Will County Behavioral Health Landscape

With a population of 687,263 residents, Will County is the fourth largest county in Illinois.

SOURCE: 2015 U.S. Census

Mental Disorders is the #3 reason for hospitalization in Will County after newborns/delivery and heart disease.

SOURCE: 2014 Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board, Annual Hospital Questionnaire

ADULT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES

NUMBER OF DAYS IN A MONTH WHEN MENTAL HEALTH IS NOT GOOD

1-7 days: 22%
8-30 days: 15%


HEROIN OVERDOSE HAS BECOME THE LEADING CAUSE OF ACCIDENTAL OVERDOSE DEATHS IN WILL COUNTY.

SOURCE: Will County Coroner’s Office

YOUTH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES

• 31% of 10th graders reported feeling so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities (past year)
• 15% of 10th graders reported they seriously considered suicide in the past year
• 51% of 12th graders reported using alcohol in the past 30 days
• 29% of 12th graders reported binge drinking in past 2 weeks

SOURCE: 2016 Illinois Youth Survey

ACCESS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Will County has a Mental Health Provider Ratio* of 1,063:1, compared to 560:1 in Illinois and 370:1 among top U.S. performers.

*Ratio of the county population to the number of mental health providers (psychiatrists, psychologists, counselors, social workers, etc.)

SOURCE: 2016 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation County Health Rankings

RESEARCH REVEALS LACK OF CAPACITY IN WILL COUNTY

Will County MAPP (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships) Collaborative has found through multiple assessments that behavioral health is a key area of need in Will County. The MAPP Behavioral Action Team, with guidance from the University of Saint Francis, surveyed providers and referrers in 2016 to get a picture of system capacity.

Greatest barriers for clients to access services:

• Cost of Needed Services (34%)
• Wait for Services (32%)
• Distance to Services (30%)

SOURCE: Will County 2016 Behavioral Health Capacity Assessment
The uninsured and non-English speaking residents have the most difficulty accessing services, but many other groups are at risk.

**NEED FOR PREVENTION**

More prevention efforts are needed in the areas below (listed in order of survey response rate):

- Mental Health
- Prescription Drug/Over-the-Counter Drug Abuse
- Illegal Drug Abuse
- Alcohol Abuse/Underage Drinking
- Suicide

**STATE BUDGET PROBLEMS WEAKEN AN ALREADY STRUGGLING SYSTEM**

- “Instability of State Funding” was the top barrier cited by providers to expanding services (58%), followed by “Lack of Capital Funding for Facility Expansion” (38%)

- 62% of respondents reported that the state budget problems have impacted their ability to provide services. Impacts included cuts to services, reduced organizational capacity, staffing difficulty, and financial problems.

**The uninsured and non-English speaking residents have the most difficulty accessing services, but many other groups are at risk.**

70% of providers surveyed said they refer people to the hospital emergency room when they are unable to access appropriate community-based services.

**Want to learn more?**

Contact the MAPP Collaborative at mapp@willcountyhealth.org
Call 815-727-5089 or visit WillCountyMAPP.org