



**CORNER
HOUSE**

Behavioral Health

**2020 REPORT TO
THE COMMUNITY**



Dear Friends,

The year 2020 has been one like no other, with a worldwide pandemic upending daily life and bringing new challenges for everyone. For our clients and students, it has increased social isolation, anxiety and depression to levels we have not witnessed in **decades**.

Students and families are struggling to find new ways to exist with virtual learning, remote work, and isolation. Even going to the grocery store—once a simple task—can evoke fear and anxiety.

We don't know what the future holds, but we can make inferences based on our years of experience. As the pandemic continues with little real change in sight, we anticipate more relapses, more overdoses, and more lives cut short as the opioid epidemic continues to shatter the lives of so many in our community.

Corner House stands ready to weather these new challenges as we have done for the past 49 years. Over those 49 years we have made a difference in the lives of *thousands* in our community. From innovative treatment methods, to addressing substance use among our youth and equalizing the playing field for all students and families, our record speaks for itself.

We will get through this crisis the same way we have gotten through every crisis over the last 49 years: **together**. Years of support from you, our community, has helped make Corner House a leader in Behavioral Health.

With an increase in the need for our services on the horizon, we need your support now more than ever. We are ready to meet the challenges of this changed world. **Will you stand with us?**

Be safe, be well,

Gary J. DeBlasio, MS, CEAP
Executive Director

ADAPTING TO THE CHANGING WORLD

Adapting to the new normal meant more than just switching to virtual services. It meant adopting an entirely new approach to client care and a ground-up approach to rebuilding student support systems.

► REIMAGINING RECOVERY

Pandemic stressors like social isolation, unemployment/underemployment, financial strain, and uncertainty about the future increase the risk of relapse—a trend evidenced by a national rise in relapse and overdose rates. As our social world shut down, the Corner House clinical team jumped into action, creating high-quality, innovative telehealth service models and models for remote drug-testing that served as the blueprint for organizations across the state.

► PIVOTING PREVENTION

The sudden closure of schools and immediate shift to remote learning affected each student differently, although all of them experienced similar anxiety and stress. For our Outreach students— some of the most at-risk in our community— the technology and achievement gap widened as their access to safety nets disappeared. For our Leadership students, the fears and anxieties of the pandemic world became almost overwhelming. Our Corner House Prevention team immediately developed remote programming, connecting students to each other, connecting families to vital resources, and mentoring and guiding students through the emotional rollercoaster of this new reality.

The message is loud and clear: our clients need us now—our community needs us now—to help keep them on the road to recovery and on track for a healthy future. **We may not know what the future has in store, but we do know that, no matter what the future holds, Corner House's mission remains the same:**

TO PREVENT AND TREAT ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION BY ENGAGING AND SUPPORTING YOUTH, ADULTS, AND FAMILIES IN LIFE-LONG HEALTHY LIVING AND RECOVERY.





PREVENTION PROGRAMS

 **190***
students participate
in all prevention
programs

Our evidence-based leadership and prevention programs are intentionally designed to foster leadership, civic engagement, and healthy living. Each of our initiatives are age-specific and work together to create a continuum of service for students from 6th grade all the way through high school graduation.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMS

▶ ACADEMIC SUCCESS TODAY (AST)

Our Academic Success Today program pairs students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades from Princeton Unified Middle School— Princeton's *only* public middle school — with mentors from Princeton University.

▶ SUPER TEENS ACTING RESPONSIBLY (STAR)

STAR is a gender-responsive and trauma-informed weekly chat group for girls attending Princeton Unified Middle School.

LEADERSHIP TEAMS

▶ TEEN ADVISORY GROUP (TAG)

TAG is comprised of high school juniors who work together for a healthy, drug-free future by developing and presenting workshops for 7th grade students.

▶ GROWING UP ACCEPTED AS AN INDIVIDUAL IN AMERICA (GAIA)

GAIA students work together to promote peace, stop hate, and combat bullying by developing impactful workshops which they then present to 2nd and 5th grade students in Princeton public schools.

▶ CORNER HOUSE STUDENT BOARD (CHSB)

CHSB is designed for high school seniors to build essential leadership skills and foster civic engagement by working together to create fun, drug-free events for their peers, reducing the risk that teens will turn to drugs and alcohol during out-of-school time. CHSB students also serve as representatives on municipal boards.



450*

2nd, 5th, & 7th grade
students participated
in GAIA & GAIA
workshops



980

hours of
mentorship for
students
participating in
AST

850*
students attended
drug free events
hosted by CHSB



3,200 hours of
community
service



OUTREACH PROGRAMS



1,800

hours of leadership and job readiness training, including Summer Youth Employment Program



100%
of students promote
to the next grade
level



100%

of seniors graduate high school and go on to college, trade school, or the military



16* college tours

* Average numbers prior to the COVID pandemic

Our evidence-based outreach programs are designed to meet the unique needs of youth in our community. Our program consists of three initiatives that are both gender-responsive and age-specific to provide a continuum of support and ensure a successful transition from high school to the world at large.

ADVOCACY FOR YOUTH PROJECT (AYP) ◀

Our Advocacy for Youth Project is a year-round initiative designed to equip 9th grade students with the tools they need for a successful transition to high school.

PRINCETON YOUTH PROJECT (PYP) ◀

PYP is a gender-responsive program providing young men in grades 11-12 with the job and leadership skills, college readiness, tutoring and individualized guidance, they need to thrive after high school.

