



LIVINGSTON COUNTY ROSC COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Fiscal Year 2025

What is a ROSC?

A Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) is a coordinated network of community-based services and supports that is person-centered and builds on the strengths and resilience of individuals, families, and communities to achieve improved health, wellness, and quality of life for those with or at risk of substance use disorders.

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Substance Use Prevention and Recovery*

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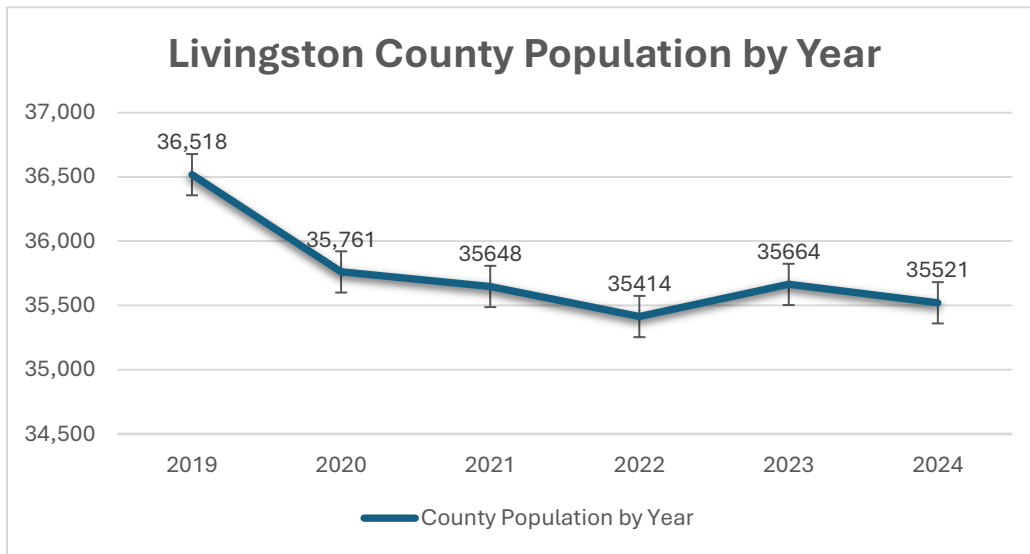
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County Demographics

Population

Livingston County has seen a steady decline in population. (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Population and Housing Map, n.d.) The chart below reflects the population trend in Livingston County from 2019-2024. (County Health Rankings, 2025)

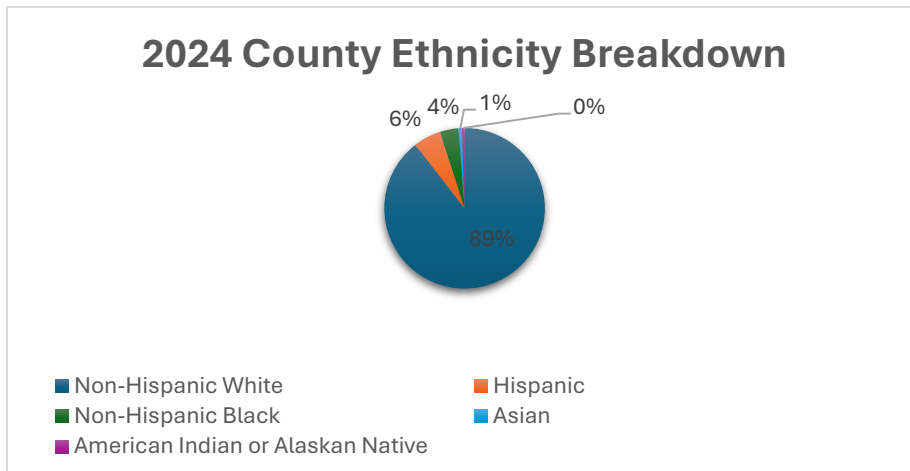


Gender

As of 2024, there are slightly more males than females who reside in Livingston County, 49.3% females and 50.7% males. (County Health Rankings, 2025)

