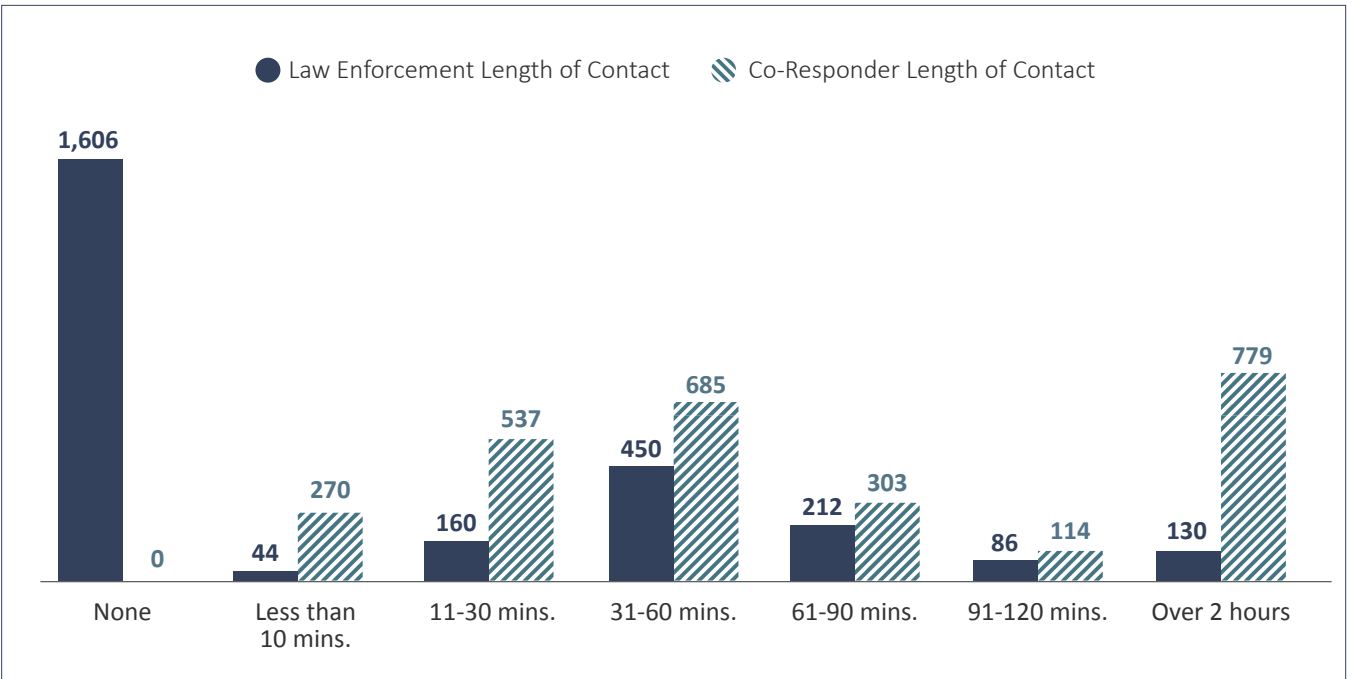


**In 2023, 18% of community members were already enrolled in behavioral health services when they received services from the Co-Responder Program.**

This was a decrease from 2022 when over a quarter of community members were already enrolled in behavioral health services when receiving support from Co-Responders. Despite the decrease from 2022 to 2023, nearly one in five individuals interacting with Co-Responders are already enrolled in behavioral health services, suggesting that Co-Responders are filling gaps in existing care or supporting individuals with needs for higher levels of care.



**In 2023, 1,606 calls were resolved through clinical case management without law enforcement involvement, allowing officers to focus on other aspects of their work.**



