



State of the Addiction Crisis in Hamilton County

Annual Report

A photograph of the Hamilton County skyline at sunset. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with scattered clouds. The city's architecture is visible, including the prominent glass skyscraper with a dome-like top. A yellow semi-transparent banner is overlaid on the bottom right of the image.

2024

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HC ARC Agency List



EXECUTIVE CHAIR STATEMENT

Commissioner Denise Driehaus

Over the past few years, our community has faced significant challenges, particularly concerning individuals grappling with substance use disorder and in need of substantial treatment and support. Despite these obstacles, we are proud to report a notable achievement: a three-year reduction in overdose deaths right here in Hamilton County. This success stands as a testament to the dedication and collaborative efforts of the members of the Hamilton County Addiction Response Coalition (HC ARC) in conjunction with the broader community. Their tireless innovation and collective work continue to restore lives. As we press forward, we remain resolute in our commitment to sustaining this level of engagement in our ongoing endeavors.

HC ARC serves as a cornerstone in providing expertise and support across various fronts. Operating as an action team, we facilitate vital connections to resources and treatments while addressing addiction through holistic and comprehensive solutions. Our approach is anchored in four fundamental pillars: prevention, treatment, interdiction, and harm reduction. Each of these pillars is fortified by the expertise of individuals serving on the subcommittees of the HC ARC. Furthermore, we have cultivated strong partnerships with local governments, schools, businesses, hospitals, the faith community, and the recovery community, bolstering our efforts and amplifying our impact. We also have people with lived experience at the table.

The document you are about to review has been crafted, drawing insights from coalition members. It offers the Hamilton County community a deeper understanding of the magnitude of the addiction problem, sheds light on the work of the HC ARC and its partners, provides an overview of strategies that have yielded positive outcomes, and delineates our goals for the upcoming year. We extend special thanks to the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners for their unwavering support and commitment to addressing the addiction crisis in our community.



HC ARC STEERING COMMITTEE

Executive Chair

Commissioner Denise Driehaus

Director

Meagan Guthrie

Grants & Strategic Initiatives Administrator

Abigail Fritsch

Prevention

Nicole Schiesler,
PreventionFIRST!

Patricia Brown,
UMADAOP of Greater Cincinnati

Dr. Kareem Moffett,
Cincinnati Public School Board

Treatment

John Young,
African American Engagement Workgroup

Danielle Jones,
African American Engagement Workgroup

Josh Arnold,
Talbert House

LaNora Godfrey,
Hamilton County Mental Health & Recovery
Services Board

Interdiction

Chief Tom Synan,
Village of Newtown

District Chief Carstell Winston,
Cincinnati Fire Department

Trina Jackson,
Hamilton County Office of Reentry

Harm Reduction

Greg Kesterman,
Hamilton County Public Health

Tiffany Mattingly,
The Health Collaborative

Equity & Engagement

Cameron Foster,
Addiction Services Council & Mt. Zion Missionary
Baptist Church

Bishop Mark Flagg,
Rose Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

J.B. Buse,
LOTH Holdings, LLC

Dan Meyer,
Nehemiah Manufacturing

Recovery

Cassidy Lekan,
Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health

Luis Villagrana,
On the Front Lines Community Alliance

Tyler Meenach,
Hamilton County Public Health

Total Overdose Deaths



Data provided by the
Hamilton County Coroner's Office

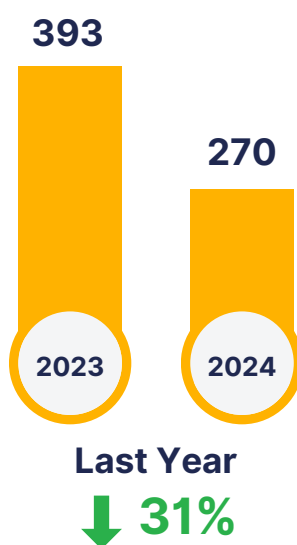
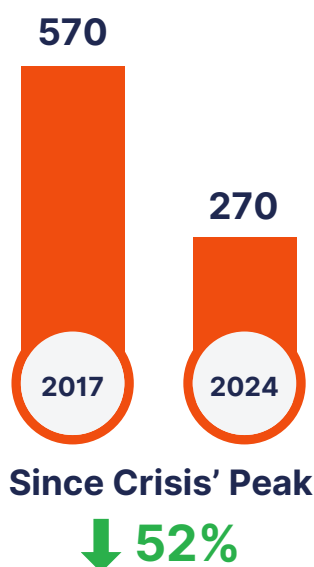
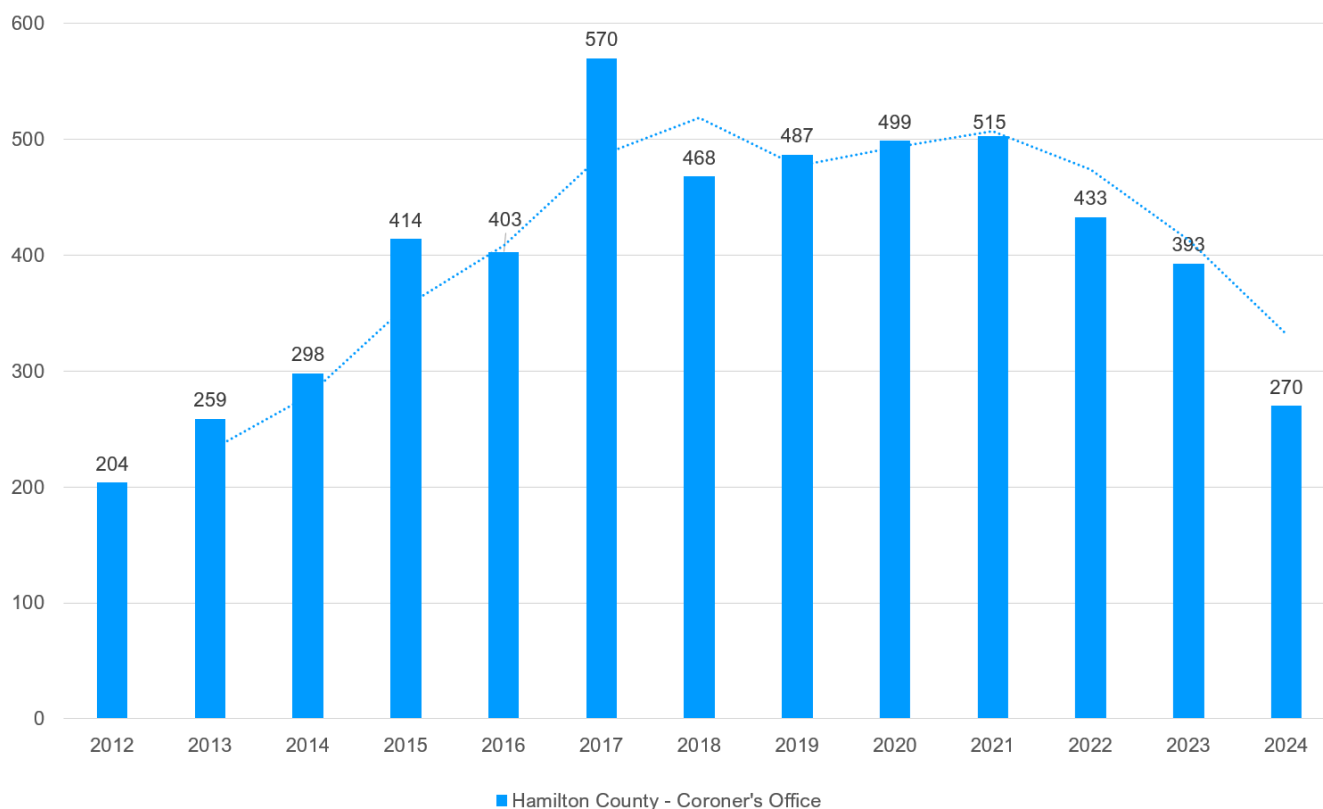


Chart 1 above illustrates the total overdose deaths in Hamilton County from 2012 to 2024. Meanwhile, Chart 2 to the left highlights a **significant 52% decrease in overdose deaths** since the peak of the crisis in 2017, dropping from 570 deaths to 270* in 2024. Furthermore, there's been a consistent **year-to-year decrease of 31%**, with the number of deaths decreasing from 393 in 2023 to 270* in 2024.

*These figures are provisional and subject to review and confirmation by the Hamilton County Coroner's Office. As of the first week of November, the Coroner's Office has certified 237 cases, with toxicology results still pending for the remainder of the year. To account for potential additional cases, they are conservatively projecting 30 more. Final confirmed data is expected to be released in March 2025.

Our Pillars





White House official applauds Hamilton County for decline in overdose deaths



On February 22, 2024, the Hamilton County Office of Addiction Response hosted Dr. Rahul Gupta from the White House Executive Office of National Drug Control Policy. We engaged in two impactful roundtable discussions: one with our law enforcement leaders, focusing on advancing our interdiction and deflection outreach efforts, and another with the Hamilton County Addiction Response Coalition Steering Committee.

The discussions highlighted Hamilton County's community-based approach, which unites various agencies to combat the opioid crisis and has made significant strides in preventing overdoses and saving lives.



Key topics included successful jail treatment programs that address addiction, the work of the Hamilton County Quick Response Team (QRT) in offering immediate treatment after overdoses, and efforts to reduce overdose deaths, with the county seeing fewer than 400 overdose deaths in 2023 for the first time in a decade.

Dr. Gupta praised these efforts as a potential model for the nation, emphasizing the importance of prevention and continued collaboration across sectors.