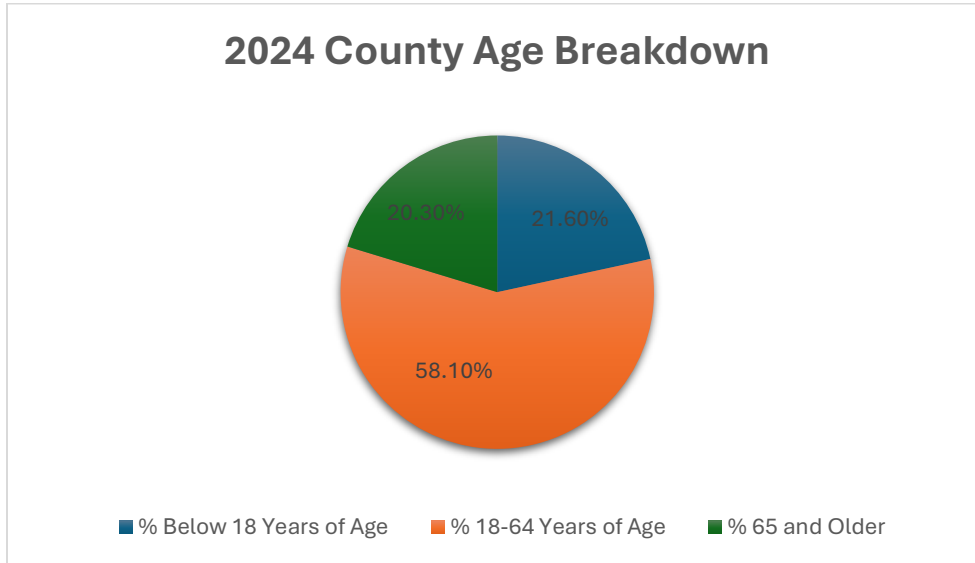
Ethnicity

89% of the population in Livingston County is Non-Hispanic White. The second largest ethnic group is the Hispanic (5.5%) followed by Non-Hispanic Black (3.7%), Asian (0.7%), and American Indian or Alaskan Native (0.5%). (County Health Rankings, 2025)



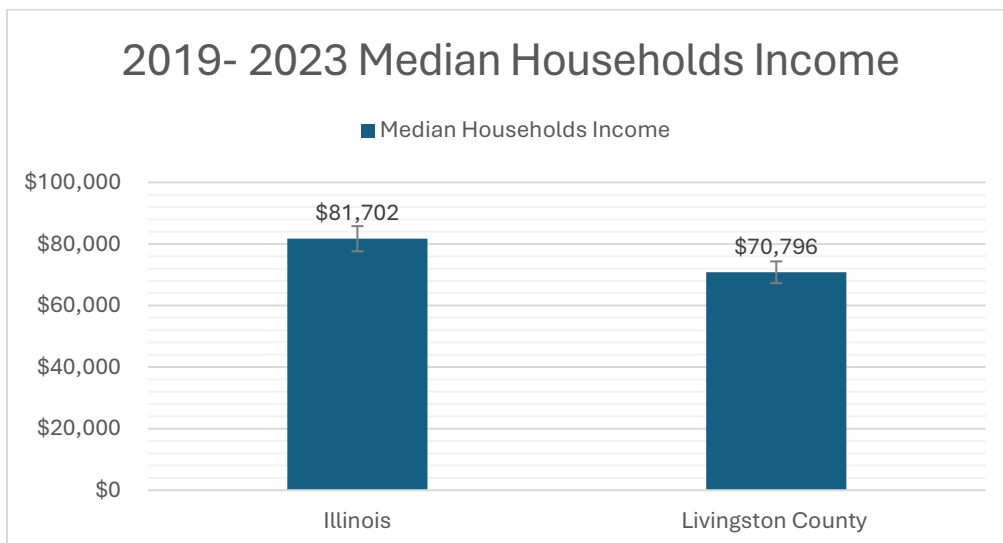
Age

21.6% of the Livingston County population are below 18 years of age with 20.3% of the population of the age 65 or older. (County Health Rankings, 2025)



Income

The median household income for Livingston County in 2023 was \$70,796, compared to the state of Illinois at \$81,702. 11.1% of the Livingston County population lives in poverty, which is slightly lower than the state of Illinois as a whole (11.6%). (U.S. Census Bureau, QuickFacts Livingston County, IL, 2024)



Community Survey Overview

Survey Overview

The Livingston County ROSC FY25 Community Survey was created to measure public opinion on issues related to recovery and identify areas for improvement for Livingston County. The survey was open to the public on December 6th and closed February 1st. The survey consisted of 15 questions plus demographic information. The survey could be completed in paper format or online with both English and Spanish versions available. The Livingston County ROSC partnered with Council members and community partners to make the paper and online copies of the survey widely available in Livingston County. We received a total of 145 survey responses.