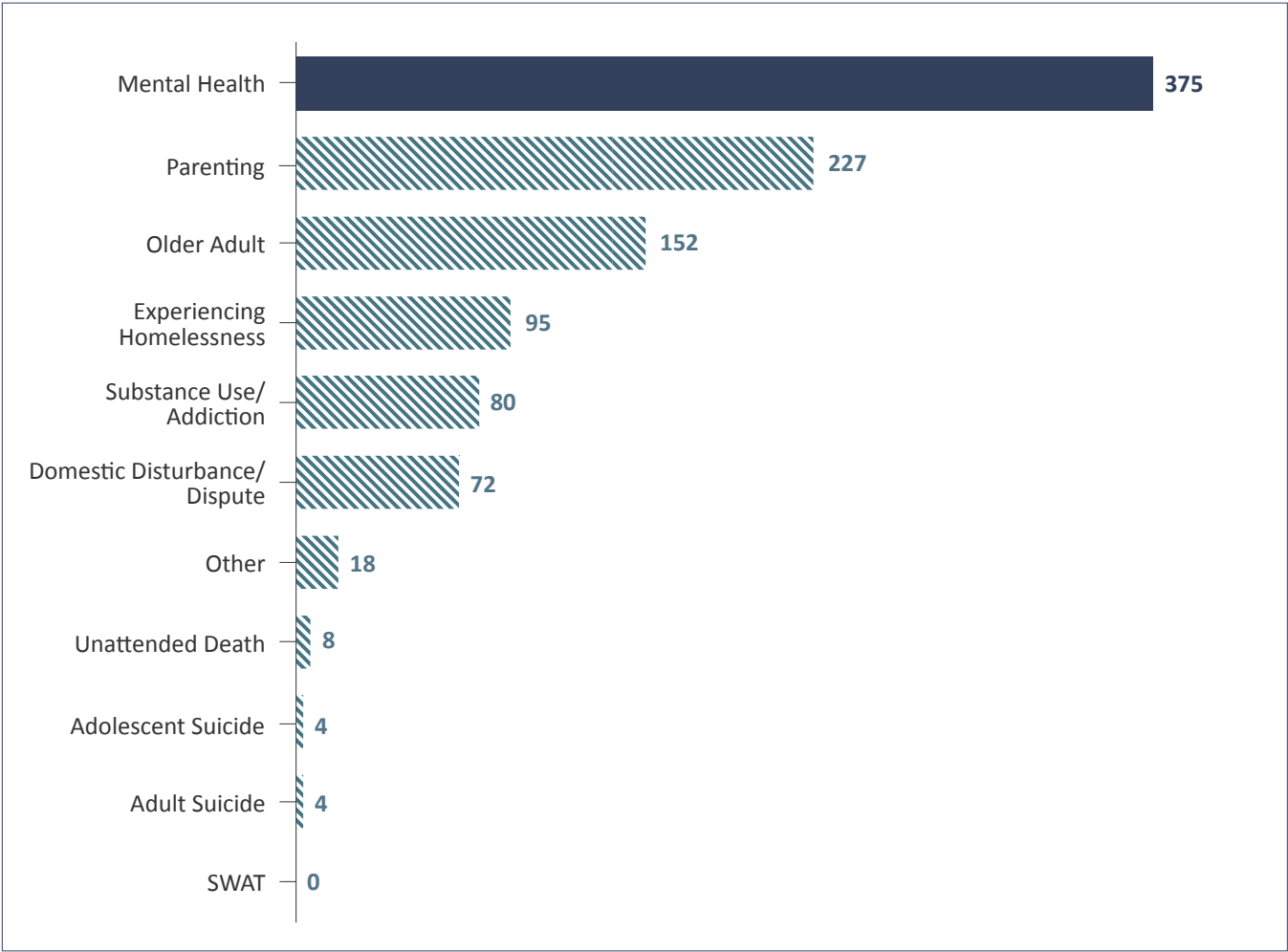
Without the availability of clinical case management services, those who initially encounter a Co-Responder might continue to receive support through active calls to law enforcement for unresolved issues. Clinical case management cases remain open until the community member is actively receiving viable, community-based treatment or other necessary support services. Setting up services, particularly those involving treatment, can be challenging and may take a considerable amount of time. Co-Responders will often bridge the service gap until an individual is successfully enrolled in a service, enabling community members to stabilize without higher levels of intervention. Also, because law enforcement officials can directly refer community members to a case management clinician, they are able to pass on difficult cases and more quickly return to their regular duties.

Another area where the partnership between Co-Responders and law enforcement is paying dividends is in overall crisis mitigation. Co-Responders use de-escalation strategies to intervene and calm a scene in approximately 32% of calls. While law enforcement officials have extensive training in verbal de-escalation techniques, Co-Responders have specialized training in communicating with people experiencing mental health crises, or those who have cognitive impairments or intellectual disabilities. Co-Responders focus on aligning their response to specific community member needs, often saving time for law enforcement officials, and reducing the need for law enforcement to use force.

