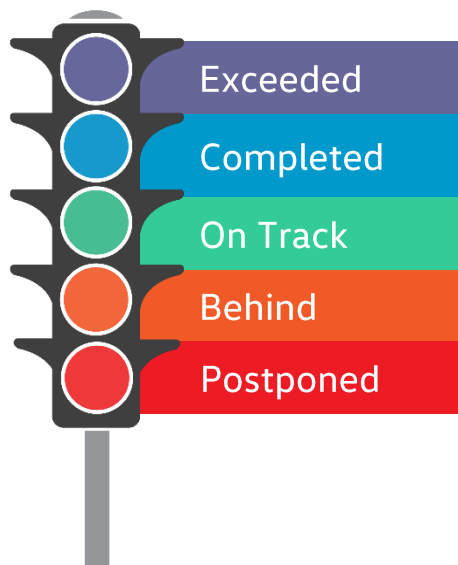




## PROGRESS REPORT KEY:



**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](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. Students from the NCH school district's Trojan Way Learning Center (students who have disciplinary issues or are considered at-risk) helped with maintaining the NCH School and Community Garden. The students planted vegetables and flowers, pulled weeds, and watered the garden. They completed a fall garden cleanup and created scarecrows. Also, Mission2Move successfully implemented four ongoing weekly mindfulness movement classes within the NCH school district. Classes averaged 12-15 students and were provided to students who are in-school suspension, as well as to middle school students who are in inclusion classrooms with some neurodivergent students.



WeTHRIVE! Communities and Schools (that are not a part of the CHIP pilot) also experienced successes during the progress period worth noting. Forest Park provided weekly community cooking classes in partnership with the Ohio State University Extension; monthly Produce Pop-Ups with the Freestore Foodbank; and weekly Stepping On classes with the Forest Park Fire Department. Weekly yoga programming was offered in Amberley Village and Golf Manor. Amberley Village also hosted pickleball events, while Reading invested in equipment for new pickleball courts. Golf Manor hosted a bike rodeo where helmets were distributed by the Children's Hospital Injury Prevention Center. Lastly, Reading and Woodlawn hosted community farmers' markets to promote locally grown and fresh produce.

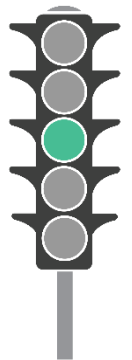
HCPH began implementing the active transportation planning grant from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). Teams from Mt. Healthy and Lincoln Heights met with staff from HCPH and the Hamilton County Planning and Development to review the project scope, develop goals, review data, develop an inventory of existing conditions, and plans to engage the community in active transportation usage and needs. Additionally, HCPH received a grant from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to create Social Determinants of Health accelerator plans within the 10 highest concentrated disadvantaged communities in Hamilton County.

**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 continued to work with the Northwest Local Schools on implementation of an alternative to suspension program for tobacco-related offenses. School staff were trained on the new program and were offered additional youth cessation and referral training (e.g., My Life My Quit).

HCPH staff worked with Delhi Township to pass a smoke-free playground policy in July. Signage was added to all playgrounds to inform the community of the new policy. Sharonville's tobacco-free playground policy was further communicated to the community through signage at all playgrounds and splash pads, as well as through education in the community newsletter. Meetings were held with the Deer Park WeTHRIVE! team to discuss a smoke-free playgrounds policy, as well as the Forest Park WeTHRIVE! team to discuss tobacco retail licensing policies.





### 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 served 76 women during the progress period. OEI Navigators documented 426 hours of outreach during the progress period and reached 1,068 individuals through various outreach methods. The UC Patient Navigator resigned. The OEI Project Coordinator is working with UC Health to identify a new Patient Navigator for OEI referrals.

OEI Neighborhood Navigators continued to identify, screen, and serve women through non-traditional avenues. During the progress period, OEI Neighborhood Navigators hosted monthly Bringing Up Mothers in Pregnancy and Post-Partum (BUMPP) events where the team partnered with subject matter experts on a variety of topics, including breastfeeding beyond babyhood and budgeting for baby. Additionally, the OEI team attended several events, including the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Farmers' Market and the First Ladies for Health community health fair to engage local pregnant women and families and share resources. The OEI Project Coordinator presented information regarding OEI during Project Lift's community partner meeting in September. Project Lift is an initiative of United Way that focuses on removing barriers to help families achieve financial stability. Lastly, the OEI Neighborhood Navigators also hosted designated office hours within priority communities for moms and families to meet with them.



