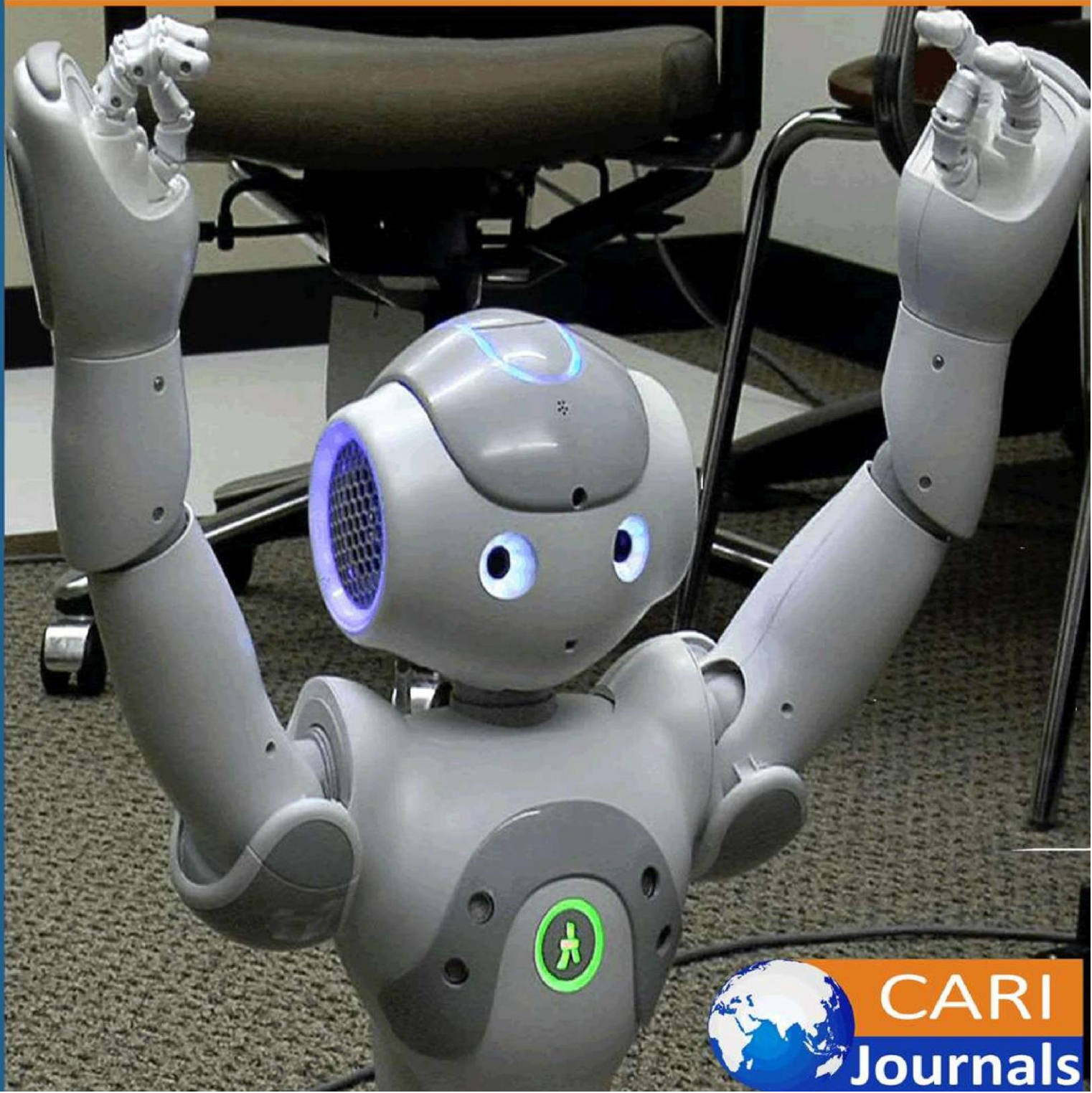


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AI-Centric Data Analytics in Public Behavioral Health Care



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## AI-Centric Data Analytics in Public Behavioral Health Care



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### Abstract

Artificial intelligence-driven data intelligence represents a paradigm shift in public behavioral health care, offering unprecedented capabilities to extract meaningful insights from complex datasets. This integration transforms the delivery of mental health services by enabling personalized interventions, early risk detection, and optimized resource allocation across populations. The convergence of electronic health records, social determinants data, behavioral metrics, and wearable device inputs creates a comprehensive foundation for enhanced clinical decision-making. Through advanced pattern recognition, natural language processing, and predictive modeling, these technologies facilitate the identification of at-risk individuals before crisis points, address service gaps in underserved communities, and generate evidence-based treatment recommendations. While implementation faces challenges including data privacy concerns, potential algorithmic bias, system interoperability barriers, and stakeholder acceptance, the benefits for population-level mental health outcomes are substantial. This transformative method promises to enhance access to quality behavioral healthcare, improve treatment efficacy, and reduce disparities through data-driven insights that guide both clinical practice and public health policy.