**Follow-up calls**

Co-Responders engage with community members through follow-up services. Individuals who interact with a Co-Responder on scene receives follow-up services tailored to the needs of the individual, and many receive multiple follow-up contacts.

**Most follow-up contacts were made regarding mental health needs.**



Follow-up calls through phone or face-to-face contact with the Co-Responder Team provide a critical service to community members experiencing mental health symptoms to ensure they are receiving the support and services needed. Follow-up services provide community members with extra support to manage symptoms, broker additional services and treatment needed, and educate friends and family members on how to lower the risk of relapse and improve treatment outcomes. The Boulder County Co-Responder Team takes following up with community members seriously, knowing that these contacts can help a community member better manage their mental health symptoms and prevent future deterioration.

# Program Implementation

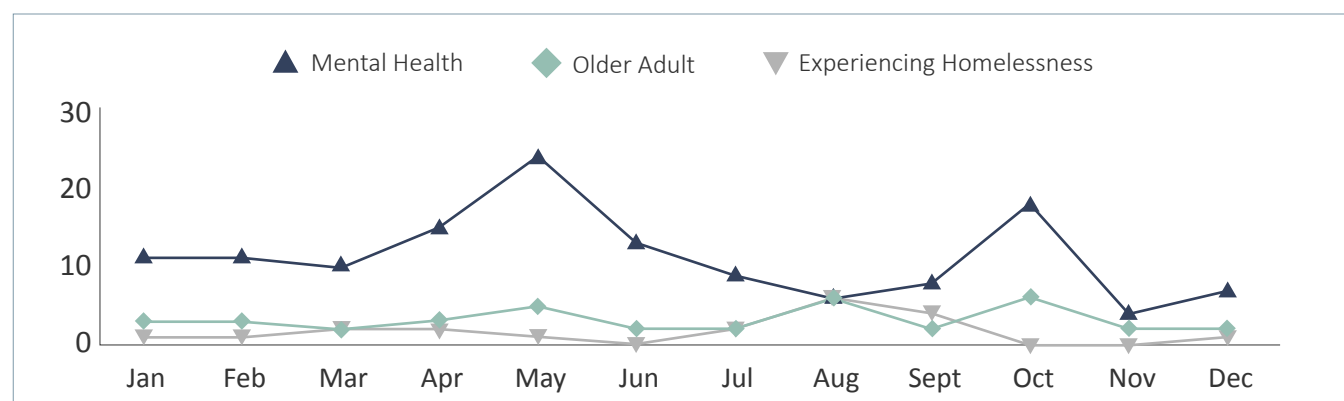
The Boulder County Co-Responder Team has been providing services across the county for over three years. In the first year of implementation, the program focused primarily on building partnerships with law enforcement, getting to know the communities they serve, and responding to calls (secondary response). During the second year of implementation, the program began nesting Co-Responders within individual communities, leading to an increase in the volume of calls for service and case management referrals. In addition, nested Co-Responders helped to further develop partnerships between the Co-Response Program and law enforcement. These Co-Responders interact with law enforcement every day and are able to learn important aspects of each department's culture. In the third year of program implementation, the Team sought to tailor service provision even further by beginning to ride with law enforcement as they respond to calls for service (primary response). By riding along with law enforcement, the Co-Response Team has been able to respond immediately on scene when their services are needed and have increased their overall contact with community members. The implementation of the Co-Response Program has involved law enforcement partners at every step of the process. Overall, the program has continued to grow with the infusion of additional fiscal contributions, more staff, and an increase in services to community members.

## Nested Co-Responders Unincorporated Boulder County

There are many districts and unique communities that exist within unincorporated areas of Boulder County, which include Allenspark, Coal Creek Canyon, Eldora, Eldorado Springs, Gold Hill, Gunbarrel, Hygiene, and Niwot. Additionally, the Town of Superior is part of unincorporated Boulder County; however, the data for Superior is evaluated separately as a Co-Responder was nested in the Superior Substation in 2022. Boulder County is served by several acute-care hospitals, community-based mental health centers, and a large network of medical and mental health providers. Though services may be available, the ability to receive care in a timely and cohesive manner still remains a challenge for many vulnerable residents.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<b>Calls/CM in 2022</b>	28	31	32	17	33	8	25	26	25	26	22	24	<b>297</b>
<b>Calls/CM in 2023</b>	20	20	18	23	38	24	19	29	20	41	7	12	<b>271</b>

Calls pertaining to mental health, older adults, and persons experiencing homelessness made up the top three areas of need in unincorporated Boulder County in 2023. This is a shift from 2022, where calls pertaining to mental health, parenting, and older adults made up the top three areas of need in unincorporated Boulder County. The graph below shows the monthly case data for each of these areas.