HCPH's Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Epidemiologists developed a slide deck demonstrating Hamilton County's maternal mortality data from 2007-2021 as part of a maternal mortality data project. The presentation was shared and discussed with representatives from HCPH and Cincinnati Health Department administration, which has led to discussions regarding the formation of a regional maternal mortality review.

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 five cases and conducted seven maternal interviews. Four infant deaths, including three sleep-related deaths, were reviewed by the CFR team. The continued reviews and recommendations have allowed the Community Action Team to take a deeper dive into the resources available for families (e.g., community health workers, home visiting programs, etc.) to provide better linkage to services.

Lastly, HCPH collaborated with the Cincinnati Health Department and Cradle Cincinnati to conduct a deep dive analysis of sleep-related deaths in the county from 2017-2021. Despite a reduction in overall infant mortality, the analysis showed that Black babies are still dying at an alarming rate. Infant deaths resulting from unsafe sleeping environments remained constant since 2017, which provides an area of focus to further reduce infant deaths.





## PRIORITY AREA 3 — MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTION

STATUS

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

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During the progress period, 2,258 Narcan® kits were distributed to first responders, community members, and through mail order request.

The Harm Reduction team collaborated with 19 fentanyl test strip distribution sites during the progress period, including smoke shops, record stores, and barber shops. The goal of the partnership is to bring education, as well as harm reduction supplies, to locations that are frequented by people at risk for overdose from recreational drug use. The team also worked with the University of Cincinnati Wellness Center to promote and provide Narcan® and fentanyl test strips to students. The Harm Reduction Team also worked with Greek community and campus safety to educate students on the dangers of recreational drug use.

The Recovery Friendly Hamilton County (RFHC) initiative is up to nine businesses, including restaurants, construction companies, and social service organizations. The initiative aims to ensure employees and their families receive the resources and support they need to engage in and recover from substance use disorder. The Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners agreed to become a RFHC member, providing thousands of Hamilton County employees with vital resources and support to those who may need help with addiction or recovery support.

The Harm Reduction team was awarded a Promising Practice award from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) for its Easterseals workforce development initiative. The partnership with Easterseals is designed to grow and enhance the peer recovery specialist employment sector. Since the program's onset, the number of certified peer supporters in Hamilton County has grown more than 50 percent.

Lastly, a Recover Out Loud community festival was held on 9/24/2022 in partnership with the Hamilton County Addiction Response Coalition in honor of National Recovery Month. The event featured local vendors, music, food trucks, yoga on the lawn, and family fun activities. Storytelling sessions were also held where participants shared stories of recovery and the methods used to achieve continued success.



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

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The (Stigma-free Access for Everyone) SAFE Services program served 3,513 clients during the progress period. A total of 244,020 syringes were exchanged and 3,890 fentanyl test strips were distributed.

Clients are encouraged to get tested by educating them on the importance of knowing their Hepatitis C and HIV status. There were 11 Hepatitis C and 82 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 611 individuals were tested for HIV. The HCPH clinic provided services five days per week, with increasing demand for appointments. During the progress period, approximately 453 individuals sought STI testing at the clinic for a total of 581 appointments. Clients included individuals who are considered high-risk; those who are requesting routine screening for health maintenance; as well as individuals experiencing symptoms.

Syphilis rates statewide and regionally are significantly higher than in recent years. HCPH Disease Investigation Specialists (DIS) 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 and individuals engaged in sex work. Some increases may be due to individuals not seeking care during COVID spikes, therefore delaying treatment, and increasing community transmission. Approximate 1,024 cases have been assigned to DIS to date in 2022. Current data indicates 87 percent of all syphilis cases were started on treatment within 14 days; 78 percent were interviewed by DIS for partners within 14 days; 271 early cases identified with 153 identified contacts; and 46 partners were 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) continued its collaboration with the Clark County Oral Health Coalition (CCOHC). A joint meeting between the Hamilton County OHC and the CCOHC is scheduled for 11/10/2022. The meeting will include a presentation from national speaker, Dr. Alice Horowitz, who will highlight health disparities and health literacy challenges in the oral health field. Work continued on the Dollars for Dentures program. For the program to be successful, strong relationships with the dental lab industry is essential. As such, the OHC director began contacting local lab owners to explain the work of the OHC, as well as to negotiate discounted fees. Lastly, the OHC is building a list of organizations that are working in the oral health arena in Hamilton County. The organizations will then be categorized based on their relationship to the oral health care system (e.g., advocates, caregivers, funding agencies, foundations, etc.)



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