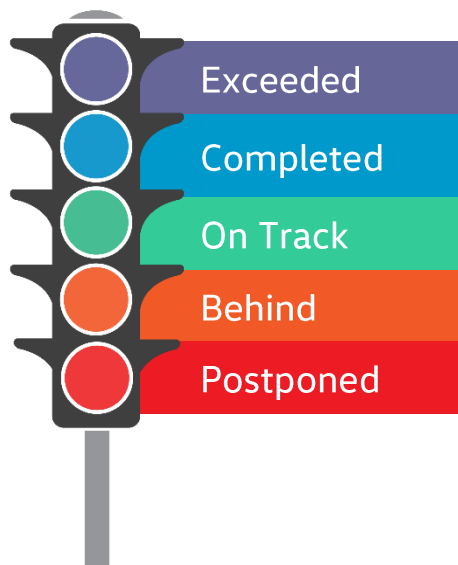


## PROGRESS REPORT KEY:



**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.

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Healthy eating and active living strategies are primarily operationalized through Hamilton County Public Health's (HCPH) WeTHRIVE!<sup>SM</sup> initiative ([WatchUsThrive.org](http://WatchUsThrive.org)). The two priority communities for engagement in place-based healthy eating and active living strategies as part of the CHIP pilot are North College Hill and St. Bernard-Elmwood Place. Elmwood Place adopted the WeTHRIVE! Overall Resolution becoming the 29<sup>th</sup> WeTHRIVE! Community in Hamilton County. Staff started outreach within the community to identify potential team members and identify opportunities for the St. Bernard and Elmwood Place teams to work together. North College Hill Schools created an onsite food pantry in partnership with the Freestore Foodbank. Students and families complete an online survey to select the food items they need. Items are distributed to families during pick-up or put in the student's locker in a backpack for them to take home at the end of the day. The food pantry has also created meal kits within everything a family would need to make a dinner. The COVID-19 pandemic has created challenges with engaging child care providers in North College Hill, St. Bernard, and Elmwood Place. Staff will continue to find ways to engage child care providers in a way that is COVID-safe.



WeTHRIVE! Communities and Schools (that are not a part of the CHIP pilot) had some successes during the project period. The Mt. Healthy City Schools received a "No Kid Hungry" grant that will be used develop creative food distribution strategies for students and families. Reading Schools approved a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) School Travel Plan and applied for a non-infrastructure SRTS grant. The Three Rivers Local Schools implemented multiple staff wellness challenges centering around healthy eating and physical activity.

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

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Tobacco-free living strategies are operationalized through a grant from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and HCPH's WeTHRIVE! initiative. 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. Additionally, the Loveland City Schools adopted a comprehensive tobacco-free campus policy in February 2021. Partnerships with the University of Cincinnati Student Wellness Center (UCSWC) and the Women's Clinic in Mt. Healthy were established. UCSWC and the Women's Clinic were trained in Ask-Advise-Refer (AAR) tobacco-based cessation services. Lastly, four tobacco counter-marketing campaigns focusing on cessation, prevention for people with behavioral health concerns, and youth access were implemented; 441,444 media impressions were documented.





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

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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. OEI Navigators documented 541 hours of outreach during the progress period and reached 1,654 individuals through various outreach methods. Twenty-one pregnant women were enrolled in navigation services. OEI Navigators worked to refine online outreach strategies and engage in more “cold call” messaging when identifying pregnant women in local community support and social networking groups (e.g., via Facebook Mom Groups). Focused outreach is occurring in the 45230 ZIP code. The area is noted to be a food desert and mostly residential. The OEI team is reaching out to contacts in the area to find out where residents obtain resources and seek medical care to strategize where OEI Navigators can best outreach to potential moms in the area.



The Cradle Cincinnati Policy Committee reaffirmed its state budget priorities for 2021, which are: refundable earned income tax credit; implicit bias training for all perinatal workers at state-funded colleges and universities; non-emergency medical transportation data tracking and performance metric system; parental leave for employees; and enhanced reimbursement for group prenatal care. Discussions continued with the Hamilton County Commissioners' Chief of Staff, County Administrator, and Human Resources Director regarding a paid parental leave policy for County employees. Discussion centered on the need and significance for the policy and its impact on lower income employees and people of color. Data was also shared about paid family leave can improve worker retention, productivity, loyalty, and morale. The personnel policy language is currently under development, and the budgetary impact is being researched and shared.

During the progress period, the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) team reviewed four cases during a virtual case review meeting. The FIMR team also completed two maternal interviews through its contact-free process. COVID-19 vaccination clinics continued to impact the availability of HCPH's public health nursing staff to support the FIMR case review process. To keep the process moving forward, a Senior Epidemiologist 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 a virtual meeting during the progress period. Eight infant deaths, including seven sleep-related deaths, were reviewed. While the CFR team is behind in reviewing cases, it is anticipated that cases will be caught up by the end of next quarter.