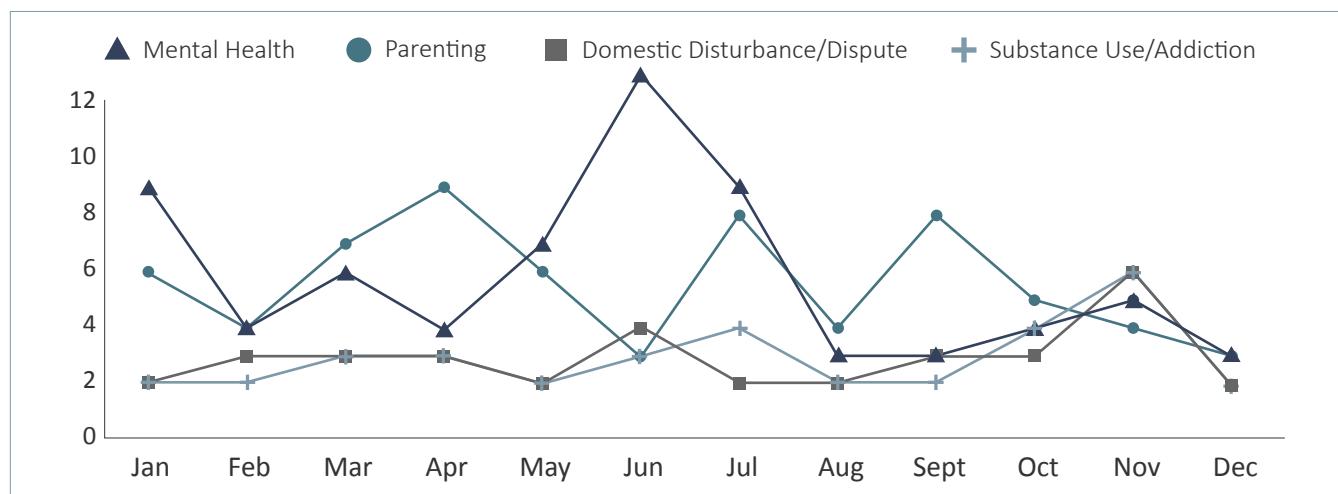
## Town of Superior

Over a year after the Marshall Fire destroyed more than 1,000 homes and businesses in Superior and nearby Louisville, the rebuilding process is still underway (with domestic disturbance/dispute and substance use/addiction tied for third highest area of need). This ongoing process has continued to place strain on the residents of Superior, potentially impacting the types of calls received by the Co-Response Team. A majority of calls received by the Team have to do with family disturbance related to mental health or behavioral issues with adolescents. In addition, the Co-Responder nested in Superior on January 1, 2022 began to provide primary response services by riding along with law enforcement, which continued to increase contacts with community members over the last year.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<b>Calls/CM in 2022</b>	<b>8*</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>Calls/CM in 2023</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>125</b>

\*Indicates the date when the Co-Responder was nested in the community.

In Superior, calls pertaining to mental health, parenting, domestic disturbance/dispute, and substance use/addiction made up the top four areas of need in 2023 (with domestic disturbance/dispute and substance use/addiction tied for third highest area of need). This is consistent with 2022 calls and referrals for service.



Note: Previous reports have included the top three categories of calls and referrals. In 2023, Domestic Disturbance/Dispute and Substance Use/Addiction related calls and referrals tied for the third spot, so four categories are reported for 2023.

