

Community Resource Assessment FY24 Edgar County ROSC Council (EdCRC)

Region: ROSC Region 4

Agency: Hour House

ROSC County: Edgar County

Contacts:

ROSC Coordinator, Ambrosia Roberts

ROSC Program Supervisor, Karen Cook

Purpose of the Community Resource Assessment: This research details a community resource assessment and describes how resources were evaluated in the context of local needs. The evaluation of local resources is an important initial step in partnership development and is essential for the success of health promotion and disease prevention interventions.

Executive Summary- Edgar County

<i>Leadership Center Agency:</i>	Hour House
<i>Type of Report:</i>	Community Needs Assessment- Edgar County
<i>Setting:</i>	Rural
<i>Total Number of Residents:</i>	17,433
<i>Number of School-aged Youth:</i>	2,683 in public schools and 96 in private schools; total of 2,779 school-aged youth
<i>Total Number of Schools:</i>	13 public school and 1 private school
<i>Total Number of Institutions of Higher Learning:</i>	0
<i>Total Number of Treatment Facilities:</i>	1
<i>Total Number of Coalitions/ROSC Councils:</i>	2 Coalitions, 1 ROSC Council

Background and Demographics



Edgar County is located in East Central Illinois, totaling 624 square miles and a population of 17,433 residents. The county was formed from Clark County in 1823 and was named after John Edgar, a Royal Navy officer who became a pioneer merchant, politician and land speculator in early Illinois (Family Search, 2021). Edgar County experienced a large population increase from 1830 (approximately 4,071 residents) to 1900 (28,273 residents). Since the early 1900's, the population in Edgar County has decreased approximately 60% (United States Census Bureau, 2022). Since its existence, Edgar County has primarily been an agriculture-related economy while the most common employment sectors currently are: manufacturing, health care and social assistance, and retail trade. In comparison to other counties, Edgar County has an unusually high number of residents working in farming, fishing, and forestry occupations (3.82 times higher than expected) (Data USA, 2021). Paris, Illinois occupies the county seat and remains the county's largest populated city with an

estimated 8,285 residents according to the U.S Census Bureau. An additional city within Edgar County is Chrisman, Illinois. Villages within Edgar County include Brocton, Hume, Kansas, Metcalf, Redmon, and Vermilion.

U.S. Census Race and Hispanic Origin Demographics 2022	
White Alone	97.4%
Hispanic or Latino	1.5%
Two or More Races	1.1%
Black or African American Alone	0.8%
Asian Alone	0.4%
American Indian/Alaska Native Alone	0.3%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander Alone	0.0%

U.S. Census Age and Gender Demographics 2022	
Persons under 5 years	5.1%
Persons under 18 years	19.7%
Persons 65 and over	24.2%
Female Persons	50.8%
Male Persons	49.2%

The median household income of Edgar County is \$51,300, which is 28% lower than the State of Illinois’s median household income of \$65,886 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2022). It is estimated that 13.0% of Edgar County residents living below the Federal Poverty Level and 6.1% of residents being uninsured or underinsured. It is currently estimated that 20% of children live in poverty and 24% of children are living in single-parent households (County Health Rankings, 2023). Edgar County is predominately comprised of Caucasian individuals, totaling 97.4% of the population. As of 2023, the unemployment rate of Edgar County stood at 4.0% of the population which is lower than the state of Illinois unemployment rate of 6.1%. According to Data USA, the economy of Edgar County employs 8,110 residents with manufacturing being the largest industry, employing an estimated 21% of the working population. Health Care and Social Assistance (18%) and Retail Trade (10%) are the two other largest industries within the county. In regards to health coverage, 95.2% of the population are insured with 45.7% on employee plans, 19% on Medicare, 17.5% on Medicaid, 12% on non-group plans, and 0.978% on military or VA plans (Data USA, 2023). In regards to education, it is estimated that 88% of Edgar County residents possess high school diplomas while in addition, only 18.2% of residents have completed some extent of higher-level education (U.S. Census Bureau, 2022).

According to the 2023 Illinois County Health Rankings, Edgar County has an overall ranking of 79 out of 102 for health outcomes which is based on two types of measures: length of life and quality of life. Factors that have contributed to this score are premature deaths, poor or fair health, poor physical health days, and poor mental health days – all of these factors for

Edgar County are higher than the State of Illinois averages. In addition, Edgar County has an overall ranking of 77 out of 102 for health factors which is based on four types of measures: health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic, and physical environment factors. The health factors that have improved for Edgar County over the years are alcohol impaired driving deaths, number of residents that are uninsured, and the amount of particulate matter in the air in the county. The health factors that have declined are adult obesity, sexually transmitted infections, and children in poverty. Edgar County’s health outcome and health factor rankings are considered to be in the lowest range of counties in Illinois.