Survey Demographic Information

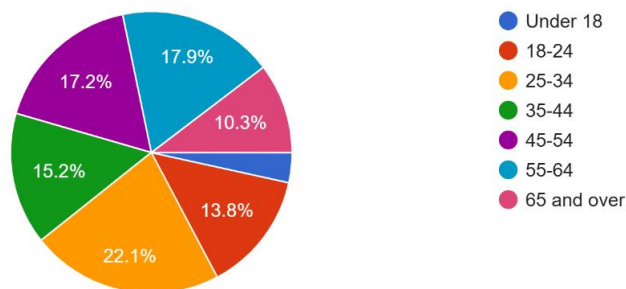
County of Residence

86% of survey respondents resided in Livingston County, IL. The remaining respondents lived in neighboring counties, including Mclean (10.4%), Ford (0.7%), Woodford (0.7%), and Iroquois (0.7%).

Age

There was roughly an even spread of age ranges for people who completed the survey. Our lowest age group for survey respondents was the “Under 18” age group at 3.4%. The most survey responses came from individuals ages 25-34 (22.1%).

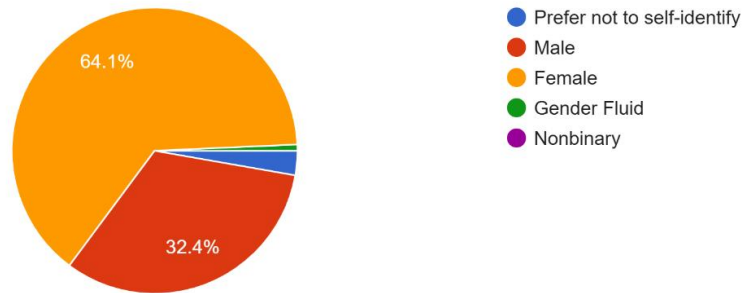
What is your age?
145 responses



Gender

More females than males completed the survey, with 64.1% of respondents identifying as female.

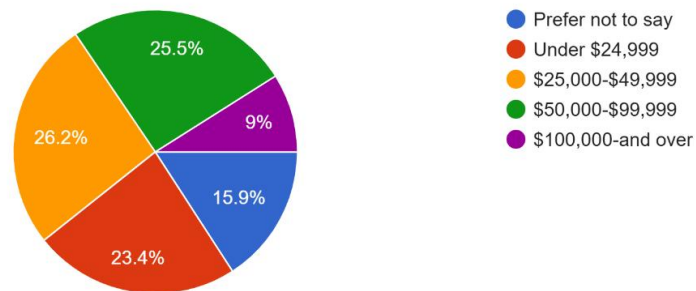
Gender
145 responses



Income Level

The most common income level of survey respondents was between \$25,000-\$49,999 per year (26.2%). The income range of \$50,000-\$99,999 (25.5%) and under \$24,999 (23.4%) were the next closest income levels for respondents.

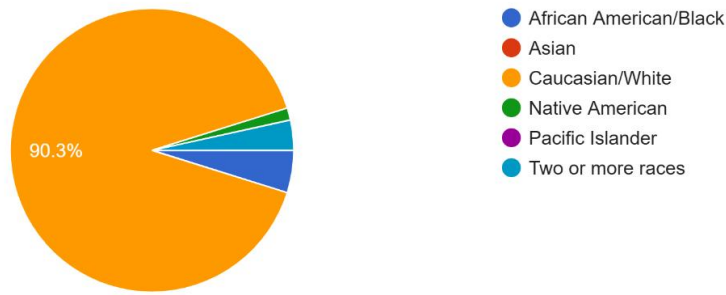
Income level
145 responses



Race

90.3% of respondents identified Caucasian/White as their race. This is reflective of Livingston County’s demographic makeup.