## Town of Erie

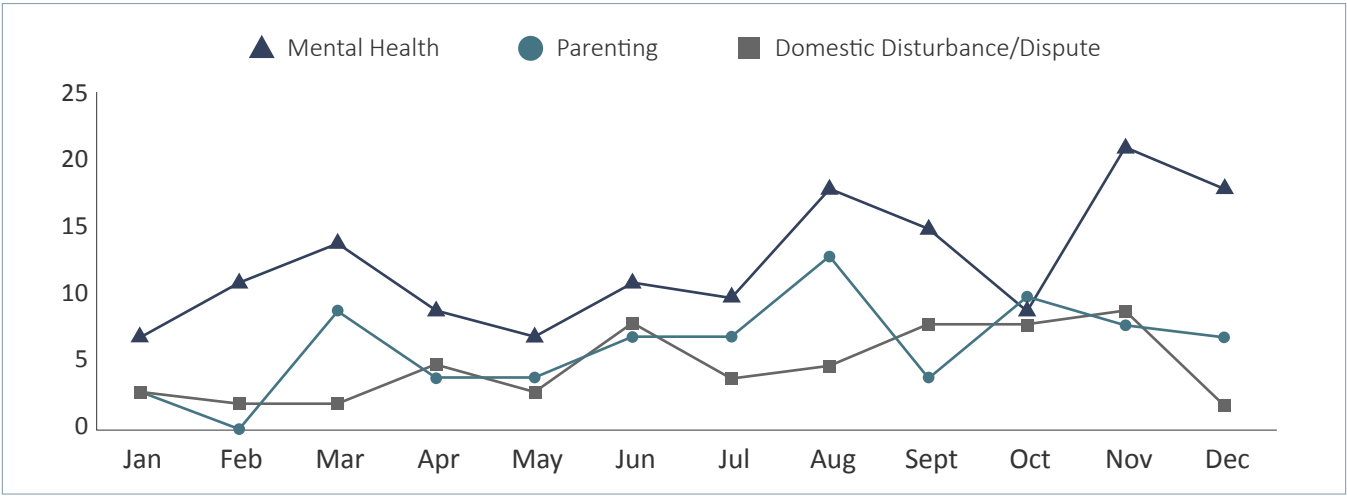
In January of 2021, the Erie Town Council approved funding for a full-time Co-Responder position to be stationed at the Erie Police Department. In March 2023, an additional Co-Responder position was added to expand the availability of Co-Response services in the community. In addition to increasing Co-Response services, the Town of Erie also launched a Victim Advocacy Services program. This program is located in close proximity to the police department, which has led to extensive ongoing collaboration between Co-Responders and victim services staff. Like many communities across the nation, the Town of Erie is experiencing an increase in mental health and suicidal ideation among its residents. The population that appears most vulnerable to completed suicide in the Town of Erie is white middle-class men ages 30-45.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<b>Calls/CM in 2022</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>208</b>
<b>Calls/CM in 2023</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>29*</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>373</b>

\*Indicates the date when the Co-Responder was nested in the community.



In Erie, calls concerning mental health, parenting, and domestic disturbance/dispute made up the top three areas of need in 2023. These were also the top three areas or types of calls in 2022.