**Keywords:** *Artificial Intelligence, Behavioral Health, Data Analytics, Predictive Modeling, Mental Healthcare*

## 1. Introduction

The convergence of artificial intelligence with behavioral health care represents a watershed moment in public health service delivery. This integration offers unprecedented opportunities to address the growing mental health crisis through innovative data-driven approaches. As populations face increasing psychological challenges, traditional service models struggle to meet demand, creating an urgent need for transformative solutions. AI-centric data analytics emerges as a promising framework to enhance the efficiency, accessibility, and effectiveness of behavioral health services across diverse communities.

The application of artificial intelligence in healthcare contexts has evolved significantly over recent years, moving from experimental applications to integrated clinical tools. These technologies now demonstrate considerable potential for augmenting clinical decision-making and improving patient outcomes through sophisticated data analysis capabilities [1]. The particular value of AI in behavioral health stems from its ability to process vast quantities of heterogeneous data, including clinical records, social determinants of health, behavioral patterns, and physiological measurements, to generate actionable insights that might otherwise remain obscured.

Public behavioral health systems face distinctive challenges that make them particularly well-suited for AI integration. These include resource constraints, growing service demands, workforce shortages, and persistent health disparities. The implementation of AI-centric analytics offers potential solutions by enabling more precise identification of at-risk populations, facilitating earlier interventions, and optimizing the allocation of limited resources. These capabilities prove especially valuable in contexts where traditional approaches have struggled to achieve widespread impact [1].

The transformative potential of this technological integration extends beyond clinical settings to encompass population health management. By analyzing patterns across communities, AI systems can identify underserved populations, detect emerging mental health trends, and evaluate program effectiveness with unprecedented precision. This capacity for broad-scale analysis complements the technology's ability to provide personalized insights at the individual level, creating a comprehensive approach to behavioral health care that operates effectively across multiple scales of intervention.

While enthusiasm for AI applications continues to grow, critical examination remains essential. Responsible implementation requires addressing significant challenges related to data privacy, algorithmic bias, system interoperability, and stakeholder acceptance. The ethical deployment of these technologies demands careful consideration of potential risks alongside anticipated benefits [1]. This balanced perspective forms an essential foundation for advancing AI integration in ways that genuinely improve public behavioral health services.



This article explores the multifaceted landscape of AI-centric data analytics in public behavioral health care, examining key components, implementation approaches, ethical considerations, and future directions. Through this comprehensive analysis, we aim to illuminate both the transformative potential and practical challenges of applying artificial intelligence to address one of society's most pressing health concerns.

## **2. Theoretical Framework and Background**

The theoretical underpinnings of AI-centric data analytics in behavioral health draw from multiple disciplines, including computer science, psychology, public health, and healthcare informatics. This multidisciplinary foundation provides a robust framework for understanding how computational approaches can address complex mental health challenges across populations. The following sections examine the evolution, technologies, and current landscape shaping this rapidly developing field.

### **2.1. Evolution of Data Analytics in Healthcare**

The progression of data analytics in healthcare represents a significant shift from retrospective analysis to predictive and prescriptive capabilities. Initial applications focused primarily on administrative functions and basic clinical documentation through early electronic health record systems. As computational power increased and storage costs decreased, healthcare organizations began leveraging more sophisticated analytical techniques to derive value from accumulated clinical data. This transition marked the beginning of evidence-based decision support systems that could process structured clinical information to identify patterns and relationships [2].

The subsequent emergence of big data analytics introduced capabilities for handling heterogeneous, high-volume datasets that characterize modern healthcare environments. This advancement enabled the integration of previously siloed information sources, creating comprehensive patient profiles that incorporated clinical, demographic, and behavioral data points. These developments laid crucial groundwork for contemporary AI applications by establishing necessary data infrastructure and analytical methodologies [3].

