

## Franklin/Williamson ROSC Council (FWRC)

### FY24 Community Needs Assessment:

### Franklin County



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### History and Demographics

Franklin County is located in the area of Southern Illinois is known locally as "Little Egypt". The region is named such because of the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers and noted parallels with the Nile River delta in Egypt.

	Franklin County	Illinois
Current Population (Estimate V2023)	37,138	12,549,689
Population Change 2020 - 2023	-1.8%	-2.1%
White, not Hispanic or Latino	95%	59.5%
Black	0.8%	14.7%
Hispanic or Latino	2.1%	18.3%
Two or More Races	1.5%	2.2%
Person's age > 65	21.2%	17.2%
Persons with a disability <65 (2018-2022)	14.8%	7.7%
Source: <a href="https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/perrycountyillinois,franklincountyillinois,williamsoncountyillinois,IL/PST045223">https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/perrycountyillinois,franklincountyillinois,williamsoncountyillinois,IL/PST045223</a>		

Consistent with state-wide trends, the overall population for Franklin County has decreased in recent years. Between 2020 and 2023, the population of Franklin County decreased by 1.8% (Census QuickFacts, 2023). The demographics of Franklin County are reflective of the greater southern Illinois region. Across Franklin County, the population is 95% White Only, Not Hispanic or Latinx, 0.8% Black, 2.1% Hispanic or Latinx, and 1.5% Multi-racial (Census QuickFacts, 2023). Franklin County is also home

to a comparatively large number of senior citizens. The state average for individuals who are >65 years old is 17%, but in Franklin County, this percentage is 4 points higher, at 21% (Census QuickFacts, 2023).

	Franklin County	Illinois
Civilian Labor Force (Population age 16 years + (2018-2002))	55.9%	65.0%
Bachelor’s Degree or Higher (persons age >25 years, 2018 – 2022)	17.7%	36.7%
Persons in Poverty	19.5%	11.9%
Median Household Income (in 2022 dollars, 2018 – 2022)	\$51,031	\$78,443
Source: <a href="https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/jacksoncountyillinois,perrycountyillinois,franklincountyillinois,williamsoncountyillinois,IL/PST045223">https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/jacksoncountyillinois,perrycountyillinois,franklincountyillinois,williamsoncountyillinois,IL/PST045223</a>		

Census data from 2018 to 2022 showed that 55.9% of individuals in Franklin County are counted in the civilian labor force, which is 9% lower than the state average, 65% (Census QuickFacts, 2023). An often-identified barrier to quality employment is lack of higher education attainment. This is especially true in Franklin County where only 18% of individuals 25 years or older have attained a bachelor’s degree; the state average is 37% (Census QuickFacts, 2023). In addition to lower-than-state-average labor force and bachelor’s degree attainment, there are limited economic opportunities and, subsequently, elevated poverty levels in Franklin County. The poverty rate across Franklin County is 19.5%, which is one point higher than the state average (Census QuickFacts, 2023). Economic disparity is also apparent when reviewing median household income data. The median household income for Franklin County was \$51,031, which is over \$27,000 less than the state average, \$78,443 (Census QuickFacts, 2023).

### Health Outcomes and Factors

Out of all 102 counties in the state of Illinois, Franklin County was ranked 94<sup>nd</sup> for overall health outcomes and 48.6% of the population lives in a low population density area (County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, 2023). Overall measures of health outcomes and health factors consider length and quality of life, as well as health

behaviors, access to healthcare resources, socio-economic factors, environment, and other such data. Franklin County is ranked among the least healthy counties in Illinois (Lowest 0%-25%). Some of the contributing health factors, listed in the table below, reflect behavioral and systemic challenges that individuals in Franklin County must overcome.