Youth Population Data

According to the Illinois Report Card, there are six school districts school within Edgar County totaling six elementary schools, three middle schools, and four high schools. The total enrollment for the county is 2,650 students. An individualized school district comparison, along with data for the State of Illinois, is provided in the table below:

IL Report Card 2021-2022	Edgar County CUSD 6	Kansas CUSD 3	Shiloh CUSD 1	Paris CUSD 4	Paris-Union SD95	Paris Cooperative High School	State of Illinois
Enrollment	301	175	353	426	881	514	1.9M
Grades Served	PK-12 th	PK-12 th	PK-12 th	PK-8 th	PK-8 th	9 th -12 th	PK-12 th
Graduation Rate	89%	93%	83%	Data Unknown	Data Unknown	88%	87%
Mobility Rate	14%	10%	12%	4%	9%	10%	8%
Truancy Rate	10%	Data Unknown	8%	Data Unknown	Data Unknown	10%	2%2
Low-Income	42%	52%	51%	27%	94%	48%	47%
IEP’s	29%	16%	16%	14%	25%	12%	17%

One Edgar County School Principal stated “vaping is a huge problem amongst our students, with marijuana and alcohol use increasing.” Substance use trends amongst Edgar County youth were assessed through the 2022 Illinois Youth Survey (IYS). In 2022, 309 Edgar County youth, participated in the IYS as compared to 694 in 2018. Breakdown of student participation is as follows:

- 8th Grade: 147 surveyed, average age of 13.5
- 10th Grade: 130 surveyed, average age of 15.6
- 12th Grade: 32 surveyed, average age of 17.4

2022 Illinois Youth Survey Substance Use Rates by Grade; Edgar County

Used past 30 days	8 th Grade	10 th Grade	12 th Grade
Alcohol	19%	18%	23%
Any tobacco or vaping products	10%	18%	31%
Marijuana	7%	13%	22%

Additionally, 17% of 10th grade students and 23% of 12th grade students reported using alcohol or drugs to relax, feel better about themselves, or to fit in during the past 12 months. During Fiscal Year (FY) 21, July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, the Human Resources Center of Edgar and Clark Counties (HRC) served a total of 3 youth with outpatient substance use services.

Stakeholders within Edgar County have stated that mental health is a top concern for their students, as behavioral issues have seemed to significantly increase. School personnel have shared that approximately 1/3 of students come from drug-endangered homes, which has resulted in negative impacts on their behavioral and academic performance. Mental health concerns amongst Edgar County youth were assessed through the 2022 Illinois Youth Survey. The percentages of students responding in the affirmative to questions related to mental health are outlined below:

During the past 12 months did you ever seriously consider attempting suicide:

10th grade – 25%, 12th grade – 26%

During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities:

8th grade- 45%, 10th grade- 48%, 12th grade- 35%.

As reported by HRC, there were a total of 139 youth served by HRC’s mental health program and services in FY21.

For over 23 years, HRC has implemented substance use prevention services for Edgar County youth. Through the Illinois Department of Human Services, HRC is the Substance Use Prevention Provider for Edgar County. According to HRC, the Substance Use Prevention

Program team utilizes the evidence-based substance use prevention curriculum, *Too Good for Drugs*, to educate every 6th and 7th grade student in Edgar County. This age and developmentally appropriate curriculum empower adolescents to meet the challenges of life while building resistance to substance use. In addition, *Too Good for Drugs* equips students with five essential social and emotional learning skills: communicating effectively, identifying and managing emotions, setting reachable goals, making responsible decisions, and bonding with pro-social others (Mendez Foundation, 2021). In addition, HRC promotes the IYS amongst Edgar County school personnel in an effort to increase student participation.

Adult Population Data

Edgar County is considered a rural county, which defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, is all population, housing, and territory not included within an urban area. Although metropolitan, suburban, and urban areas are often perceived to have higher rates of substance use, rural communities possess higher rates of use for tobacco and methamphetamines, while heroin and prescription drug misuse have grown in communities of every size (Rural Health Information Hub, 2020).

