

Community Resource Assessment FY24 DeWitt ROSC Council (PCRC)

Region: ROSC Region 4

Agency: DeWitt County Mental Health Center

ROSC County: DeWitt

Contacts:

ROSC Coordinator: Maggie Memmott

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 – DeWitt County

Leadership Center Agency: DeWitt County Mental Health Center

Type of Report: Community Needs Assessment – DeWitt County

Setting: Rural

Total Number of Residents: 15,310

Number of School-aged Youth: 3,113

Total Number of Schools: There are a total of 9 schools in DeWitt County (5 in Clinton) (4 schools in Farmer City)

Total Number of Institutions of Higher learning: 0

Total Number of Treatment Facilities: 1

Total Number of Coalitions/ROSC Councils: 1

History and Demographics

DeWitt County was formed March 1, 1839 from Macon and McLean Counties. The county is approximately 405 square miles or 259,200 acres. Clinton, which had been laid out and named in 1814, became the county seat. The first courthouse was built in 1839 and the second was built in 1856. The present courthouse was completed in 1986.

According to the 2022 United State Census, there were 15,310 people, 6,644 households, and an average of 2.30 persons per household residing in the county. The population density was 39.0 inhabitants per square mile (14.7/km²). There were 7,318 housing units at an average density of 15% per square mile (6.4/kms). The racial makeup of the county was 96.4% white, 1.2% black or African American, 0.5% Asian, 0.4% American Indian, 0.1% from other races, and 1.5% from two or more races. Those of Hispanic or Latino origin made up 3.2% of the population. Out of the total population, 5.4% are under the age of 5, 21% are under age of 18, and 20.6% are aged 65 or over.

The median household income in the county was \$61,823 the per capita income was \$35,630 and the



persons in poverty was 10.8%. The median value of an owner-occupied housing was \$121,100 and median gross rent was \$801.

County Health Rankings indicate that DeWitt County is ranked in the lower middle range of counties in Illinois, with placement between 25% - 50%. The table below indicates that for both adult smoking as well as excessive drinking, DeWitt County is only points higher than the state average. However, when looking at the alcohol-impaired driving deaths, DeWitt County is considerably higher than the state average.

2023 County Health Rankings	DeWitt County	Illinois
Health Factors		
Adult Smoking	20%	13%
Excessive Drinking	18%	15%
Alcohol-Impaired Driving Deaths	14%	29%
Primary Care Physicians	3070:1	1230:1
Mental Health Providers	2560:1	340:1
Health Outcomes		
Premature Death	9700	7100
Poor or Fair Health	14%	12%
Poor Physical Health Days	3.0	2.7
Poor Mental Health Days	3.9	3.2

Youth Population Data

According to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), there are 2 school districts in DeWitt County, There are a total of 4 elementary schools, 1 junior high schools, and 2 high schools in DeWitt County. There are approximately 3113 school aged children in the county. All school districts service Pre – K thru 12th grade. An individualized school district and state data comparison is provided below.

ISBE Report Card 2022 – 2023	Blue Ridge CUSD 18	Clinton CUSD 15	State of Illinois
Enrollment	663	1,645	1.9 million
High School Graduation Rate	95%	78%	87.3%
Mobility Rate	9%	8%	7.6%
Truancy Rate	10%	10%	22.1%
Low-Income	47%	51%	46.5%

The Clinton school district does have a lower graduation rate than the state, however this rate is less than a 10% difference. The Blue Ridge School district has a higher graduation rate than the state, however this rate is around 10%. Clinton School district is the largest school district in DeWitt County.

