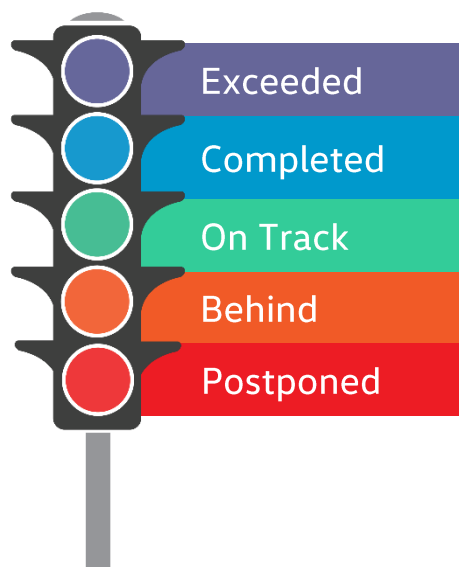


PROGRESS REPORT KEY:



Exceeded: Above benchmark.

Completed: Benchmark met.

On Track: Progressing as anticipated.

Behind: Behind benchmark.

Postponed: Delayed or re-prioritized.

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORTING | OVERALL PRIORITY STATUS

	PRIORITY AREA 1: CHRONIC DISEASE & OBESITY	
	PRIORITY AREA 2: MATERNAL, INFANT, & CHILD HEALTH	
	PRIORITY AREA 3: MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTION	
	PRIORITY AREA 4: HIV & SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS	
	PRIORITY AREA 5: ORAL HEALTH	





PRIORITY AREA 1 – CHRONIC DISEASE & OBESITY

STATUS

GOAL 1: More people in Hamilton County will have access to healthy foods and safe opportunities for physical activity.

Healthy eating and active living strategies are primarily operationalized through Hamilton County Public Health's (HCPH) WeTHRIVE!SM initiative (WatchUsThrive.org). Staff who work with the WeTHRIVE! communities, schools, and child care providers began reviewing population and health data to assist in determining the priority communities for engagement in place-based healthy eating and active living strategies as part of the CHIP pilot. North College Hill and St. Bernard-Elmwood Place are the two priority communities/areas that were identified. These communities will be engaged to complete baseline assessments during the next progress period. Lastly, staff continued to identify creative ways to engage WeTHRIVE! communities while also providing support to HCPH's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. A [resource list](#) continues to be updated as additional resources for physical activity, nutrition, basic needs, mental health services, and others become identified.



GOAL 2: Fewer people in Hamilton County will report using tobacco products.

Tobacco-free living strategies are operationalized through a grant from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and HCPH's WeTHRIVE! initiative. The tobacco public health educator worked with HCPH's clinical services team to become a cessation referral site. Nurses were trained on how to use the Quitline online portal for referrals, as well as provided educational resources for patients. Additionally, 6 people from the Norwood STARS (youth drug prevention coalition) were trained on how to conduct store audits to assess the tobacco retail environment within their community. In partnership with the American Heart Association, HCPH's tobacco public health educator is working with the Village of Woodlawn to develop a Tobacco Retail License that would limit the density of tobacco retailers within the village. Lastly, one tobacco counter-marketing campaign focusing on youth vaping implemented; 248,044 media impressions were documented.





GOAL 1: More babies in Hamilton County will celebrate their first birthday.

The Ohio Equity Institute (OEI) addresses key drivers of inequities in infant mortality and prioritizes the populations most vulnerable to experience poor birth outcomes. OEI Navigators continued utilizing online outreach efforts, as well as phone and/or video intakes as a way to continue offering services during the COVID-19 pandemic. The partnership with UC Health was renewed for another year. An OEI Navigator will continue to enroll pregnant women that visit the emergency room for services. The OEI team began exploring opportunities to replicate this successful partnership model within other health systems and/or federally qualified health centers. OEI Navigators documented 625 hours of outreach during the progress period and reached 1,881 individuals through various outreach methods. Thirty-four pregnant women were enrolled in navigation services. OEI Navigators worked to refine online outreach strategies and engage in more “cold messaging” when identifying pregnant women in local community support and social networking groups. Additionally, the Social Determinants of Health assessment that is used by the OEI Navigators when working with pregnant women was revised to include questions regarding experiences of discrimination and/or racism in the clinical setting. Questions were selected from the Listening to Mothers Survey – a national survey on the experiences, attitudes, and beliefs of women throughout their maternity. This data will be used to help inform future policies aimed at addressing the negative effects of the social determinants of health on birth outcomes and infant vitality. The Cradle Cincinnati Policy Committee was successful in advocating for the inclusion of paid parental leave on the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners’ policy agenda. The personnel policy language is currently under development, and the budgetary impact is being researched. The Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority resumed taking women off the housing voucher waiting list after there had been a pause due to financial constraints associated with COVID-19. Lastly, the OEI Coordinator was nominated to serve on the Cincinnati City Council’s task force addressing racism as a public health crisis. The OEI Coordinator will provide a maternal and infant health perspective, share data, and make policy recommendations directly to Cincinnati City Council.



During the progress period, the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) team reviewed two cases during its first-ever virtual case review meeting. The FIMR team also completed three maternal interviews through its contact-free process. The roll out of COVID-19 vaccination clinics greatly impacted the availability of HCPH’s public health nursing staff to support the FIMR case review process. To keep the process moving forward, the Epidemiology director provided support for medical record abstraction, and the OEI Coordinator assisted with preparation for case review meetings.

The Child and Fatality Review (CFR) also held its first-ever virtual meeting during the progress period. Eight infant deaths, including 5 sleep-related deaths, were reviewed. While the CFR team is behind in reviewing cases, it is anticipated that cases will be close to caught up by the end of next quarter.





