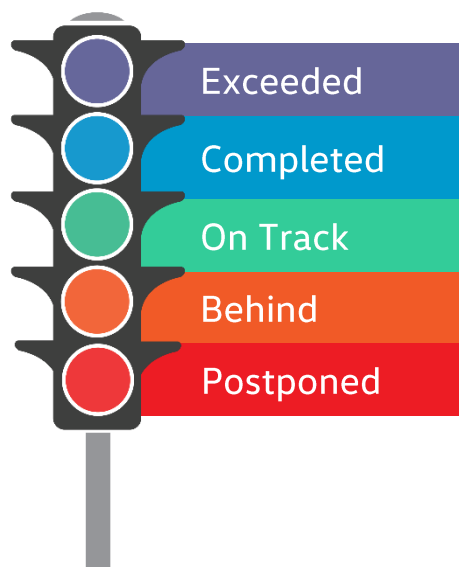


## PROGRESS REPORT KEY:



**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 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) pilot are North College Hill (NCH) and St. Bernard-Elmwood Place. NCH Schools hosted a district-wide Health and Wellness week for all students and staff that culminated with a health luncheon for staff to celebrate the end of the school year. The wellness team updated wellness bulletin boards in all buildings for students, staff, and visitors.

WeTHRIVE! Communities and Schools (that are not a part of the CHIP pilot) also experienced successes during the progress period worth noting. Community clean up days/One Stop Drop events were held in Amberley Village, Anderson, Deer Park, Reading, Whitewater Township. Community cooking classes and produce pop-up events continued in Forest Park, and the Reading Community Farmers' Market continued weekly. Additionally, Forest Park launched its Summer Fitness Series, Stepping on Classes for seniors, and hosted a city-wide City Cycle and Field Day event. Golf Manor launched Yoga in the Park, and Amberley Village hosted Yoga on the Lawn and Pickleball nights. Woodlawn hosted its first Heart-to-Heart Walk. Three Rivers, Reading, and Mt. Healthy City Schools wrapped up the school year with Wellness Week activities for students and staff. Additionally, Reading Schools piloted a pet therapy program for staff and students, providing therapy dogs onsite for support and comfort. Lastly, a community health assessment was completed and presented in Miami Township.

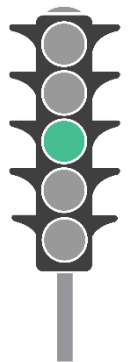
HCPH received a grant from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to create active transportation plans within Mt. Healthy and Lincoln Heights. The grant will launch during the next progress period.



**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 ODH and HCPH's WeTHRIVE! initiative. During the reporting period, HCPH staff worked with the Northwest Local Schools to adopt and implement an alternative to suspension program for tobacco-related offenses. First-time offenders can complete the My Healthy Future curriculum from Stanford School of Medicine's Tobacco Prevention Toolkit in lieu of suspension. Youth feedback was received throughout the adoption and planning phases. The updated tobacco policy now aligns with the alternative to suspension policy for other drugs and alcohol. Additionally, six trainings were provided, including Ask-Advise-Refer (AAR) strategies for providers and community members; youth vaping prevention and cessation; and the Ohio Tobacco Quitline. One counter marketing campaign was implemented focusing on smoking cessation. Staff partnered with three dental offices in Sharonville to provide AAR training, cessation resources, and identify strategies to screen patients for tobacco use and cessation needs. Lastly, Sharonville passed a tobacco-free playground policy making all playgrounds and splash pads within city parks tobacco-free.





## PRIORITY AREA 2 – MATERNAL, INFANT, & CHILD HEALTH

STATUS

### 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. The OEI team started the new grant year serving 51 women during the progress period. OEI Navigators documented 463 hours of outreach during the progress period and reached 1,479 individuals through various outreach methods. A new OEI Project Coordinator and Epidemiologist were hired during the progress period.

OEI Neighborhood Navigators continued to identify, screen, and serve women through non-traditional avenues. During the progress period, OEI Neighborhood Navigators hosted a Bringing Up Mothers in Pregnancy (BUMP) event focusing on breastfeeding education. The OEI Neighborhood Navigators also hosted designated office hours within priority communities for moms and families to meet with them. Additionally, Calendly, a free online scheduling software, was implemented to streamline intake scheduling. OEI Neighborhood Navigators can now send a link to moms during the initial interaction to schedule an intake at a time that works best for mom.

OEI Neighborhood Navigators continued providing breastfeeding community support and education through the Breast and Chest feeding Community Support (BACCS) project in partnership with the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. To increase lactation support within the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) community, a "Breastfriends" training was held on 6/30/2022 where an OEI Neighborhood Navigator trained 10 women to become "Breastfriends" and increase the number of BIPOC peer supporters within Hamilton County. The OEI team is working to partner with the YMCA and Early Head Start centers to make them breastfeeding-friendly locations, particularly at locations where infants are present.

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 two cases and conducted one maternal interview. Ten infant deaths, including seven sleep-related deaths, were reviewed by the CFR team. FIMR staff continued to assess internal processes and identify areas of opportunity for streamlining, efficiency, and innovative ways to continue moving the program forward. The FIMR team completed their participation in the National FIMR Storytelling Learning Collaborative where they learned how to leverage stories around fetal and infant loss to impact change in the community. The FIMR team will continue to build its storytelling skills with supplemental coaching sessions.

