

Franklin/Williamson ROSC Council (FWRC)
FY24 Community Needs Assessment:
Williamson County



Contacts:

Mandy Hagen, ROSC Coordinator
 Rebecca Pyles, ROSC Assistant

History and Demographics

Williamson County is included in the Carbondale -Marion, IL Metropolitan Statistical Area which means, it is a geographical region with high population density at its core and close economic ties throughout the region. This 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.

	Williamson County	Illinois
Current Population (Estimate V2023)	66,706	12,549,689
Population Change 2020 - 2023	-0.7%	-2.1%
White, not Hispanic or Latino	88.5%	59.5%
Black	5.0%	14.7%
Hispanic or Latino	3.0%	18.3%
Two or More Races	2.0%	2.2%
Person's age > 65	20.9%	17.2%
Persons with a disability <65 (2018-2022)	12.8%	7.7%
Source: https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/perrycountyillinois,franklincountyillinois,williamsoncountyillinois,IL/PST045223		

Consistent with state-wide trends, the overall population for Williamson County has decreased in recent years. Between 2020 and 2023, the population of Williamson County decreased by 0.7% (Census QuickFacts, 2023). The demographics of Williamson County are reflective of the greater southern Illinois region. Across Williamson County, the population is 89% White Only, Not Hispanic or Latinx, 5% Black, 3% Hispanic or Latinx, and 2% Multi-racial (Census QuickFacts, 2023). Williamson 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 Williamson County, this percentage is 3 points higher, at 20% (Census QuickFacts, 2023).

	Williamson County	Illinois
Civilian Labor Force (Population age 16 years + (2018-2002))	58.4%	65.0%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher (persons age >25 years, 2018 – 2022)	27.1%	36.7%
Persons in Poverty	12.7%	11.9%
Median Household Income (in 2022 dollars, 2018 – 2022)	\$60,325	\$78,443
Source: https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/jacksoncountyillinois,perrycountyillinois,franklincountyillinois,williamsoncountyillinois,IL/PST045223		

Census data from 2018 to 2022 showed that 58.4% of individuals in Williamson County are counted in the civilian labor force, which is seven percentage points 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 Williamson County where only 27% 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 Williamson County. The poverty rate across Williamson County is 13%, 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 Williamson County was \$60,325, which is over \$18,000 less than the state average, \$78,443 (Census QuickFacts, 2023).

Health Outcomes and Factors

Out of all 102 counties in the state of Illinois, Williamson County was ranked 48th for overall health outcomes and 34.8% 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. Drug overdose deaths (16) are greater than half of the states total (24) Some of the contributing health factors, listed in the table below, reflect behavioral and systemic challenges that individuals in Williamson County must overcome.

	Williamson County	Illinois
Overall Health Outcomes Rank (Out of 102 in IL)	48	NA
Premature Death (Years of potential life lost before age 75 per 100,000 population)	7400	7100
Life Expectancy	77.3	78.6
Adult Smoking	19%	13%
Excessive Drinking	18%	15%
Alcohol-impaired Driving Deaths	28%	29%
Drug Overdose Deaths	16	24
Adult Obesity	34%	33%
Limited Access to Healthy Foods	12%	8%
Food Insecurity	13%	8%
Population to Primary Care Physicians (ratio)	1,130:1	1,230:1
Population to Mental Health Providers (ratio)	260:1	340:1
Source: https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/illinois/williamson?year=2023		

Adult smoking is more prevalent in Williamson County (19%), 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 Williamson County. Approximately 18% of adults reported excessive drinking, compared to the state

average of 15% (County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, 2023). In addition to higher smoking and excessive alcohol consumption in Williamson County, total drug overdose deaths (16) are greater than half of the states total (24). Also, obesity rates are elevated. Rates in Williamson County are 34% (County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, 2023). Compounding obesity rates in Williamson County is food insecurity. Across Illinois, 8% of the population reported food insecurity; however, in Williamson County, 13% 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 1130 patients per primary care physician, and 260 patients per mental health provider (County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, 2023).