Transforming Grief into Positive Action: Stories of Resilience and Community Change

A fireside chat with the Addiction Response Coalition

Substance use disorder affects every facet of an individual's life, sending ripples through their families and communities. On September 26, 2024, the Hamilton County Addiction Response Coalition had the profound privilege of participating in a fireside chat, facilitated by Commissioner Denise Driehaus, Chief Tom Synan and Director Meagan Guthrie. During this powerful conversation, we heard from courageous family members who tragically lost loved ones to overdose.

Their stories were poignant reminders of the human toll of this crisis and underscored the urgent need for continued action. We extend our deepest gratitude to Lori Borchert, Mike Dusold, and Julie Raleigh. Your bravery in sharing your family's story is a vital step in breaking down stigma and fostering a foundation of compassion in our community. Your voices are a beacon of hope, inspiring change and reminding us all why this work matters.

IN LOVING

memory of



Ashlee Jade Miller

June 23, 1990 -
September 11, 2013



Brian Dusold

July 11, 1985 -
October 6, 2021



Madi Raleigh

November 10, 1994 -
January 17, 2019

And the 4,452 lives lost to addiction in Hamilton County since 2015.



PREVENTION

Nicole Schiesler,
PreventionFIRST!



Dr. Kareem Moffett,
Cincinnati Public School Board



Pat Brown,
UMADAOP



The Prevention Pillar's focus is to strengthen prevention efforts by fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders, streamlining data collection and outreach in schools, and reducing the availability of prescription opioids through education, awareness, and alternative pain management options.

Prevention



In 2024, the Prevention Pillar made significant strides in promoting safer medication disposal and substance use prevention across Hamilton County. Two new medication drop boxes were installed at St. Vincent de Paul's Bank Street location, joining five existing boxes in Cincinnati Health Department pharmacies. Together, these efforts resulted in the collection and safe disposal of 980 pounds of medication.

Additionally, over 8,100 Detera bags were distributed to schools, churches, behavioral health organizations, funeral homes, and other community partners. These organizations utilized a variety of events to engage diverse populations, effectively disseminating these vital resources.

The Prevention Pillar partnered with two school districts to provide education and resources at local parent nights, offering materials such as medication lock boxes, Detera bags, and PF!'s *Strong Voices Smart Choices Parent's Guides*. Through Hamilton County ARC's OAYI grant, four Norwood City Schools high school students were trained as *All About That Vape* trainers, who then delivered this curriculum to 111 middle school students within their district.

PF! staff also engaged youth through a countywide Youth Summit, co-hosted with Cincinnati Public Schools, which served 105 high school students. Additionally, with support from the OneOhio grant, PF! facilitated a *Generation Rx* training at Corinthian Baptist Church, reaching 34 youth from five African American Engagement Workgroup churches across Cincinnati.

An in-depth analysis of the Student Survey supported the strategic efforts of Hamilton County ARC to identify high-priority schools and implement targeted prevention strategies. The Prevention Pillar also conducted additional analyses for two local school districts and several behavioral health organizations, helping to strengthen and enhance their prevention initiatives.

2024 Student Survey





2024 STUDENT SURVEY

ALCOHOL & DRUG MISUSE BY YOUTH IN HAMILTON COUNTY

The PreventionFIRST! (PFI) Student Survey is a youth survey administered every other year. Results of the Student Survey provide comprehensive descriptions of the self-reported drug use patterns of area youth. In addition to substance use/misuse, students are asked about gambling behaviors, school climate, and other factors associated with substance use/misuse. The following data is the results to the 2023-2024 survey cycle for Hamilton County, Ohio.

METHODOLOGY

3,134 seventh through twelfth grade students attending schools in Hamilton County, Ohio completed the localized version of the PRIDE questionnaire between September 2023 and December 2023. Students in school the day(s) the survey was conducted, completed the survey. No surveys were conducted outside of the school building.

DEMOGRAPHICS

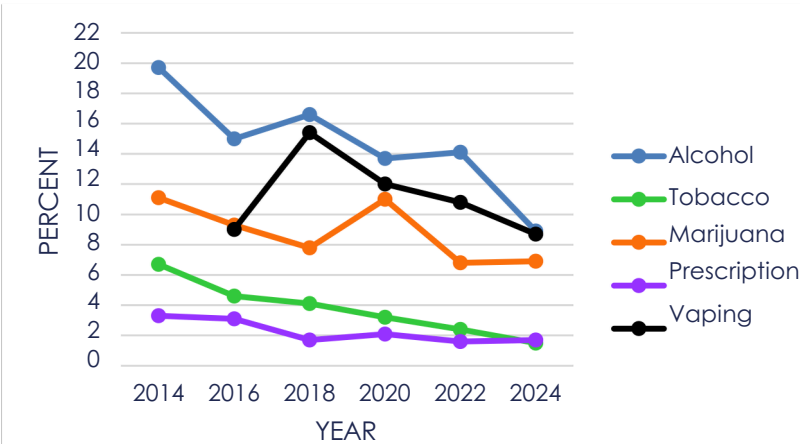
The racial/ethnic makeup of respondents is representative of the 7th-12th grade student population of the schools who participated in Hamilton County.

4 Key Measures of Substance Use/Misuse for Hamilton County

Measure	Alcohol	Tobacco	Marijuana	Prescription Drugs ¹	Vaping
Past 30-Day Use	8.9%	1.5%	6.9%	1.7%	8.7%
Perception of Harm ²	76.3%	80.9%	61.4%	80.1%	72.5%
Parental Disapproval ³	85.4%	91.5%	87.6%	92.0%	90.5%
Friend Disapproval ³	69.4%	80.3%	71.8%	86.4%	74.4%

¹Non-medical use ²Percent responding harmful or very harmful ³Percent responding that parent or friend feels behavior is wrong or very wrong

30-Day Use of Alcohol, Cigarettes, Marijuana, Prescription Drugs and Vaping



Most kids are NOT using alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs.



Past 30-Day use of E-Vapor decreased from 10.3% in 2022 to 8.7% in 2024.



Past 30-Day use of Alcohol is at the lowest level ever recorded, dropping 5.2% from 2022 to 2024

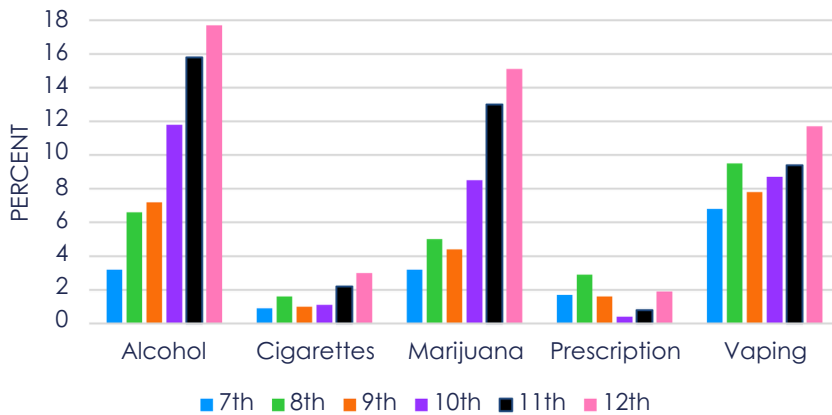
Key Contact:
Sarah Sawmiller, Sr. Director, Data Integration
MPH, OCPC, CHES
ssawmiller@prevention-first.org

ALCOHOL & DRUG MISUSE BY YOUTH IN HAMILTON COUNTY

2024 STUDENT SURVEY



30-Day Use of Alcohol, Cigarettes, Marijuana, Prescription Drugs, and E-Vapor by Grade



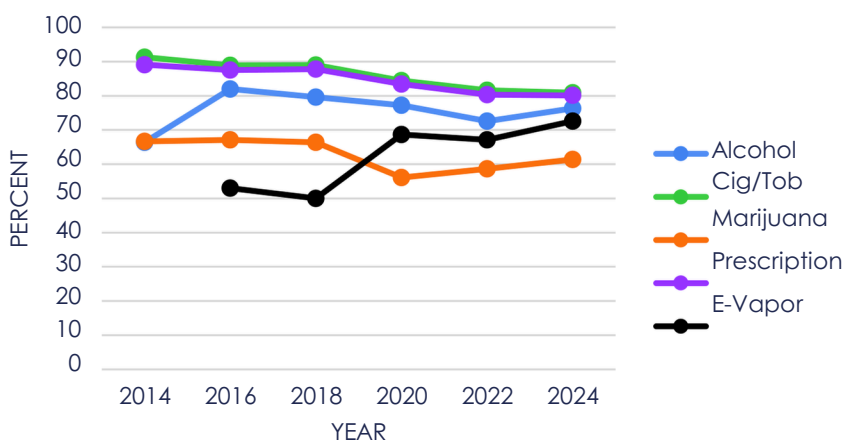
42.8% of Students said they get 8 or more hours of sleep on an average school night.

When asked how often they experienced depression in the last 30-days, 20.6% said all /most of the time. When asked about anxiety, 33.9% responded all/ most of the time.

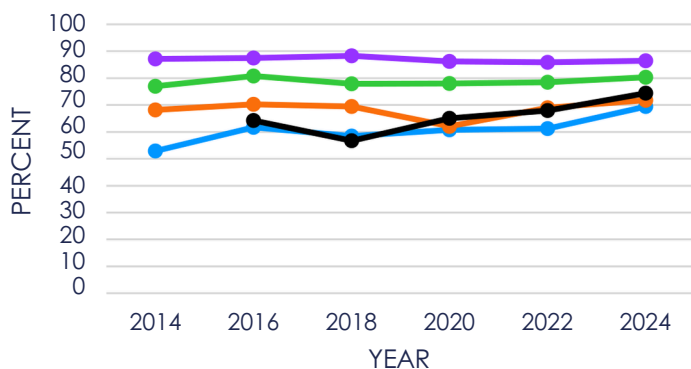
45.9% of Students said that in general they feel stressed often/ a lot.