A change in vital statistics document access has slowed the process for CFR case reviews. The CFR staff is working with HCPH's vital statistics team and the Hamilton County Coroner's Office to identify a process to streamline document retrieval to continue case reviews in a timely manner.





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

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During the progress period, 2,274 Narcan® kits were distributed to first responders, community members, and through mail order request. The harm reduction team is working on its first Harm Reduction Annual Report for 2021 in partnership with the epidemiology team. The report will include surveillance data as well as updates on all activities the team worked on in 2021.

The newest initiative of the harm reduction division is the Recovery Friendly Hamilton County (RFHC) initiative. The goal of this initiative is to provide addiction and recovery support to Hamilton County businesses and their staff. Through the RFHC, employers are empowered to adopt recovery friendly workplace practices by providing substance use disorder-related training, harm reduction supplies such as Narcan®, linkage to care for employees, formal designation from HCPH as a Recovery Friendly Workplace, as well as ongoing consultation and guidance at no cost. In exchange, designees are asked to make an open declaration of commitment to the initiative, promote our offerings to their employees, and continue to work with HCPH staff to maintain their designation and continuously improve their recovery friendly practices. Eight Hamilton County employers are Recovery Friendly Workplaces.

A team member was hired during the progress period as the Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Interviewer. The OFR Interviewer is tasked with interviewing the next of kin in overdose cases. Through the next of kin interviews, the OFR Interviewer will gain a better understanding of challenges individuals may have experienced prior to their overdose. Information collected during the case reviews will be used to develop recommendations for interventions, policies, and/or systems changes to prevent future overdose deaths. One interview was conducted during the progress period.



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

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To better engage people of color, the syringe services program has been rebranded as SAFE Services (Stigma-free Access for Everyone) to expand reach to other communities. HCPH began working with an agency to develop branding for SAFE Services to better advertise to individuals and be more inclusive.

The SAFE Services program served 3,723 clients during the progress period. A total of 229,770 syringes were exchanged and 3,570 fentanyl test strips were distributed. The Harm Reduction team has been monitoring the number of fentanyl test strips provided to the community to better understand who uses them, why they use them, and how they might modify behavior after using them. Data shows that 75 percent of people who used the test strips modified their behavior in some way to avoid potential danger – they used less, had Narcan®, chose not to use alone, or chose not to use at all.

Clients are encouraged to get tested by educating them on the importance of knowing their Hepatitis C and HIV status. There were 12 Hepatitis C and 80 HIV tests administered.





## 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. A total of 961 individuals were tested for HIV with 208 referrals to treatment. An additional exam room was completed that is equipped with a lift/lower mechanism that will allow differently abled clients easier access to sit on the table and can also accommodate up to 500 pounds. The HCPH clinic provided services four days per week, with increasing demand for appointments. During the progress period, 185 individuals sought STI testing at the clinic, with over one-third receiving a positive lab result. Clients included a mix of individuals who are considered high-risk, those who are requesting routine screening for health maintenance, as well as individuals experiencing symptoms. Additionally, the HIV team conducted outreach at Pride events around the city, conducted testing at Walgreens for National HIV Testing Day, held an in-house Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) training, and launched the beginning stages of a PrEP/U=U campaign. The team is also mapping out a strategic plan to increase the number of agencies trained with HIV testers to increase testing capacity as part of the Ending the HIV Epidemic grant.

Rates of early syphilis increased statewide and nationally. HCPH disease investigation specialists make every effort to treat individuals as quick as possible to reduce spread and identify contacts that can benefit from testing and/or treatment. The increase in syphilis cases is significant amongst individuals with substance use disorders. Treatment of infectious individuals is prioritized through the HCPH clinic and by reducing barriers to treatment with transportation assistance and medical treatment. Approximately 633 cases have been assigned to Disease Investigation Specialists (DIS) to date in 2022. Current data indicates 88 percent of all syphilis cases were started on treatment within 14 days; 80 percent have been interviewed by DIS for partners within 14 days; 149 early cases identified with 106 identified contacts; and 33 partners have been prophylactically treated.



## PRIORITY AREA 5 – ORAL HEALTH

STATUS

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

The Oral Health Coalition (OHC) participated in the creation of the regional community health improvement plan (CHIP) led by The Health Collaborative. The OHC was placed on the Access to Services for Behavioral Health, Cardiovascular Disease, Dental, and Vision workgroup. Initial meetings established a strategic plan that included dental-specific topics. The Access to Services workgroup will be hosting listening sessions to amplify community voices to ensure gaps in access are heard and improved upon. Additionally, the OHC had the opportunity to collaborate with the Clark County Oral Health Coalition. The collaboration serves as an opportunity to share the OHC's history, strategic plan, successes, and partnerships fostered. Lastly, following the departure of Dr. Chuck Madden, a new director (Dr. Joseph Crowley) was hired to provide leadership for the OHC beginning in July of 2022.



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