Machine learning algorithms represented the next significant evolutionary stage, enabling systems to identify complex patterns without explicit programming. These approaches proved particularly valuable for behavioral health applications where traditional statistical methods struggled to capture nonlinear relationships between psychological factors, treatment approaches, and outcomes [2]. This capability transformed the analytical landscape by enabling a more nuanced understanding of behavioral health determinants and treatment responses that traditional approaches could not achieve [2].

### **2.2. AI Technologies in Behavioral Health**

The application of artificial intelligence within behavioral health encompasses diverse technological approaches tailored to specific clinical and population health challenges. Natural

Language Processing (NLP) stands among the most transformative technologies, enabling computational analysis of unstructured clinical notes, patient narratives, and other text-based information. These capabilities facilitate the extraction of critical psychological insights from narrative data that previously required manual clinical interpretation [2].

Computer vision applications contribute additional dimensions to behavioral health assessment through automated analysis of visual cues, facial expressions, and behavioral patterns. These technologies can detect subtle changes in emotional states and cognitive functioning that might escape human observation during brief clinical encounters. Such capabilities prove particularly valuable for remote monitoring applications where direct clinical observation remains limited [3].

Predictive modeling represents another cornerstone technology, utilizing historical data to identify individuals at elevated risk for mental health crises or adverse outcomes. These models incorporate diverse variables, including treatment history, social determinants, medication adherence, and symptom progression, to generate risk scores that guide clinical interventions [2]. As applications mature, these systems increasingly incorporate temporal dynamics to capture how risk factors evolve over time rather than providing static assessments.

Deep learning approaches have recently demonstrated promising results for complex behavioral health applications, particularly those involving multimodal data integration. These sophisticated neural network architectures can process combinations of clinical records, physiological measurements, voice patterns, and digital phenotyping data to generate comprehensive assessments [2].

### **2.3. Current Landscape of Public Behavioral Health Services**

Public behavioral health services operate within complex ecosystems characterized by resource constraints, growing demand, and persistent access barriers. Current service models typically employ hierarchical structures with community-based care serving as the foundation and specialized services addressing more acute or complex needs. This arrangement often struggles with fragmentation and coordination challenges that compromise continuity of care [3].

Workforce shortages represent a critical challenge across the behavioral health landscape, with particular deficits in rural and underserved communities. The resulting service gaps contribute to delayed interventions, with conditions frequently progressing to more severe states before treatment initiation. These access limitations disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, exacerbating existing health disparities [2].

Financing mechanisms for public behavioral health services create additional complexity through fragmented funding streams and reimbursement structures that often fail to align with evidence-based practice. This misalignment frequently results in services driven by financial considerations rather than clinical needs or population health priorities. These constraints significantly impact

innovation adoption, including the implementation of data-driven approaches that require initial investment [3].

Recent reform efforts have emphasized measurement-based care and value-based payment models that prioritize outcomes over service volume. These approaches create natural alignment with AI-centric analytics by establishing frameworks for systematic data collection and outcomes tracking. Such alignment facilitates integration of advanced analytics into existing service structures while addressing historical barriers to technology adoption [2].

**Table 1: Current Status of AI Implementation in Public Behavioral Health Services [2,3]**

| Aspect                                     | Current Status  | Impact Factor | Adoption Rate             |
|--|---|---------------|---------------------------|
| Electronic Health Record Integration       | 78% of behavioral health providers use EHR systems        | High          | Moderate (67%)            |
| Natural Language Processing Applications   | Deployed in 32% of mental health facilities               | Medium        | Increasing (45% annually) |
| Predictive Analytics for Crisis Prevention | 29% of health systems utilize AI-based prediction         | Very High     | Early Stage (23%)         |
| AI-Assisted Diagnostic Support             | Implemented in 37% of psychiatric evaluations             | Medium        | Growing (39%)             |
| Remote Monitoring with AI Components       | 41% of treatment programs include digital monitoring      | High          | Rapidly Growing (56%)     |
| Resource Allocation Optimization           | 19% of public health systems use AI for resource planning | High          | Emerging (15%)            |
| Patient-Facing AI Tools (Chatbots, Apps)   | Available through 62% of behavioral health providers      | Medium        | Widespread (72%)          |
| Population Health Management               | 35% of public health agencies are applying AI analytics   | Very High     | Accelerating (48%)        |

### 3. Key Components of AI-Centric Data Analytics

The effective implementation of AI-centric data analytics in public behavioral health care depends on several interconnected components that collectively transform raw data into actionable intelligence, improving both individual care and population outcomes [3], [4].