When asked, "How often are you able to pull yourself out of a bad mood?" 45.4% of students responded often/ a lot.

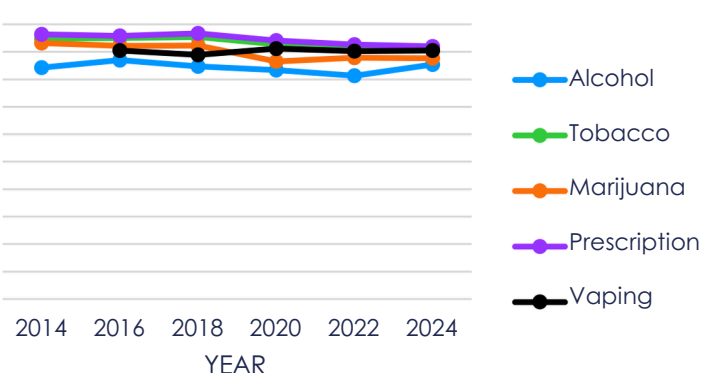
Perception of Harm



Perception of Friend Disapproval



Perception of Parental Disapproval



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Visit: www.prevention-first.org for topic summaries & regional finding for 2000 – 2024

Special thanks to: Charles H. Dater Foundation· Hamilton County MHRBS· Interact for Health· Ohio MHAS· PRIDE Surveys, Inc· Robert and Adele Schiff Family Foundation· School Participants· SAMHSA Federal Grants: STOP, CARA· The Louise Taft Semple Foundation· PF! Board of Trustees· Local member coalitions and other county organizations in Butler, Hamilton, Clermont, and Warren counties, who facilitated and funded the implementation of this survey.

Prevention Goals for 2025



Re-Establish the Prevention Partner Group

identifying and recruiting diverse stakeholders, fostering collaboration through quarterly meetings, aligning efforts with a shared mission, and creating a comprehensive directory to enhance communication and resource sharing.



Increase Student Survey Admissions

Collaborate with schools to streamline the survey process for 12,000 students, incentivize participation, and use the results to inform data-driven prevention strategies while aligning efforts with school schedules and priorities.



Strengthen Engagement with Schools

Work with school leadership to align prevention goals with school priorities, launch targeted initiatives, provide staff training, and adapt strategies based on ongoing feedback from stakeholders.



Reduce the access and availability of prescription drugs and opioids

Reduce opioid over-prescription by educating healthcare providers on responsible prescribing, raise public awareness of safe medication storage and disposal, and increase access to alternative pain management options and drug disposal programs.



TREATMENT

Josh Arnold
Talbert House



LaNora Godfrey
Hamilton County Mental Health and
Recovery Services Board



John Young
African American
Engagement Workgroup



Danielle Jones
African American
Engagement Workgroup



The Treatment Pillar's focus is on ensuring equitable, inclusive, and culturally competent access to effective addiction treatment services through strategic outreach, advocacy, data-driven initiatives, and collaboration with diverse stakeholders.

Treatment



The Treatment Pillar achieved remarkable progress in 2024, addressing substance use disorder (SUD) through critical programming and innovative community engagement. The Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board (HCMHRSB) maintained a comprehensive continuum of care for individuals in need of SUD treatment and intervention. From September 30, 2023, to September 29, 2024, HCMHRSB leveraged \$3,185,980.71 in SOS funding to contract with nine behavioral health agencies, implementing 18 impactful projects.

These initiatives supported essential services, including residential treatment, counseling, medication-assisted treatment, intensive outpatient programs, peer support, recovery housing, case management, outreach, and prevention, particularly for populations affected by opioid and stimulant use. However, changes to the SOS application process resulted in a 55% average reduction in funding awards compared to initial requests, jeopardizing long-standing programs critical to the community.

To mitigate this impact, HCMHRSB utilized Hamilton County Health and Hospital Levy funds to approve \$1,823,440 in bridge funding for previously Board-funded SOS agencies. This strategic investment ensured continuity of care and prevented disruptions in services for Hamilton County's most vulnerable populations.

The African American Engagement Workgroup (AAEW) made significant progress in reducing barriers to treatment for African Americans in Hamilton County. Through expanded faith-based engagement, harm reduction efforts, and community partnerships, AAEW strengthened outreach and reduced stigma around addiction and recovery.

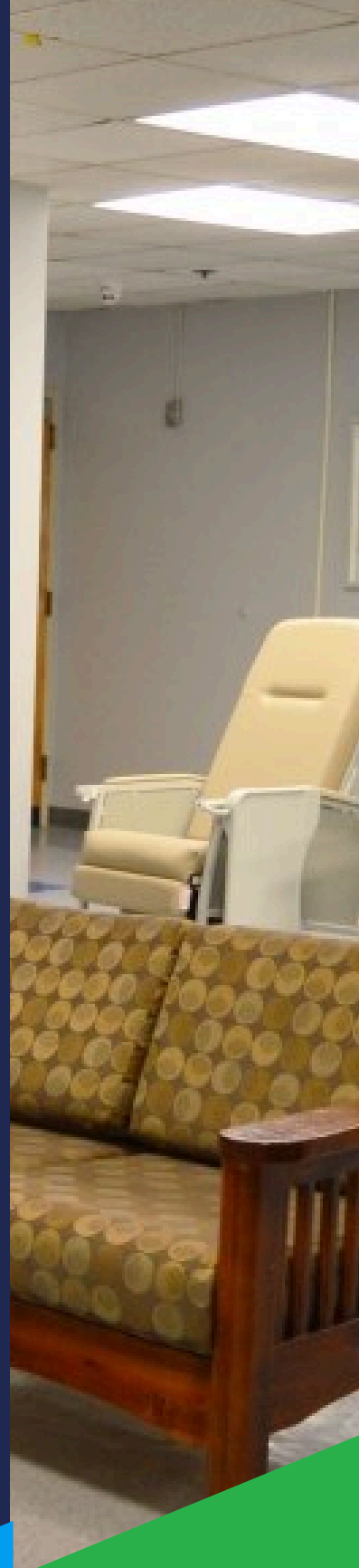
The “Trimming the Stigma” campaign partnered with over 40 barbershops and salons to empower barbers and stylists to educate clients on opioid addiction, harm reduction, and treatment services. Collaborations with 12 churches provided monthly training for Church Champions on Narcan use, stigma reduction, and treatment navigation, leading to the launch of the Faith Recovery Community (FRC).

AAEW engaged thousands of community members at events like Juneteenth, the Black Family Reunion, and Celebrate Recovery Town Halls, distributing Narcan kits and educational resources while fostering dialogue and connections to recovery services. Partnerships with faith organizations, barbershops, and outreach events increased treatment referrals and harm reduction efforts, connecting more individuals to peer recovery coaches.

AAEW also enhanced its digital presence by updating its Facebook page and website, launching Recovery Awareness Month campaigns, and implementing a tracking system to document faith-based outreach and treatment referrals. Collectively, these initiatives reduced stigma and improved access to critical SUD resources and services.



The Engagement Center



The Engagement Center, Treatment Recovery Services, Peer Recovery Network, Opioid Treatment Program, Crisis Stabilization, and Talbert House Primary Care are relocating to the new Hamilton County Crisis Center, set to open in June. This move will enhance the continuum of care for individuals in crisis, particularly those facing addiction and mental health challenges. The Engagement Center will expand its capacity from 20 to 24 beds, add a Receiving Center with 8 chairs, and introduce a 14-bed Short Term Residential program focused on Summit State Hospital's priority population. Additionally, the new center will increase access to Primary Care and Pharmacy services for the community at large.

The Engagement Center is also advancing its services with the implementation of ASAM 3.7, providing medically monitored intensive inpatient care for individuals with severe withdrawal symptoms or complex co-occurring conditions. This enhancement integrates registered nurses into daily operations, bolstering clinical support and ensuring evidence-based care. A specialized benzodiazepine withdrawal protocol has been introduced to safely manage dependency, alongside therapeutic art intervention groups that use creative expression as a tool for healing and emotional processing. These developments ensure clients receive comprehensive medical and behavioral health services, fostering a holistic approach to recovery.

2024 In Review



634
Clients Served



34%
African American



57%
Discharged Successfully



53%
Presented with co-occurring
disorder



46%
Clients were unsheltered at Intake.
100% of those unsheltered at
intake, were sheltered at
discharged.



68%
Completed withdrawal
management level of care
successfully.



79% of clients discharged
attended their first
appointment at the
outpatient level of care.



42% left with a referral for
supportive services such as
housing and/or Outpatient
Services



While the other 58% had
services in place or refused
follow-up services upon
discharge

Treatment Goals for 2025



Expand Treatment Access for Criminal Justice -Involved

Partner with the Hamilton County Justice Center (HCJC), courts, and community organizations to develop a continuum of care for individuals involved in the criminal justice system, focusing on identifying gaps in services, enhancing referrals, and ensuring care coordination pre- and post-incarceration.



Develop a Dashboard to Assess Community Treatment Needs for Criminal Justice-Involved

Collaborate with local data analysts and treatment providers to create a comprehensive dashboard that tracks treatment trends, identifies gaps, and informs strategic decisions for improving resource allocation and care coordination.



Expand Community Spaces for the African American Community to Access Treatment

Engage churches and the African American community in stigma reduction, harm reduction, and workforce integration activities to increase awareness of substance use treatment options, support recovery, and reduce overdose rates, while enhancing access to services and promoting community involvement.



INTERDICTION

Chief Tom Synan,
Village of Newtown



District Chief Carstell Winston,
Cincinnati Fire Department



Trina Jackson,
Hamilton County Office of
Reentry



The Interdiction Pillar aims to enhance data-driven approaches, strengthen deflection and diversion efforts, improve interagency collaboration, and address systemic gaps through multidisciplinary workgroups and targeted initiatives, fostering equitable access to treatment and reducing the impact of substance use within the criminal justice system.

