

Community Conversations Report

2016-2018



An open and honest dialogue with Jackson County residents about the condition of our community.



Jackson County
United Way

www.jacsy.org



May 2018 •

THANK YOU

For over two years, Jackson County United Way has been on a journey of listening to our whole county community with the goal of letting those voices inform our work. Our work to create a stronger community is challenging, all encompassing, and weaved together. We do this work with deep partnerships and collaborations. Our funded partners, board members, community volunteers, civic organizations, and places of worship created opportunities to bring together a diverse section of Jackson County to share with us their hopes, concerns and actions they want to see happen for the place they call home. Alongside United Way, these volunteers played a critical role in ensuring residents’ voices could be heard in meaningful and productive conversations.

Special thanks to the following organizations that hosted Community Conversations:

4H Junior Leaders	Human Service Inc. Coaching for Success	
4H Working for Our Dreams Club	Jackson County Courthouse	
The Alley	Jackson County Jail	
Big Brothers Big Sisters	Jackson County Public Library: Crothersville, Medora, & Seymour	
Boys & Girls Club	Jamestown Apartments	St. Ambrose Latino Ministry
Brownstown Exchange Club	JCIDC Human Resource Roundtable	St. Ambrose Youth Ministry
Brownstown Seniors	Leadership Jackson County	St. Paul Lutheran: Borchers
Child Care Network	Medora Seniors	Turning Point: Seeking Safety
City of Seymour	Schneck Medical Center	& Teens for Change
Crothersville Seniors	Seymour Middle School	
DARE Role Models	Seymour Police Department	
Fellowship of Jackson County Clergy	Seymour Rotary	
Freetown Community Center	Seymour SADD	
Girls Inc. of Jackson County	Seymour Senior Citizens	

GREETINGS FROM UNITED WAY LEADERSHIP



We have accomplished a lot in the past two years at Jackson County United Way. We’ve continued to build upon a strong foundation and history of convening the community; but now with a new approach focused on considering what the community hopes for and actions residents want to see. With this approach, we’ve launched new work and are positioned to guide our community in addressing the most pressing community conditions.



From our training with The Harwood Institute for Public Innovation in early 2016, to the completion of our first round of Community Conversations in mid-late 2016, to the focused second round Conversations around substance use in late 2017-early 2018; we have been taking in as much information as we could to learn how to better serve the community.



For over 55 years, United Way has been a respected convener of resources. We collect money through the annual campaign and invest those dollars into the partners and programs that make measurable change. We engage volunteers in meaningful service opportunities including Free Income Tax Preparation, Day of Caring, and Rock’n Ready.



We continue to create opportunities for collective impact where all organizations are working to create a stronger community. We are focused on ways to build connectedness and improve the lives for all who call Jackson County home. We hope the information contained in this report helps you better understand your county and shows you ways you can work alongside United Way as handraisers, collaborators, and game changers.

We know how much work we have done together and we look forward to seeing how much more we can do together as we continue to LIVE UNITED!

Dr. Nate Otte
2016 Board President

Talmadge Reasoner
2017 Board President

Adam Jackson
2018 Board President

Tonja Couch
Executive Director
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WE LISTENED

In early 2016, Jackson County United Way, Jackson County Public Library, community volunteers, and board members took advantage of a powerful relationship between The Harwood Institute for Public Innovation and the Indiana United Ways. Through training at The Harwood Public Innovators Lab, we learned how to increase our organization's impact on our community.

The Harwood Institute is an organization that teaches and inspires individuals and organizations to solve some of the community's most pressing issues and how to work together. At the core of the Harwood Institute's approach is this idea of "turning outward"- positioning your organization differently in the community going forward- seeing and hearing residents of the community and active intentionality to create change.

We have shifted our approach in how we go about our work as a community leader. For us this means we must go about our work *differently*. We can no longer rely on our boardroom as the sole place where we devise the strategies we pursue in our county. We must listen to voices other than our own, particularly in how we select the programs we fund and how we measure growth and success. United Way learned that if we turned outward, and made more intentional choices about creating change, we could have a greater impact.



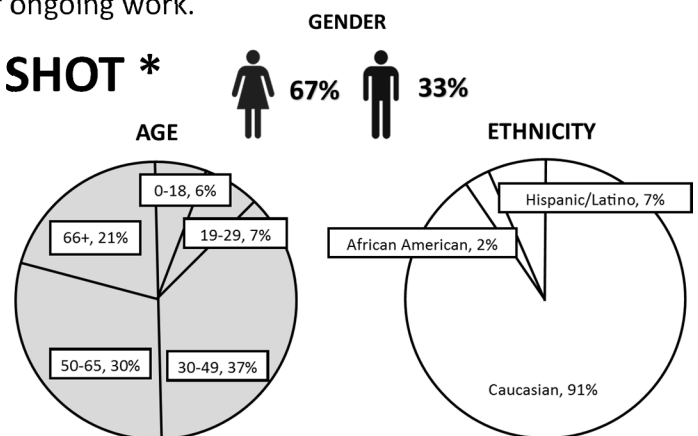
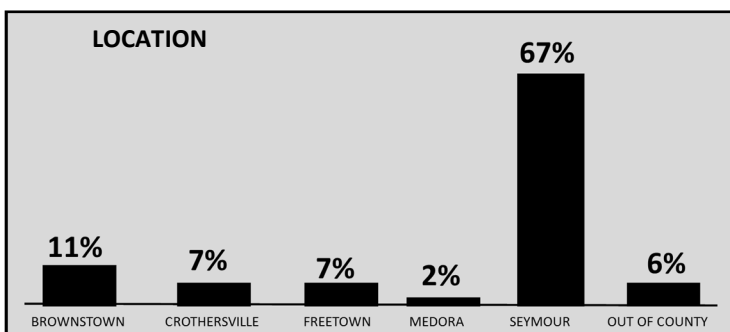
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

The center of our approach to "turning outward" are the Community Conversations. These kitchen-table style sessions enabled United Way to hear from a wide variety of people about the issues within a broad section of the community served. The conversations provided a safe place for area residents to come together and share their aspirations and concerns for their community. Limited by size to about a dozen people at each meeting, the 90 minute conversations had one facilitator and one note taker to record the essence of the conversation.

Together, each group identified priority issues that should be addressed and barriers that prevent progress. The group helped identify potential action steps that could be taken, as well as gained insight into whom the group trusts to act and lead change. We found this strategy enabled us to effectively gain community trust and participation. We held these Conversations at library branches, the jail, churches, and throughout the county. We listened to a variety of voices and, when we finished, reviewed the demographics of those present. We found they nearly paralleled the demographics of the community at large.

When we sorted out what we collected in the Community Conversations, we identified some of the key issues and circled back to the community for another series of conversations. These focused, "Deeper Dive" Conversations on substance use gave further opportunity for dialogue. United Way held 37 listening sessions and heard from 475 residents over the last two years. Because they remain a valuable and necessary tool, the Community Conversations will continue as part of our ongoing work.