Lastly, a new Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Epidemiologist was hired. The MCH Epidemiologist will serve as the new coordinator for the FIMR and CFR case review programs.

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

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During the progress period, 463 Narcan® kits were distributed to first responders, community members, and through mail order request. The Justice Center Narcan® Distribution Program partnership with the Sheriff's Office, Healing Communities, and Talbert House continued.

Workforce development efforts to broaden the pool of quality, work-ready, certified peer supporters in our area through a contract with Easterseals continues to be successful. The program began in October 2020 with the goal of having 5- certified peer support workers work-ready within 12 months. The program has 45 enrolled participants, and 30 participants completed the training requirements for state certification. Twenty participants have begun paid internships, and 6 have been offered meaningful employment.

Training was provided to Mariemont School District staff, administration, and teachers on the "Handle with Care" model, as well as two first responder trainings. Meetings continue with Three Rivers, Princeton, Winton Woods, and Loveland Schools to plan for implementation of the model.

A visioning session was held with the Harm Reduction Subcommittee. The aim was to identify ways to address challenges that no one individual/organization can address alone, such as service gaps, difficulty navigating the system, and conflicting mindsets about harm reduction and recovery.

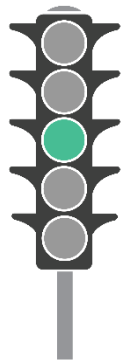


### GOAL 2: Fewer people who inject drugs will contract an infectious disease in Hamilton County.

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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 3,662 clients. A total of 249,884 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 34 Hepatitis C and 61 HIV tests administered.

HCPH's harm reduction staff created a services action plan for the Price Hill community utilizing the newly formed advisory group. Plans for the Price Hill harm reduction efforts were presented to the East Price Hill Improvement Association (EPHIA) in March. An overview of the principles of harm reduction, a snapshot of the Price Hill overdose data, and opportunities for improvement (e.g., Trauma Informed Care/Adverse Childhood Events training, healthcare services for individuals with substance abuse disorder, Narcan® distribution, recovery support services) were presented. Following the presentation, HCPH received a letter from EPHIA objecting to harm reduction services at the proposed location on Warsaw Avenue. Staff are canvassing the neighborhood and working with EPHIA to find another suitable location.





## 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 HIV and Syphilis testing services in many community settings. Funded programs are beginning to resume routine testing services as staff are becoming vaccinated and community infection rates for COVID-19 decrease. It is challenging to gauge current infection trends due to the pandemic; COVID-19 has likely masked some of the true incidence due to decreased testing. HCPH will closely monitor new infection rates as testing resumes. Despite these challenges, the HIV & STI prevention team maintained some testing services with limited walk-in testing times and by appointment. Eighty-two percent of clients newly diagnosed with HIV were engaged in infectious disease care. Disease Intervention Specialists achieved a partner index of 1.1 for new HIV cases. Additionally, the social marketing campaign developed by KW2 utilizing community input went “live” in March. Billboards will be placed around the County in strategic areas, and the website is accessible. The aim of the messaging is to reduce stigma, connect people to services, and encourage communication about HIV status, prevention, and testing. Lastly, HCPH submitted a proposal to ODH for the Ending the HIV Epidemic grant, which will help to fund new initiatives to end the HIV epidemic.



## PRIORITY AREA 5 – ORAL HEALTH

STATUS

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

Early in the pandemic, the Oral Health Coalition (OHC) emerged as a leading source for information on the rapidly changing local, state, and federal guidelines, as well as personal protective equipment, Interim Temporary Restoration approval, and reopening checklist and regulations. Additionally, the OHC became a leading advocate for legislative improvements including Tele-dentistry, Mobile Facility Legislation, and Silver Diamine Fluoride treatments. The OHC initiated regular communication with the over 2,000 oral health professionals in Hamilton County, as well as with federal qualified health centers and safety-net facilities. Building on these early successes and the established lines of communication, HCPH asked the OHC to head up the task of ensuring every oral health worker access to the COVID Vaccine. While early scarcity of vaccine supply offered challenges, the OHC is attributed with achieving 100% access to the vaccine in a timely, orderly, and equitable manner for all 2,000+ licensed oral health professionals and staff.



An unanticipated outcome of the pandemic is the necessity for an ‘all hands on deck’ approach to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine, leading to societal comfort with dentists as vaccinators. The OHC seeks to build on this concept by creating a campaign for dentists to administer the COVID-19 and flu vaccines in their practices. Further, dentists will be encouraged to be a touchpoint for ensuring patients have received all medically appropriate vaccines. This will help the OHC to open lines of communication and provide tangible examples to bridge the medical-dental divide.



## 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!

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