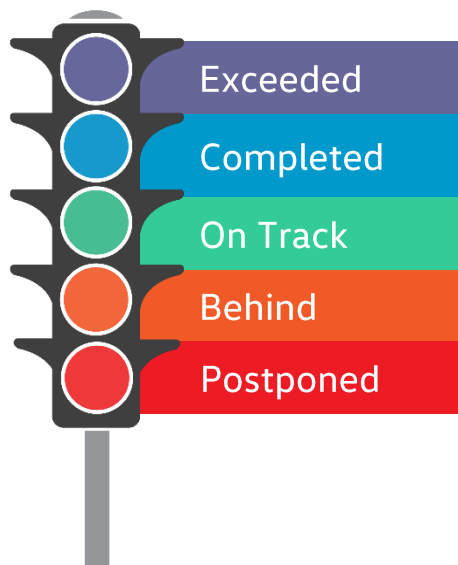




## PROGRESS REPORT KEY:



**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

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





## 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](https://www.watchusthrive.org)). The two priority communities for engagement in place-based healthy eating and active living strategies as part of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) pilot are North College Hill (NCH) and St. Bernard-Elmwood Place. Elmwood Place Elementary was awarded the Ohio School Wellness grant and are identifying if any strategies can be incorporated into their WeTHRIVE! work.

During the progress period, there were significant changes to staffing for the WeTHRIVE! initiative, including two new health educators. This led to a significant transition of the WeTHRIVE! communities assigned across the health education team and time needed to build relationships.

The team is revamping its pathway assessments that are to evaluate community-level policy and environmental changes and measure incremental change. The existing assessment structure is not ideal for measuring incremental change; community teams find the assessment cumbersome to complete. The team began meeting with partners to learn more about best practices and evidence-based strategies for each of pathways. The goal is to make the assessment more meaningful, as well as provide community teams with concrete strategies they can implement to enhance the overall health and safety of their community.

WeTHRIVE! Communities and Schools (that are not a part of the CHIP pilot) also experienced successes during the progress period worth noting. Highlights included: forest bathing event to encourage families to be out in nature (Amberley Village); community bike ride (Forest Park); yoga in the park (Golf Manor); expansion of the Cheviot Rocks program by creating a business passport program (Cheviot); WellSAT assessment completion (Winton Woods); and Picnic in the Park event where food and bike helmets were distributed to families (Three Rivers); and Northwest Local Schools became the 8th WeTHRIVE! School District in Hamilton County.

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**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. Year three of the grant cycle began on 7/1/2021. Quarterly activities focused on developing required plans for ODH, including for cessation and youth vaping projects. For cessation, HCPH will be partnering with the Oral Health Coalition to train dentists on Ask-Advise-Refer (AAR) and provide cessation resources. The youth vaping project involves partnering with the Princeton School District to implement peer-to-peer education strategies. In addition, two tobacco health equity workgroup meetings were convened by HCPH and The American Heart Association (grant requirement). The workgroup consists of partner organizations and individuals within priority communities who are working develop a five-year plan aimed at identifying and addressing tobacco-related disparities. Lastly, the Lockland City Schools updated their tobacco-free campus policy to meet ODH's updated comprehensive tobacco-free model policy.

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### 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 had success with online outreach efforts, calls to the Navigation line, and via the text line. Navigators were successful engaging pregnant women at the Hamilton County Office of Re-Entry's monthly One Stop Resource Event. OEI Navigators documented 816 hours of outreach during the progress period and reached 1,570 individuals through various outreach methods. Forty-four pregnant women were enrolled in navigation services. The team will resume its Bringing Up Mothers in Pregnancy (BUMP) events during next quarter to engage pregnant women. A partnership was established with Happy Hangouts, a local play center, to host BUMP events and breastfeeding/childbirth classes.

The OEI team revamped its resource guide to better organize resources that are known to be the most trusted, utilized, and that reflect the resources and services needed by the priority population. When sharing the resource guide, OEI Navigators can ensure moms only receive resources that correspond to an identified need rather than being overwhelmed by a lengthy resource guide. Time was also spent ensuring the revised resource guide was comprehensive and user-friendly.

The OEI team reviewed data from the social determinants of health assessment to better characterize and understand the experiences of moms while in the healthcare setting. Data suggested that few moms reported encounters or experiences of racism and/or discrimination. The team believed, that while this may be the case, it is also likely that there is underreporting due to the personal nature and sensitivity of this topic. OEI Navigators will reframe questions in a way that may make moms feel more comfortable engaging in such conversations. While it is not guaranteed to change responses, the team is hopeful that creating a safe space will encourage moms to be open about their experiences of racism and discrimination in the healthcare setting.

The UC OEI Navigator has noted transportation barriers that are causing women to miss their prenatal appointments. Medicaid is supposed to supply transportation, but some drivers refuse to pick up in low-income housing areas; these women do not have many other options. Transportation barriers will be a focus of the next Cradle Cincinnati Policy Committee meeting. Lastly, the OEI project coordinator gave two interviews to local media discussing the paid parental leave policy adopted by the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners and its impact on employer retention and maternal/child health. Subsequently, the HCPH Board of Health and Hamilton County Board of Elections also adopted a paid parental leave policy. The Policy Committee plans to approach Cincinnati Children's Hospital (which houses Cradle Cincinnati) to develop a similar policy.

The Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) and Child Fatality Review (CFR) case review teams met virtually. During the progress period, the FIMR team reviewed three cases and completed one maternal interview. Nine infant deaths, including six sleep-related deaths, were reviewed by the CFR team. New members were invited to assist in the review process to provide a unique insight on the recommendations that are shared. The FIMR program is partnering with The Alana Marie Project to provide up-to-date and culturally appropriate materials to families who have experienced a fetal or infant loss. Also, the FIMR team is working with the Fatherhood Project to evaluate language used on the interview tool to ensure inclusiveness of the father of the child/partner involved in the baby's life. Both FIMR and CFR are on track with reviewing 2021 cases.

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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, 321 Narcan® kits were distributed to first responders, community members, and through mail order request. A harm reduction team member participated in a panel presentation through the Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership on 8/31/2021 titled, "Overdose Prevention: Infusing Awareness and Outreach." HCPH's outreach efforts for the Narcan® distribution program, partnership development, and new Overdose app were shared.

The Trauma Informed Care (TIC) work experienced barriers during the progress period. Several schools that were interested in Handle with Care (HWC) did not feel they had the time to implement the program. Additionally, there were challenges with buy-in from some first responder agencies. The harm reduction team is working with school and first responders to better understand their needs and if they are implementing other programs around trauma in which HWC could fit. An environmental scan will be completed to understand the landscape of trauma informed work of schools and jurisdictions.

The harm reduction team's health systems/clinical work as part of our Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) grant includes the Overdose Fatality Review (OFR), Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), health systems coordination, and peer-to-peer Learning Collaborative. Much of this work has been on hold during COVID, but now has a dedicated staff person focused on ramping up these efforts. Partners are being engaged to participate on the OFR case review team.



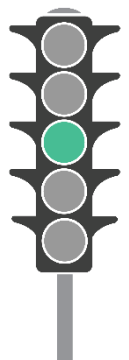
### GOAL 2: Fewer people who inject drugs will contract an infectious disease in Hamilton County.

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The Syringe Services Program (SSP) served 3,762 clients. A total of 259,463 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 36 Hepatitis C and 120 HIV tests administered. A new mobile command vehicle was acquired that is better suited for SSP services.

The partnership with Bloc Ministries to host a syringe exchange at Weightless Anchor and Community Matters for their clients successfully launched. On average, 10 people per week were provided with syringe exchange supplies. These partners reached out of offer the exchange at their location because they were finding syringes around the buildings. Their clients are largely transient, engaged in sex trafficking, or are otherwise marginalized. This partnership provides an opportunity to keep clients and the community safe, while focusing on engagement and linkage to services.

HCPH created a Syringe Return Project alongside HCPH's Waste Management division to safely collect improperly disposed syringes based on reports by the public. The "Hamilton County Public Health" app (in the App Store) features a "Report Found Syringe" feature. Users report the location where the syringe was found and has an option to submit an image. Trained staff are dispatched to properly dispose of the syringe.





## PRIORITY AREA 4 – HIV & SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

STATUS

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

HIV & Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) prevention strategies are primarily operationalized through grant funding from the ODH. HCPH and its funded programs were able to increase community testing and outreach efforts, though not yet to pre-pandemic levels. During the progress period, 731 individuals were tested for HIV. The number of new HIV diagnoses among people who inject drugs (PWID) continues to decrease since the initial outbreak began in 2017. While the rate of syphilis infections has increased significantly throughout the state, Hamilton County is not currently experiencing the same trend.

HCPH was awarded the Innovative Approaches to STI Prevention grant from the ODH. Expanded STI and sexual health services were piloted during the month of September 2021. Services were not advertised so that HCPH could assess the clinic volume from patients coming in via word-of-mouth. Thirty-two individuals were seen who otherwise would have been turned away for services. Eight patients (25 percent) had lab results that showed a positive test result on at least one of a variety of STI screens. Partnership will be established with non-profits to encourage individuals at high-risk for STI to come in for screenings, as well as promote expanded services among SSP clients.



## PRIORITY AREA 5 – ORAL HEALTH

STATUS

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

The Oral Health Coalition (OHC) embraced new technologies and innovations to aid in the effort to increase access to care, lower emergency department oral health encounters, and integrate oral health with medical health care. Teledentistry is new technology emerging as an ancillary benefit from the COVID pandemic. Through its role with the Ohio Dental Association, Medicaid Working Group, and the Value-Based Care initiative with Oral Health Ohio, the OHC is researching the usefulness and necessary safeguards of implementing Teledentistry. These efforts have illuminated best-practices that the OHC is elevating to the Ohio State Dental Board and Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM). With the passage of safe and applicable Teledentistry services laws, access to care will be expanded to many rural communities where dentistry is currently unavailable.

Another innovative path resulted from a partnership between the OHC and Cradle Cincinnati. This alliance is noteworthy because, while it is always important to maintain good oral health, it is especially important during pregnancy. Regular dental hygiene appointments are so important that the ODM extended post-partum benefits to 12 months, complimenting the current benefits during pregnancy. Additionally, the OHC provided Cradle Cincinnati with a list of safety-net oral health facilities for people without a dental home and collaboratively developed messaging for case managers and community health workers to distribute to expectant mothers across Hamilton County. Lastly, the OHC began partnering with HCPH to ensure more oral health providers are screening for tobacco use and referring to cessation services through a pilot project.



## CONTACT US!

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

HCPH.org

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