	Franklin County	Illinois
Overall Health Outcomes Rank (Out of 102 in IL)	94	NA
Premature Death (Years of potential life lost before age 75 per 100,000 population)	10,000	7100
Life Expectancy	74.9	78.6
Adult Smoking	22%	13%
Excessive Drinking	17%	15%
Alcohol-impaired Driving Deaths	21%	29%
Drug Overdose Deaths	23	24
Adult Obesity	38%	33%
Limited Access to Healthy Foods	8%	8%
Food Insecurity	16%	8%
Population to Primary Care Physicians (ratio)	2720:1	1,230:1
Population to Mental Health Providers (ratio)	140:1	340:1
Source: <a href="https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/illinois/williamson?year=2023">https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/illinois/williamson?year=2023</a>		

Adult smoking is more prevalent in Williamson County (22%), compared to 13% state average (County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, 2023). In addition to higher prevalence of adult smoking, excessive drinking is also higher in Franklin County. Approximately 17% of adults reported excessive drinking, compared to state average 15% (County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, 2023). In addition to higher smoking and excessive alcohol consumption in Franklin County, total drug overdose deaths (23) are only one less than the states total (24). Also, obesity rates are elevated. Rates in Franklin County are 38% (County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, 2023).

Compounding obesity rates in Franklin County is food insecurity. Across Illinois, 8% of the population reported food insecurity; however, in Franklin County, 16% are food insecure (County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, 2023). Harmful behavioral and environmental factors are further exacerbated by limited healthcare services and availability. There are 2720 patients per primary care physician, and 140 patients per mental health provider (County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, 2023).

**Youth Population Data**

There are six high school districts across Franklin County. The following table lists these school districts and certain characteristics, as well as providing state average data for comparison.

Franklin County High School Districts							Illinois
	Benton CONS HSD 103	Christopher USD 99	Frankfort CUSD 168	Sesser- Valier CUSD 196	Thompsonville CUSD 174	Zeigler- Royalton CUSD 188	
Total Enrollment	565	207	422	188	103	130	1.9M
Graduation Rate	70%	86%	70%	96%	100%	78%	88%
Mobility (Transfer in/out)	10%	10%	23%	9%	Redacted	17%	7%
Chronic Truancy	14%	12%	28%	10%	13%	18%	20%
Low Income	54%	64%	51%	38%	49%	62%	49%
Homeless	6%	14%	13%	Redacted	11%	13%	2%
Source: <a href="https://www.illinoisreportcard.com/SearchResult.aspx?type=COUNTY&amp;SearchText=\$Franklin\$#High-schools">https://www.illinoisreportcard.com/SearchResult.aspx?type=COUNTY&amp;SearchText=\$Franklin\$#High-schools</a>							

Across all the high school districts in Franklin County, the average graduation rate is 83% (ISBE Illinois Report Card, 2023). A majority of the high school districts in Franklin County are higher in low-income families compared to the state. Homeless students' percentages are also greatly elevated compared to the state average. (ISBE Illinois Report Card, 2023).

Youth within these school districts completed the Illinois Youth Survey (IYS; 2022). The following tables provide an overview of youth responses to substance use across 30 day and one year time periods.

Used within the past 30 days	10 <sup>th</sup> grade	12 <sup>th</sup> grade
Substance used:		
Alcohol	16%	29%
Any tobacco products OR e-cigarettes or other vaping products	23%	31%
Cigarettes	2%	2%
Smokeless Tobacco	3%	2%
Smoked tobacco (other than cigarettes)	2%	3%
Hookah or water pipe	4%	7%
E-cigarettes or other vaping products	21%	27%
Marijuana	11%	20%
Prescription drugs not prescribed to you	1%	1%
# of Respondents	246	272