Race
145 responses



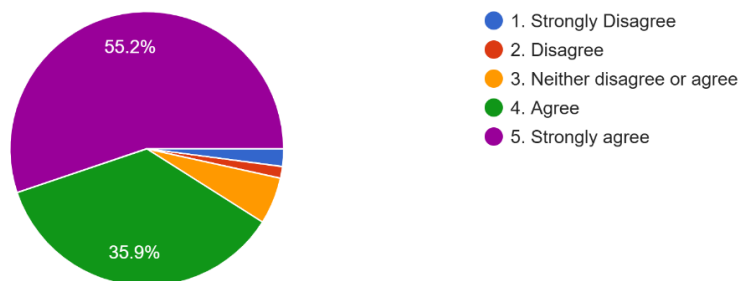
Survey Results

Most survey questions had participants rate statements related to substance use, mental health, and recovery supports on a scale of **“Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Neither Disagree nor Agree, Agree, Strong Agree”**.

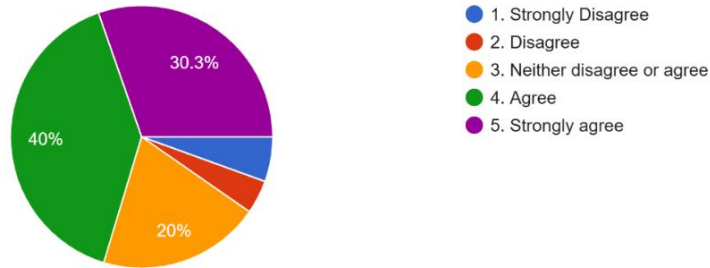
Respect for People with a Mental Illness or Who Use Drugs

Survey results showed that respondents have a different level of respect towards people who use drugs versus people with a mental illness. As reflected in the graphs below, 55.2% of respondents strongly agree that people with a mental illness deserve respect, but only 30.3% of respondents strongly agree that a person with a mental illness deserve respect.

2. People with a mental illness deserve respect.
145 responses



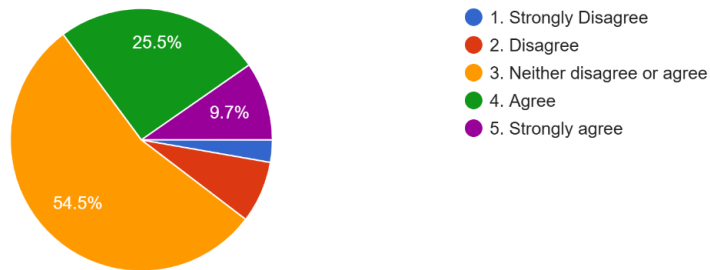
1. People who use drugs deserve respect.
145 responses



Access to MAR and Harm Reduction Services

The survey asked about access to substance use and mental health resources in Livingston County. When respondents were asked about finding a healthcare provider who provides Medication Assisted Recovery (MAR), 54.5% of respondents neither agree nor disagree that finding a provider is difficult to find. 25.5% agree that finding a provider is difficult.

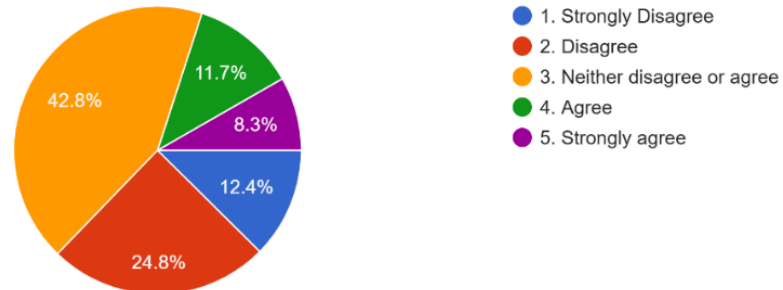
4. It is difficult to find healthcare providers who offer Medication Assisted Recovery-MAR (which is the use of medications to treat substance use disorder...ine to treat opioid use disorder) in my community.
145 responses



When asked about finding harm reduction services like NARCAN®, an opioid reversal medicine, or syringe service programs, 42.8% of respondents neither disagree nor agree that it is difficult find harm reduction services. 24.8% disagree that it is difficult to find in their community.