ESTIMATED DEMOGRAPHIC SNAP SHOT *



Total Conversations: 37 Total Participants: 475

*Not every participant completed a demographic survey.
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WHAT WE HEARD

What we heard throughout the county was consistent:

Jackson County residents want a community where people *choose* to live, a community that is healthy and safe. They want a community that is *alive*, vibrant and growing with places to go and things to do. We want to be known as a place *where we work together for solutions* to take care of our neighbors and generations.

HOPE FOR JACKSON COUNTY

Conversation participants expressed a desire to live in a community where:

"I think when a community works together, you feel safe. There are places to go and things to do; and you are not afraid to walk down the street, because you take care of each other."

"Sense of community
and people wanting
to work together"

"there is a desire to help others"

"Everyone needs to get involved.
Everyone needs to buy in
because EVERYONE wants to live
in an active, vibrant community."

"Keep our kids safe."

"We need to take care of each
other— not just your family."

"have something [for recovery]
every night of the week"

"bring some free, low cost events
on the weekends to smaller communities"

"We have to COME together.
We are ALL in this TOGETHER."

"We should be more proactive
as a community than reactive
and work for solutions."

"start with kids for solutions and prevention"

"when someone gets out of jail, they step into a
church and a community that cares about their
recovery"

"helping people to engage
person to person"

"To have a sense of
belonging ."

"Parents should take the
time to talk to their kids."

"if you can save a couple of people you
are potentially saving an entire family."

"Churches are an
untapped resource."

We Listened.



COMMON CONCERNS

Jackson County residents most often identified the following concerns as the most critical issues compromising the vitality of our community:

COMMUNITY CONNECTEDNESS & COLLABORATION:

People want to be **engaged** and part of the community. Residents want to **feel pride** about the community they live in. People want all residents to feel **invited to community activities** and events. There are concerns that **language barriers and poverty** create unequal access for community members to come together to drive success. People are demanding **real collaboration** where **partners work together** for the betterment of the community and ensure that **follow through happens** when promised. Community members called for less talking and more action.

GROWING POVERTY RATES & WORKING POOR:

People are concerned about the job market— the **number of jobs** that go unfilled; the perceived **lack of willingness** to work; and jobs with **low wages** that make it hard to make ends meet. People also say that more people are **working and still living in poverty** and how many people are **stuck in a cycle of poverty** because there are too many barriers for accessing resources to help them. People are also concerned about **how to break the cycle**, especially for students who are **living in generational poverty**.

SAFETY OF CHILDREN & ADULTS:

People want to **feel secure** letting children ride their bike around the neighborhood or play in the yard without being with them, but they **don't feel like they can trust other people**. People want to feel safe when going home alone and playing in public parks. People want to feel safe and secure, not witnessing or experiencing theft or drug deals.

LACK OF SOCIAL GATHERINGS & SPACES:

People are concerned about a **lack of places to go and things to do** along with income levels to support and sustain these amenities. People want places to interact, **more family friendly events** and knowledge of events in advance.

STIGMA OF SUBSTANCE USE:

There are many **stigmas about substance use**. People are **demanding to change the stigma** surrounding people who are in active recovery. People in active recovery have said they don't feel included in the community and need to know from others that they are not being pushed out but **actively pulled in**. When people talked about the issue, they also noted that **it affects all income levels**.

CARE FOR OTHERS & SUPPORTIVE SERVICES:

There is a loud cry for community members to **band together** and start to **change social norms**. Every day our community and **each resident is affected** by substance use in some way. Many times people don't even realize they have been. Families that need help are **afraid to confide** in others because of judgment. People want to help, but there is a **lack of knowledge of how to help** others who are in active use or current recovery or where people can turn for support. **People don't know where they can turn to for support**.

GENERATIONAL SUBSTANCE USE:

People also shared how common **generational substance use** is in Jackson County. Many individuals shared personal experiences about alcohol and drugs **being used in their home**. While others may not have substance use in their homes, they do have family members who do. People shared concerns about **generations of children** being affected and without **prevention and intervention** the cycle continues. We also heard concerns from grandparents raising grandchildren and the **lack of support services**.

ACCESSIBILITY TO DRUGS:

People talked a lot about **how easy it is to get drugs**. Drugs are found everywhere throughout the county in workplaces, schools, libraries, and gas stations. People specifically talked about how they could make a call and in five minutes **meet up with someone for the drug of their choice**. Parents need to be aware of how accessible drugs are in the life of their child. Teens also shared that they have **multiple friends that are using, selling and sharing needles**.

PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE & EXPERT KNOWLEDGE

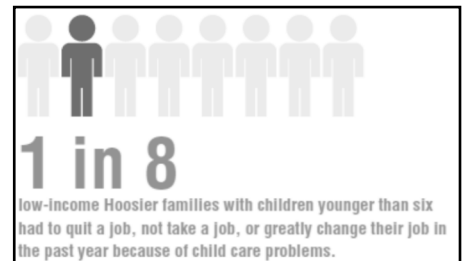
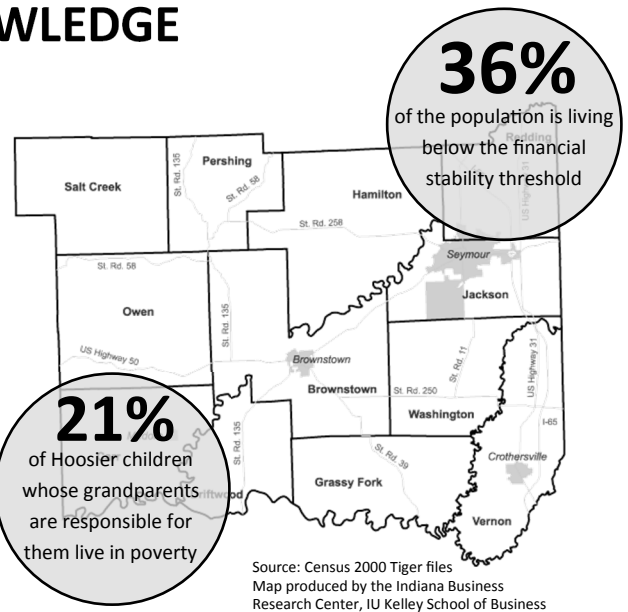
The information we collected through our community conversations became our **public knowledge**.

Through our role in the community, we already had a significant amount of **expert knowledge** about Jackson County including education levels, employment levels, and economics. This expert knowledge is already used in how we determine our work in the community.