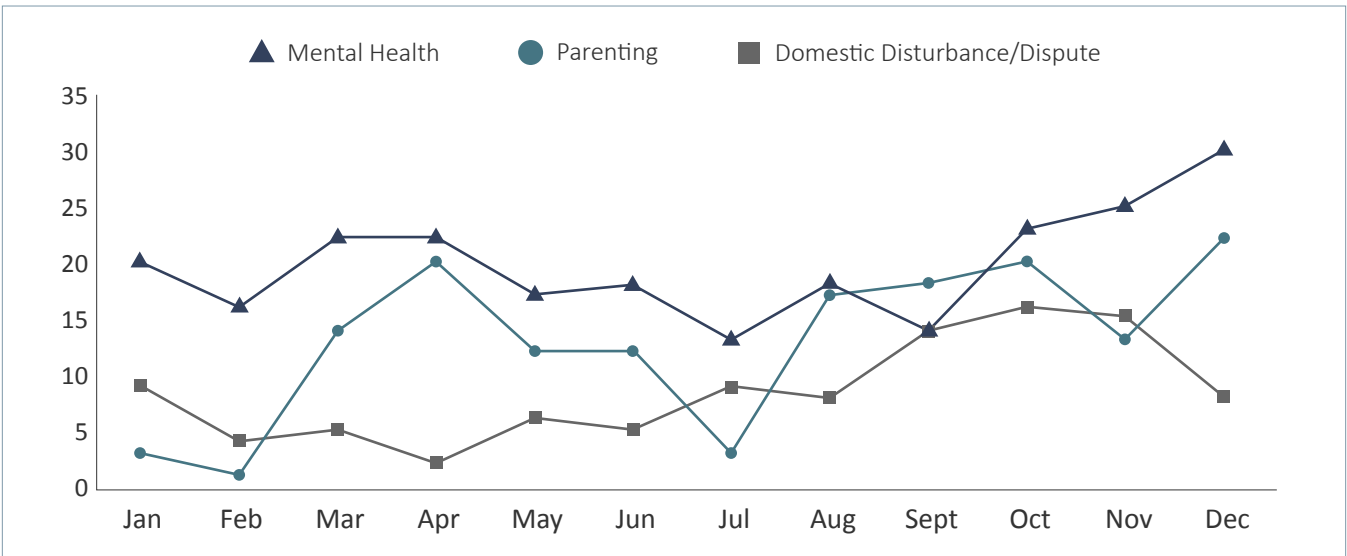
### City of Lafayette

The Co-Response Team has experienced tremendous success partnering with the City of Lafayette Police Department, and the community's use of Co-Responders has more than doubled over the last year. This is likely due, at least in part, to Co-Responders providing primary response by riding along with law enforcement officers. A third Co-Responder was nested at the Lafayette Police Department in March 2023.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Calls/CM in 2022	22	19	25*	19	24*	35	33	37	24	43	22	33	336
Calls/CM in 2023	48	33	51*	68	54	44	50	56	72	97	72	85	730

\*Indicates the date when the Co-Responder was nested in the community.

In Lafayette, calls concerning mental health, parenting, and domestic disturbance/dispute made up the top three areas of need in 2023. These were the top three calls and referrals for service in 2023.



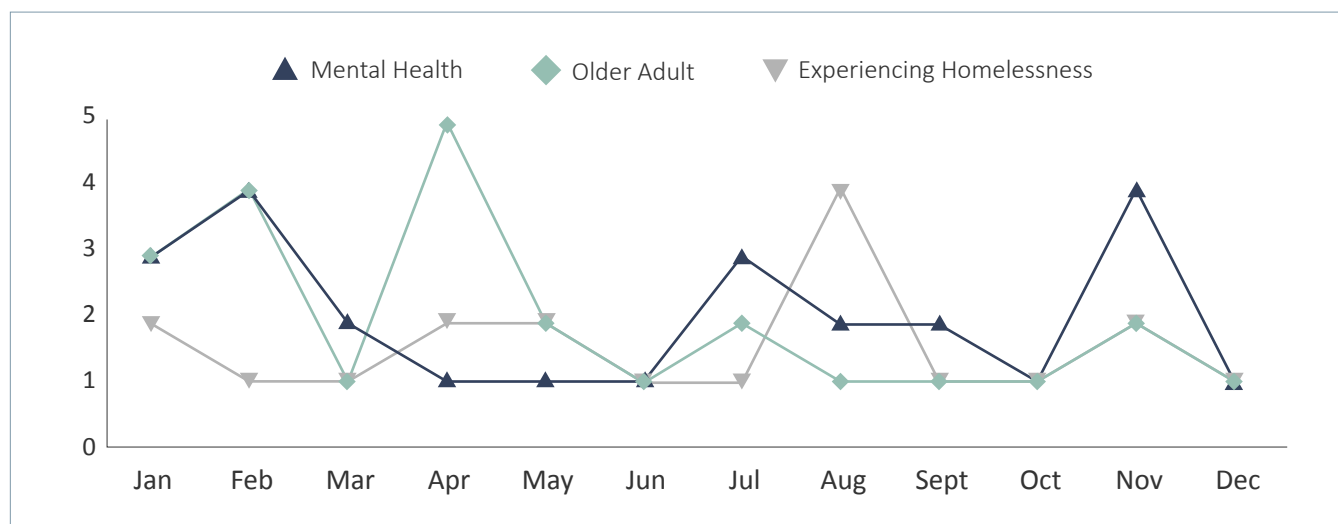
## Town of Lyons

In May of 2022, a Co-Responder was nested in the Lyons Substation. In addition to Lyons, this position provides coverage for the towns of Jamestown, Ward, and additional mountain areas. Community members in these areas consistently struggle in their efforts to access behavioral health services. This nested Co-Responder has helped the Team understand gaps in services and has promoted strategic engagement with local entities on how these needs might be filled. The nested Co-Responder in the Lyons Substation was moved to Nederland in June 2023, which likely explains the decrease in calls in 2023.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<b>Calls/CM in 2022</b>	4	0	1	0	1*	5	5	4	3	11	15	10	59
<b>Calls/CM in 2023</b>	7	7	4	11	4	0	8	5	3	0	5	1	55

\*Indicates the date when the Co-Responder was nested in the community.