6. It is difficult to find harm reduction services like Narcan and syringe service programs in my community.

145 responses



Survey respondents were given the option to add additional comments about the survey topics. The theme that came up most often in the “additional comments” question was that people who completed the survey did not feel knowledgeable on the survey topic. Some of the additional comments from the survey were:

- *“I simply don't know enough about this subject”*
- *“I'm just not super familiar”*
- *“I have not researched recovery services”*
- *“I have not looked for some of the services that you request my opinion on, so I could not answer with an informed response. Therefore, I marked neither agree or disagree. I apologize for my ignorance”*
- *“I don't know much about it”*
- *“Never have had to look for any so I do not know where to look.”*

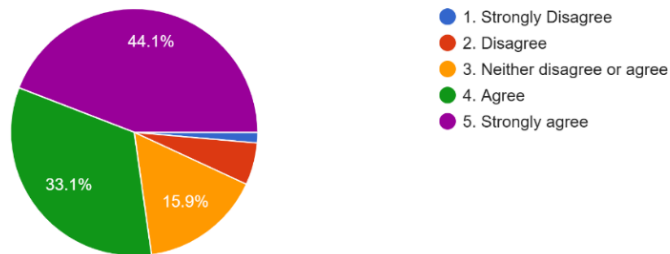
The additional comments reveal that a “neither disagree or agree “response to a question may be based on a lack of knowledge rather than a neutral feeling towards the subject.

Transportation and Additional Funding

77.2% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that transportation is a barrier to people getting mental health and substance use treatment services in their community. Only 6.9% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement, revealing a clear barrier to care in the community.

11. Transportation is a barrier to people getting mental health or substance use treatment services in my community.

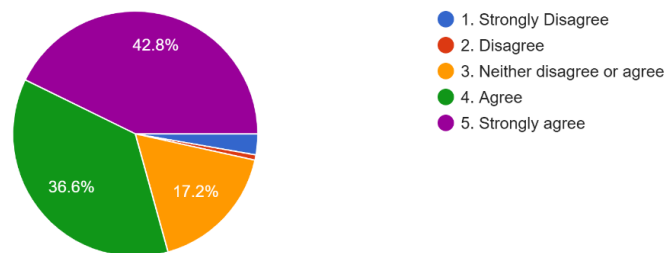
145 responses



When asked about increasing government funding for mental health and substance use disorders, 79.4% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that funding should be increased.

8. We should increase government funding on treatment options for mental health and substance use disorders.

145 responses



Additional Comments address the need for increased funding, services, and transportation.

- *“In-patient services and transportation to/from is a major need”*
- *“We need coordination between showbus and recovery meetings. Must AA meeting start at 9am and bus does not pick up in time. Bus does not run during afternoon/evening meetings.”*
- *“They need more funding”*

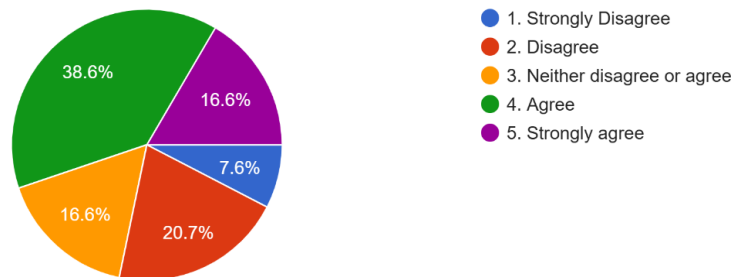
- *“We have 1 outpatient treatment facility that is difficult for many people without personal transportation to reach. Additionally, any clients who do not speak English must be referred to an agency out of county.”*

Awareness of Services

Slightly more than half of respondents (55.2%) agreed or strongly agreed that they know where to find information on local substance use recovery meetings. 53.8% of respondents have heard of the Livingston County ROSC (Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care). Results show that there is an opportunity for further promotion of the ROSC and recovery supports within Livingston County.