The Piatt County Mental Health Center is the Substance Use Prevention Provider (SUPP) for DeWitt County. The Center utilizes the evidence-based substance use prevention curriculum, *Too Good for Drugs*, to educate DeWitt County middle school students, 6th – 8th. It should be noted that different schools get this curriculum different parts of the year as well as different school years. The curriculum helps to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to reduce risk factors and enhance protective factors related to alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use (ATOD) (Mendez Foundation, 2021). In addition, The Center provides curriculum titled “My Generation RX” to DeWitt County middle school students as well. This curriculum is designed to educate teens on the importance of using medications safely, the key skills needed to say no to misuse, and positive alternative coping skills (Ohio State University and Cardinal Health Foundation, 2021). Piatt County Mental Health Center is also implementing a campaign around mental health, vaping prevention, and anti-bullying in Monticello Schools funded by the Drug Free Community (DFC) grant.

The Illinois Youth Survey (IYS) collects data regarding a variety of health and social indicators for 8th, 10th, and 12th graders on a biennial basis. The 2022 IYS data will be used for this report.

Past 30 Day Use	8 th Grade	10 th Grade	12 th Grade
Alcohol	14% (State of IL: 17%)	22% (State of IL: 27%)	32% (State of IL: 42%)
Binge Drinking (Past 2 week use)	4% (State of IL: 6%)	11% (State of IL: 12%)	27% (State of IL: 20%)
Any tobacco or vaping products	14% (State of IL: 12%)	29% (State of IL: 22%)	33% (State of IL: 34%)
Marijuana	7% (State of IL: 4%)	18% (State of IL: 10%)	23% (State of IL: 22%)

Key stakeholders from DeWitt County stated that alcohol, tobacco or vaping products, along with marijuana are commonly misused substances among the youth population. When examining the IYS data, in 2022 the 10th and 12th grade 30 day use averages for alcohol are lower than the state average. This pattern for tobacco or vaping use as well as marijuana use continues with the exception of marijuana use at the 10th grade level. It should be noted that parental approval of use along with parent purchasing alcohol averaged 41% for 8th grade, 23% for 10th grade, and 44% for 12th grade. This shows that parents are permissive with the use of alcohol while underage.

The IYS data also evaluates some youth mental health concerns, and data points to note for DeWitt County in 2022 include:

- 27% of 10th graders and 31% of 12 graders answered yes when asked if in the past 12 months they seriously considered attempting suicide.
- 49% of 8th graders, 34% of 10th graders, and 52% of 12th graders answered yes when asked if in the past 12 months have they ever felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for two or more weeks in a row that you topped doing some usual activities.

When examining the County Health Ranking data, the average number of poor mental health days for DeWitt County residents, 3.9, is higher than the state average of 3.2. Additionally, the ratio of mental health providers in the county is 7.5 times higher than the state ration at 340:1 respectfully.

Adult Population Data

According to the 2013 State Drug Crime Arrest comparison Report the following data was reported: In 2019, there were a total of 81 drug related arrests; 36 under the Cannabis Control Act, 6 under the Controlled Substance Act, 39 under the Drug Paraphernalia Act and 0 under the Methamphetamine Act

IL Prescription Monitoring Program (ILPMP)	2018
Total Buprenorphine Patients per County (the total number is based on the patient's location)	61 patients
Total Buprenorphine Prescriptions per County (the total number is based on the location of pharmacy where the prescription is dispensed)	625 patients
Greater than 90MME on Average per Day (Patients who have been prescribed greater than 90MME (Morphine Milligram Equivalent) on average per day)	207.78 (per capita)

There is no MAR provider in DeWitt County.

According to key stakeholders in the community, opioids including heroin, methamphetamine, and fentanyl are the substances of most concern in the county. According to the opioid data dashboard, there were 2 overdose deaths in 2021, and 6 overdose deaths in 2020 in DeWitt County. When that data is applied to the county's population for those years, DeWitt County had an overdose fatality rate per capita of 1.3 in 2021 and 4.5 in 2020. 2021 is significantly lower than the state's rates but higher for 2020, which were 2.95 in 2021 and 3.06 in 2020 (IDPH, Opioid Data Dashboard, 2018-2020).

Resource Assessment

There is no DOPP in DeWitt County. DeWitt Piatt Bi-Counties Health Department is working on becoming a DOPP.

John Warner's Hospital is DeWitt County's critical access hospital that offers primary care, emergency room services, mental health services as well as other comprehensive health care.

