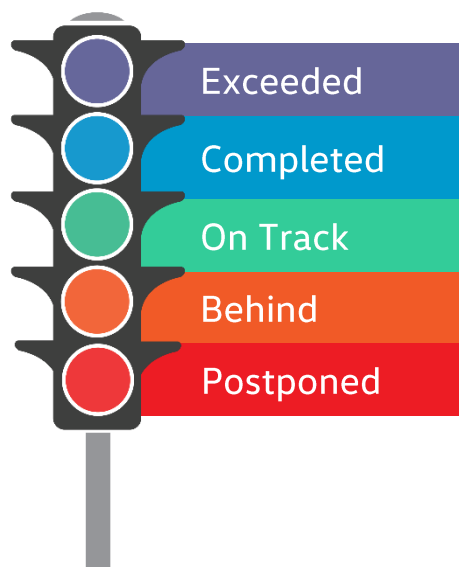


## PROGRESS REPORT KEY:



**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!<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. St. Bernard-Elmwood Place Elementary School completed the WellSAT assessment. Results will be used to recommend wellness policy changes.

The WeTHRIVE! Child Care initiative relaunched during the progress period. Two new child care providers within NCH (Greater Expectations Learning Center and Kids Plus Learning Center) signed the WeTHRIVE! Letter of Support and began working on the Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care (NAP-SACC).

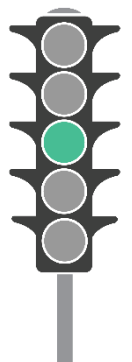
WeTHRIVE! Communities and Schools (that are not a part of the CHIP pilot) also experienced successes during the progress period worth noting. The Winton Woods School Wellness Team utilized the results from the WellSAT assessment to make significant changes to their school wellness policy. The Board of Education adopted the updated the Wellness Policy presented by the district wellness team. Winton Woods staff shared that without the WeTHRIVE! initiative and the assessment data, policy adoption would not have been possible. Additional highlights included: Walking Wednesday event for students and staff (Reading Schools); Produce Pop-Up event hosted at Clovernook (Mt. Healthy); community park clean up event (Deer Park); Bike helmet giveaway and opening of an accessible playground (Delhi Township); Ride and THRIVE! Family Bike Event and helmet distribution (Anderson Township); and community garden club start up (Reading).

Lastly, the WeTHRIVE! Team held its annual recognition event in December via Facebook Live. Five WeTHRIVE! Champions, as well as all WeTHRIVE! communities and schools meeting recognition requirements, received a proclamation from the Board of Health and a congratulatory video.



**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 partnership with the Oral Health Coalition to train dentists on Ask-Advise-Refer (AAR) and provide cessation resources launched during the progress period. Dental offices were identified and contacted. HCPH partnered with UC Medical Students to complete store audits of tobacco retail locations within the City of Sharonville; 23 store audits were completed. The youth vaping project in partnership with the Princeton City Schools has been delayed. A new school champion was identified to move the project forward during the next reporting period. Lastly, HCPH worked with the Step Up Anderson Coalition to develop a vaping education presentation for parents. Education was provided by HCPH during a coalition meeting and subsequently shared with all individuals on the coalition listserv.





### 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 finished the grant year strongly, serving 58 women during the progress period. During all of 2021, 87 percent of women served throughout the grant year identified as Black/African American – the highest percentage of Black/African American served by any of the nine OEI counties! OEI Navigators documented 586 hours of outreach during the progress period and reached 1,356 individuals through various outreach methods.

The team resumed its Bringing Up Mothers in Pregnancy (BUMP) events focused on engaging pregnant women with pregnancy and childbirth themed classes. The first BUMP event held in October focused on breastfeeding education. More events will be held in partnership with Happy Hangouts and Rosemary's Babies throughout the year. Additionally, an OEI Navigator completed an intake with a young pregnant mom who had very negative thoughts on breastfeeding. The OEI Navigator spoke about the benefits of breastfeeding and potential risks on formula feeding. By the end of the intake, the young pregnant mom was interested in learning more about breastfeeding. She was connected to the All Moms Empowered to Nurse (AMEN) group and is now a regular participant.

HCPH, through OEI, will be partnering with Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC) to implement the NACCHO funded "Continuing of Care in Breastfeeding Support – A Blueprint for Communities." The \$20,000 grant aims to increase local capacity to implement community-driven approaches to support chest/breastfeeding, centered on the needs of populations disproportionately impacted by structural barriers that lead to low rates of breastfeeding. The goal of this resource is to ensure that chest/breastfeeding support services are continuous, accessible, and coordinated, and that community spaces are consistently supportive of chest/breastfeeding families. Some mothers, especially women of color, hesitate to initiate breastfeeding due to return to work or perceived lack of support from their peers. OEI/CCHMC will be identifying local businesses, childcare centers, and workplaces to provide education and coaching to attain a breastfeeding friendly designation. Additionally, to increase lactation support within the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) community, a "Breastfriend" class will be hosted to create more BIPOC peer supporters, as well as offering one competitive Certified Lactation Consultant scholarship to a BIPOC. Three Community Breastfeeding Advisors were hired to provide additional assistance with the NACCHO grant project. They are identifying local businesses to target for breastfeeding education, as well as developing a script and toolkit for approaching businesses and introducing this project.

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 four cases and completed one maternal interview. Eleven infant deaths, including one sleep-related deaths, were reviewed by the CFR team. The FIMR team was selected to participate in the National FIMR Storytelling Learning Collaborative to learn how to leverage stories around fetal and infant loss to impact change in our community. The team participated in workshops and one-on-one coaching calls with Learning Collaborative mentors.





