



SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS SUBSTANCE USE, PREVENTION, RECOVERY, AND TREATMENT (SI SUPRT) COUNCIL



Community Resource Assessment FY25

Background and Process

The SI SUPRT Council serves Saline, Gallatin, Hamilton, and White counties in rural Southeastern Illinois, where many residents face challenges related to social and economic determinants of health.

Data Sources

To conduct this Community Needs/Resource Assessment, we reviewed data from multiple sources, including:

- Community surveys
- Stakeholder interviews
- Egyptian Health Department (EHD) IPLAN
- Ferrell Hospital CHNA
- Harrisburg Medical Center CHNA
- Hamilton County Hospital CHNA
- Southern Illinois Healthcare CHNA
- Qualitative data from community discussions, forums, and coalition meetings
- Community Resource Guides

Through long-standing community partnerships and collaborations, we identified priority health and behavioral issues related to substance use, prevention, and recovery. Substance use has remained a consistent health priority across our service areas.

The SI SUPRT 2025 Community Survey includes responses on community perceptions of substance use, recovery, harm reduction, and access to services. Here are some key findings:

Key Takeaways:

1. **Strong Support for Respect & Recovery Services:**
 - Most respondents rated high (5/5) for respecting people who use drugs and those with mental illness.
 - Medication-Assisted Recovery (MAR) is widely seen as an effective treatment.
2. **Challenges in Accessing Services:**
 - Mixed responses on availability of MAR providers and harm reduction services.

- Some reported difficulty in finding mental health and substance use treatment services.
3. **Community Barriers:**
- Some respondents find it difficult to access harm reduction tools like syringe service programs.
 - A gap in equal access to mental health support regardless of identity or income.
4. **Call for Increased Funding:**
- Overwhelming agreement that government funding should be increased for treatment options.
5. **Personal Recovery Insights:**
- Responses highlight the importance of support systems, treatment access, and structured programs like inpatient and outpatient treatment.
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Available Resources

A comprehensive listing of licensed Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment facilities, Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) providers, and recovery support services is available in the **2024 Substance Misuse Resource Guide**, updated in June 2024. The guide includes details on detox facilities, residential and outpatient programs, support groups, medication disposal, and drug take-back events. The guide can be accessed at <https://www.hsidn.org/substance-misuse-resources>.

Key Services in the Region

- **MAT Providers:** Egyptian Health Department offers MAT in partnership with Dr. Michael Blain (CRHPC), alongside Dr. Jason West at Southern Illinois Healthcare, who provides low-barrier MAT services.
 - **Recovery Support:** Egyptian Health Department provides peer support services, employing seven Certified Recovery Support Specialists across all counties. Other organizations offering recovery support include the Stress and Trauma Treatment Center and the Southern Illinois Resource and Advocacy Center.
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Community Readiness to Support ROSC and RCO

We actively collaborate with area hospitals and stakeholders to address substance use concerns and integrate community health needs assessments (CHNAs) into our planning.

Recent Developments

- **Transitional & Sober Housing:** There is strong community support for an Oxford-style home to provide transitional and sober living options, particularly for justice-involved individuals. Efforts are underway to establish a home in Saline County.

- **Expanded Service Locations:** We are working to open a location in Hamilton County to provide outpatient substance use treatment, mental health services, and recovery support.
 - **Regional Collaboration:** SI SUPRT is an active participant in the **Southern Illinois Recovery Network (SIRN)**, a coalition advocating for recovery support across 18 southern Illinois counties.
 - **Faith-Based Initiatives:** Recovery outreach has expanded with faith organizations such as Saline County Outreach, Sisters Rise, Breaking Free, and Little Chapel Church, which offer social support for individuals in recovery.
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Strengths and Opportunities

Community Engagement and Support

- Strong recovery community support in White and Saline Counties
- Low turnover rate among Recovery Services program staff
- Well-attended **Free Laundry Events** with growing sponsorship
- Extensive overdose prevention training and naloxone distribution (71 dispensers across our service area)
- Broad stakeholder participation in SI SUPRT Council meetings
- Monthly recreational recovery events, including sober social gatherings

Key Strengths Identified

- Robust and accessible MAT programs
 - Increased public awareness of ROSC initiatives
 - Well-attended outreach and prevention events
 - Expanding faith-based recovery resources
 - Active participation in regional recovery networks
 - Support from local food pantries and community service organizations
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Needs and Gaps

Despite our progress, significant gaps in services remain, including:

Housing and Stability

- Lack of emergency shelters for individuals with SUD, mental health conditions, and criminal backgrounds
- Need for affordable long-term housing and sober living facilities

- Limited recovery-friendly workplaces and career advancement opportunities

Treatment and Recovery Support

- **Limited MAR (Medication-Assisted Recovery) Access:** Need for more low-barrier options in emergency departments and correctional facilities, and increase of awareness of existing MAR providers
- **No Medical Detox Facility:** Delays in treatment due to lack of local inpatient detox services
- **Gaps in Youth Support:** Lack of substance-free recreational spaces for young people
- **Follow-up After Overdose:** Need improved post-overdose interventions in collaboration with hospitals
- **Harm Reduction Awareness:** Community survey demonstrates that we need to increase awareness of available harm reduction services

Transportation and Accessibility

- Insufficient transportation for treatment and recovery services
 - Need for better access to affordable healthcare coverage
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Technical Assistance Priorities

To address these challenges, SI SUPRT seeks technical assistance in the following areas:

1. **Medical Detox Education:** Training for emergency departments on providing detox services.
 2. **Recovery-Friendly Workplaces:** Developing training programs for businesses to support employees in recovery.
 3. **Housing Solutions:** Identifying landlords and housing programs that accept individuals with criminal backgrounds.
 4. **Stigma Reduction:** Expanding anti-stigma education and awareness campaigns.
 5. **Oxford House Development:** Establishing an Oxford House in Harrisburg, IL by 2025.
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Conclusion

SI SUPRT continues to foster strong community partnerships, expand recovery support services, and advocate for solutions that address the gaps identified in this assessment. With ongoing collaboration, increased public awareness, and targeted technical assistance, we aim to enhance the recovery ecosystem in Southeastern Illinois and ensure that individuals seeking recovery have access to the resources they need to thrive and find increased overall wellness.