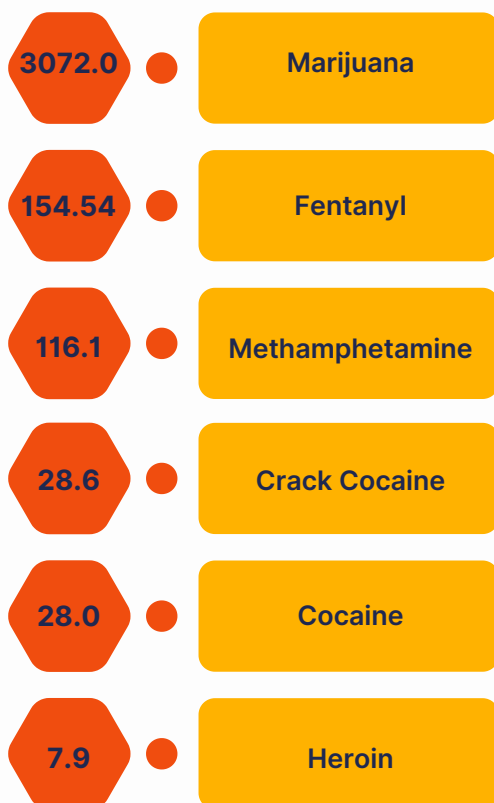


Hamilton County Heroin Task Force

Established in early 2015 by the Hamilton County Association of Chiefs of Police, the task force was created with a clear mission: to investigate all-source dealers of heroin linked to overdoses and overdose deaths, and to prosecute these source dealers under applicable State of Ohio and Federal charges. Additionally, the task force aims to foster cooperation and coordination among the various agencies in Hamilton County involved in drug offense investigations.



Seizures in Grams



Investigative Commander
Michael Davenport - Amberley Village Police Department (AVPD)

Assistant Commander
Special Agent Josh Schlie - Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation

Field Supervisor
Corporal Mark Bohan - Hamilton County Sheriff's Office (HCSO)

Task Force Officers
Corporal Shawn Cox, HCSO
Detective Phil Herrmann, CPD
Detective Ryan Robertson, CPD
Detective James Drake (JD), AVPD
Special Agent Mitch Bedard, Drug Enforcement Administration

Operations Coordinator
Richard Blyberg - Retired Ohio State Highway Patrol

Criminal Analyst
Grant Armbruster - Ohio National Guard

Overdose Fatality Review Investigative Liaison
Peggy A. Schneider

Hamilton County Quick Response Team



HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

Hamilton County's Quick Response Team (QRT) embodies a collaborative, co-responder approach designed to aid individuals facing substance use disorder, mental health disorder, co-occurring disorders, or homelessness. This initiative employs a dedicated team comprising law enforcement and navigators.

Together, they forge community-based pathways to crucial services such as treatment, recovery support, housing, case management, and other essential resources.

HOW DOES HAMILTON COUNTY DEFINE DEFLECTION?

An intervention initiated by a co-responder team (law enforcement and navigator) to change an individual's trajectory or divert them **out** of the criminal justice system and assisting them **into** Hamilton County's continuum of care.



Collaborating with other community agencies, the QRT team engages in diverse special projects, serving as a vital link to essential resources and services, while also playing a key role in community education and awareness.

HOW IT WORKS: RESOURCES



Linkage to Care



Harm Reduction
Material Distribution



Hygiene Kits



Wellness Checks

Evidence-Based Impact



EVIDENCE-BASED IMPACT OF QRT

We tailor our strategies to ensure Hamilton County residents are linked with the most appropriate care specific to their needs.

The QRT has evidenced a significant impact.

While Ohio's overdose deaths increased from 2017 to 2023, Hamilton County experienced substantial reductions, in part due to its strategic deflection programming involving diverse outreach initiatives for community-based services related to substance use, mental health, homelessness, and other quality of life concerns.



12,650+ Inbound Referrals
for 7,350+ Unique Individuals



23,300+ Interactions



35,300+ Harm Reduction
Materials Distributed



1,200+ Community Events

**Data from April 2018 to December 2024*

SPECIAL PROJECTS

**Stigma-Free Access for
Everyone (SAFE) Services
Van**

513 Relief Bus

**NaloxBox Install &
Replenishments**

**Holistic Outreach for Priority
People (HOPP)**

**Community Outreach &
Engagement Events**

Operation BRIDGE

**Ohio Automated RX
Reporting System Early
Intervention Program**

**Hamilton County Public
Defender's Office Outreach**

**Post-Overdose Response
Team**

**African American Outreach
Team**

**Court Outreach
Mental Health
Veterans
Drug Treatment & Recovery**

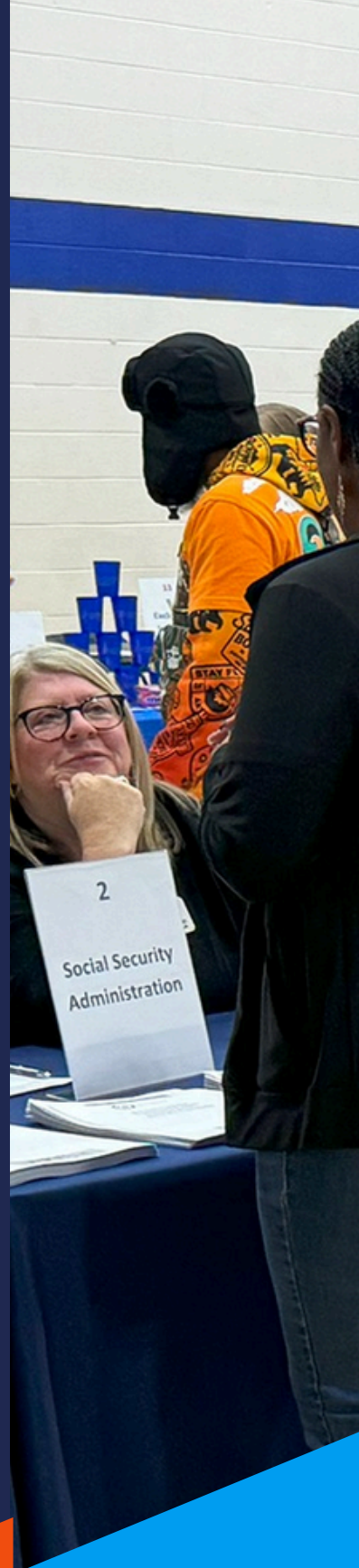
Wellness Checks

Veterans Outreach



Hamilton County
**Addiction
Response Coalition**

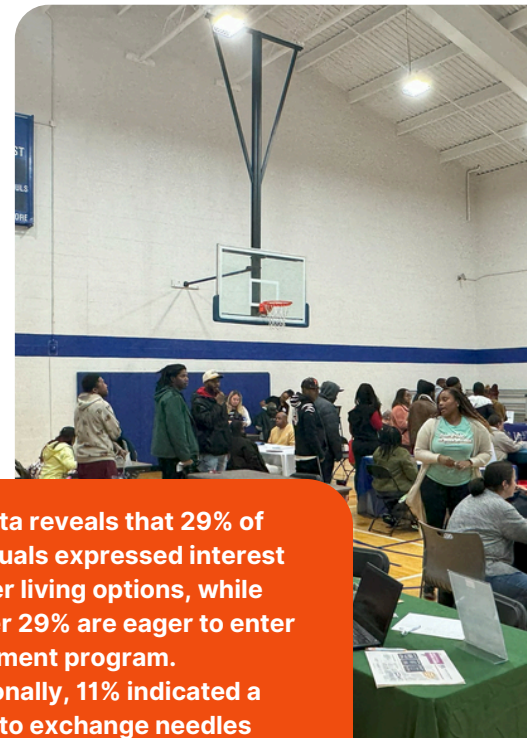
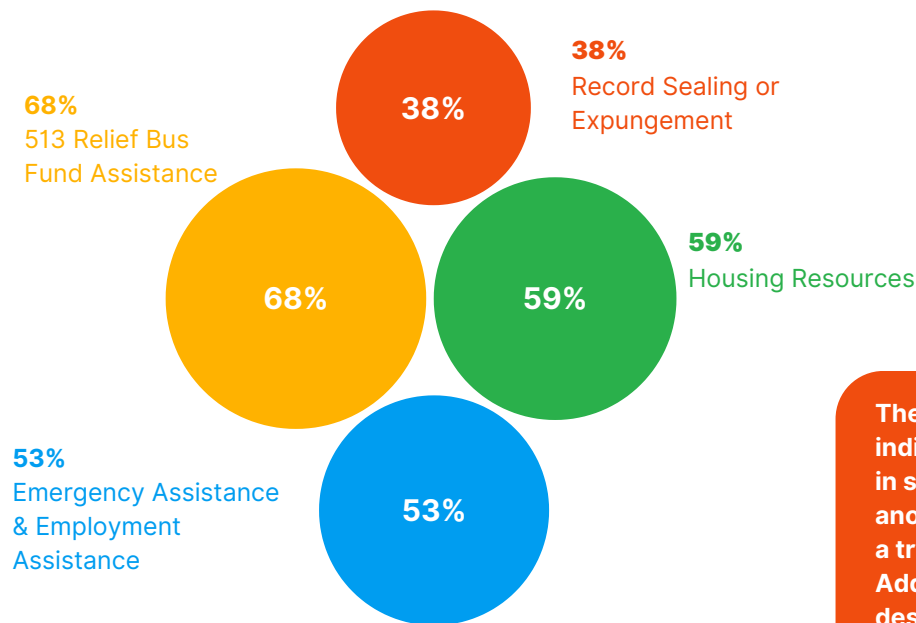
One Stop Resource Center



The Hamilton County One-Stop Resource center eliminates barrier to accessing supportive services for all Hamilton County residents, including those with criminal convictions. The One-Stop Resource Center offers face-to-face contact with service providers.

