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Furloughs in Kern County Video, facts and figures sources sheet.

1. **In a 2018 Community Health Assessment conducted by Kern County Public Health Department, 37% of surveyed residents identified mental health and drug and alcohol use as some of the top health problems in the community.**

<https://kernpublichealth.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/KCPHSD-Community-Health-Assessment-and-Improvement-Plan-2018.2019.pdf#page=7>

2. **In a 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment conducted by Kaiser Permanente, 14% of Kern County residents reported experiencing a mental health problem.**

https://community.kp.org/downloads/KP_Kern_County_2019_CHNA_Report.pdf#page=18

3. **Kern County residents on average have 4.1 poor mental health days a year, compared with 3.5 days for California average.**

<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/california/2020/rankings/kern/county/factors/overall/snapshot>

4. **The age-adjusted mortality rate due to suicide is 14.1 per 100K in Kern County, which is higher than California average of 10.4 per 100K. This cause of death was ranked 11th for overall deaths in Kern County for 2017. Kern County ranked 34th in the State on suicide rates.**

<https://kernpublichealth.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/KCPHSD-Community-Health-Assessment-and-Improvement-Plan-2018.2019.pdf#page=24>

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHSI/CDPH%20Document%20Library/ICS_KERN2019.pdf

5. **White residents in the Kern County are disproportionately impacted by suicide, as they die by suicide at rates 60% above the average when compared to other ethnic and racial groups.**

https://community.kp.org/downloads/KP_Kern_County_2019_CHNA_Report.pdf#page=18

6. **Young people and older adults are especially vulnerable to suicides in Kern County. The Kern County Coroner reported that from 2013-2017, 21% of suicide deaths in Kern County were among residents between 18-29 years old and 19% of suicide deaths were among residents 50-59 years old.**

https://community.kp.org/downloads/KP_Kern_County_2019_CHNA_Report.pdf#page=36

7. **Kern County Department of Public Health pointed out that one factor that could be contributing to the high suicide rate in Kern County is the shortage of mental health practitioners. In Kern County, the ratio of population to mental health providers is 530:1, compared to California's 280:1. This means Kern County residents have about 50% less access to mental health providers compare to California average.**

<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/california/2020/rankings/kern/county/factors/overall/snapshot>

8. **A 2019 community health needs survey conducted by Kaiser Permanente shows that 48% of resident survey respondents reported that mental health services and**

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supports are lacking in their community. The survey shows barriers that prevent Kern County residents from accessing mental health care include:

- a. Staff shortages and low staff retention rates
- b. Poor staff cultural competencies and poor quality of care
- c. Lack of insurance or poor coverage
- d. Lack of therapy support and diagnostic testing
- e. Social stigma
- f. Long wait times to see a mental health professional
- g. Lack of work accommodations
- h. Lack of education and visibility of services

https://community.kp.org/downloads/KP_Kern_County_2019_CHNA_Report.pdf

9. In Kern County's Mental Health Service Department, there are 129 vacancies. The vacancy rate is 17%.*

* Based on an information request data that Kern County provided in September 2019, they had 141 vacant positions in the Behavioral Health and Recovery Service Department at that time. According to FY2019-20 Recommended Budget page 371, the department requested for 970 total positions.