



# WINNEBAGO COUNTY ROSC (WCR)

IMPACT REPORT

Winnebago County was hit with an overwhelming number of overdoses in 2023. We began working with the Health Dept to provide Narcan distribution but also training at our facility. Other providers quickly joined in to help provide Narcan to people and businesses alike. Rosecrance has been very instrumental in helping us provide treatment and recover housing opportunities for people with substance use disorders.

Below is a chart showing annual **fatal overdose deaths in Winnebago County, Illinois** (centered around Rockford):

Overdose Related Deaths
<b>2020–2021:</b> Moderate numbers in the high 30s to low 40s.
<b>2022:</b> Sharp spike to 165–166 deaths—likely due to fentanyl proliferation.
<b>2023:</b> Return to a “record” low of 47 deaths.
<b>2024:</b> Continued decline to 24 confirmed deaths.
<b>2025:</b> Preliminary data show 64 overdose deaths, indicating a resurgence or reporting lag—this is through the first part of the year.

We are in downtown Rockford, minutes away from the Rockford Rescue Mission, Courts System, Probation/Parole, RMT. This allowed us to develop some strong relationships with providers who service people with substance use disorders. Over the last several years the anonymous i.e. NA, AA etc. have used our facility to host events. We have become the hub for people from all walks of life seeking services for themselves, family members and friends.

Here’s more of what we have been working on. **Stigma Reduction-** We were able to develop relationships throughout Winnebago County. People in the community come to our office seeking training opportunities, housing and treatment resources. This is a direct reflection of the ROSC events held at our location. We also have people in the community who refer their friends and family members seeking treatment, housing etc. **Increasing awareness of harm reduction-** We hosted several training courses on harm reduction. People with a significant amount of clean time including myself changed our outlook on harm reduction and how important it is for people who relapse. Harm reduction training left those in attendance with a different perspective on how to serve their clients. **Increasing connections between service providers-** This is our greatest accomplishment to date. We have service providers throughout the county referring clients to us daily i.e. housing, treatment facilities etc. We work closely with Roscrance, Department of Health, Rockford Housing authority, Drug Court and a host of other providers.

WCR has a great council, and we have worked diligently to help our community. We are committed to seeing those on their path of Recovery life full active, and healthy lives. We look forward to continuing the work we are doing and helping our community grow.