

RECOVERY READY COMMUNITY INDEX

Advancing Substance Use Recovery
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Understanding RRCI Scores

The Recovery Ready Community Index (RRCI) measures a community's readiness for recovery by evaluating its existing substance use recovery resources. This measure identifies a community's readiness and ability to respond to substance use and support community members in recovery. The RRCI is measured by capturing a community's:

1) Breadth of Services

Providing multiple pathways to recovery is critical to successful, sustainable recovery. The RRCI measures the breadth of a community's recovery services by assessing the number of services provided.

2) Depth of Recovery Resources

Communities with various options for recovery resources provide more rapid, customizable, and culturally appropriate care. Depth is calculated by ranking Iowa communities by number of resources in each service and taking an average of the rankings across services. This measure highlights communities with a wealth of resources across all services.

3) Size of Recovery Culture

Size refers to the number of weekly recovery meetings in a town, city or county. Places with many meetings can create a strong recovery culture. Engagement in the culture is not a direct reflection of population size.

4) Recovery Strength

The recovery culture's strength, or vibrancy, is measured by calculating the total number of weekly recovery meetings against the number of meetings a community is predicted to have based on their population, allowing for a more equitable comparison among Iowa's small and large towns.

Discovering Recovery Communities

Communities with high RRCI scores are known as Recovery Ready Communities and are well-positioned to add a Recovery Community Center (RCC) to their recovery infrastructure. An RCC is a community hub connecting people in recovery with peer support and resources to improve recovery capital and sustained recovery.

In 2020, the index was used to select six Iowa communities of diverse sizes and demographics based on their RRCI rankings as potential locations for opening new RCCs. Working in collaboration with DHHS, the Public Science Collaborative led extensive community engagement in those communities, resulting in RCCs being opened in June of 2022 in Cedar Rapids, Council Bluffs, Des Moines, and Sioux City.

The Future of RRCI

The RRCI was originally created using a point-in-time snapshot of community resources in 2020. Since then, the Public Science Collaborative (PSC) has continued to expand the recovery data infrastructure that supports recovery-iowa.org's resource finders. PSC plans to use this new 2023 data to update the RRCI, as well as reevaluate the RRCI and work to provide sub-indexes that can give communities more information and granularity about their recovery resources. This work will support the goal of identifying Recovery Ready communities that can build new, additional RCCs in Iowa.

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the report!

