



Will/Grundy Counties – Community Needs Assessment

HLM Recover 180

Outreach and Communication Plan

Region 2 ROSC

Grundy County Residents: 52,989 (2021)

Will County Residents: 697,252 (2021)

We will continue to advocate for the needs of the community and work towards obtaining more resources.

Identified Gaps:

- Sober living options
- Treatment centers for people who are under resourced from insurance
- Covid greater risks
- Continuum of Care from diagnosis through long term care
- Recovery homes
- In need of an TCO
- A NAMI location open to the public, they need an office
- Emergency rooms – there needs to be warm hand offs to services
- Practicing evidence space care in response to overdoses
- Minimal outpatient services for mental health and substance use – especially for children and adolescence
- Not enough people showing up to work the services
- Start seeing more services provided in the school onsite as a curriculum
- Substance abuse coalition
- IYS Illinois Youth survey
- Increase in use of pills amongst our youth and the counterfeit pills being distributed
- There are not enough substance use/addiction treatment services in Will/Grundy County
- Visit treatment centers and find out their needs
- Obtain more long-term residential treatment
- We need more education on co-occurring disorders
- Difficulty to provide services without insurance
- A need for treatment childcare, transportation, employment, affordable housing, legal problems, peer-support, etc.

- Emergency housing
- Transportation
- Community facilities for youth
- Healthy & wellness mind and body available to the community
- People with lived experiences to work alongside the ROSC to help with programs and services
- Employment programs to help individuals get back to work after completion of recovery programs
- Recovery coach and peer support services
- Implement treatment centers in community for daily support
- Recovery support systems for counseling services, housing, and transportation in the community
- Incorporation of preventative programs for the youth and young adults

Overview

Uninsured

The lack of health insurance is considered a key driver of health status. This civilian non-institutionalized population without health insurance coverage. This indicator is relevant because lack of insurance is a primary barrier to healthcare access including regular primary care, specialty care, and other health services, contributing to poor health status.

According to the US Census Bureau, 5.9% of the Will County population is uninsured. There has been an overall decrease in the percentage of uninsured population since 2013 which could be attributed to IL Medicaid Expansion and the opening of the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace. According to the 2019 American Community Survey, 13.5% of the Hispanic/Latinx population in Will County reported no health insurance coverage, compared to 3.8% of the non- Hispanic/Latinx population. A larger percentage of uninsured residents reside in the Joliet area as well as parts of eastern Will County in the zip codes 60432, 60433, and 60484.

Homeless Population

One method calculating homelessness is using the Point-in-Time (PIT) count, which is a count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night in January, according to the Will County Continuum of Care (CoC). On January 21, 2021, 250 unique individuals were reported experiencing homelessness in Will County at the point in time event held from 6pm through 4am. Of these 250 individuals, 32% were children under the age of 18 and roughly 5% experience chronic homelessness. Roughly 30 homeless individuals were vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine at this event, in total roughly 195 individuals identifying as homeless were vaccinated in Will County during the duration of the pandemic. Will County Health Department, Alternative Housing Program provided over 600 nights of stay for COVID-19 positive housing insecure individuals during the pandemic through partnerships with local emergency shelters, and local hospitality organizations.

Behavioral Health Issues

Behavioral health continues to be a concern among Will County residents. The term behavioral health is inclusive of mental health and substance use disorders. Resources in Will County are limited for hospitalizations for mental health disorders as well as inpatient and outpatient treatment for substance use disorder. Individuals who lack insurance or are Medicaid recipients are additionally limited in their ability to find services.

The closing of the Tinley Park Mental Health Facility in June of 2012 reduced the availability of hospital beds for Will County residents due to mental health disorders. Will County MAPP Collaborative assessment findings in 2016 and 2018 confirmed that mental and substance use disorder treatment was difficult to access for many residents. In response to this need, Silver Cross Hospital partnered with US Health Vest to bring a 100-bed behavioral health hospital to Will County in early 2019.

Hospitalizations due to mental disorders is the third leading cause of hospitalization.

Success:

- Reducing overdose health
- Increasing access to care in mental health
- Health center open up a health clinic inside the schools
- YES program, placing mental health counselors in the schools – mental health providers on site
- Grundy County Health Alliance
- Starting to see more services provided in the school onsite as a curriculum
- Substance abuse coalition
- IYS Illinois Youth survey
- Decrease in use of drugs amongst our youth and the counterfeit pills being distributed