

FY24 Community Resource Assessment- Madison/St. Clair County

ROSC/Lead Agency: MERC/Chestnut Health Systems

Total Number of Residents (reported current estimates): 524,089 (Madison: 264,403/St. Clair 259,686)

Total Number of ROSC Councils (1), RCOs (1), and Coalitions (2): 4 (Metro East Recovery Council; RCO-Amare; Partnership for Drug-Free Communities; St. Clair County Drug Prevention Alliance)



Madison County

Demographics

Square Miles: 725.0
2020 Population: 187,778
Density: 259.0/sq mile
County Group: Small Urban Counties

IDPH classifies all Illinois counties into one of four groups: Rural, Small Urban, Suburban and Urban. This allows for health information for a county to be compared to similar counties around the state.



St. Clair County

Demographics

Square Miles: 663.8
2020 Population: 255,087
Density: 384.3/sq mile
County Group: Small Urban Counties

IDPH classifies all Illinois counties into one of four groups: Rural, Small Urban, Suburban and Urban. This allows for health information for a county to be compared to similar counties around the state.



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Introduction

The following includes information regarding Madison and St. Clair counties in Illinois. Portions of these counties are considered to be part of the St. Louis Metro East and are among the most populated IL counties south of Chicago and surrounding counties. The ongoing Opioid Epidemic has greatly impacted these counties with most recent reports showing an opioid fatality rate per 100,000 capita in Madison County of 37.1 and 30.6 in St. Clair County, which ranks them amongst the highest in the state (IL Department of Public Health's Overdose Report). MERC has compiled information from Madison and St. Clair County's 2021-2026 IPLAN, the St. Clair County Health Improvement Plan, and the St. Clair County Health Department 2022-2026 Strategic Plan to identify: local strengths and resources that provide support to those seeking and those who are in early recovery, and to identify opportunities for growth and strengthening of resources. Both Madison and St. Clair County have identified Substance Use among their top priorities to address in the coming years due to the ongoing impact of substance abuse and ultimately the continued high number of overdose deaths.

MERC will work in collaboration with county health departments, local behavioral health providers, established coalitions, various community harm reductionists, State Opioid Response funded programs, and Opioid Settlement funded programs both to compliment identified areas of strength and help cultivate identified areas of need.

Madison and St. Clair County Demographics

Demographics	Madison	St. Clair
Total Population	264,403	259,686
Male	49.10%	48.1%
Female	50.90%	51.9%
Population by Age		
under 5 years	5.6%	5.8%
5-19 years	18.5%	22.9%
20-64 years	58.2%	53.8%
65 years and older	17.7%	17.5%
Population by Race		
% White (non Hispanic)	84.00%	65.40%
% Black or Afr. American	8.30%	30.40%
% Asian	1.30%	1.40%
% Amer. Indian/Alaskan Native	0.30%	0.30%
% Hispanic or Latino	1.94%	4.70%
Median Household Income	\$67,440	\$63,017
Persons in Poverty, percent	11.40%	13.30%

data taken from county IPLANs and census.gov

Survey Results re: Substance Use, Overdose Deaths, Mental Health

Responses from MERC Surveys and Stakeholder meetings

Over the past several months, Community Health Specialists from Chestnut Health Systems have conducted surveys and held numerous discussions with community members to determine:

1. Awareness and understanding of available local resources
2. Primary concerns related to substance use and recovery supports in Madison and St. Clair Counties.

Local Resources

When asked about services available to individuals and/or families, it quickly became clear that there is a knowledge gap pertaining to resources present in Madison and St. Clair Counties. While some individuals were aware of harm reduction services in St. Clair County, for example, others were unaware if or where residents could access these services. Most respondents were able to identify local treatment entities (Chestnut, Centerstone, and Gateway) and were aware of the availability of NARCAN®. Some respondents identified inpatient and outpatient treatment programs, MAT, harm reduction services, 12-step programs, Warm Handoff programs, and Recovery Community Organizations (Amare, NFP) as valuable community resources while others shared that they are unaware of the availability of these programs.