Substance Use Gaps Across the Continuum

Promotion: Community stigma due to a lack of education and understanding about substance use disorders is a barrier that prevents residents from accessing services. Key stakeholders familiar with law enforcement and adult and youth behavioral health services stated that there is a large amount of stigma attached to substance use within Moultrie County. Stigma amongst residents is influenced and elevated by the belief that addiction only occurs amongst individuals who come from troubled homes; have criminal records; or struggle with a mental illness. A stakeholder stated, “The ‘normal people’ are outspoken and pretty much say the substance users are worthless and they want them out of the community. The users come from a long line of users...the drug culture is passed down and it is literally how they have grown up and learned that way to live and use drugs.” Additionally, stakeholders in the community reported incidents of stigma among some first responders in the county.

Prevention: The Piatt County Mental Health Center is DeWitt County’s SUPS provider, and they provide a 10-lesson comprehensive, evidence-based substance use prevention education to the middle schools throughout DeWitt County. They also provide a short curriculum called “My Generation Rx” which covers medication safety to middle schoolers throughout DeWitt County, this curriculum is not comprehensive. Due to limitations of the SUPS grant, The DeWitt County Mental Health Center is not able to provide the comprehensive substance use prevention education curriculum to DeWitt County high school students. 100% of high school students in the county are not receiving comprehensive, evidence-based substance use prevention education services.

Intervention/Harm Reduction: There currently is drug court offered in DeWitt County. Drug courts often offer SUD treatment as an alternative to incarceration, thus decreasing the burden and costs of repeatedly processing low-level, non-violent offenders. Without the availability of a local drug court, individuals arrested for low-level, non-violent substance use related offenses lack access to treatment and support services that would enable them to begin their recovery journey.

Stigma and a lack of education regarding harm reduction services has created a barrier around accessing these types of services.

Treatment: There currently is 1 SUD treatment provider for outpatient within DeWitt County. Residents seeking inpatient treatment must travel to Springfield, Decatur, Champaign or Bloomington, all of which are a minimum 30 minute drive away for DeWitt County residents.

In order to access any SUD treatment services transportation would be required to make the trip outside of the county, thus creating a large barrier that can prevent access to services. As stated above, county residents have to travel to Charleston, Mattoon, Decatur, or Springfield to access treatment services, which range from 30 minute to hour long one-way trips. Transportation barriers can result from a variety of factors including: lack of driver’s license (expired, physically lost, lost due to criminal charges, etc.), lack of a personal vehicle, lack of income needed to pay for fuel, or simply challenges in the cost, or availability in scheduling

and navigating the public transportation system. There is a Safe Passages in DeWitt County.

As for public transportation, Show Bus is able to provide regular transportation services to DeWitt County residents, however, this is still not a fix-all solution. Residents must call at least 24 hours in advance to schedule a ride, which is not always realistic or possible for those with a substance use disorder. Additionally, there is a significant cost associated with trips outside of the county, with the cost being \$3 in the city of Monticello travel, \$5 for in county travel and \$7.00 for out of county travel. All of these rates are for 1 way travel. Key stakeholders in multiple sectors mentioned that transportation is an issue that needs to be addressed, with one stating, “Transportation is a huge barrier for those in need of substance use services of any kind because time, more often than not, plays a key factor in providing immediate services.”

Recovery: Recovery housing is not available within DeWitt County. The closest recovery housing available to residents of DeWitt County is over an hour away in Champaign, IL, or 30 minutes away in Decatur, IL thus again making transportation a barrier to access. Additionally, there are 3 AA recovery support meetings within the county, 2 in Clinton and 1 in Farmer City. There is also a 2 Community Enrichment Group offered in both Clinton, IL and Farmer City, IL.

Conclusion

Better access to education, prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery support services will help to reduce stigma and empower DeWitt County residents to embrace positive change in understanding substance use disorders. Our next steps will include assisting community stakeholders with developing a community action plan that addresses the gaps and barriers identified in this document.