Expert knowledge includes data from resources like the **United Way ALICE Project**, **United Way Indiana Impact Community Report Card**, **Indiana Youth Institute Kids Count Data**, and **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation County Health Rankings**:

- **\$47,785** is the median household income
- **90%** of Hoosier high school students say their family has clear rules about drugs and alcohol use
- **54%** of Jackson County children ages 0-5 are in high-quality child care
- **50%** of Jackson County public school students receive free or reduced lunch prices
- **41%** of renters spend more than 30% of their monthly income on rent
- **41%** of Hoosier families read to their children six years old and younger every day
- **31%** of their income is spent on child care for families at 200% poverty
- **26%** of the population age 25 and older have earned a bachelor's degree or higher
- **21%** of Hoosier children whose grandparents are responsible for them live in poverty
- **20%** of Hoosier High School students seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year
- **19%** of Hoosier children live in a home with food insecurity
- **11%** of Jackson County children under six have no health coverage
- **5%** of Hoosier parents say that their child does not live in a safe neighborhood
- **14** the average age of an Indiana student who uses heroin the first time
- **57*** in overall health outcomes (length of life & quality of life)
- **21*** in overall health factors (health behaviors, clinical care, social & economic factors, and physical environment)

* Rank out of 92 Indiana Counties



2017 Poverty Guidelines, United States			
People in Household	Poverty Guideline	People in Household	Poverty Guideline
1	\$12,060	5	\$28,780
2	\$16,240	6	\$32,960
3	\$20,420	7	\$37,140
4	\$24,600	8	\$41,320

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



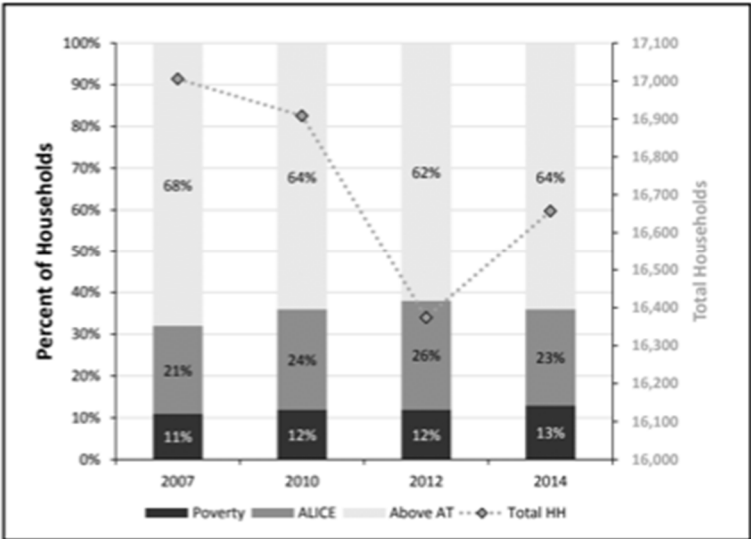
Two important pieces of our expert knowledge include the **United Way ALICE Project** and the **United Way Indiana Impact Community Report Card**. The ALICE Project is an ongoing study, a joint effort between United Way and Rutgers University in New Jersey, and looks at the growing number of households in our communities who do not earn enough to afford basic necessities. The study now involves 18 states including Indiana. Locally, about 3,830 households struggle to keep their financial heads above water while working one, two, or even three jobs. If you add those families to the number of families living below the federal poverty guidelines, that makes up about two out of every five families in Jackson County. The Impact Report Card, powered by SAVI and The Polis Center at IUPUI, provides trends regarding health, education, and financial stability for our county. To learn more visit: www.Indianaimpact.org/JacksonCountyUW.

ALICE: ASSET LIMITED, INCOME CONSTRAINED, EMPLOYED

ALICE households are those that earn more than the U.S. poverty level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county. ALICE is working hard, but not making ends meet every month. Combined, the number of poverty (13%) and ALICE (23%) households equals the total population struggling to afford basic needs.

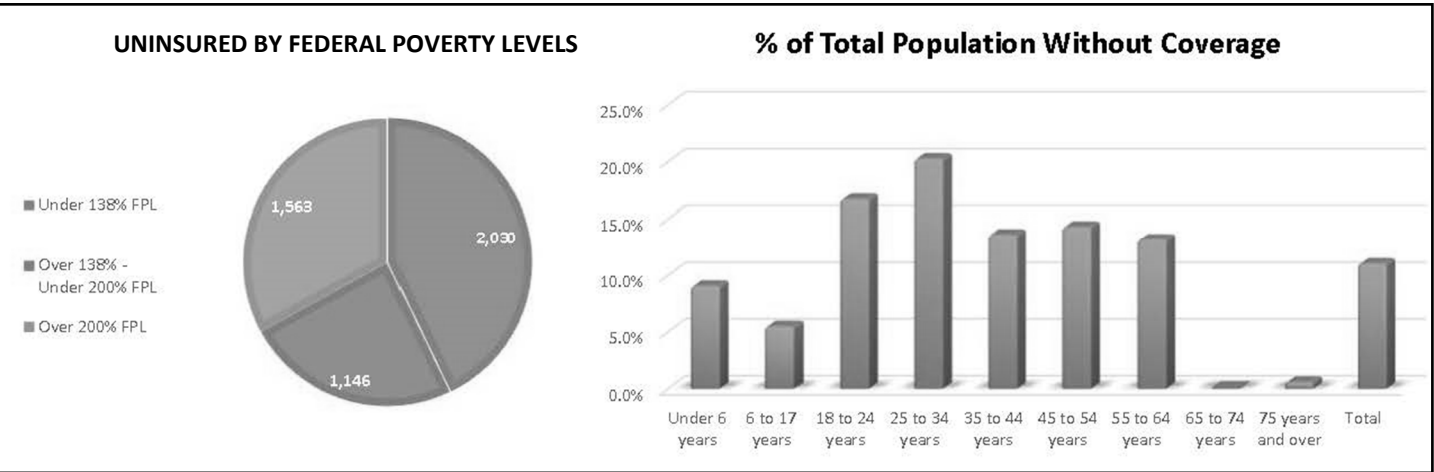
The number of households below the ALICE threshold changes over time; households move in and out of poverty and ALICE as circumstances improve or worsen. The Great Recession, from 2007 to 2010, caused hardship for many families. Conditions started to improve in 2010 and 2012 for some, but not for all.

Households by Income, 2007-2014



ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

Access to health care and the means to pay for it affects the financial stability of individuals and families by reducing health related debt, increasing workplace productivity, and enabling them to spend more in our local economy. In 2017, when the JCUW Board learned Jackson County’s uninsured rate was above the state average and reflected on the community conversations findings regarding the need to provide supportive services to people that are working, but struggling to make ends meet, the timing to become a lead agency with Covering Kids & Families made sense. The opportunity to become a coalition to increase access to health coverage is meeting an unmet need and creating stronger partnerships.



SOURCE: B27001: Health Insurance Coverage Status By Sex By Age- Universe: Civilian non-institutionalized population and S2701: Healthy Insurance Coverage Status 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR HEALTH COVERAGE



Make an appointment to talk with our Certified Indiana Navigators and get enrolled in health coverage today!

www.jacsy.org/covering-kids-and-families

Call: 812-271-1782

Email: stephanie@jacsy.org

THE STIGMA

People experiencing substance use disorder face a wide range of stigmas. Stigma is often a consequence of labelling, which can lead to an individual being treated differently. It leads to status loss and discrimination for the stigmatized.