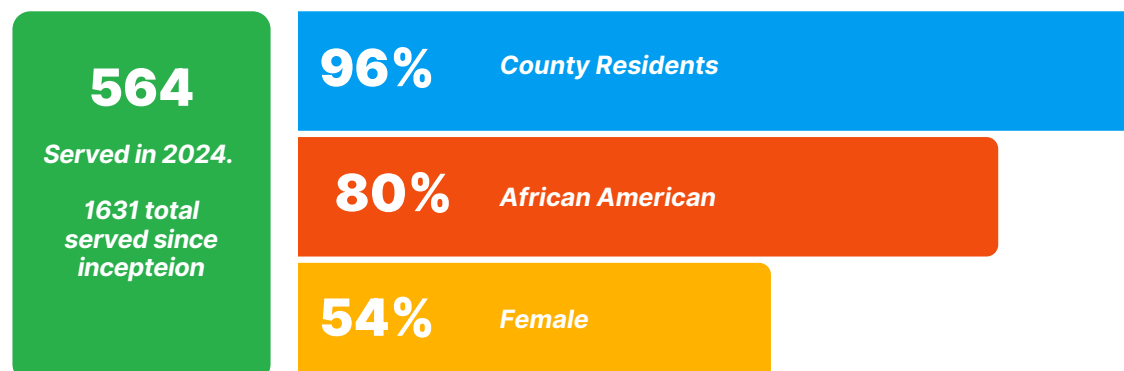


Frequent Needs



The data reveals that 29% of individuals expressed interest in sober living options, while another 29% are eager to enter a treatment program. Additionally, 11% indicated a desire to exchange needles today, highlighting a range of immediate needs within the community.

Demographics



Interdiction Goals for 2025



Develop a Plan for Effective Recidivism Tracking

Collaborate with criminal justice agencies to track and centralize recidivism data, identify trends, and develop targeted interventions to reduce repeat drug-related offenses while informing policy and program improvements.



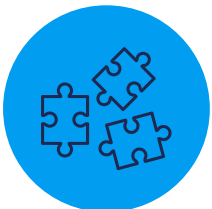
Identify the Number of Individuals Diverted from the Criminal Justice System

Collaborate with deflection programs and law enforcement to track and measure diversion outcomes, report impact to stakeholders, and develop recommendations for scaling successful initiatives countywide.



Establish a Drug Trends Workgroup

Develop a standardized system for tracking drug seizures, improve data and information sharing among agencies, and integrate outreach efforts with interdiction activities to connect impacted individuals to resources.



Establish a Justice System Workgroup to Address Gaps

Establish a multidisciplinary workgroup to map and analyze touchpoints within the criminal justice and treatment systems, identify gaps, and provide actionable recommendations to enhance coordination and service delivery.



Establish a Civil Commitment Workgroup

Create a stakeholder network to evaluate and improve civil commitment processes, standardize protocols, advocate for policy changes, and enhance access to compassionate care for individuals with substance use disorders.



HARM REDUCTION

Tiffany Mattingly,
The Health Collaborative

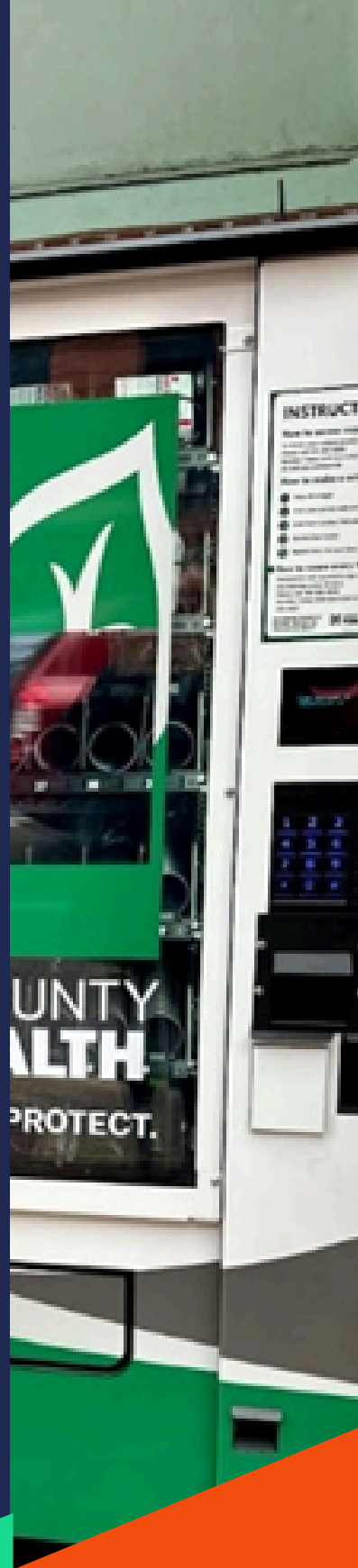


Greg Kesterman,
Hamilton County Public Health



The Harm Reduction Pillar is committed to building a collaborative network that promotes stigma-free access to comprehensive harm reduction services, supports vulnerable populations, and advocates for data-driven policies to enhance community health and safety.

Stigma-Free Access for Everyone (SAFE) Services Van





SAFE Services

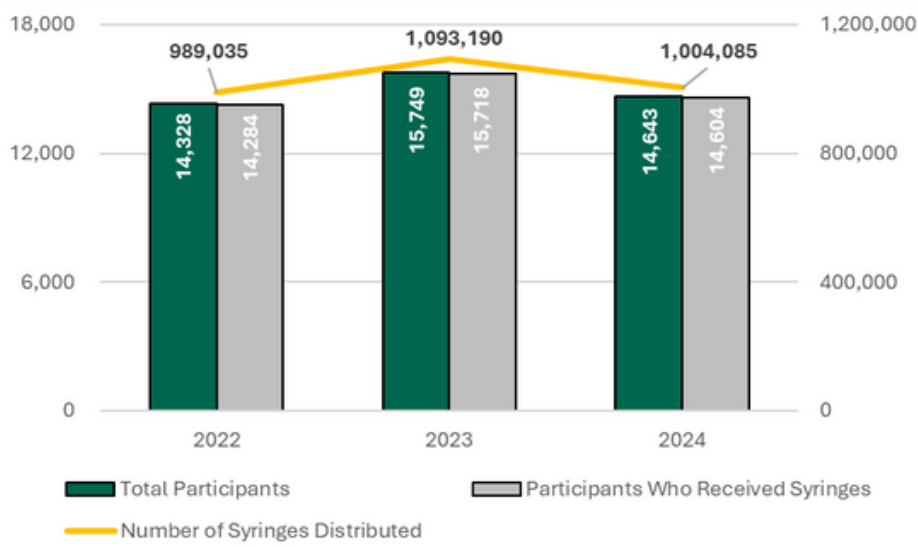
During 2024, HCPH's SAFE Services expanded, adding additional hours to help better serve the community.

Safe Services has a site at BLOC Ministries in Price Hill on Wednesdays where hours were extended so as to reach more individuals. SAFE Services also added another site to BLOC Ministries on Mondays. HCPH has been ramping up the drug checking program through our SAFE Services as well. When the drug checking was first implemented, it was only available at one SAFE Service site. It has since been expanded to be offered at six out of seven sites.

HCPH was able to hold a winter coat and food drive to benefit SAFE Services participants. Over 900 items were collected to be given out to participants. Due to this, SAFE Services staff held a winter clothing event for our participants to come pick up winter comfort and safety items, such as coats, snacks, water, blankets, and more. The participants were encouraged to “shop” for what they needed at an HCPH office. Over 40 clients participated in the event, and they found uses for around 80% of the items that were available. HCPH SAFE Services staff handed out the remaining items to participants at other sites.

Looking ahead, efforts will be focused on the expansion of SAFE Services into more communities. HCPH will be looking for further opportunities to increase stigma-free services to more individuals. Work is underway to also increase access and awareness of the drug checking program in order to reach more individuals, including those who use substances recreationally.



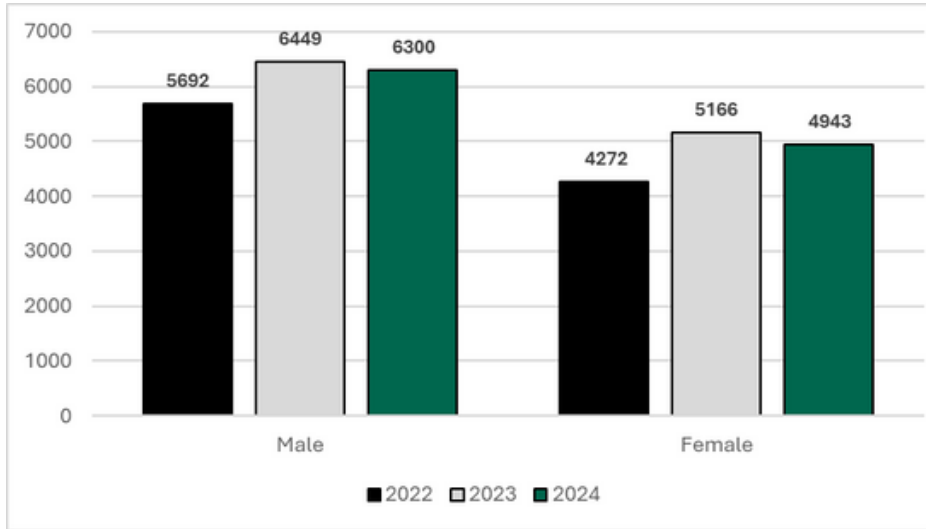


Total SAFE Services Program (SSP) participation declined 7% (1,106) from 2023 to 2024 after increasing 9% (1,421) from 2022 to 2023. Following a similar trend, syringe distribution declined 8% (89,105) from 2023 to 2024 after increasing 10% (104,155) from 2022 to 2023.