Primary Concerns Related to Substance Use and Recovery Supports

The following themes emerged in both survey and interview responses:

- Stigma
 - ✓ People concerned about seeking treatment or access to recovery supports due to privacy and fear of judgement
 - ✓ Fear of disclosure or “someone finding out”
 - ✓ Stigmatizing language and/or behavior on part of individuals “in authority”
- Lack of coordinated treatment response among county entities
 - ✓ Better communication is needed among providers and government agencies
- Presence of co-occurring mental health disorders that complicate substance use disorder treatment
- Lack of adequate family supports
- High rates of overdose- also linked to Fentanyl and Xylazine
- Lack of awareness related to available treatment and recovery supports
- Lack of adequate number of local treatment beds; access to residential treatment services
- Lack of secular recovery support meetings for individuals or families/support circles
- Lack of widespread youth prevention education in St. Clair County- only specific communities covered (Belleville, Swansea, East St. Louis, Cahokia, Dupo)

While it is clear that all of the concerns highlighted by respondents are critically important, we also understand that several of the issues are out of our purview. For instance, given the many contributing factors related to the lack of adequate local treatment beds, we are unlikely to be able to address that in the upcoming year. What we can do is identify community partners to enlist to advocate for additional

treatment options. In the next section of this document, we will outline a plan to address each of the aforementioned primary concerns identified in our assessment. Some of those concerns will be addressed as part of our direct work in the community. Others will be included in awareness, education, and advocacy efforts.

Suggestions from Respondents

Several individuals offered ideas for projects and programs MERC could work on in the upcoming year:

- Provide education related to available services and resources. “Specifically, that we are here and can help”.
- Sponsor training related to available resources for MERC members.
- Sponsor training related to stigma and trauma for Law Enforcement and EMTs.
- Provide stigma reduction education for community members.
- Advocate for NARCAN®/naloxone distribution to individuals leaving jails/prisons.
- Increase access to secular recovery support meetings.
- Provide education for parents.
- Provide education regarding availability of online recovery support options.

Responses from Madison County IPLAN (388 Responses from Community Health Assessment Survey)

Madison County residents were asked to report on the most urgent health issues the county is facing, and respondents listed mental health and substance misuse as number one and two on the list (with number three being access to care). These concerns outranked things like cancer, heart disease, obesity, etc. The perception of the county respondents is supported by the overdose trends that continue to surpass state and national averages with the most up-to-date data showing an opioid fatality rate per 100,000 capita of 37.1 (in comparison Cook county is 34.4) The health department took this information into account and the Madison County Board of Health adopted mental health, substance use, and access to care as health priority areas. Chestnut Health Systems (MERC’s lead agency) was identified as one of the counties major resources to help address these concerns.

Available Resources

For more information about local resources please reach out to your MERC team or utilize the links found below.

Mark Knott maknott@chestnut.org

Angella Holloway aholloway@chestnut.org

Naloxone/NARCAN training and distribution: SR-NARCAN@chestnut.org

FY24 MERC Resource Map: <https://www.govst.edu/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=52653>

Treatment Directory: <https://www.govst.edu/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=39952>

Gaps

The following link demonstrates gaps identified in the Madison/St. Clair County service area:

<https://www.govst.edu/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=52652>

MERC's Strategic Plan to address gaps and promote resources

The following link takes you to the FY24 Strategic Plan:

<https://www.govst.edu/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=52651>

Resources and additional county information

[Madison County IPLAN -FINAL 6.30.22 \(003\) \(003\).pdf \(revize.com\)](#)

[SCCHD IPLAN 2021 2026.pdf \(scchealthdept.com\)](#)

[SCCHD Strategic Plan 2021 2026.pdf \(st-clair.il.us\)](#)

[St. Clair County Community Health Improvement Plan \(st-clair.il.us\)](#)

[U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Illinois; St. Clair County, Illinois](#)

Illinois Department of Public Health: Statewide Semiannual Overdose Report