Language that includes biased and hurtful words can lead to unjust treatment and social exclusion. For example, the term ‘addict’ implies that the individual’s identity is defined solely by their substance use disorder or addiction. Putting the person first language, such as ‘person with a substance use disorder’ is more appropriate. Stigma and discrimination are barriers to acknowledging the problem, seeking and accessing treatment and ultimately – to recovery. For example:

SAY THIS	NOT THIS
Person with opioid use disorder	Addict, user, druggie, junkie, abuse
Disease	Drug habit
Person living in recovery	Ex-addict
Person arrested for a drug violation	Drug offender
Substance dependent	Hooked
Had a setback	Relapsed
Maintained recovery, substance-free	Stayed clean
Negative drug screen	Clean
Positive drug screen	Dirty drug screen

National Council for Behavioral Health, “Language Matters” (2015)

Know the facts.

1

FACT 1
It’s a disease.

2

FACT 2
There is treatment.

3

FACT 3
Recovery is possible.

Indiana Next Level Recovery

“The human brain was not meant to process opioids,” Dr. Clark says. “Opioids permanently change nerve cells in the brain, sometimes within a very short period of use. So, simply taking away opioids doesn’t change the brain’s requirement for them.”

Trust for American’s Health [Prescription Nation 2018](#)

“Changing the language, removing the stigma provides people hope that someone cares enough to help them walk this journey, because it is a difficult, scary journey and there aren’t a lot of resources in the same fashion as there are for other chronic diseases.”

Justin Phillips, [Overdose Life Line](#), Founder & Executive Director

OPIOID USE DISORDER IS A DISEASE

As a person uses opioids, dramatic changes in brain function occur. Addiction, at its core, is not just a social problem or a problem of morals. Addiction is about brains. Not just about behaviors. (American Society Addiction Medicine: August 15, 2011)

Addiction is defined as a chronic, relapsing brain disease that is characterized by compulsive drug seeking and use, despite harmful consequences.¹

Understanding that substance use disorder is a disease leads to empathy for the person with the disease and will help to reduce the stigma surrounding this disease.²

¹ Source: “Drug Facts: [Understanding Drug Abuse and Addiction](#).”

² Know the O Facts, Indiana Next Level Recovery

The Real Stigma of Substance Use Disorders

In a study by the Recovery Research Institute, participants were asked how they felt about two people “actively using drugs and alcohol.”

One person was referred to as a “substance abuser”



The other person as “having a substance use disorder”



No further information was given about these hypothetical individuals.

THE STUDY DISCOVERED THAT PARTICIPANTS FELT THE “SUBSTANCE ABUSER” WAS:

- less likely to benefit from treatment
- more likely to benefit from punishment
- more likely to be socially threatening
- more likely to be blamed for their substance related difficulties and less likely that their problem was the result of an innate dysfunction over which they had no control
- they were more able to control their substance use without help

BARRIERS THAT EXIST FOR LIFE POST RELEASE

Many people released from jail are facing multiple barriers which can increase the likelihood that they will commit new crimes and return to jail, called recidivism. The following barriers exist for people who have a criminal history:

- ☑ Lack of treatment options to address the underlying causes of addiction; creating continued behaviors.
- ☑ Employment opportunities; creating the lack of hope for a different future and a rewarding job.
- ☑ Lack of housing options, housing options that do not contribute to successful re-entry, and housing authorities' ability to deny applicants based on Federal regulations; creating homelessness.
- ☑ Driver's License revoked or suspended; creating a financial barrier for reinstatement, and the lack of transportation to employment and/or treatment.
- ☑ Lack of supportive, recovery-based relationships; creating isolation or a return to unhealthy relationships.
- ☑ Ineligibility for student loans, grants, or work assistance; creating the lack of opportunities for the person to develop employable skill sets.
- ☑ Ineligibility for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits; creating food insecurity and hunger.

FACTORS FOR RECIDIVISM

The younger the offender

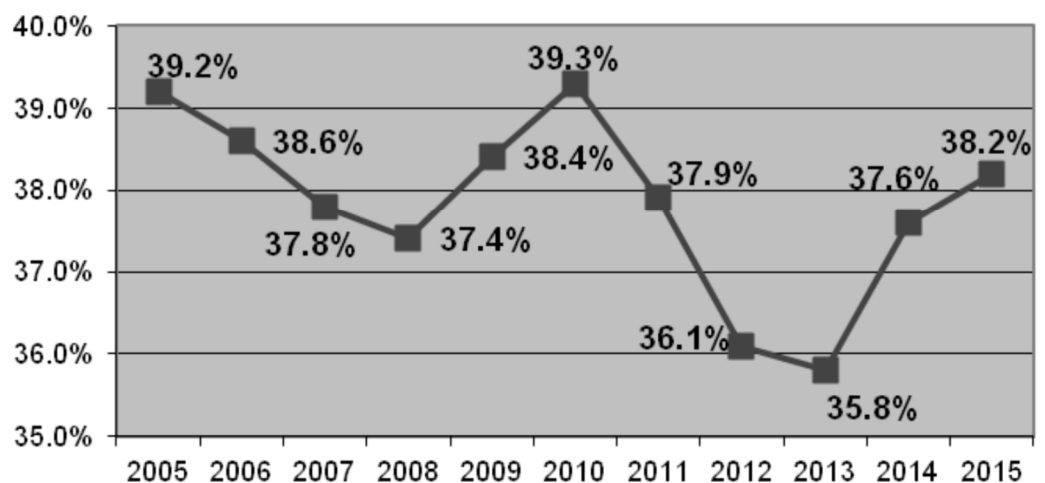
is at the time he/she is released, the **more likely** they are to return to the Indiana Department of Corrections (IDOC). Also, offenders serving less than 5 years with IDOC represent over 90% of all recidivists.

Offenders who had zero conduct violations during their incarceration period were over 26.4% less likely to recidivate when compared to offenders who had at least one conduct violation.

Of all offenders who recidivated, approximately 50.1% returned to IDOC for the commission of a new crime, compared to approximately 49.9% for a technical rule violation of post-release supervision.

Those offenders who participated in a work release program were **more than 37% less** likely to return to prison when compared to offenders who did not partake in a work release program.

2005 - 2015 Adult Recidivism Rates
Return to IDOC within 3 years of Release Date



MORE DEATHS, OVERDOSES, & SUICIDES (2015-2017)

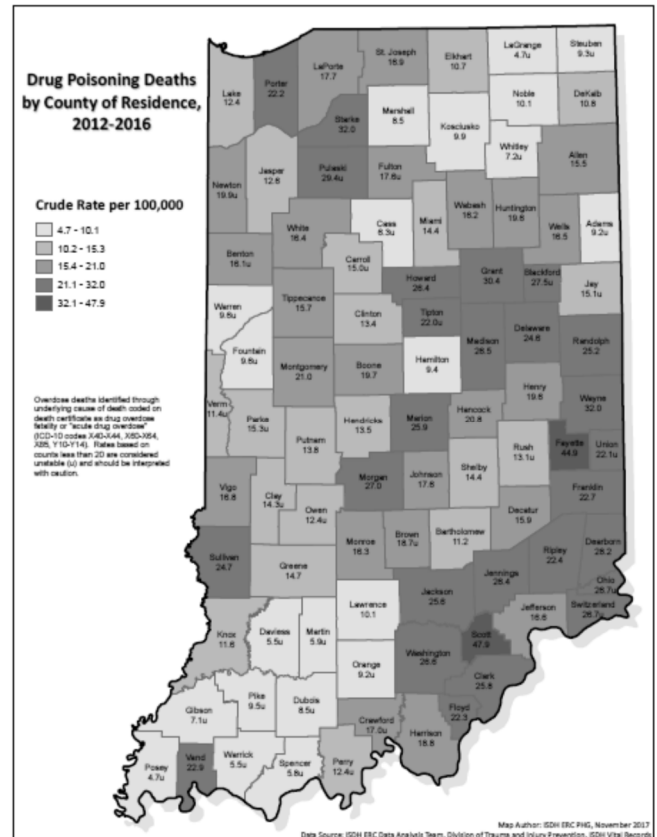
Opioid Overdose is Reducing U.S. Lifespan Estimates

