

# Ford County Needs Assessment

Ford County ROSC conducted key informant interviews throughout 10 different community sectors in Ford County. Data collected from these stakeholders, people with lived experience, and community members show that 100% of individuals interviewed see substance use as an issue in Ford County. Local law enforcement, Ford Co Probation, and local media stated they are seeing methamphetamine use rising to the most noticeable substance use struggle.

Roughly 70% of those interviewed recognized stigma and lack of education surrounding Substance Use Disorder (SUD) as one of the main concerns in Ford Co. Lack of SUD education contributes to the stigma present in Ford County. This is a major barrier to overcoming SUD, those suffering tend to hide their SUD which can reduce the chances of them seeking and receiving the treatment they may need.

Little to no support for the families and children also affected by SUD is another concern raised by the community. Substance Use Disorder affects families in many ways. Emotional pain and suffering, financial struggles, child development, and health problems are just a few examples. Many believe that Ford County needs resources to support families with loved ones who are struggling or have struggled with SUD.

Though it is recognized that Ford County does have some resources (MAR providers, Alcoholics Anonymous, SMART Recovery, and Celebrate Recovery) there is still a deficiency of many needed resources for those struggling with SUD. Transportation, local treatment providers, Drug Court, Narcotics Anonymous, and recreational activities are a few that are continuously mentioned. Another issue stated surrounding resources was a lack of awareness of existing services in Ford County.

Lack of education and awareness, supports and resources for those struggling with Substance Use Disorder and their families, recreational activities, and resources/information specifically surrounding Methamphetamine use are the main issues identified by stakeholders and community members throughout Ford County. In effort to address these community needs and concerns, the Ford County ROSC Council has made updates to the Strategic Plan which will serve as a guide to ensuring these needs are met.