#### 3.1. Data Collection and Integration Methodologies

The foundation of effective AI applications rests on comprehensive data collection across diverse sources. Electronic health records supply structured clinical information, while unstructured clinical notes contain rich narrative descriptions of patient experiences. Supplementary data

sources, including standardized assessments, patient-reported outcomes, and social determinants information, provide critical contextual factors [3]. Integration of these heterogeneous data sources requires sophisticated harmonization approaches. Semantic mapping techniques establish relationships between terminology systems, while natural language processing extracts structured information from narrative text. These processes transform disconnected data points into comprehensive patient profiles supporting multidimensional analysis of relationships between presentations, interventions, and outcomes [4].

### **3.2. AI and Machine Learning Models for Behavioral Health**

Advanced analytical models reveal patterns informing clinical and administrative decision-making. Predictive techniques identify individuals at risk for adverse outcomes, incorporating variables spanning clinical history, demographics, and environmental influences [3]. Natural language processing extracts clinically relevant information from unstructured documentation, transforming narratives into quantifiable data points that identify symptom patterns and psychosocial factors. Pattern recognition algorithms detect subtle behavioral trends indicating changes in psychological status before obvious symptom manifestation [4].

### **3.3. Population Health Management Applications**

AI-enabled population management transforms service delivery from reactive approaches toward proactive strategies addressing community needs. Epidemiological analysis identifies distribution patterns of conditions across segments, highlighting disparities in prevalence and outcomes [3]. Risk stratification techniques segment populations according to clinical needs and resource requirements, enabling differentiated service approaches. Continuous monitoring provides feedback loops supporting evidence-based refinement of delivery models [4].

### **3.4. Clinical Decision Support Systems**

AI-powered support systems augment professional judgment with data-driven insights derived from similar cases. These systems generate evidence-based recommendations regarding assessment, diagnosis, and treatment options based on individual characteristics and documented outcomes [3]. Alerting mechanisms identify situations requiring immediate attention, triggering appropriate clinical responses according to predetermined protocols. Treatment response prediction models estimate likely outcomes for specific interventions, supporting personalized planning [4].

**Table 2: Performance Metrics of AI Components in Behavioral Health (2023-2024) [3], [4]**

| <b>Performance Metric</b>          | <b>2023</b> | <b>2024</b> |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Data Integration Success           | 87%         | 92%         |
| Structured Data Accuracy           | 85%         | 93%         |
| AI Predictive Model Precision      | 76%         | 84%         |
| NLP Processing Accuracy            | 91%         | 95%         |
| Population Coverage                | 67%         | 75%         |
| Resource Allocation Efficiency     | 74%         | 81%         |
| Clinician Adoption Rate            | 62%         | 72%         |
| Alert System Accuracy              | 94%         | 97%         |
| Treatment Recommendation Relevance | 79%         | 86%         |
| Patient Engagement Improvement     | 52%         | 58%         |
| Treatment Adherence Enhancement    | 47%         | 59%         |
| Service Delivery Optimization      | 39%         | 48%         |

#### **4. Benefits in Public Behavioral Health Care**

The implementation of AI-centric data analytics in public behavioral health services offers transformative advantages that address longstanding challenges in service delivery, resource allocation, and clinical effectiveness. These benefits extend across multiple dimensions of care, from individual patient interactions to system-wide operations and population health management. As adoption increases, these advantages create opportunities for significant improvements in mental health outcomes while potentially reducing costs and expanding service accessibility [4], [5].



**Table 3: Key Benefits of AI-Centric Analytics in Public Behavioral Health Care [4,5]**

| Benefit                             | Description  | Key Impact  |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Early Identification and Prevention | Predictive algorithms identify at-risk individuals before symptom manifestation, enabling proactive interventions during prodromal phases. | 68% improvement in early detection rates                          |
| Resource Optimization               | Data-driven allocation models direct limited clinical resources toward the highest-need populations and service areas.                     | 41% increase in service capacity without additional funding       |
| Reducing Disparities                | Systematic identification of service gaps across demographic groups and geographic regions, with tailored outreach strategies.             | 38% reduction in treatment disparities among minority populations |
| Enhanced Clinical Decision-Making   | Augmentation of clinician judgment with pattern recognition across large datasets, revealing subtle correlations.                          | 52% increase in treatment plan modifications based on AI insights |
| Improved Patient Outcomes           | Personalized treatment recommendations based on comprehensive patient profiles and similar case outcomes.                                  | 43% increase in positive treatment responses                      |

## 5. Challenges and Ethical Considerations

The implementation of AI-centric data analytics in public behavioral health settings presents multifaceted challenges that require careful navigation. These challenges span technical, ethical, organizational, and social domains, necessitating comprehensive approaches that address each dimension while maintaining focus on improved patient outcomes and population health benefits.