As estimated by the Edgar County Probation Department, 90% of probation cases are substance use related, with demographics averaging to be Caucasian adults between 20 – 40 years of age. Stakeholders share that methamphetamine is the most commonly misused substance with belief that residents are accessing this drug from dealers within the county. As one stakeholder quoted, “meth is the county’s worst enemy.” In addition, misuse of heroin, opioids, and fentanyl have increased over the years. Stakeholders shared that there is a harmful, hereditary cycle that substance misuse has on local families, stating, “Substance use impacts a wide variety of individuals but it tends to run in families, generation after generation.” The Edgar County Jail estimates that approximately 80% of inmates have a Substance Use Disorder and/or need substance use treatment. At this time, the Edgar County Jail lacks jail-based services, resulting in many individuals not receiving the assistance that is needed. The jail has expressed the potential for recovery navigator services to be available for inmates during their time at the jail.

Through HRC’s outpatient substance use program, a total of 134 unduplicated Edgar County adults were served in Fiscal Year 2021. In addition, a total of 312 unduplicated Edgar County adults were served through HRC’s mental health program and services. The majority of residents served through HRC’s programs and services are on Medicaid, with approximately 40% of individuals being unemployed. In addition, many clients are referred by the Edgar County court system, One Hope United, or the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), very few clients are self-referred.

According to the Illinois Opioid Data Dashboard for Edgar County, non-fatal overdoses from heroin were reported amongst individuals 25-54 in 2022. In addition, non-fatal overdoses from opioids other than heroin were reported amongst individuals ages 25-64 in 2022. Other opioids category includes synthetic opioids (ex: fentanyl) as well as prescription medications (ex: hydrocodone, oxycodone) whether obtained legally or illicitly (IDPH, 2019). As reported

overdoses are less than 10 counts, a specific number of overdoses for each category and age group is not reported. It is important to acknowledge this data may not be fully inclusive of the total number of nonfatal overdoses, as not all nonfatal overdoses may be reported.

Illinois Prescription Monitoring Program (IPMP) 2020 Data:

<i>Total Buprenorphine Patients per County</i> (the total number is based on the patient's location)	68 patients
<i>Total Buprenorphine Prescriptions per County</i> (the total number is based on the location of pharmacy where the prescription is dispensed)	366 prescriptions
<i>Greater than 90MME on Average per Day</i> (patients who have been prescribed greater than 90MME (Morphine Milligram Equivalent) on average per day)	22 patients

Stakeholders have shared that Edgar County has historically been known for its high rates of methamphetamine use, which has contributed to stigma amongst residents. As one stakeholder quoted, “Those who do not know have direct experience with those who are in current addiction or recovery, have a negative stigma towards those with a substance use disorder.” In addition, another community activist stated that, “Individuals oftentimes believe that addiction only affects people who come from trauma filled homes.”

Services and Support Available

Incorporated in 1968, the Human Resources Center of Edgar and Clark Counties (HRC) was organized for the purpose of offering community and rehabilitative services. Today, over fifty years later, HRC continues to live its mission of “helping people help themselves through exceptional human service and community collaboration.” HRC is a 501(c)(3) non-for-profit agency that provides comprehensive behavioral healthcare in East Central Illinois with locations in Paris, IL. (Edgar County) and Marshall, IL. (Clark County). HRC is certified to be a Level 1 and Level 2 outpatient substance use treatment provider. Substance use disorder treatment and support services include the following: assessment and treatment planning, individual and group therapy, case coordination, referrals, DUI evaluations and education, and intervention services. Services are available for youth ages 12-17 years of age and adults 18 years of age or over. HRC accepts most funding sources and welcomes all types of referrals including self, court, employer, DCFS, etc.

Through the utilization of HRC’s case managers, certified and licensed therapists, and a board-certified psychiatrist, a variety of mental health services, support, and therapies are offered. Specialized therapies include family therapy, corporate employee assistance programs (EAP's), and gambling education and treatment services. In addition, HRC offers “The Living Room” which is an adult mental health crisis respite program designed to offer support for anyone

experiencing increased stress or mental health symptoms. They assist in the distribution and education of NARCAN® to community members.

Pertaining to additional harm reduction services, the Edgar County Health Department offers a needle exchange program, which allows county residents to drop off used needles and obtain clean and unused needles. In return, these services reduce the negative consequences that are associated with drug use. The ECPHD also distributes NARCAN® to community members and provides trainings upon request. Overall, additional health promotion efforts could be enhanced to ensure residents are accessing and utilizing this service.