Youth Population Data

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

Williamson County School Districts						Illinois Average
	Cartersville CUSD 5	Crab Orchard CUSD 3	Herrin CUSD 4	Johnston City CUSD 1	Marion CUSD 2	
Total Enrollment	2198	483	2316	1082	3730	1.9M
Graduation Rate	93%	81%	92%	82%	78%	88%
Mobility (Transfer in/out)	8%	5%	13%	11%	11%	7%
Chronic Truancy	6%	7%	13%	7%	12%	20%
Low Income	40%	28%	61%	66%	53%	49%
Homeless	2%	8%	5%	9%	6%	2%
Source: https://www.illinoisreportcard.com/SearchResult.aspx?type=COUNTY&SearchText=\$Williamson\$						

Across all school districts in Williamson County, the average graduation rate is 85% (ISBE Illinois Report Card, 2023). A majority of the school districts in Williamson County are higher in low-income families compared to the state. Homeless students' percentages are also elevated compared to the state average. (ISBE Illinois Report Card, 2023).

Youth within two of 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 in these school districts.

Used within the past 30 days	8 th grade	10 th grade	12 th grade
Substance used:			
Alcohol	11%	38%	44%
Any tobacco products OR e-cigarettes or other vaping products	10%	36%	35%
Cigarettes	0%	4%	6%
Smokeless Tobacco	2%	10%	7%
Smoked tobacco (other than cigarettes)	2%	8%	9%
Hookah or water pipe	2%	8%	3%
E-cigarettes or other vaping products	8%	32%	32%
Marijuana	5%	12%	20%
Prescription drugs not prescribed to you	2%	3%	1%
# of Respondents	308	124	95

Used with in the past year	8 th grade	10 th grade	12 th grade
Substance used:			
Any common substance (including alcohol, cigarettes, inhalants or marijuana)	31%	54%	61%
Any common substances plus vaping (including alcohol, tobacco products, cigarettes, e-cigarettes or other vaping products, inhalants, or marijuana)	33%	56%	62%
Alcohol	25%	54%	60%
Cigarettes	2%	8%	13%
E-cigarettes or other vaping products	15%	37%	42%
Any Tobacco Product (including smokeless tobacco, tobacco smoked through cigarettes or cigars/cigarillos, or tobacco used in a hookah water pipe)	3%	9%	17%
Inhalants	7%	6%	3%
Marijuana	10%	23%	30%
Synthetic Marijuana	2%	5%	2%
Alcohol and marijuana at the same time	3%	15%	20%

Alcohol and energy drinks at the same time	5%	16%	22%
Any Illicit Drugs (excluding marijuana)	2%	4%	7%
Crack/Cocaine	1%	1%	3%
Hallucinogens/LSD	0%	3%	5%
Ecstasy/MDMA	1%	3%	3%
Methamphetamine	0%	1%	0%
Heroin	0%	0%	1%
Any prescription drugs to get high	1%	2%	5%
Prescription Painkillers	0%	2%	1%
Other Prescription Drugs	1%	2%	4%
Prescription pain medicine without prescription or differently than prescribed	3%	2%	4%
Prescription drugs not prescribed to you	4%	6%	2%
Over the counter drugs	2%	4%	1%
# of Respondents	308	124	95
Source: https://iys.cprd.illinois.edu/results/county/			

According to IYS (2022) responses, the three most commonly used substances by 8th through 12th grade youth in Williamson County were alcohol, marijuana, and vaping products.

Adult Population Data

Adult substance use data provides insight on substance use behaviors and perspectives within Williamson County. Likewise, looking into the most current data from the Crime in Illinois (CII): Annual Uniform Crime Report (2021) provides additional insight on drug arrest trends compared to index crime arrest.

Williamson County	Drug Arrest	Index Crime Arrest
Total drug arrest	571	114
Rate per 100,000	864.6	172.6
Cannabis Control Act	97	N/A
Controlled Substance Act	111	N/A
Hypodermic Syringes/Needle Act	5	N/A
Drug Paraphernalia Act	110	N/A
Methamphetamine Act	248	N/A
Source: https://isp.illinois.gov/CrimeReporting/Cii2021		

According to the data collected drug arrests (571) are severely greater than index crime arrests (114) and methamphetamine charges are the most common arrest throughout Williamson County.

Inventory of SUD/COD Resources

The major substance use/ mental health resources in Williamson County include behavioral health services, recovery outpatient services, MAR, and crisis services provided by Centerstone. Shawnee Health also provides behavioral health and counseling services in Williamson County. Williamson 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 Williamson 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 service 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 Williamson 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 Williamson County. For AA group meetings located in Williamson County you can visit <https://southernillinoisaa.org/>.

Community Readiness to Support ROSC

As of this assessment for Williamson County, 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 Williamson 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 Williamson 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.

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