GOAL 1: Fewer Hamilton County residents will die of opiate-related overdose deaths.

During the progress period, 211 Narcan® kits were distributed to first responders, community members, and through mail order request. A partnership with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, Healing Communities, Talbert House, and One City for Recovery to visit inmates weekly to determine interest/need for Narcan® continued. This partnership is also working to expand distribution to those recently released through various courts.

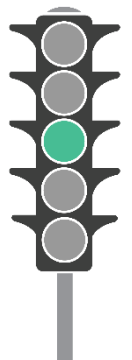
HCPH's harm reduction staff continued to build out the peer workforce development program as part of the Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) grant in partnership with Easterseals. There are 41 participants enrolled in the program of which 14 completed the required 40-hour Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services training; 4 began paid internships; 2 were offered full-time employment as certified peer supporters; and 2 chose alternate career options offered by Easterseals. This program is important as stable and meaningful employment is a significant factor in maintaining long-term recovery. The successful launch of the peer workforce development program occurred by word of mouth; no formal marketing strategies were used. Additionally, the contract with Easterseals was to enroll 50 participants over a 12-month period; this goal is nearly achieved within 4 months of implementation. This demonstrates community need and desire for a program that with this focus.



HCPH's harm reduction staff used results from community focus groups completed in 2020 to form an advisory council. The advisory council will meet 4-6 times throughout 2021 and will assist in the development of targeted harm reduction services in the Price Hill community. The first meeting is 1/28/2021. Additionally, the OD2A grant requires each grant funded site to lead a peer-to-peer learning session for other funded sites across the country. These peer-to-peer learning sessions were placed on hold as staff time and resources were diverted to COVID-19 vaccination distribution efforts. Lastly, daily overdose surveillance data is now available at hcuph.org.

GOAL 2: Fewer people who inject drugs will contract an infectious disease in Hamilton County.

The Syringe Services Program (SSP) continued to find innovative ways to provide lifesaving supplies to clients while minimizing exposure risk for clients and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the increased use of social media and texting service and operating outdoor syringe services. The SSP served 4,034 clients. A total of 279,265 syringes were exchanged. The SSP encouraged clients to get tested by educating them on the importance of knowing their Hepatitis C and HIV status. There were 25 Hepatitis C and 70 HIV tests administered. SSP data is now available at hcuph.org. The online portal allows individuals to manipulate the data to understand overdose trends in various sub-populations by demographics. Data can be downloaded into a PDF. Lastly, HCPH's Nurse Practitioner provided flu shots at several locations. The SSP staff continue to think of ways to provide more holistic health and wellness services.





PRIORITY AREA 4 – HIV & SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

STATUS

GOAL 1: Prevent HIV & Syphilis infection and related illnesses among Hamilton County residents.

HIV & STI prevention strategies are primarily operationalized through grant funding from the ODH. The COVID-19 pandemic continued to pose a challenge during the progress period with limited accessibility to testing services in many community settings. HCPH and its community partners continued to encourage high-risk populations to get tested at HCPH's clinic and other sites where safety precautions can be taken. Condom distribution was also down due to many distribution sites being closed or that were restricting client visits. Furthermore, HCPH temporarily reduced clinic hours available for syphilis treatment due to COVID-19 safety concerns. This may result in delayed treatment for clients, which is of concern. Despite these challenges, the HIV & STI prevention team maintained some testing services with limited walk-in testing times and by appointment. Because of continued fieldwork restrictions, client intervention occurred via phone or virtually. Eighty-seven percent of clients newly diagnosed with HIV were engaged in infectious disease care; a Disease Investigation Specialist (DIS) interviewed 83 percent of new HIV cases within 30 days. With regard to syphilis, 92 percent of new cases were interviewed by a DIS within 14 days of assignment, and 94 percent of cases were started on treatment within 14 days of assignment.



PRIORITY AREA 5 – ORAL HEALTH

STATUS

GOAL 1: Hamilton County residents will have improved access to oral health care.

The Oral Health Coalition (OHC), in conjunction with the Ohio Dental Association's (ODA) Medicaid Working Group, experienced several successes in the form of two actions released by the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM). This included a major clarification on Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) roles and responsibilities toward providers, as well as a substantial increase in ODM's dental reimbursement rates. Both actions were in direct response to the advocacy efforts of the OHC and ODA; they are anticipated to increase the number of MCO providers, as these are the top two issues reported as to why oral health providers leave or do not engage in managed care. Over the past progress period, the OHC also began to work on its policy agenda, engagement of a healthcare system, volunteerism, and innovations in the oral health industry to assess and improve access to communities experiencing disparities in oral health care. Lastly, the OHC facilitated a survey to 2,032 licensed oral health care providers in Hamilton County regarding COVID-19 vaccination access and distribution. The OHC will continue to advocate for access to and adoption of the COVID-19 vaccine among oral health care providers.



A STATEMENT ABOUT COVID-19

On March 9, 2020, Governor Mike DeWine signed Executive Order 2020-01D, declaring a state of emergency in Ohio to protect the well-being of residents from the dangerous effects of COVID-19. The emergency declaration, coupled with the need for public health emergency response and recovery, may delay progress over the duration of this plan. Hamilton County Public Health and its partners will make every effort to implement strategies outlined within the 2020-2023 Community Health Improvement Plan. Progress will be closely monitored to determine if priority areas and benchmarks need to shift as we work to protect Hamilton County residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

CONTACT US!

Hamilton County Public Health
250 William Howard Taft Rd
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219
P. (513) 946.7800

HCPH.org

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