## 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, 679 Narcan® kits were distributed to first responders, community members, and through mail order request. The harm reduction team provided a national webinar on its EasterSeals project on 12/7/2021 called, "Partnerships, Programs, and Perspectives: Creating Sustainable Recovery Support in Hamilton County, Ohio." The webinar discussed successes, challenges, and lessons learned around partnership building and workforce development on the local level. Personal and professional experiences from Peer Recovery Supporters were also provided. Additionally, the harm reduction team submitted a Model Practice application to the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) for its workforce development program in partnership with EasterSeals. Winners will be announced during the next progress period.

The harm reduction team worked with a consultant to develop a stigma campaign that went live during the progress period. An HCPH staff member served as a model for the campaign, as well as several other community members in recovery. System coordination efforts in the harm reduction subcommittee of the Hamilton County Addiction Response Coalition is focusing in on their stigma work. The goal is to have a unified voice among all entities in the subcommittee who will endorse the same message to help combat stigma.

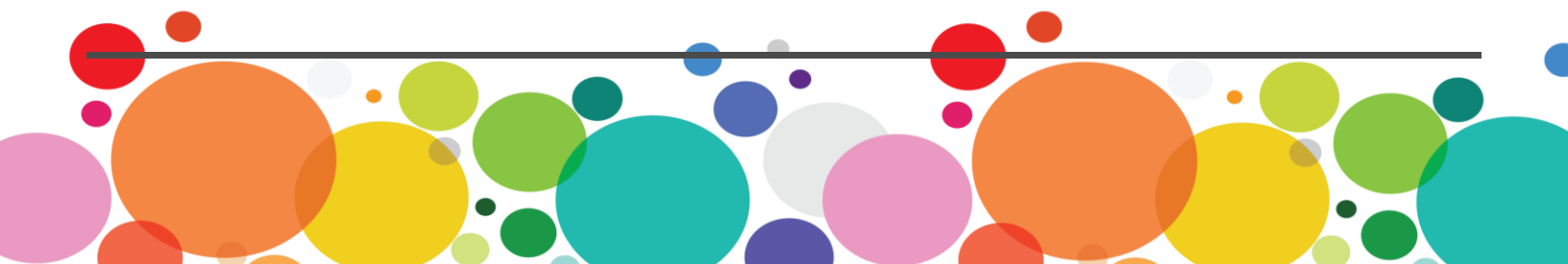
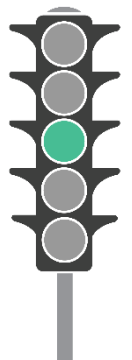
The trauma informed care work experienced barriers during the progress period. With so many schools operating remotely and/or struggling with staffing due to COVID, Handle with Care had been challenging to implement. Despite these barriers, Mt. Healthy was onboarded in the Handle with Care program during the progress period. Training was offered to first responders around adverse childhood experiences and trauma informed care.



### 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 3,589 clients. A total of 248,128 syringes were exchanged and 5,103 fentanyl test strips were distributed. 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 99 HIV tests administered. The fentanyl test strip program expanded to UC Health's emergency room and to the quick response team. The SSP hosted COVID-19 vaccinations, as well as partnered with Equitas to open a new location in Walnut Hills. Lastly, the harm reduction team is partnering with several organizations in Price Hill to offer syringe services as well as other linkage services. The program was named "Community Links."





## 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. Community testing continues to be a barrier due to an increase in COVID-19 cases. During the progress period, 525 individuals were tested for HIV identifying nine new positive cases (1.71% positivity rate). Ninety-seven percent of all syphilis cases were started on treatment within 14 days. Additionally, 29 syphilis contacts were identified; five were infected and treated. The increase in HIV diagnoses among people who inject drugs (PWID) continues to be a challenge. HCPH continues to look for opportunities to engage/re-engage these cases in infectious disease care and work towards creating improved treatment options.

To control the spread and treatment of common STIs, HCPH began providing Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT). The State of Ohio allows the treatment of up to two sexual partners of a patient who has tested positive for chlamydia or gonorrhea without being seen in a clinic. HCPH also continues to work with Caracole to establish referrals for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) services while continuing to develop capacity to provide services onsite. The goal is to offer PrEP conveniently through the HCPH clinic when assesses to be high risk for HIV acquisition at an STI appointment.

A HIV Program Coordinator for the Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) grant was hired. The EHE grant team started building out its program activities to begin in the next progress period. Lastly, the new HIV Program Coordinator was interviewed by WCPO on World AIDS Day (12/1) about our current and future efforts.



## PRIORITY AREA 5 – ORAL HEALTH

STATUS

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

The Oral Health Coalition (OHC) began research on innovative ways to improve access to oral health, including the use of 3D printing to fabricate dentures. While this technology currently exists and is being used in parts of the world, wholesale adaption has not been embraced by the oral health community. Additionally, early work in 3D printing dentures is cost prohibitive. New materials and innovations have reduced many of these barriers to entry, and the OHC has begun exploring a cost-benefit analysis to understand how this technology may benefit our community.

Another area of study the OHC has undertaken is to poll its members regarding staffing challenges and potential solutions – a challenge which was non-existent pre-COVID. While early reporting indicated that many oral health providers are maintaining acceptable levels of staffing, several are not; every organization is feeling staffing pressures in maintaining current staff, as well as shortages for new hires. The OHC will seek to establish strategies and pathways to alleviate the strain many organizations are currently experiencing related to staffing.



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