Life expectancy in the U.S. declined for the second year in a row in 2016. A baby born in the U.S. today can expect to live 78.9 years in 2014. (Kochanek, Murphy, Xu, & Arias, 2017).

Much of this decrease is due to deaths from opioid overdose, and U.S. lifespan is anticipated to continue to decline as the opioid crisis becomes more deadly (Dowell, Arias, Kochanek, Anderson, & al, 2017).

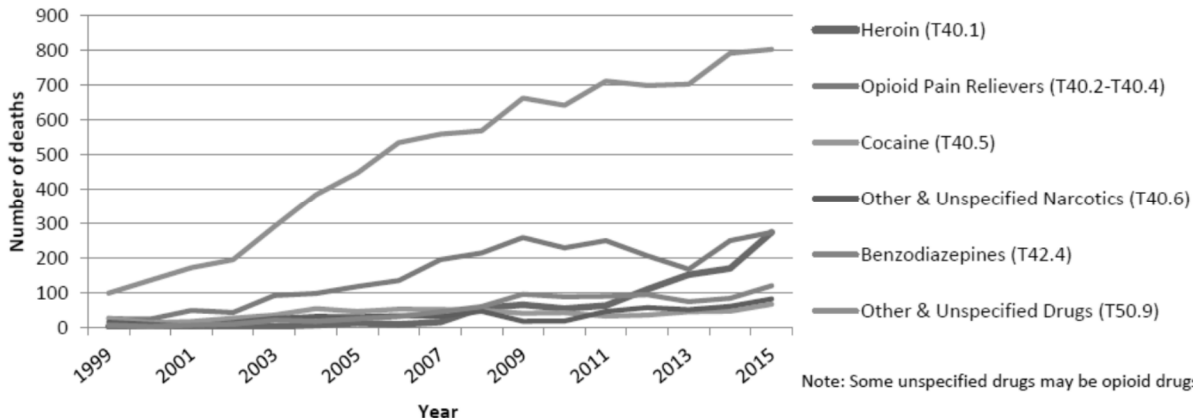
Unintentional injuries are now the third leading cause of death in the U.S. due to the spike in drug overdose deaths. People die of drug overdose at much younger ages than cardiovascular disease or cancer, the first and second causes of death in the U.S. (National Safety Council Injury Facts, 2017).

Overdose mortality rates are highest for people who are 25 to 54 years old, adults in their prime working years (Kochanek, Murphy, Xu, & Arias, 2017).

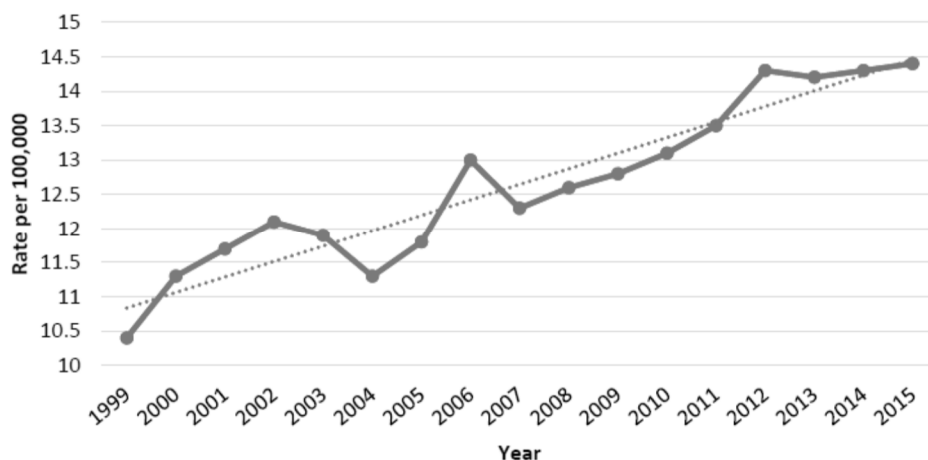


INDIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NUMBER OF DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS INVOLVING OPIOID PAIN RELIEVERS & OTHER DRUGS, 1999-2015



SUICIDE RATE* AND TREND, INDIANA, 1999-2015



DATA NOTES:

Data contained within the Stats Explorer represent what was reported to the Indiana State Department of Health, and may not reflect the full situation in a jurisdiction. Underreporting is one such limitation of the data, and more than one data source should be used when assessing the jurisdiction.

*Age-adjusted rates per 100,000 population

**Dotted line represents data trend line Source: Indiana State Department of Health, Epidemiology Resource Center

TREATMENT & RECOVERY RESOURCES

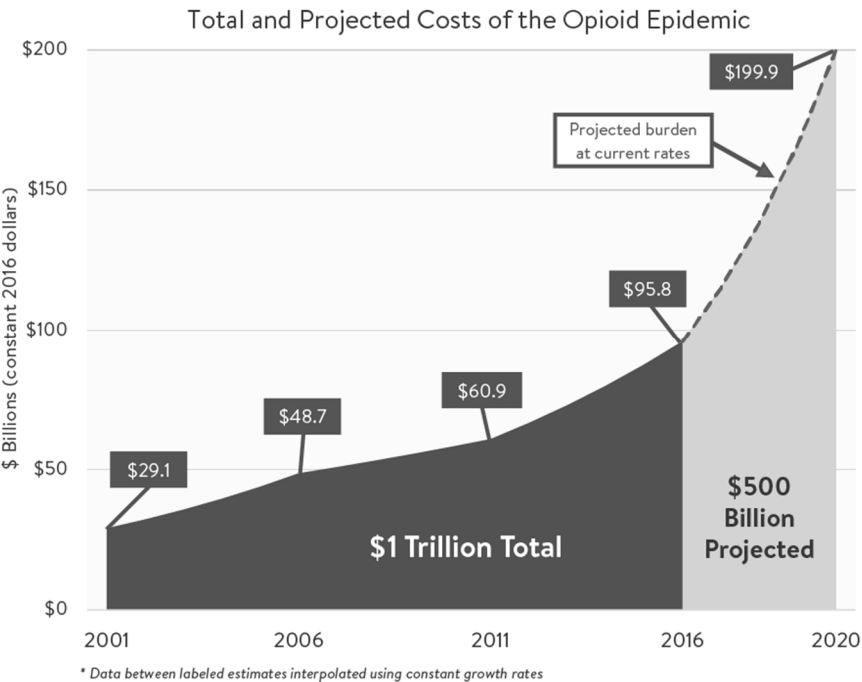
<p>NEXT LEVEL RECOVERY</p> <p>Indiana Next Level Recovery is an online entry point for all state resources on the opioid crisis. The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration maintains a list of available opioid treatment centers in Indiana.</p> <p>www.in.gov/recovery</p>	<p>SAMHSA</p> <p>Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration is the agency within the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services that leads public health efforts to advance the behavior health of the nation.</p> <p>www.samhsa.gov</p>	<p>AL-ANON & ALATEEN</p> <p>Al-Anon and Alateen are support programs for families affected by addiction. Group members come together in a confidential setting to share experiences, offer encouragement, and learn effective ways to cope with problems.</p> <p>www.al-anon.org</p>
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FOR A LIST OF RECOVERY GROUPS IN JACKSON COUNTY VISIT:

www.jacsy.org/treatment-recovery-resources

<p>OpenBeds® www.openbeds.net</p> <p>Despite increasing treatment beds, hospitals and treatment providers were left without a real-time solution to connect individuals seeking treatment for substance use disorder to an available bed.</p> <p>When individuals successfully complete treatment, Indiana 2-1-1 leverages service providers to assist Hoosiers with optional services to help them lead productive and fulfilling lives, such as help finding a job, housing, transportation and temporary financial or food assistance.</p>	<p>ProTech Recovery</p> <p>Dr. Joseph Koenigsmark runs our practice and has seven years of working with addiction, including three years of using Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). We personally manage your care from beginning to end and treat every person individually. To get started with an evaluation call 812-271-1798 to make an appointment. To learn more about this recovery treatment program visit:</p> <p>www.protechrecovery.org or email: protechrecovery@aol.com for more information.</p>
<p> Christopher & Associates Evaluation & Counseling Center, Inc.</p> <p>Christopher & Associates specializes in evaluation and treatment for children, adolescents, and adults. We work with individuals, couples, families and groups to provide comprehensive services for mental health and substance abuse treatment. We have been thoroughly trained in the areas in which we practice, and we continually receive additional education, consultation, and supervision in order to provide the best services possible.</p> <p>To make an appointment, please call 812-523-0386.</p>	<p>Centerstone provides a full range of mental health and addiction outpatient services. Just call 1-800-832-5442 or stop by our clinic. We provide walk-in times as well as scheduled appointments; whatever is most convenient.</p> <p>Our staff will provide an assessment and connect you with the services that best meet your mental health and addiction needs. We also provide crisis services to anyone experiencing a mental health or addiction crisis.</p> <p> CENTERSTONE</p>

TOTAL COST BURDEN OF OPIOID ISSUE



Anguished Families Shoulder The Biggest Burdens of Opioid Addiction

There are many different types of costs associated with the opioid epidemic: including emergency response, health care, criminal justice, rehabilitation and lost productivity. It's no wonder the total estimated burden from the epidemic is enormous. Health care research firm, Altarum, put the figure at \$1 trillion since 2001. The White House Council of Economic Advisers estimates that, including lost productivity because of opioid deaths, the total economic cost from the opioid crisis reached \$504 billion in 2015 alone.

NPR, Yuki Noguchi

PAYING THE PRICE

Employers in areas that are hard-hit by opioid addiction, and those in certain industries like construction and manufacturing, report increasing difficulties in filling open positions. A 2017 NSC survey, Indiana Business Review, and Drug Abuse.gov found:

	From 2011 to 2015, the total children in foster care increased by 58%.	Indiana has 85,000 job vacancies, passing drug tests is a large factor for not gaining the job.	
	Of the total opioid epidemic cost, it is estimated \$25 Billion is related to health care costs.	Nearly half (48%) identified a negative business impact: lower productivity, missed work, an increase in near-miss or close-call events, and an increase in workplace injuries.	
	Every \$1 invested in addiction treatment programs \$4-\$7 is saved in reduced drug-related crime, criminal justice costs, and theft.	The opioid crisis is expected to cause a \$1.5 Billion direct loss on Indiana's gross state product.	

The mission of Jackson County United Way is to **assess needs, secure resources and strategically invest those resources to create measurable, lasting change** in the areas of **health, education, and financial stability** of every person in Jackson County.

THE INTERSECT

United Way will be more precise in our work, and look for ways to invest our community's resources in the places where they will have the biggest impact.

We considered the intersection of our expert knowledge, public knowledge, and our mission. In that place, the center of what we know, what we learned, and the focus of our work, we realize with greater intentionality of our action we can do and accomplish more meaningful results.

We don't have to do everything—we aren't called to do everything. These issues are bigger than any one organization can tackle. Many other organizations in Jackson County already work to address some of the other concerns raised by our Community Conversation participants. Those concerns are valid and have been shared in order for other organizations to take action.

We are directing our focus on issues surrounding those who are working hard and struggling to make ends meet—and how we can achieve our hope by creating a supportive, recovery community for those addicted to substances. Here are a few examples of how we are building community connectedness, ensuring more social gatherings, and creating opportunities for interaction in order to take action together:



NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTIES



As we listened, we heard so many neighbors talk about wanting a community where we take care of one another. However, over and over, we also heard that neighbors didn't know one another. In order to increase connectedness in 2017, we co-hosted ten block parties with neighbors, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 108, Jackson County Breastfeeding Coalition, Jamestown Apartments, Mutton Creek Homeowners Association, and Seymour Parks Department and visited with over 1,000 residents.

We are looking forward to another fun summer of seeing neighbors getting to know one another, creating real relationships, and enjoying great food. Additional opportunities for partnership are possible in 2018, like the Jackson County Public Library's Family Fun Day!

HOST A BLOCK PARTY!

To learn more,
call: 812-522-5450
or visit: jacsy.org



Family Fun Day

**Sign up for the
Summer Learning Program!**

**GAMES, BOUNCY HOUSE,
POPCORN, POPSICLES,
AND MORE!**

SEYMOUR:
Monday, 6/4, 3-7 pm

CROTHERSVILLE:
Wednesday, 6/6, 4-6 pm

MEDORA:
Saturday, 6/9, 2-4 pm

LIBRARIES ROCK!

United Way
Jackson County Public Library
Jackson County United Way

FREE INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

Free Income Tax Assistance Programs, created in 2010, continues to lead the charge with financial stability work for Jackson County residents. In partnership with the Jackson County Public Library and dedicated volunteers, we've prepared 2,345 tax returns since 2010. We've also helped residents claim \$1,986,113 in federal and state returns. Based on an estimated \$350 rapid refund fee, our clients saved \$820,750 in avoiding rapid refund preparers trapping them into a cycle of high interest rate, short term loans.