The number of clients visiting the SSP locations who did not receive syringes did not account for significant change year after year with counts of less than 1% (44, 31, 39) for each respective year shown in the figure

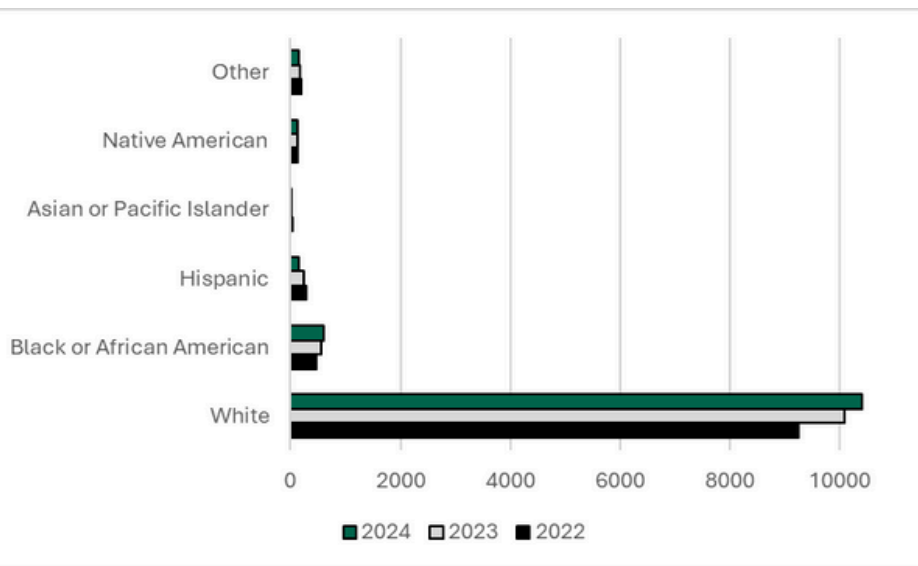
Individuals who identified as being male made up 56% (18,441) of the clients seen at SSP sites. Year 2023 saw a 12% (757) increase in male clients versus 2022 whereas 2024 saw a 2% (149) decrease in male clients in comparison to 2023.

Similarly, clients who visited an SSP site and identified as being female increased 17% (894) from 2022 to 2023 but saw a decrease in participation of 4% (223) between 2023 and 2024.



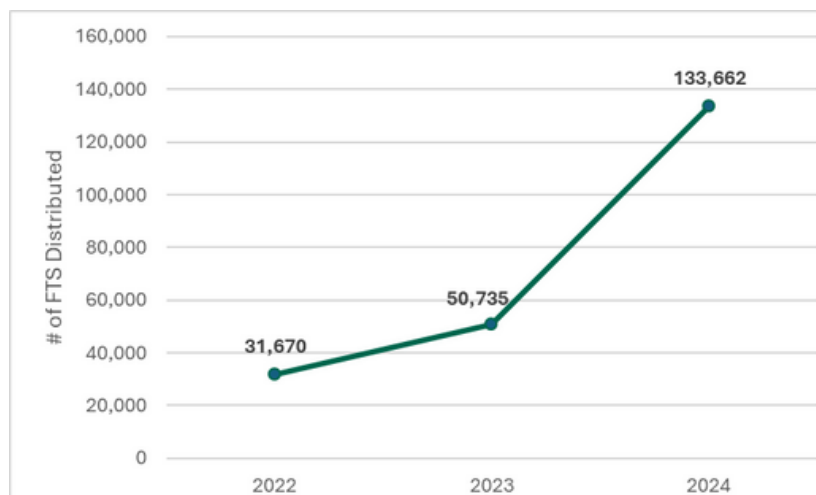
The majority, 90% (29,732), of clients from 2022 to 2024 who visited an SSP site identified as being white. People who identified as black or African American saw an increase in SSP participation of 23% (142) from 2022 to 2024, and people who identified as white showed an 11% (1,148) increase in SSP participation during that same time frame.

From 2022 to 2024, people who identified as being Hispanic, Asian or Pacific Islander, or other race's participation declined 46% (136), 38% (20), and 27% (54) respectively. Native American client SSP participation increased 10% (14) from 2022 to 2023 and then decreased 8% (11) in 2024 versus 2023

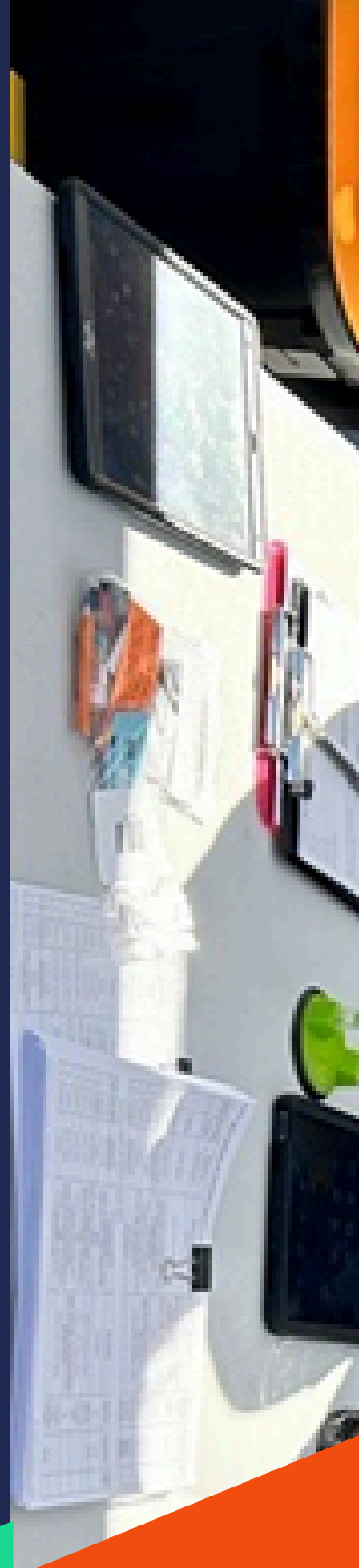


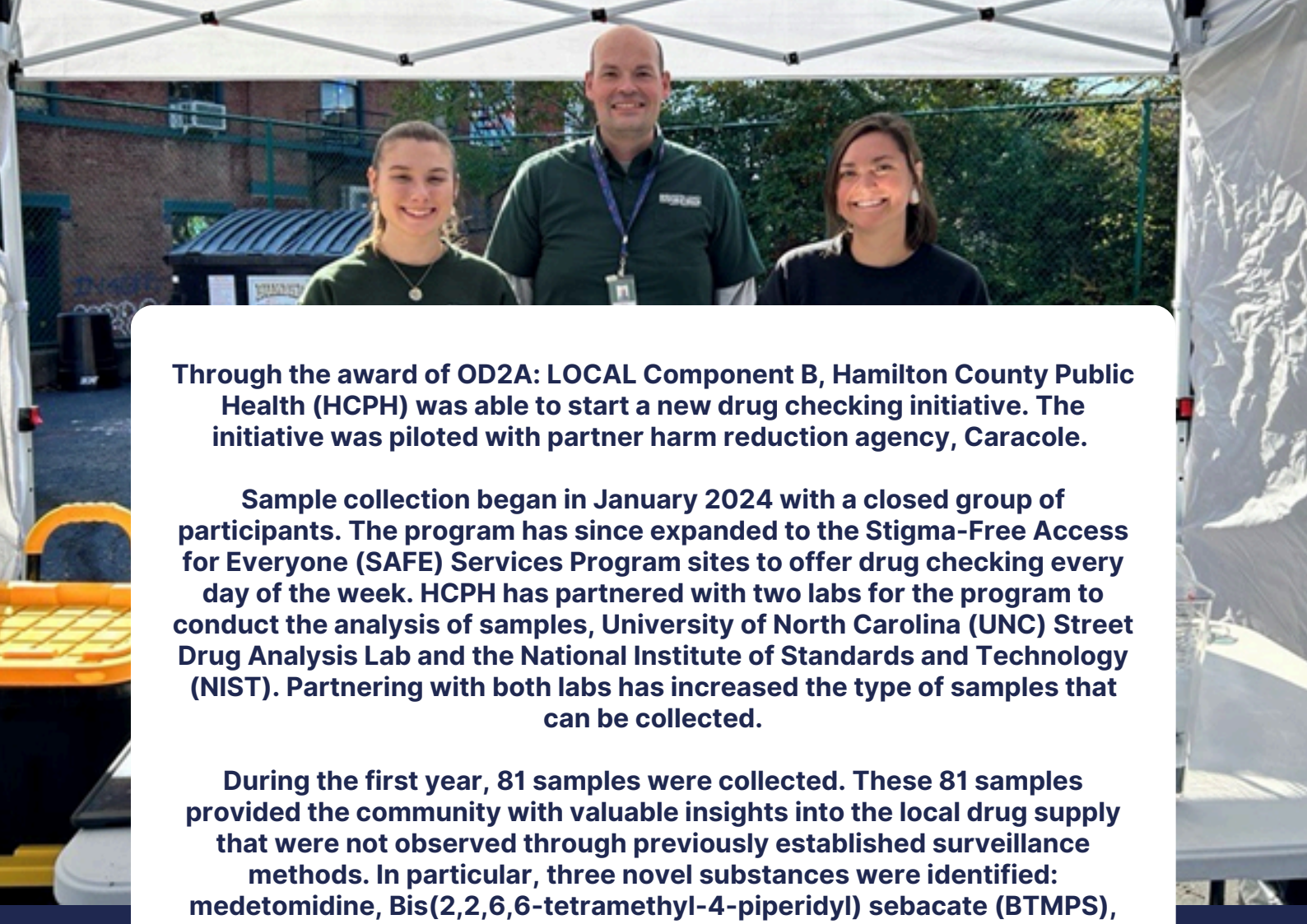
This line graph represents a combination of fentanyl test strip distribution from multiple points. "Test Before you Take" totals (e.g., bars, restaurants, and concert venues) make up 79% (171,490) of total distribution, SSP sites represent over 20% (44,535) of total distribution, and vending machines which currently represent less than 1% (42) of total distribution.