Used with in the past year	10 <sup>th</sup> grade	12 <sup>th</sup> grade
Substance used:		
Any common substance (including alcohol, cigarettes, inhalants or marijuana)	40%	54%
Any common substances plus vaping (including alcohol, tobacco products, cigarettes, e-cigarettes or other vaping products, inhalants, or marijuana)	43%	56%
Alcohol	34%	49%
Cigarettes	5%	7%
E-cigarettes or other vaping products	30%	33%
Any Tobacco Product (including smokeless tobacco, tobacco smoked through cigarettes or cigars/cigarillos, or tobacco used in a hookah water pipe)	6%	11%
Inhalants	5%	2%
Marijuana	19%	29%
Synthetic Marijuana	2%	1%
Alcohol and marijuana at the same time	8%	16%
Alcohol and energy drinks at the same time	11%	14%
Any Illicit Drugs (excluding marijuana)	2%	5%
Crack/Cocaine	0%	0%
Hallucinogens/LSD	1%	4%
Ecstasy/MDMA	1%	2%
Methamphetamine	1%	0%
Heroin	0%	0%

Any prescription drugs to get high	3%	3%
Prescription Painkillers	2%	1%
Other Prescription Drugs	3%	3%
Prescription pain medicine without prescription or differently than prescribed	3%	2%
Prescription drugs not prescribed to you	3%	3%
Over the counter drugs	3%	1%
# of Respondents	246	272
Source: <a href="https://iys.cprd.illinois.edu/results/county/">https://iys.cprd.illinois.edu/results/county/</a>		

According to IYS (2022) responses, the three most commonly used substances by 10th through 12th grade youth in Franklin County were alcohol, marijuana, and vaping products.

### **Adult Population Data**

Adult substance use data provides insight on substance use behaviors and perspectives within Franklin County. Likewise, comparing the most current data from the Crime in Illinois (CII): Annual Uniform Crime Report (2021) with the previous year (2020), provides additional insight on drug arrest trends.

Franklin County	Drug Arrest 2021	Drug Arrest 2020
Total drug arrest	107	99
Rate per 100,000	278.9	258.1
Cannabis Control Act	0	4
Controlled Substance Act	32	8
Hypodermic Syringes/Needle Act	3	2
Drug Paraphernalia Act	6	38
Methamphetamine Act	66	47
Source: <a href="https://isp.illinois.gov/CrimeReporting/Cii2021">https://isp.illinois.gov/CrimeReporting/Cii2021</a>		

According to the data collected drug arrests for 2021 are greater than 2020 in Franklin County. Also, the data shows that methamphetamine charges are the most common drug arrest throughout Franklin County for both years.

## **Inventory of SUD/COD Resources**

The major substance use/ mental health resources in Franklin County include behavioral health services, recovery outpatient services, MAR, and crisis services provided by Centerstone. Franklin County doesn't provide residential treatment services, however, Centerstone provides a residential/outpatient substance use treatment, Fellowship House in Union County. Also, Gateway in Jackson County provides residential/outpatient services to those residing in our area. Without other residential treatment facilities nearby there is often a shortage of beds available at either residential treatment facility located nearby.

A listing of all licensed SUD treatment facilities, MAR service providers, and recovery support services can be found in the Healthy Southern Illinois Delta Network Community Resource Guide. This resource guide can be accessed at <https://www.hsidn.org/substance-misuse-resources>. This resource guide is very detailed and includes substance use disorder organizations as well as location, contact information, program details and payment details including what insurances are taken by each organization. The resource also provides information/details on detox bed facilities, residential programs, outpatient programs, recovery support groups, medication assisted recovery providers, medication disposal programs and drug take back days, all in southern Illinois.

## **Peer Recovery Support (PRS) Services**

Take Action Today is currently the lead provider of Peer Support Services (defined by the Illinois Certification Board) in our service region. TAT has eleven PRS staff, all of whom are Certified Peer Recovery Specialists or will be before the end of FY24. Take Action Today currently has two locations within Franklin County. TAT can be reached by phone (618) 212-3171 or by visiting their website <https://takeactiontoday.net/>. TAT peers are actively involved in our ROSC in many ways including executing and presenting programs on recovery issues and assisting in planning recovery events.

Other agencies in our region, such as Centerstone and Southern Illinois Coalition for the Homeless offer peer services. However, their services differ than those of TAT and often require other qualifications than those defined through the Illinois Certification Board.