In 2018, we helped 475 tax payers complete their returns. Of those residents, 95% used a portion of their refund to prepay on rent and an additional 64% saved a portion of their refund. These indicators point to a long term outcome for residents to have an improved financial situation for the remainder of the year by using our free income tax services, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and MyFreeTaxes.com. To learn more about these services or to become a volunteer, call Bonita 812-522-5450.



DAY OF CARING



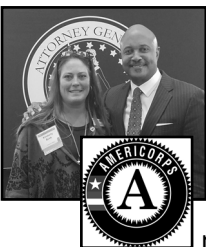
Be engaged and make a difference in the lives of our neighbors during the largest day of service in the county! The Day of Caring Committee works to create lasting change in all of Jackson County with past projects such as the Brownstown-Ewing Train Depot, the Crothersville Volunteer Fire Department, Red Sky Rescue in Medora, Seymour's Farmers Market, and Starve Hollow in Vallonia.



Over the years, thousands of volunteers have completed hundreds of community projects. In recent years, we refocused our efforts to ensure that we are meeting the community's hope of residents taking care of one another, ensuring that senior citizens and homeowners received extra help around the outside of their homes. For years we've touted the success of this day being a way for neighbors to help neighbors— we would love for you to roll up your sleeves with us next time!

ROCK'N READY

Rock'n Ready is a collaborative school supply assistance program focused on supporting K-12 students with the materials they need to start off the school year ready to learn. We are committed to allow this program to serve *all* students that are in need of assistance— there are no income guidelines which means we can also support ALICE families in need. Our partnership is growing in 2018 with direct distribution in Brownstown, Crothersville, and Medora, too! To learn more about helping to Stuff the Bus full of supplies, being a collection site, sponsoring the Rock'n Ready 5K Race, or helping students fill their backpacks call Bonita at 812-522-5450.



AMERICORPS SUPPORT

Indiana United Ways are leveraging AmeriCorps members to fight the opioid crisis in ten counties throughout the state, including Jackson County. We made this investment because we have seen a rise in opioid use and the fatalities and the societal affects from them. Poisonings are now the leading cause of death in Indiana and drug overdoses account for **90%** of those deaths. This initiative is aimed to better understand the issues facing substance use disorder, how families are affected, what resources are available, and how to engage the community in the solution. Our AmeriCorps member, Kimberly Buck, is charged with being a resource to partners, coalitions and stakeholders already working on this issue. Our community and its future depends on us working with our many partners to create solution pathways.

CREATING SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OTHERS

Jackson County Volunteer Center (JCVC) strives to match volunteers with community needs. We work to connect potential volunteers with service opportunities that fit their passion. We love to help corporations and student groups create meaningful opportunities for residents to make a difference. We've also created a lesson for fourth grade students to learn more about serving their community and being a resident who takes care of neighbors by sharing blessing bags; small kits with snacks and toiletries. To get connected to a service opportunity, call Bonita at 812-522-5450.



COUNTY WIDE RED RIBBON WEEK



During 2016 Conversations, Erica Lee, a Brownstown 4H Junior Leader shared, “Drug Free- Red Ribbon Week should be supported by the whole community showing that adults are behind this.” Because of this one valuable idea, JCUW believed there was an opportunity to boost the community’s awareness and encourage everyone to share a message of drug-free living.

It has been amazing what this one idea has inspired. In 2017, local restaurants hosted Dine United events with tips for talking to children about substance use, Seymour Main Street and local business owners allowed Seymour High School Art Students to paint windows with drug-free messaging, local businesses supported United Against Drugs banners in Brownstown and Seymour, and Seymour Community Schools sent home red pinwheels to promote drug-free living. Together, 29 organizations emerged to do their part in sharing the drug-free message. There is so much energy in the community to show our children we want them to make healthy choices. When we started the Community Conversations in 2016, we were told if we did the process, we would see small pockets of change begin to form and that the community would start working together in new ways. Red Ribbon Week is a very real example of pockets of change emerging.

JCUW is excited to see Red Ribbon Week grow in 2018, with a grant from the Community Foundation of Jackson County. If you would like to help plan Red Ribbon Week, call Tonja, Executive Director, at 812-522-5450.

DRUG TAKE BACK DAYS

Drug Take Back Days are planned in April and October throughout Jackson County in partnership with Jackson County Drug Free Council, Jackson County Health Department, Jackson County United Way, City of Seymour Police Department, Senior Citizen Centers, Freetown Improvement Association, and the Drug Enforcement Administration gives residents the opportunity to prevent substance abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs.

In October 2017 and April 2018, residents turned in 17 trash bags full of over 300 pounds prescription drugs at 5 sites throughout the county.

If you have expired, unused, and unwanted drugs— you can always drop them off at the Jackson County Sheriff’s Department or Seymour Police Department. If you have used sharps contact the Jackson County Health Department at 812-522-6474.



DRUG FREE COUNCIL & ACTION TEAMS

Each county in Indiana has a Local Coordinating Council (LCC), which is the planning and coordinating body for addressing alcohol and other drug problems. LCC members include volunteers from a variety of organizations including education, treatment, social services, and local police.

In 2017, JCUW was asked to assemble and facilitate groups and organizations that were working with the substance use issue. Within the framework of those meetings, we, together, created action teams and 3, 6, and 12 month goals in the areas of Prevention & Education, Intervention, Treatment, Recovery, and Public Awareness. Each team has recruited members with knowledge, personal experience, and/or organizational support to help drive long-term impact. To learn more about how you can get engaged in an action team contact Charlotte Moss at 812-523-3472 or come to a Drug Free Council Meeting the second Tuesday of the Month, 4 PM, at the Community Foundation; or visit: drugfreecouncil.org, or like Jackson County Drug Free Council on Facebook.

COLLABORATION IS BUILDING



Today's children are Jackson County's future leaders, parents and workers. Our county's future prosperity depends on their healthy development and growth. With the support of an engaged community and nurturing families, all of our children can thrive and have the opportunity to grow into caring, contributing and healthy adults.

Scientists who study the brain tell us that providing all of our children, from infants to adolescents, with nurturing relationships in safe, stable environments builds healthy brain architecture and lays a foundation for future success and well-being. Children who are abused or neglected, living in homes with domestic violence or substance abuse or living in chronic poverty, experience unhealthy levels of stress that are toxic to the brain and impair its growth. *These children are more likely to experience life-long problems in learning, behavior, and both physical and mental health.*

Preventing child abuse and neglect will take effort from every one of us — from policy-makers to parents. It is crucial that the community is involved and working together on prevention to ensure families have the tools and resources needed to be safe and successful.

Caring 4 Kids Council has been a part of Jackson County since 2017. We continue to work on behalf of Jackson County's children and families, striving to make Jackson County a place where all children flourish, free from abuse and neglect. For more information on Caring 4 Kids Council contact: Kate Garrity at 812-524-2585 or check the Caring 4 Kids Facebook page.