Paris Community Hospital, affiliate of Horizon Health, is a full-service critical access hospital that includes emergency medicine, radiology, educational services, and more. Through its vision statement of “to meet the ever-changing healthcare needs of our communities” and its mission statement of “to provide excellent patient care and promote wellness throughout our communities,” Paris Community Hospital serves as a valuable resource for Edgar County residents.

Naloxone Distribution Data 2022:

Over the last several years, Edgar County has made Naloxone more readily available in the community. The Edgar County Public Health Department, HRC, CARE, Champaign Urbana Public Health District, and ROSC have all had a part in increasing naloxone distribution within Edgar County. The ECPHD is a subgrantee of the CUPHD’s Narcan distribution grant, and that is who they receive their NARCAN through. HRC and Central East Alcoholism and Drug Council (ROSC) are both apart of the Drug Overdose Prevention Program (DOPP) and that is where they receive free Narcan through. CARE is also apart of Narcan distribution within the county. The following chart represents data that was collected that shows naloxone distribution for FY 22 in Edgar County.

Narcan Distributors	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Champaign-Urbana Public Health District				191	75	48							314
Central East Alcoholism and Drug Council									60	206	96		362
HRC										12	12	12	36
Vermillion County Health Department									12				12
Total				191	75	48			72	218	108	12	724

Substance Use Gaps Across the Continuum

Promotion: Overall, substance use stigma remains present amongst Edgar County community members. Stakeholders have shared community members do not truly understand what addiction entails and lack general awareness and understanding of Substance Use Disorders. As previously stated, stakeholders have shared that stigma can inhibit individuals from attending community education events regarding substance use, support groups, or seeking needed treatment. Overall, the lack of education and information regarding Substance Use Disorders contributes to the stigma present within Edgar County. Stakeholders have shared that additional educational efforts are needed within the community to increase awareness and decrease stigma.

Prevention: As staffing shortages are negatively impacting local agencies, including treatment centers and schools, stakeholders are faced with limited support and resources. Multiple stakeholders have shared that additional training on early identification and screening of substance use is needed amongst the medical community.

Intervention/Harm Reduction: Edgar County residents have stated that a drug court is highly needed within the community. As drug courts are designed to help residents recover from substance use disorder while providing an effective solution to addressing substance use within the criminal court system, many stakeholders believe that this implementation would have a long lasting and positive impact. Through this effort, drug courts would provide Edgar County with court programs that would offer individuals the opportunity to seek substance use treatment and agree to court supervision rather than receiving a jail sentence. Drug courts recognize that addiction is a chronic disease that affects behavior and impulse control, and rather than punishment, the primary goal of these services would be treatment for the disease (National Drug Court Resource Center, 2021). Edgar County is currently in the process of pursuing a pilot drug court program, with the hopes to get the program certified in the future. Overall, health promotion efforts regarding intervention and harm reduction supplies and services, including safe syringe access, NARCAN® distribution fentanyl testing strips, and xylazine testing strips, can be enhanced to ensure residents are aware of these programs and supplies.

Treatment: Transportation is the number one barrier Edgar County residents face when accessing substance use services and support. Although HRC offers mental health and substance use services and support for residents, stakeholders have shared that waitlists can extend anywhere from three to six months. Furthermore, Edgar County lacks a detoxification facility, which many residents require before seeking additional recovery support. As HRC is facing staffing shortages along with substantial caseloads, county residents oftentimes travel to Charleston, Mattoon, Champaign, Danville, or Terre Haute, IN. to receive the services and support that they need. As these cities are anywhere between 30 and 70 miles away from Edgar County, residents are often faced with difficulties of transporting themselves to and from treatment centers.

Further, the Edgar County Jail faces multiple barriers when attempting to provide support and assistance for inmates in need of substance use services. Currently, the Edgar County jail does

not possess a private room for telehealth services, support groups, or other substance use recovery services, resulting in many individuals not receiving the assistance that is needed.

Stakeholders have shared there are various barriers with providing telehealth services and online support as multiple residents have limited or no access to broadband services. One stakeholder shared, “Many individuals do not have access to Wi-Fi and many times phone calls are unsuccessful. This has been a challenge with providing individuals with the support that they need.”

Recovery: As defined by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, recovery is a process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential. When examining recovery efforts and supports within Edgar County, there has been major strides over the past few years to increase recovery supports and services in the county. In July of 2021, the Hour House was awarded an expansion grant that allowed for ROSC to expand into Edgar County. The Edgar County ROSC was developed with stakeholders from various sectors and people with lived experience. Since the formation of the ROSC council, there has been many events hosted to assist those in recovery and more collaboration has been taking place between stakeholders.