## **Recovery Support Groups**

A list of recovery support groups in Franklin County can be accessed at <https://www.hsidn.org/substance-misuse-resources> under the substance use disorder resources tab. This website includes NA, AA, Celebrate Recovery, SMART Recovery and other recovery groups.

Also, you can visit <https://river2riverna.com/meeting-list/> to find local NA groups being held within the specific towns of Franklin County. For AA group meetings located in

Franklin County you can visit <https://southernillinoisaa.org/>. Currently, there is not as many NA/AA meetings in Franklin County as other surrounding counties.

### **Community Readiness to Support ROSC**

As of this assessment, the professional and lived experience recovery communities have demonstrated enthusiasm and willingness to participate with the Franklin/Williamson ROSC council efforts, presently being headed by lead agency, Take Action Today. The council is continuously seeking to bring new stakeholders to the table in order to ensure that a wide array of roles and perspectives is represented.

Community readiness is also deemed positive due to the following:

- Strong turnout at ROSC Kickoff and subsequent ROSC Council meetings.
- Good representation from lived experience communities.
- High level of willingness by SUD treatment organizations, faith community leaders, and recovery service providers to participate in stakeholder interviews regarding feedback on both residential/outpatient treatment services, as well as community resources.

### **Gaps Across the Continuum**

In Franklin County, all areas of the continuum of care—health promotion, prevention, intervention/harm reduction, treatment, and recovery—are impacted by negative, macro-level factors such as limited economic opportunity and limited, or nonexistent, infrastructure. Additionally, perspectives on substance use within this county are heavily influenced by stigma. This combination of socio-economic disadvantage and stigmatization results in barriers, not only for individuals seeking care but also for families and communities who are impacted by substance use. The gaps that were identified in our communities through information collected using focus groups, one on one interviews, SWOT analysis, and collecting data information for the community needs assessment suggest that these gaps within Franklin County play an extensive role creating barriers effecting all areas of the continuum of care.

1. **Transportation**- Currently there are two, limited, public transportation systems serving Franklin/ Williamson County. With the limits placed on the public transportation systems, it isn't efficient for those seeking to achieve or maintain recovery.



- A. Individuals are limited to getting to the necessary appointments, meetings, and employment services that are available that are needed for them to achieve or maintain their recovery.
2. **Housing**- The lack of housing options for individuals seeking to achieve or maintain recovery poses significant challenges in their drive for recovery.
  - A. The amount of housing support is inadequate to the amount of housing needs in our communities.
  - B. The requirements and affordability for housing support are unobtainable for those who are currently experiencing homelessness, mental health issues, substance use disorder, or previous felony convictions.
3. **Follow-Up Treatment Services**- The lack of follow-up care for individuals re-entering into the community creates a barrier for those wishing to maintain their recovery.
  - A. Upon completion of a treatment program individuals are left on their own to continue to navigate their own recovery.
  - B. Without proper follow-up care individuals are unaware of the resources available in their communities and have limited sources to reach out to for guidance and direction.
  - C. Individuals unable to receive proper follow-up care are not supported in creating the balanced lifestyle needed in order or to live a recovery driven life.
4. **Residential Treatment Services**- Currently there aren't any inpatient treatment facilities located in Franklin/Williamson Counties.
  - A. The surrounding areas that do have inpatient treatment facilities have a lack of beds available for immediate treatment.
  - B. Without immediate treatment options available, among other gaps listed, individuals are resorted to continue their unhealthy lifestyles driven by mental health issues and/or substance use disorder.
5. **Stigma**- Stigma towards substance use disorder, homelessness, mental health, and previous felony charges prevents individuals from receiving the recovery opportunities needed to establish and grow in the community.

- A. Stigma creates several gaps causing individual's barriers from receiving the recovery opportunities needed to live a healthy and productive life.
- B. These gaps keep the individuals from important steps needed in their recovery such as, but not limited to housing, employment, community acceptance, and support.
- C. Stigma is preventing individuals from living a balanced lifestyle which is a crucial part for them to achieve and maintain their recovery.

## References

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