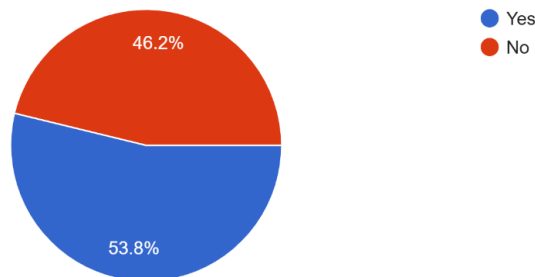
12. I know where to find information on local substance use recovery meetings.

145 responses



13. I have heard of the Livingston County ROSC (Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care).

145 responses



Survey responses in the “Additional Comments” section support the need for greater awareness of recovery services.

- *“There’s many programs for resources but not a lot of people know about them.”*
- *“In-patient services and transportation to/from is a major need”*
- *“I feel that there needs to be more information about services and where to find them”*

- *“Their services need to be more well known”*
- *“Getting the information out is the biggest challenge in my opinion.”*
- *“If available, they are poorly made known to the public.”*
- *“Awareness is essential”*
- *“Hoping for more awareness around programs and assistance for anyone suffering regardless of the circumstances. More awareness to youth about the issues, impact and help if needed”*

Additional Themes

Our “Additional Comments” portion of the survey provided great insight into perspectives, themes, and trends around substance use, mental health, access, and stigma. Aside from the comments listed previously, two additional themes were identified.

Long Wait Times for Services

- *“It takes too long to get mental health services started in Livingston County, so if able, you have to go outside Livingston County for services or wait too long for services here.”*
- *“I have a loved one who struggles with addiction. They had to go outside of the community due to lack of inpatient treatment and waiting lists for outpatient treatment being weeks to months.”*
- *“Services are available but at times there are waiting lists to get in. Also medical care, including dental, is lacking.”*
- *“I believe that services are available, but there are often too long wait lists, which cause people to fall through the cracks very easily”*
- *“I feel the main barrier is the wait time to get into services. Lack of staff and space.”*

Easy Access to Substances

- *“Too easy for people to get drugs”*
- *“The problem in Livingston County is there is liquor and cigarettes sold on every corner.”*
- *“Alcohol abuse is a huge problem mixed with other “recreational” drugs especially for men”*
- *“Our children are getting into drugs younger and younger.”*
- *“Legal marijuana shops were the worst idea.”*

Key Themes

Stigma

In the 2025 survey conducted by the Livingston ROSC only 30.3 % of respondents strongly agree that people who use drugs deserve respect. Additionally, the [LCHD I-Plan](#) results indicate that 75% of respondents believe that there is a need for Substance Use/Misuse Prevention. (Livingston County Health Department , 2024). The disparity in these statistics show that there is a community understanding of the need. However, there is also great misunderstanding of those who are experiencing substance use disorder and that these disorders are illness as opposed to choices.

Awareness

Of the respondents to the LCHD I-Plan, 70% reported that drug use and misuse was a known “Risky Behavior”. Additionally, 75% of those respondents reported that there is a need for substance use/reuse and prevention. (Livingston County Health Department , 2024). As community education continues, it should be noted that there are agencies in the county who offer services for mental health, substance use, prevention, and mediation. According to the ROSC Community Survey, over 28% of respondents do not know how to find any information regarding substance use recovery meetings.

Access

Over 75% of respondents declare that there is a serious lack of transportation to and from mental health and substance use services. When asked in the LCHD I-Plan survey the top 5 most important factors for a healthy community, Access to Medical Health rated #2 with 66% making this statement. (Livingston County Health Department , 2024). Over 50% of ROSC Community Survey respondents said that public transportation was not at all accessible.

