



Mission: Creating a community that embraces and cultivates recovery while reducing the stigma of substance use disorders and mental health.

LC ROSC Strategic Plan FY 25-26

Data

The following was reported from Lake County's Coroner's Dashboard:

In 2023, Lake County, Illinois, reported ****135 overdose deaths****, marking a 3% increase compared to the previous year.

Of these, ****112 deaths were opioid-related****, including six from prescription opioids.

Fentanyl overdoses saw a significant rise, with ****97 cases****, a 5% increase from 2022.

Most overdose victims were aged between 36 and 60.

Population

As of 2023, the estimated population of Lake County, Illinois, is 708,760.

Lake County, Illinois, has a diverse population with the following demographic highlights:

- Population: Approximately 708,760 as of 2023.
- Age Distribution:
 - Under 18 years: 22.9%
 - 65 years and older: 16.5%.
- Race and Ethnicity:
 - White alone: 79.6%
 - Black or African American: 7.6%
 - Asian: 9.4%
 - Hispanic or Latino (of any race): 25.1%.

- Gender**: Female persons make up 49.7% of the population.
- Language: 31% of residents speak a language other than English at home.

- Education:
 - High school graduate or higher: 90.6%
 - Bachelor's degree or higher: 47%.

- Veterans: There are 27,341 veterans residing in the county.

In Lake County there are:

122 Elementary Schools

42 Middle Schools

21 High Schools

4 Charter Schools

ROSC Council Goals:

Goals

Objective- The LC ROSC Council will intentionally address the concerns and needs collected from the needs assessment survey.

We will strengthen our partnership with current LC ROSC members by including them in our efforts listed below. By doing this we will both strengthen our partnership with our current LC ROSC members and build new partnerships.

To do this we will do the following:

Goal#1- Provide prevention and substance use disorders education for youth.

Activities:

- Continue our partnership with *Planning For Purpose*.
- Aligning with other youth services such as Legacy Reentry, Waukegan to College, Lake County Young Life and the Lake County Health Department WIC.
- We will provide open discussion and dialogue sessions about substance use disorders and mental illness. These open discussions and dialogues will address marijuana usage, vaping and Fentanyl.
- Marketing material will promote NIRCO as being a safe place and no judgement zone. In the effort and hope that this will increase the attendance and participation.

Goal#2- Provide resources for gainful employment for people in recovery.

Activities:

- Utilize our *Justice Impacted Families* program. This program provides individualized services and resources to participants and families impacted by the justice system.
- Our LC ROSC member, Waukegan Workforce Development has joined our efforts in making this program a success.
- We partner with our LC ROSC member, Legacy Reentry by supporting their Expungement and Reinstatement Fairs. These fairs provide free legal assistance with the expungement of criminal records and reinstatement of driver's licenses.

Goal#3- Increase the awareness of our local hospital Lake Behavioral Hospital. A 24-hour physical facility open and available to serve those in recovery.

Our LC ROSC member, Lake Behavioral Hospital has been in Lake County since March 2018. Lake Behavioral Hospital provides inpatient and outpatient mental health, and substance use treatment for adolescents, adults, and senior adults.

The hospital's mission is to provide the utmost care to those who need it, through various inpatient care & outpatient services.

Activities:

- With the implementation of our new *Warm Hand Off project* which offers peer support to individuals with Opioid and Polysubstance Use Disorders, especially those transitioning from jail, treatment centers, or homelessness. We help connect with resources, build stability, and find hope.
- The Justice Impacted Families project will also refer individuals as need to Lake Behavioral Hospital and share their services during discussion and dialogue events.

Goal#4- Provide referral services to those in need of housing.

Activities:

- The *Warm Hand Off* project will be instrumental in addressing the unhoused.
- Continue collaboration with our LC ROSC members who offer housing assistance.
- Share our “Wins and Successes” during our LC ROSC monthly meetings.

Goal#5- Increase participation of Latino population.

Activities:

- Our marketing material will continue to be Bi-lingual with intention to increase the Latino population.
- Staff members will enroll in beginner and basic Spanish classes.
- Attend Latino events and share NIRCO services.