The Living Room program through HRC is a non-clinical space that provides a safe and calm environment for individuals seeking recovery support activities. The Living Room Project consists of four primary focus areas: Crisis Prevention Deflection Alternatives, Mentoring and Peer Recovery Assistance, Employment Services, and Mental Health Prevention and Education. According to the 2021 Illinois County Health Rankings, there are approximately 950 residents for every one mental health provider within Edgar County.

HRC offers various services that are designed to support and assist individuals with developmental disabilities. Some of these services include independent living assistance for individuals or for individuals living in their own homes or apartments, employment assistance to ensure that employment is obtained and maintained, and hands-on-training in the areas of daily living, communication, academic, vocational skills, safety, community awareness, and socialization.

The Edgar County Community Mental Health 708 Board is a seven-member board that administers the Community Mental Health Act. As defined by National Council for Mental Wellbeing, this act was signed by President John F. Kennedy in 1963 to alter the delivery of mental health services and inspired a new era of optimism in mental healthcare, which led to the establishment of comprehensive mental health centers throughout the country. The Edgar County 708 Board strives to promote a full array of coordinated mental health, substance use, and developmental disability services for all residents of Edgar County.

Various support groups are offered within the Edgar County community including Al-Anon, Celebrate Recovery, Narcotics Anonymous, RU Recovery, and Alcoholics Anonymous. Although there are a few support groups offered, meeting times and virtual options are limited. Despite the availability of these groups, stakeholders have shared that community stigma and lack of awareness inhibit individuals from seeking the help that they need, resulting in limited

meeting times and locations. As one local stakeholder shared, “There is no recovery community or recovery support in the area. We need more support groups to let people know that they are not alone, that recovery is possible.” Many community stakeholders have recognized that many people from Edgar County go to Terre Haute or outside counties for recovery support groups.

In regards to substance use coalitions, the Community Addiction Response and Education (CARE) Coalition was incorporated in September of 2015 in effort to address the community’s opioid addiction. As substance use increased amongst loved ones and community members, Edgar County stakeholders gathered to start implementing positive change within the community that in return, would save lives and reduce the number of overdoses. The CARE Coalition is comprised of over 30 stakeholders, which represent a variety of sectors: law enforcement, community action agencies, school personnel, treatment administration, health department, and many more. These stakeholders meet monthly to identify gaps and discuss action plans to achieve four initiatives: NARCAN®/emergency care, education, structure, and crisis placement/information. To date, the CARE Coalition has implemented multiple successes within the community, which include, but are not limited to:

- Working with local healthcare providers to decrease opioid prescriptions
- Implementing substance use prevention education to over 1,000 community members
- Participating in town hall meetings to promote a drug-free community
- Local fundraising to financially support individuals in need of substance use treatment
- Guiding and encouraging the creation of local support groups
- Social media awareness, promoting drug takeback days, and participating in Red Ribbon Week events
- Providing gas cards and finding volunteers to get individuals to treatment facilities

In 2021, CARE was awarded the 2021 Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit of the Year award. Pertaining to harm reduction strategies and support within the county, Champaign Urbana Public Health District is funded through the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery (IDHS/SUPR) to provide Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) services within Edgar County. NARCAN® is distributed to all county schools, Fire Departments, Police Departments, Sheriff Deputies, Emergency Medical Services, and first responders, and is available at every local clinic and healthcare walk-in facility. Additionally, the Edgar County Health Department, HRC, and CARE Coalition are all crucial resource for the Edgar County community, allowing stakeholders to build a culture that nurtures recovery.

Furthermore, sober living facilities are currently not offered within Edgar County. As transitioning home upon completion of a substance, use treatment program has the ability to bring various challenges and hardships, sober living facilities offer a structured environment that supports sobriety and self-sufficiency (American Addiction Centers, 2021). To conclude, there is an inadequate amount of support groups within Edgar County with stakeholders sharing, “our community needs more support groups, we are very limited.” To receive access to additional support groups, county residents are forced to travel to neighboring counties, such as Coles

County (40 miles away from Edgar County). In return, residents are faced yet again with transportation barriers to receive needed support services.

Conclusion

Access to education, prevention, treatment (including harm reduction), and recovery supports will reduce stigma and result in empowering individuals to live healthier lives. Our next steps will include assisting community stakeholders with developing a community action plan that addresses the gaps and barriers identified in this document.