Gap Analysis

	Existing Situation	Target Situation	Gaps	Action Items
Stigma	A large number of the population lacks understanding of MAR, sober living needs, challenges surrounding transportation, and affordable housing and other recovery-oriented commitments.	Continued community education regarding MAR and its known benefits within a successful recovery community. Acknowledge the lack of transportation and affordable housing as basic needs.	Individuals who are new to recovery lack proper after care treatment including MAR and Peer support. For people who are continuing their recovery journey require some assistance in obtaining affordable housing, technical assistance in their search for employment, and maintaining their life balance.	Establish peer support including PLE volunteers to help provide the message of success within their own recovery walk while supporting others. Continuing to promote that recovery is possible. Launch peer-based recovery activities for individuals and families.
Awareness	The public is not fully aware that there are proper resources available for treating SUD/MH and access to some MAR. Overall lack of awareness regarding the effectiveness of MAR, including NARCAN®.	Increased education around services that are available as well as the successes of those services. Increased capacity for educational offerings through more effective means including word of mouth. Willingness to engage the public.	Varied, effective, and credible education surrounding these topics. Need for personal and credible recovery stories from individuals in active recovery depicting multiple pathways and who have utilized local resources. Messaging that supports the positives of being in recovery.	Enhanced use of social media highlighting individuals who are in successful recovery. Event speakers who are actively recovering. Continued promotion of Needs Assessment findings, Resource Maps, and other promotional items showing not only needs but the positive results that are achieved for those who use any pathway to recovery.
Access	The County has limited recovery meeting/fellowship resources. Most meetings are centered around	Increase capacity for transportation services offering multiple options such as paid services, billed	Lack of public awareness regarding transportation access for those who are in low income or justice involved	Continue to show gaps through educational and promotional awareness. Show the missing

	<p>secular 12 step meetings/activities. The addition of a local Family Support group has been beneficial as well as growth in the local Faith Based recovery meetings. Promotion and transportation are lacking.</p>	<p>services, and volunteer services. Continued research on ride by appointment and the formation of a County wide grant funded organization transportation provider. Diversity of faith-based and secular recovery support groups offered on various dates/times of each week.</p>	<p>scenarios. Lack of knowledge regarding transportation for all medical and or treatment needs at the County, City and Village level. While the recovery agencies enhance their services to those who can find transportation, there is a need to acknowledge those missing services due to transportation gaps. Limited availability of in-person support groups, transportation barriers, stigma and privacy concerns, lack of trained facilitators, and lack of awareness around virtual or alternative recovery support options.</p>	<p>element of transportation in the community and the effects of the lack of transportation including access to medical treatment, social services, food, jobs, childcare, continuing education and general wellbeing. Seek Recovery Community Organization opportunities. Expanding virtual recovery meetings, establishing local peer-led support groups, partner with organizations and local stakeholders to increase facilitator availability, and increase community education and outreach to reduce stigma.</p>
Housing	<p>Homelessness increased 192% from 2023 to 2024. (360 Life Center, 2025) The current interim short term housing units available has decreased due to various reasons. There has been a loss of funding for interim housing. There is little or no housing</p>	<p>Recovering people and those in the recovery community including social service providers are aware of this situation. A well-connected, highly visible recovery support network where community members are</p>	<p>Gaps are being addressed through social media, word of mouth and statistical proof. Local surveys that have targeted this issue are being used for continued education. Public awareness of homelessness is still somewhat hidden due to the stigma surrounding this issue.</p>	<p>Reducing stigma regarding homelessness and lack of housing opportunities. Showing that homelessness and lack of housing is not centered around any specific demographic, but that targeted solutions start within the County and individual</p>

	opportunities for reentry from rehabilitation or the justice involved individuals or families. The cost of housing continues to rise.	informed, engaged, and empowered to seek or provide support. Efforts focus on enhancing awareness, fostering understanding, and reducing barriers to participation.		communities as a whole.
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SWOT Analysis

