

RECOVERY READY COMMUNITY INDEX

Advancing Substance Use Recovery
Public Science Collaborative
Ames, Iowa | publicassist@iastate.edu



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) Absolute Resource Abundance

Communities with many different types and options of recovery resources provide a strong infrastructure to support multiple pathways to recovery. This measure is calculated simply by counting the total number of recovery resources in a community. With many resources available, people in recovery have many potential sources of support in their paths to recovery.

2) Relative Resource Abundance

In contrast with the previous measure, Relative Resource Abundance adjusts the number of resources for the population of a community. This puts smaller communities on a more level playing field with larger communities. Someone who lives in a community with a high number of resources, adjusting for population, has generally strong access to recovery resources.

3) Recovery Culture

Recovery culture is measured by the total number of weekly recovery meetings, adjusting for the community's population. Like Relative Resource Abundance, this measure gives an equitable comparison between small and large towns. Recovery culture indicates whether the city already has an active recovery community in place.

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. All data is updated on the Recovery Iowa website quarterly, with daily updates to the peer support meetings. The RRCI is also featured in our Recovery Readiness Assessments, a series of 300 community, 99 county, and 7 behavioral health district reports. The goal of this work is to support Iowans in identifying Recovery Ready communities that can build new, additional recovery organizations in Iowa.

Scan here to find a community report! 