COACHING FOR SUCCESS & RECOVERY STORY

The Human Services, Inc. Coaching For Success Initiative moves people forward to a better quality of life. Efforts are focused on building the skills necessary in participants so they may grow in their own abilities to become independent. Coaching For Success places a strong focus in the areas of income, education and housing. Coaching For Success Initiative brings that team together for each participant. This program is a highly collaborative initiative and utilizes all community resources in an effort to move participants forward. Strong, genuine partnerships are forged with other agencies, organizations, faith based groups, businesses and participants. There is no time limit on this partnership. Generational poverty doesn't happen overnight... neither does moving out of it.



We appreciate Brooke's courage to share her recovery journey in order to inspire others and see the value of the Coaching for Success Initiative. Brooke is a teammate for the Human Services, Inc. Coaching for Success Initiative. She works hard in everything she does. Her Coach, Kendall, supports her as she continues to move forward.

"A year ago today, I should have died. I wanted to die. At least that is what I was thinking when I was weaving in and out of traffic, driving down the center lane, speeding through red lights, and hitting numerous cars to try to flee from the four state agencies that were chasing behind me. I never thought I'd make it out alive. God had other plans for me. One year ago today, I left home and traveled to Indianapolis for a doctor's appointment, and didn't come back home until almost five months later. While I was in jail, I lost EVERYTHING! My home, my belongings, all my kid's belongings, it was all gone. I was homeless. I didn't have a car or driver's license, not to mention a dime to my name. I had hurt everyone I loved and left my kids without a mother. After eight long years of living the 'fast life' of drug addiction, I got a second chance at life. A second chance, I didn't feel like I deserved. I am not ashamed to share my story with ANYONE. In fact, I hope one day I can be an inspiration to someone still suffering from addiction. I am writing things to thank all of the people who have been there to support me through my recovery, there are so many of you. I am so thankful for this new life I am living. It is still a daily struggle, we addicts know it's 'one day at a time,' but praise God for every new day that I get. I'm not perfect, and I never will be. But I get up everyday and try to be a better person than the day before. I owe it to my children, myself, and God. Even though it may seem impossible, a sober life is obtainable and very rewarding. Thank you to all the people in my life who loved me, even when it was difficult and supported me through this journey. Your love and support keeps me going."

To learn more about how you can become a participant like Brooke or to support neighbors by becoming a volunteer, contact Missy Woods at 812-522-8718 or mwoods@hsi-indiana.com or www.hsi-indiana.com.



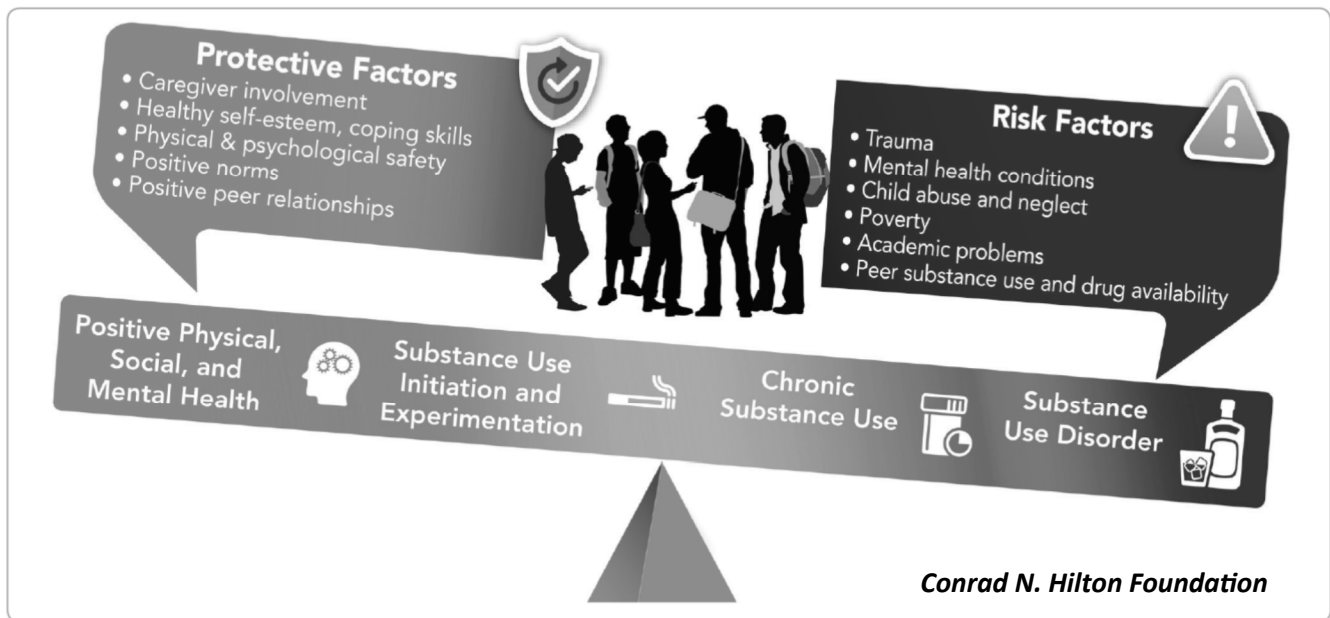
Past

Present

PREVENTION

No parent, child, or family is immune to the effects of drugs. Prevention is the best strategy, by providing safe spaces to have honest conversations and building stronger support systems for families we can reduce the rate of substance use disorder in our youth population. For every \$1 spent on prevention, \$10 on average is saved.

Risk and Protective Factors²



WHAT SOLUTIONS ARE POSSIBLE?



INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES

Indiana Youth Institute Kids Count Data

- ☑ Spread awareness of available safety net programs and how to apply.
- ☑ Be consistent in relationships with youth, emphasizing belief in their future.
- ☑ Adopt, serve as a foster parent, become a CASA or volunteer to mentor youth.
- ☑ Properly dispose of medications.
- ☑ Refer others to support or recovery groups.
- ☑ Support families by providing respite care, including foster children in playdates, offering to cook a meal, providing transportation or babysitting while parents job hunt.

ORGANIZATIONS & COMMUNITIES

- ☑ Expand education and training for parents seeking jobs.
- ☑ Coordinate affordable transportation alternatives such as carpools.
- ☑ Implement evidence based substance use prevention programs.
- ☑ Expand treatment options and include the entire family in treatment.
- ☑ Reduce stigma, create support, provide hope.
- ☑ Employers help employees with substance use disorder to seek treatment.
- ☑ Schools & youth serving programs can be inclusive in family engagement efforts, being sure to include grandparents, foster parents, and anyone else caring for children.



LEADERS & POLICY MAKERS

- ☑ Expand child care subsidies to make work feasible for parents.
- ☑ Expand policies for quality, affordable housing.
- ☑ Ensure inclusion of the entire family in policies and that additional research is conducted.
- ☑ Expand social supports for grandparents and other relatives providing care for children.
- ☑ Expand access to mental health care and counseling for children who have been separated from family.
- ☑ Expand transportation options by making roadways accessible for walking & cycling.

**I ALWAYS WONDERED
WHY SOMEBODY DIDN'T
DO SOMETHING
ABOUT THAT.
THEN I REALIZED
I AM
SOMEBODY.**



**Jackson County United Way
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(812)522-5450 | www.jacsy.org | @myJACSY**