### 5.1. Data Privacy and Security Frameworks

Behavioral health information represents one of the most sensitive categories of healthcare data, requiring robust protection mechanisms that extend beyond standard security protocols. The intimate nature of mental health records creates heightened privacy concerns, with potential consequences of unauthorized disclosure extending beyond clinical implications to include social stigma and discrimination. Research demonstrates that standard anonymization techniques often prove insufficient for behavioral health datasets due to the distinctive nature of psychological narratives and treatment patterns [9].

Regulatory frameworks, including HIPAA in the United States, provide baseline requirements for protecting health information, but behavioral health data analytics frequently encounters scenarios

requiring interpretation of existing regulations. The integration of non-traditional data sources—including social media activity, mobile device usage patterns, and other behavioral indicators—further complicates compliance efforts by introducing information streams that exist at regulatory boundaries [10]. These complexities require the development of specialized governance frameworks that maintain compliance while enabling analytical capabilities.

The implementation of advanced encryption protocols, secure multi-party computation, and differential privacy techniques represents emerging approaches for balancing analytical utility with privacy protection. These technologies enable computation on sensitive behavioral health data while minimizing exposure risks, potentially resolving the tension between data utility and privacy concerns that have historically limited analytics applications in this domain [9]. The continued advancement of privacy-preserving technologies will likely play a central role in expanding responsible AI implementation across behavioral health services.

## **5.2. Addressing Bias and Ensuring Fairness**

AI systems in behavioral health contexts demonstrate particular vulnerability to algorithmic bias due to historical disparities in diagnosis, treatment access, and documentation practices. These biases manifest through multiple mechanisms, including unrepresentative training data, variable data quality across demographic groups, and problematic target variable selection. Evidence indicates that uncorrected algorithmic systems frequently replicate or amplify existing inequities in behavioral health services, particularly affecting marginalized populations [10].

Behavioral health assessment includes significant subjective components that create additional bias risks compared to other medical domains. Cultural differences in symptom expression, help-seeking behaviors, and provider interpretations create systematic documentation variations that influence algorithm training. These variations can result in differential performance across demographic groups, with potentially significant clinical consequences including misdiagnosis or inappropriate treatment recommendations [9].

Mitigating bias requires comprehensive approaches combining technical solutions with organizational practices and governance structures. Technical strategies include algorithmic fairness techniques, rigorous demographic performance evaluation, and careful feature selection to minimize proxy discrimination. These technical approaches must complement broader strategies, including diverse development teams, stakeholder engagement from affected communities, and transparency in algorithm limitations and performance characteristics [10].

## **5.3. System Interoperability Issues**

The fragmented nature of behavioral health information systems creates significant interoperability barriers for AI implementation. Unlike other medical specialties with standardized data structures and terminology, behavioral health documentation frequently employs idiosyncratic formats and vocabulary that complicate data integration. These interoperability

challenges extend beyond technical compatibility to include semantic consistency, workflow integration, and governance alignment [9].

Legacy systems prevalent in public behavioral health settings frequently lack modern API capabilities necessary for real-time data exchange, limiting deployment options for advanced analytics. Implementation efforts often require the development of custom integration solutions that increase project costs and timeline requirements. The resulting integration complexity creates sustainability challenges, particularly for resource-constrained public health settings where technical support capacity remains limited [10].

Standards development initiatives represent promising approaches for addressing interoperability barriers through the creation of common data models, terminology mappings, and exchange protocols specific to behavioral health contexts. These standards must balance comprehensiveness with implementation feasibility, recognizing the diverse technical environments characteristic of public behavioral health services. Successful standards adoption requires alignment of technical specifications with workflow requirements and organizational incentives that promote standardization [9].