From the years 2022 to 2024 total distribution increased 422% (101,922) across all these points.



Drug Checking





Through the award of OD2A: LOCAL Component B, Hamilton County Public Health (HCPH) was able to start a new drug checking initiative. The initiative was piloted with partner harm reduction agency, Caracole.

Sample collection began in January 2024 with a closed group of participants. The program has since expanded to the Stigma-Free Access for Everyone (SAFE) Services Program sites to offer drug checking every day of the week. HCPH has partnered with two labs for the program to conduct the analysis of samples, University of North Carolina (UNC) Street Drug Analysis Lab and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Partnering with both labs has increased the type of samples that can be collected.

During the first year, 81 samples were collected. These 81 samples provided the community with valuable insights into the local drug supply that were not observed through previously established surveillance methods. In particular, three novel substances were identified: medetomidine, Bis(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidyl) sebacate (BTMPS), and nitazenes. The identification of nitazenes lead to a community alert being issued in July of 2024. The drug checking results have allowed for more tailored harm reduction messaging and better identification of the limitations of current harm reduction resources.

Another success during the first year was the drug checking day held in October. This will continue to be an annual event in collaboration with Caracole. During the event there were 157 attendees, seven partners engaged, and 152 wellness kits handed out, in addition to increase the awareness of the program.

The program has and continues to expand in order to reach more participants and communities. Flyers were created and have been distributed to begin offering scheduled drug checking to individuals that do not attend SAFE Services. Future plans also include expanding the program through partnerships with surrounding counties.

**Drug
Checking
Samples
Collected by
Month for
2024**



Harm Reduction Goals for 2025



Decrease Stigma

Partner with HC ARC to develop stigma-reduction campaigns, conduct training, distribute educational materials, and measure the impact of these efforts through community feedback and surveys.



Increase Access to Harm Reduction Supplies and Services

Collaborate with HC ARC workgroups to address service gaps, promote harm reduction services, secure funding for necessary supplies, and establish mobile outreach initiatives for underserved populations, particularly in high-need areas.



Expand the Drug Checking Program

Collaborate with HC ARC to enhance the drug checking program through data sharing, community education, informational sessions, and partnerships with local organizations and events to increase awareness and prevent overdoses.



Increase Participation in Harm Reduction Quarterly Meetings

Promote harm reduction meetings and ensure attendance by highlighting their importance at coalition gatherings and distributing calendar invites through the HC ARC email list for visibility.



EQUITY & ENGAGEMENT

Cameron Foster,
Addiction Services Council



JB Buse
LOTH Holdings



Bishop Mark Flagg,
Rose Chapel Missionary Baptist Church



Dan Meyer,
Nehemiah Manufacturing



The Equity & Engagement Pillar fosters inclusivity and equitable access to resources and education for individuals affected by substance use, with a focus on underrepresented groups, faith communities, and special populations, by promoting cultural competency, building awareness, and strengthening community connections.

Equity & Engagement Goals for 2025



Diversify Faith Communities' Representation and Increase Trainings

Engage underrepresented faith communities in coalition activities by hosting quarterly interfaith meetings, providing resources for substance use education, and fostering collaboration among faith leaders.



Address the Needs of Special Populations and Foster Cultural Competency Across Focus Areas

Establish a workgroup to address barriers faced by youth, seniors, Hispanic populations, and other special groups, develop targeted outreach campaigns, and partner with mental health and community organizations to improve cultural competency and assess progress annually.



Engage the Business Community to Inform and Support HC ARC's Mission

Create a business advisory group within the coalition to engage business leaders, organize forums on addiction-related topics, distribute a "Business Toolkit," and leverage business resources to strengthen coalition initiatives.



Increase Awareness and Education on Substance Use and Addiction Among Stakeholders

Develop a comprehensive communication plan to keep stakeholders informed through regular updates, training sessions, newsletters, and partnerships with local media to amplify HC ARC's initiatives and impact.



RECOVERY

Cassidy Lekan,
Greater Cincinnati
Behavioral Health



Tyler Meenach,
Hamilton County Public Health



Luis Villagrana,
On the Front Lines Community Alliance



The Recovery Pillar empowers individuals with lived experience to guide coalition initiatives, ensuring their voices shape programs while advancing comprehensive support services, such as transportation, housing, and essential wraparound care, to meet the needs of those in recovery.

Recovery Friendly Hamilton County





In July 2024, the Recovery Friendly Hamilton County (RFHC) initiative achieved national recognition by earning a Certificate of Promising Practice from the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO). This honor marked the third prestigious award for RFHC since its inception in 2022, underscoring its continued innovation and impact in promoting recovery-friendly workplace practices.



On August 30, 2024, Governor Mike DeWine launched the Ohio Recovery Friendly Workplace program through his Recovery Ohio initiative. This statewide program was directly inspired by the success of RFHC, amplifying its mission and emphasizing the critical role of workplace wellness and recovery support in creating healthier communities.

The influence of RFHC extended to the national stage on September 18, 2024, when a representative from Gorilla Glue, an RFHC designee, participated in a groundbreaking roundtable discussion at the White House. Facilitated by Dr. Rahul Gupta, this event highlighted the importance of Recovery Friendly Workplaces and set the stage for Gorilla Glue's induction into the inaugural class of Nationally Certified Recovery Friendly Workplaces in December 2024.





By the close of 2024, RFHC had grown to include 67 designees, collectively representing over 17,000 employees. This remarkable milestone not only reflects the program's expanding reach but also its profound influence on workplace culture and employee well-being.

The RFHC 2024 annual employer and employee survey revealed transformative outcomes within participating organizations. Key findings included:

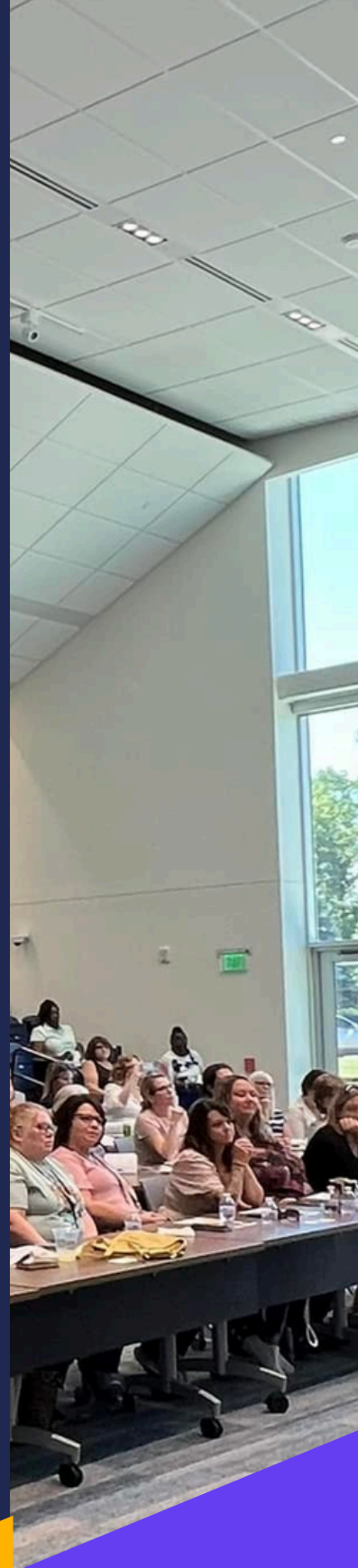
- **Improved Workplace Morale:** 66% of designees reported a noticeable increase in employee morale.
- **Reduced Stigma:** 65% observed a significant decline in stigma surrounding addiction and recovery.
- **Supportive Workplace Culture:** 86% of participants agreed that their workplace fosters a safe environment for honesty about substance use or alcohol use issues.
- **Accessible Support:** 82% of employees felt comfortable approaching management for help with substance use or alcohol-related challenges.
- **Recovery-Focused Environment:** An overwhelming 96% of respondents believed their workplace is supportive of individuals in recovery from substance use disorders.

These outcomes demonstrate the far-reaching impact of RFHC's mission, setting a powerful example for organizations nationwide to follow. Through its innovative approach and dedication to fostering recovery-friendly environments, RFHC continues to lead the way in transforming workplace culture and supporting the holistic well-being of employees.



On the Front Lines Community Alliance

Content courtesy of the 2024 On the Front Lines Annual Report



WHO WE ARE

The On the Front Lines Community Alliance (OTFLCA) is a nonprofit, peer-run recovery community organization that thrives through a "team of teams" approach, fueled by the collective desire of recovery professionals to support one another and better serve those in need. OTFLCA creates a space for recovery professionals to come together for learning, connection, and mutual support. The Vocational Peer Support (VPS) program bridges personal recovery with professional development, providing mentorship, skill-building workshops, and ongoing professional development to help individuals advance in their careers while maintaining their own recovery journeys. By fostering career pathways and supporting certification

processes, OTFLCA ensures that recovery professionals are equipped to deliver effective, person-centered care.

OTFLCA fosters a collaborative network that encourages members to share best practices, emerging trends, and professional development opportunities. This creates a sense of belonging where members build partnerships, share experiences, and grow together. By integrating lived experience into decision-making for policy and programming, OTFLCA builds a sustainable, inclusive recovery workforce that supports both recovery professionals and those they serve, ensuring that recovery practices remain effective and responsive to community needs.