WORLD OF WORK FOR YOUTH (WOWY) ◀

WOWY is a gender-responsive program for young women in grades 11-12th, offering the job skills, leadership workshops, tutoring, SAT and college prep, and guidance they need for a bright future.

"Corner House makes me want to be better as a person." - S.K.





TREATMENT

At Corner House Behavioral Health, we know that no two stories, no two cases, no two people are exactly the same. The paths to recovery are as varied as the circumstances of addiction. Our masters-level clinicians provide integrated treatment for co-occurring disorders, assessing both substance use disorders and co-occurring mental health disorders. Our clinical process utilizes evidence-based practices in order to treat and support our clients' personal recovery. We understand recovery to mean moving beyond illness to pursue a personally meaningful life.



Standard Outpatient Services

Combines individual and group sessions for up to eight hours of weekly services.



Intensive Outpatient Services

Combines group treatment three days a week with weekly individual sessions



Individualized Treatment Plans

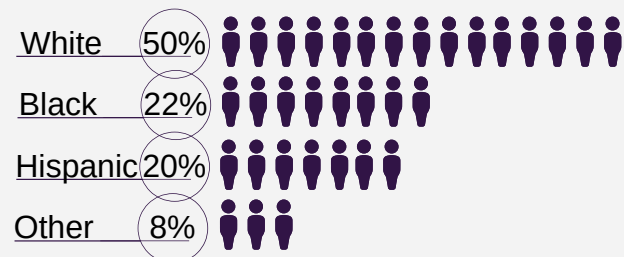
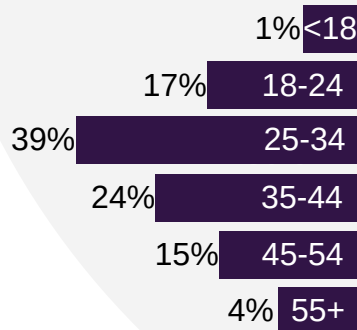
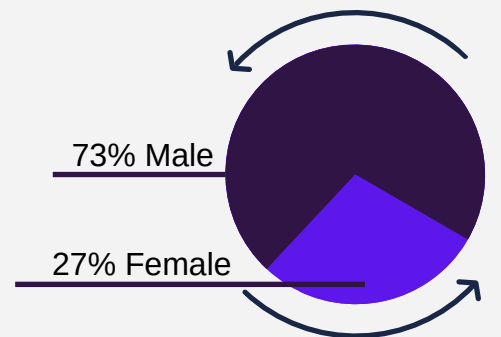
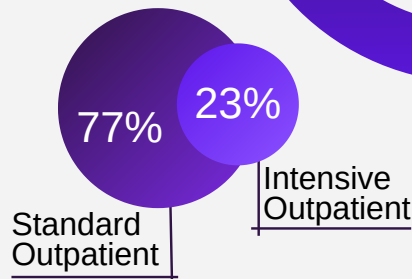
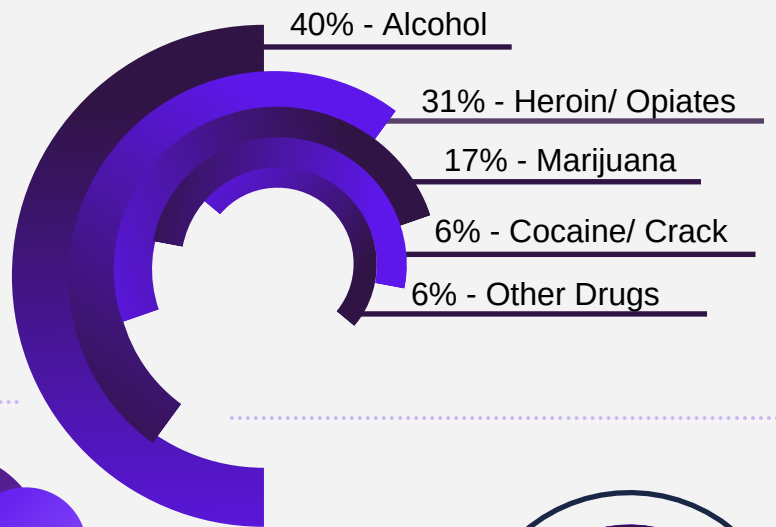
Our team of clinicians works with clients to determine the best path to success.



Evidence Based Practices

Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Mindfulness Relapse Prevention, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), Motivational Interviewing

PORTRAIT OF ADDICTION





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▶ CORNER HOUSE STAFF

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Corner House helped me get through my senior year. They provided School supplies, and held Zoom meetings which supported me through remote learning.

-Prevention Student



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FINANCIALS

► 2020 CORNER HOUSE BUDGET

44%

20%

16%

3%

9%

6%

2%

- MUNICIPALITY OF PRINCETON- 44%
- CORNER HOUSE FOUNDATION- 20%
- MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT- 16%
- MERCER COUNTY DEPT. OF HUMAN SERVICES- 9%
- NJ DEPT. OF HUMAN SERVICES/ DMHAS- 6%
- CLIENT FEES (RETURNED TO PRINCETON) - 3%
- PRINCETON PUBLIC SCHOOLS- 2%



AS A FIRST GENERATION STUDENT, I WAS SO LOST AS TO HOW I WAS GOING TO AFFORD HIGHER EDUCATION. LUCKILY, I HAD RHO AND FIL TO HELP ME ALONG THE WAY. I LEARNED ABOUT SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES THAT WERE AVAILABLE TO ME!

-Prevention Student

SUPPORT GROWTH HOPE

BE SOCIAL
FOLLOW US
GET INVOLVED



cornerhousenj.org

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