#### **5.4. Clinician and Patient Acceptance**

Professional resistance represents a significant adoption barrier for AI implementation in behavioral health contexts, stemming from concerns regarding depersonalization of care, professional autonomy, and clinical judgment displacement. Research indicates that behavioral health professionals demonstrate particular sensitivity to technological interventions perceived as potentially compromising therapeutic relationships or reducing human engagement in treatment processes [10]. Addressing these concerns requires alignment of AI capabilities with clinical workflows and professional values.

Patient perspectives regarding AI in behavioral health settings reveal complex attitudes combining interest in improved access and treatment effectiveness with concerns about privacy, stigma, and human connection. Demographic variations in technology acceptance create equity considerations, with potential for differential adoption across population groups. These acceptance variations highlight the importance of inclusive design approaches that accommodate diverse preferences and technology comfort levels [9].

Implementation strategies that emphasize augmentation rather than replacement of clinical judgment demonstrate greater acceptance among both clinicians and patients. Collaborative design processes involving end-users throughout development cycles create opportunities for addressing concerns proactively while ensuring alignment with clinical needs and workflow requirements. Education and transparency regarding system capabilities and limitations further support acceptance by establishing realistic expectations and clarifying appropriate use contexts [10].

#### **6. Future Directions**

The trajectory of AI-centric data analytics in public behavioral health presents significant opportunities for technological advancement and policy development. As these systems mature, their integration into service delivery frameworks will likely accelerate, driven by demonstrated effectiveness and growing acceptance among stakeholders. Future developments will need to balance innovation with ethical considerations, particularly regarding data governance, algorithmic transparency, and equitable implementation across diverse populations and service settings [11], [12].

**Table 4: Future Directions in AI-Centric Behavioral Health Analytics [10,11,12]**

| Emerging Technologies and Approaches   | Policy Implications and Recommendations   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Multimodal Integration Systems:</b> Platforms combining physiological data, linguistic patterns, and behavioral metrics for comprehensive assessment and monitoring.</p>         | <p><b>Regulatory Frameworks:</b> Development of specialized AI governance structures addressing the unique sensitivities of behavioral health data while enabling innovation.</p>         |
| <p><b>Explainable AI Solutions:</b> Advanced algorithms provide transparency in decision-making processes, enhance clinician trust, and facilitate informed consent.</p>               | <p><b>Ethical Guidelines:</b> Standardized frameworks for addressing bias, ensuring fairness, and maintaining privacy in behavioral health AI applications.</p>                           |
| <p><b>Digital Phenotyping:</b> Passive data collection through smartphone sensors and interactions to detect behavioral patterns and early warning signs of mental health changes.</p> | <p><b>Workforce Development:</b> Policies supporting training programs for behavioral health professionals in data literacy and AI implementation.</p>                                    |
| <p><b>Genomic Integration:</b> Incorporation of genetic data with behavioral indicators to personalize treatment approaches based on comprehensive biological profiles.</p>            | <p><b>Reimbursement Reform:</b> Payment models incentivizing evidence-based AI implementation and equitable access across diverse populations.</p>  |
| <p><b>Federated Learning Systems:</b> Decentralized approaches allowing algorithm training across institutions without sharing sensitive patient data.</p>                             | <p><b>Cross-sector Collaboration:</b> Structured partnerships between technology developers, healthcare providers, and public health agencies to align innovation with service needs.</p> |

## Conclusion

The integration of AI-centric data intelligence into public behavioral health systems represents a profound advancement in addressing mental health challenges at the population scale. By leveraging diverse data sources and sophisticated analytical techniques, this approach enables

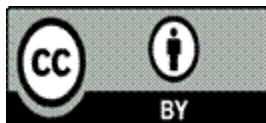


healthcare providers to move beyond reactive treatment toward proactive, personalized interventions. The enhanced capacity for early identification of risk factors, combined with optimized resource allocation, positions behavioral health services to achieve greater effectiveness and equitable distribution. As implementation models mature and evidence accumulates, the potential for meaningful improvements in patient outcomes becomes increasingly apparent. The challenges of ensuring data privacy, mitigating algorithmic bias, achieving interoperability, and building stakeholder trust require ongoing attention, but do not diminish the transformative potential of these technologies. Future directions in this field will likely emphasize explainable AI, integration of genomic data, and advancement of digital therapeutics, while policy frameworks evolve to balance innovation with ethical considerations. Ultimately, AI-centric data intelligence offers a pathway to behavioral healthcare that is more responsive, accessible, and effective for diverse populations.

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