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• County collaboration-all social service agencies work well together• Key Stakeholders-Substantially involved• Crisis and Mental Health Services Available• Accredited Drug Court• Behavioral Health Services including crisis contacts, groups, mediation• Prevention Services in local Schools• Diversity of secular and faith-based support groups• Concise Communication• Psychiatric Services• Smoking Cessation Campaigns• Anti Vaping Campaigns for Youth• MAR Supports• ROSC Council adheres to Strategies and Objectives• ROSC Council and Subcommittees volunteer with activities including preparation, events, distribution of materials, continuing self and agency education while key stakeholders are also sustainably involved.• ROSC Council has firm knowledge of Community Needs and is willing to access additional resources for the community.• Ability and knowledge to refer the community to the proper services• Weekly Family Support Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stigma surrounding SUD/Mental Health• Lack of knowledge regarding harm reduction• Transportation Systems (no public transportation)• Need for Peer Recovery Mentors• Lack of Sober Activities• Limited Behavioral Health Services/Groups• Lack of Sober Activities for PLE• Limited Family Recovery Groups (al-anon/al-a teen)• Minimal adolescent-facing SUD/MH services• Limited Harm Reduction education, awareness, and resources (e.g. HR vending machines)• General Population is unlikely to be aware of the true concepts of ROSC• Community Members with lived experience have limited representation on the ROSC council• Lack of Recovery Housing• Lack of Detox/SUD Treatment within 40 miles• Lack of Awareness of available programs• Lack of transportation for meetings and connections with others in recovery

Opportunities

- Peer Support with justice involved individuals and those recently released from any treatment or incarceration
- Collaborative effort toward a sustainable county wide Recovery Community Organization
- Reduce silos by continuing the unified vision of the coalition
- PLE involvement in community recovery efforts
- Encourage involvement in the ROSC from the 12 Step Recovery Community
- Promotion of Community based SUD/MH education
- Expansion of Faith Based recovery support
- Education surrounding additional MAR services/providers
- Uniform/topic specific messaging around existing gaps
- Provide weekly communication to Council & Subcommittees
- Bridging Gaps with other human services
- Communication among all recovery groups
- Research funding for collaborative or independent transportation services to recovery meetings/events/treatment that are of no cost to participants
- Increase groups who support multiple pathways to recovery

Threats

- Reduction of federal/state/local funding opportunities
- Apathy among the recovery community
- Outdated practices that limit other recovery pathways
- Lack of recognition that SUD and MH are treatable and recovery is sustainable
- Lack of transportation options threatens all early recoverees needing to attend meetings, group, doctor appointments, therapy, etc.
- Lack of awareness that harm reduction creates opportunities for sustainable long-term recovery
- Health service reductions due to pause or elimination of funding
- Individuals may not understand that recovery is a human right
- Homelessness being a cooccurring factor with SUD/MH
- Current resources being redistributed amongst already existing human services creating additional gaps

Expansion of ROSC

NARCAN Trainings

ROSC will support council service agencies in promoting NARCAN® training across the county by helping to expand access to training opportunities, particularly in smaller towns. These sessions will facilitate public discussions on Medication-Assisted Recovery (MAR) best practices, available resources, and recovery solutions while emphasizing multiple pathways to recovery. The Recovery in Action and Educating for Change Subcommittees will play a key role in addressing these needs by promoting awareness and engagement at community events throughout the year.

Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health Education

The Livingston ROSC will continue to strengthen our recovery network to direct individuals who are currently in recovery and those who are new to recovery. The ROSC will work to equip the community to receive people who are currently in recovery and those individuals who are seeking recovery for the first time. This will take place by equipping the Educating for Change Subcommittee and their peers with fact-based stigma reduction campaigns that are offered through our existing ROSC resources. These resources would be available through printed materials, online, and in-person sessions. Social media will also be a platform for sharing stigma-reducing resources. Additionally, the ROSC will continue to offer QPR Suicide Prevention training to additional community sectors such as polices, EMS, and first responders.

Transportation Support

The ROSC will continue to partner with all serving agencies and communities in Livingston County to bring awareness and identify solutions to the lack of transportation services in the county. Lack of transportation services affects all medical needs in our rural area, including treatment for substance use, mental health, and personal and group recovery meetings. The Recovery in Action Subcommittee of the ROSC will be instrumental in gathering information, brainstorming solutions, and identifying grant funding opportunities to help address these gaps.

Conclusion

Livingston County ROSC is better established and equipped through its support of its community partners and volunteer base in 2025. The expansion of ROSC will continue not only because of these strengths but also because of the growing needs outlined in this assessment. We not only recognize the needs of the community regarding Substance Use and Mental Health we continue to seek solutions through education, communication, collaboration, and action.

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