In Lyons, calls pertaining to mental health, older adults, and persons experiencing homelessness made up the top three areas of need in 2023.



## Town of Nederland

In 2023, the Boulder County Co-Responder Team received a grant from the the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) to fund a Co-Responder for the Town of Nederland. In June 2023, a Co-Responder was nested in the Nederland Substation. Serving this rural community has offered many lessons in community engagement and building trust. Although the Co-Response Team had previously served this area, the presence of a nested Co-Responder has provided additional opportunities for that person to get to know the community as well as individual community members, which has been critical to the success of service provision in Nederland.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<b>Calls/CM in 2022</b>	3	2	3	4	3	0	2	3	1	0	4	2	27
<b>Calls/CM in 2023</b>	3	2	3	5	9	9*	7	16	1	8	9	5	77

\*Indicates the date when the Co-Responder was nested in the community.

In Nederland, calls pertaining to mental health, persons experiencing homelessness, and parenting made up the top three areas of need in 2023. These are the same areas of need as in 2022.



## Key Successes

This section highlights key accomplishments of the program in 2023, including the program's success in diverting community members from the criminal justice system, ongoing collaboration and training with law enforcement, the utilization of data to improve service delivery, the addition of nested Co-Responders in multiple localities, and increased experience with Boulder County's rural communities.



### 1. Diversion Efforts

Co-Responders provided de-escalation services on 32% of calls, which helped to address immediate crises, reduce officer use of force, and increase both officer and civilian safety. These efforts ultimately help to divert individuals from the criminal justice system by preventing issues from worsening or spiraling out of control. Diversion from the criminal justice system is also aided by Co-Responder's efforts to increase clients' connections to behavioral health and other needed services to better address their presenting problems.



### 2. Cross-Training with Law Enforcement

Over the last year, Co-Responders provided effective cross-training to law enforcement officers and community agencies in various behavioral health disciplines. This included how to write up mental health holds, verbal de-escalation trainings, and exploring different ways to support wellness on the job.



### 3. Effective Harnessing of Data

Effective use and sharing of information and data is vital to ensuring successful responses to individuals in crisis situations. Data on individual cases captured in our Unite Us software system is valuable for helping to determine how to address client needs regarding mental health symptoms, addiction, and other issues such as homelessness. Additionally, the program continues to contract with OMNI Institute to develop quarterly and annual data reports for Co-Response Team partners. Year-over-year data allows the Team to analyze trends in presenting issues, and needs and gaps in services to support improved service delivery across the program. Similarly, data organized by each community ensures that program decisions can be tailored to the unique needs of each participating jurisdiction.



#### **4. Expansion of Services and Personnel**

The Co-Responder Program continues to adjust and fine-tune service delivery. Originally, the program employed a secondary response model only (i.e., the Co-Responder drives to the scene separate from law enforcement). Over the last year, however, the Co-Response Team has adjusted efforts to include primary response calls wherein Co-Responders ride along with officers. This has helped to facilitate Co-Responder and law enforcement relationships and improve the overall quality of response. The Team has also grown significantly- when the program started three years ago, there were just three Co-Responders. Now there are 12 Co-Responders, with plans to add two additional positions in Louisville in 2024. Also, the increase in staff has allowed the program to expand and diversify hours of service to better meet the needs of each community.



#### **5. Gaining Experience with Rural Communities in Boulder County**

Last year the Team nested a Co-Responder in the Sheriff Substation in the Town of Lyons to serve that community, which helped collect data on the co-response needs of rural, mountain communities. The Team gained valuable information regarding the unique challenges these smaller communities face including lack of transportation to community mental health services, nonexistent Medicaid providers in the area, and small-town budgets that cannot easily support a full-time Co-Responder position. In addition, the individuals served by Co-Responders were often seen to be struggling with acute and long-term mental health conditions. The program also received a grant through the Department of Local Affairs in 2023 to provide a full-time Co-Responder at the Sheriff Substation in Nederland. This experience has helped expand the Team's understanding of needs in mountainous areas of the County, which will be valuable for supporting similar efforts in the future.