WHAT WE OFFER



Workforce Development

Interactive and immersive sessions offering networking, skill building and barrier eradication for both new and experienced recovery specialists.

- Community of Practice Meetings
- Annual Conference
- Workshops



Certification Longevity

Ensuring peers remain certified and confident in their roles through ongoing training, mentorship, and comprehensive support for certification maintenance.

- Supports certification maintenance
- Vets Continuing Education (CE)
- Organizes application renewals



Professional Wellness

Supports recovery professionals by aligning their personal recovery with professional responsibilities while fostering connections with mentors and allies.

- Peer-driven supervision promotes recovery and career balance
- Focuses on career advancement and personal wellness



Advocacy

Strengthens the voice of peer recovery professionals to influence policy and program development, ensuring services meet the needs of individuals in recovery.

- Appoints peer supporters as members of Peer Advisory Council
- Council members participate in workgroups, coalitions, and councils



COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

OTFLCA's Community of Practice meetings, also known as S.W.A.P. (Socials With a Purpose), is a dedicated space for recovery professionals to come together for learning and connection. It focuses on sharing best practices, emerging trends, and professional development opportunities to enhance the skills and confidence of participants. Additionally, it fosters a collaborative and supportive network, encouraging members to share experiences, build partnerships, and cultivate a sense of belonging within the recovery community. With chapters in both Cincinnati and Dayton, each unique but with the same goal, OTFLCA creates a unified platform for recovery professionals to grow, connect, and thrive.



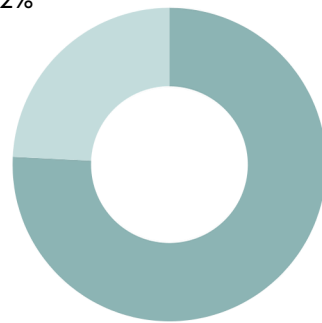
632
2024 Individual Attendees



151
Agencies Represented in 2024

New Attendees
24.2%

2024



Returning Members
75.8%

TRUSTED PARTNERS



OTFLCA fosters a collaborative approach to recovery by centering lived experience and building a culture of trust. With a membership that spans Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana, our members lean into each other's expertise despite barriers; working together to overcome challenges and redefine recovery practices with a shared vision of sustainable, person-centered care. OTFLCA's "team of teams" philosophy empowers individuals and organizations to collaborate in dynamic ways, ensuring that care is accessible and effective.

1,990+
Connections to Services

In 2024, OTFLCA members made 1,993 connections to services for the community, all self-reported by our members. These connections, made between OTFLCA members, highlight the strength of our collective commitment to supporting each other and ensuring that individuals have access to the services they need.

WHEN COLLABORATION BECOMES TRUST

These are the Top 5 agencies referred to by members of OTFLCA in 2024

Woodhaven

120 Referrals

DeCoach

116 Referrals

Lumiere

97 Referrals

Center for Addiction Treatment

86 Referrals

REST

54 Referrals



COMMUNITY CATALYST CONFERENCE

This one-day conference featured educational workshops led by Peer Recovery Specialists (PRS) offering insights and strategies relevant to individuals with lived experiences. The event included a variety of wellness activities, such as grief recovery and practices for quality and ethical peer support. These activities aimed to empower participants with practical knowledge and strengthen our community of recovery professionals.

AUDIENCE FEEDBACK



New Knowledge

100% of attendees stated that they gained new knowledge and learned new skills as a result of attending the conference.



Impact on Outcomes

100% of attendees believed that applying the information from the conference would lead to better outcomes for those they assist.



Satisfaction

100% of attendees were very satisfied with the presentations during the conference.

SEPTEMBER 6TH 2024



87
Attendees



6
Sessions

Recovery Goals for 2025



Enhance Employment Opportunities for Individuals in Recovery

Partnering with OhioMeansJobs (OMJ), the Workforce Council, and local businesses to create tailored job coaching programs and recovery-friendly job fairs, while advocating for inclusive workplace practices, educating employers on supporting individuals in recovery, and promoting recovery-friendly resources like Naloxone boxes.



Align with State Requirements and Best Practice for Peer Workforce Development

Enhances alignment with Ohio Recovery Housing (ORH) requirements through clear communication and resources, while developing a robust peer workforce pipeline with mentorship, career advancement, and supervisor training, complemented by quarterly stakeholder discussions to share best practices and improve retention in recovery-focused roles.



Build Data and Insights to Support Recovery Initiatives

Collects and analyzes data through surveys and focus groups to identify recovery needs and barriers, leveraging findings to shape coalition strategies, inform programs, secure funding, and guide policy, while integrating HC ARC Steering Committee insights to ensure data-driven decision-making and impactful recovery initiatives.



Hamilton County
Addiction
Response Coalition
Agency List

3CDC	Cincinnati Fire Department	DeCoach Rehabilitation Centre	Hamilton County Board of County Commissioner
A1 Stigma Free Coalition	Cincinnati Health Department	Drug Free Clubs of America	Hamilton County Coroner's Office
Acadia Healthcare	Cincinnati/Hamilton County Public Library Branches	DSD Advisors LLC	Hamilton County ESC
Addiction Services Council	Cincinnati Ohio Police	Easter Seals	Hamilton County Fire Chiefs Association
AFL- CIO	Federal Credit Union (COPFCU)	Enerfab	Hamilton County Heroin Task Force
Alkermes	Cincinnati Police Department	Ethan Crossing	Hamilton County Job and Family Services
Allen Temple Church	Cincinnati Reds	Equitas Health	Hamilton County Mental Health & Recovery Services Board
American Legacy Theatre	Cincinnati State	eXclusive Services	Hamilton County Office of Reentry
Anderson Township	Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber	FC Cincinnati	Hamilton County Prosecutor
Archdiocese of Cincinnati	Cincinnati Works	Findlay Market	Hamilton County Public Health
ARC Centers	City Gospel Mission	First Step Home	Hamilton County Sheriff's Office
ASAP Norwood	City of Cincinnati	Freestore Foodbank	Harm Reduction Ohio
Because You Matter LLC	City of Sharonville	From Fatherless to Fearless	Healthcare Access Now
Best Point Education & Behavioral Health	CleanSlate Centers	Fortin Advisory	HealthPath Foundation
BioCoRX	Clermont Recovery Center	Frost, Brown, Todd	Hightowers Petroleum Co.
Bloc Ministries	Cohear	Glad House	Hope Valley Recovery
Block By Block	Colerain Township	GLAST	Hope Over Homlessness
Blue Heart Services	Common Pleas Court Hamilton County	Glenwood Behavioral	Hotel California By the Sea
BlueRidge Vista	Community Health Alliance	Government Strategies Group	Huntington National Bank
Boulder Care	Community Medical Services	Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services	IlSCO
Brightview Health	Cordata Healthcare Innovations	Greater Cincinnati Fusion Center	Indivior
Caracole	Council Member Jan Michelle Kearney's Office	Greater Cincinnati YMCAs	Interact for Health
Cedar Oaks Wellness Center	Council Member Mark Jeffrey's Office	Green Light Fund	JBM Packaging
Center for Addiction Treatment	Council Member Meeka Owen's Office	Hamilton County Administration	Jeff Wyler Auto Group
Center for Closing the Health Gap	Council Member Victoria Park's Office	Hamilton County Adult Probation	KAV Health Group
CenterPoint Health	Court Clinic	Hamilton County Association of Chiefs of Police	Kettering Health
Charlie Health			Key Bank
Chess Health			
Cincinnati Regional Business Committee			
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center			

Lanmark Recovery	Ohio State University Medical Center	Strategies to End Homelessness
Legacy Healing		
Life Point Health	Omega Mentoring Association	Sunrise Treatment Center
Linder Center	OneCity For Recovery/The Hopeline	Sunstone Life
LOTH Holdings		
Lotus Health LLC	On the Front Lines Community Alliance	Sycamore Township
Lumiere Healing Center	Operation 2 Save Lives & QRT National	Talbert House
Mary Magdalen House	Our Daily Bread	Tender Mercies
Med Max RX	Our Sam Foundation	The AMOS Project
Mental Health and Addiction Advocacy Coalition	Oxford House	The Bail Project
Mercy Health Cincinnati	Pinnacle Treatment Center	The Christ Hospital
Miami University	Potter House Recovery	The City of Middletown
Midwest Spine Interventionalist, LLC	PreventionFIRST!	The Crossroads Center
Minds at Peace	Prospect House	The Gorilla Glue Co.
Modern Psychiatry and Wellness	Pyramid Health	The Health Collaborative
Naphcare	Quiet Star Capital	The Ohio Attorney General's Office
Nehemiah Manufacturing	Real Works 2020	The Sheakley Group
New Foundations Community Housing	Recovery Ohio	The Unity Center of Cincinnati
NKY Health Department	RecoverWisely	Thrive Peer Support
Norwood Health Department	Relink	Transitions NKY
Office of Aftab Pureval	Renew Recovery	Transformations
Office of US Senator JD Vance	Restoring Hope Counseling and Coaching	Trustpoint.One
Office of US Senator Sherrod Brown	Resurge Recovery	UC Health
Ohio Attorney General's Office	Safe RX	UMADAOP
Ohio Community Health	Salvation Army	United Way
Ohio Deflection Association	Santa Maria Community Services	University of Cincinnati
Ohio Department of Health	Seacrest Recovery Center	US House of Representative Brad Wenstrup
Ohio National Financial Services	Serenity Recovery Network	US House of Representative Greg Landsman
	Shelterhouse	Velocity Biogroup Corps
	Spero Health	Village of Amberley
	Springfield Township	Village of Newtown
		Weightless Anchors
		Woodhaven



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#HereInHamiltonCounty