

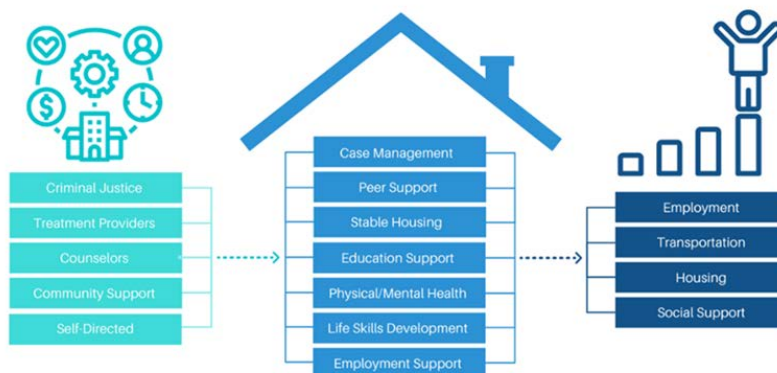
# Recovery Ecosystem Index Mapping Tool

The **Recovery Ecosystem Index** was developed with support from a Technical Expert Panel (TEP) convened by the ETSU/NORC Rural Health Equity Research Center (RHERC) and Fletcher Group, Inc. The Recovery Ecosystem Index provides a single numerical measure designed to reflect the strength of the substance use recovery ecosystem of a county. The **Recovery Ecosystem Index Mapping Tool** allows community organizations, policymakers, researchers, substance use treatment providers, and the general public to create county-level maps to understand these factors in their communities and where additional resources are most needed to provide support to individuals in recovery. Insights derived from this tool can be used to target resources and interventions to enhance recovery ecosystems.

## Recovery Ecosystem

Millions of individuals are estimated to have a substance use disorder (SUD), contributing to serious health, social, and economic consequences. Ensuring services and resources to support individuals in recovery from substance use disorders is good for our residents, our communities, and our economies. The term “Recovery Ecosystem” is used to describe the community-level factors that are in place to support individuals in recovery from SUD. Models that identify elements of strong recovery ecosystems have been developed.<sup>1,2</sup> Examples of key features include access to treatment services, recovery residences, harm reduction programs, employment opportunities, and prevention organizations.

### How A Recovery Ecosystem Creates Recovery Capital



<sup>1</sup> Ashford, Robert D., Austin M. Brown, Rachel Ryding, and Brenda Curtis. “Building Recovery Ready Communities: The Recovery Ready Ecosystem Model and Community Framework.” *Addiction Research & Theory* 28, no. 1 (January 2, 2020): 1–11. <https://doi.org/10.1080/16066359.2019.1571191>

<sup>2</sup> Behringer, Bruce. “Responding to Appalachian Voices: Steps in Developing Substance-Use Recovery Ecosystems.” *J Appalach Health* 2, no. 3 (2020): 117–32. <https://doi.org/10.13023/JAH.0203.10>.

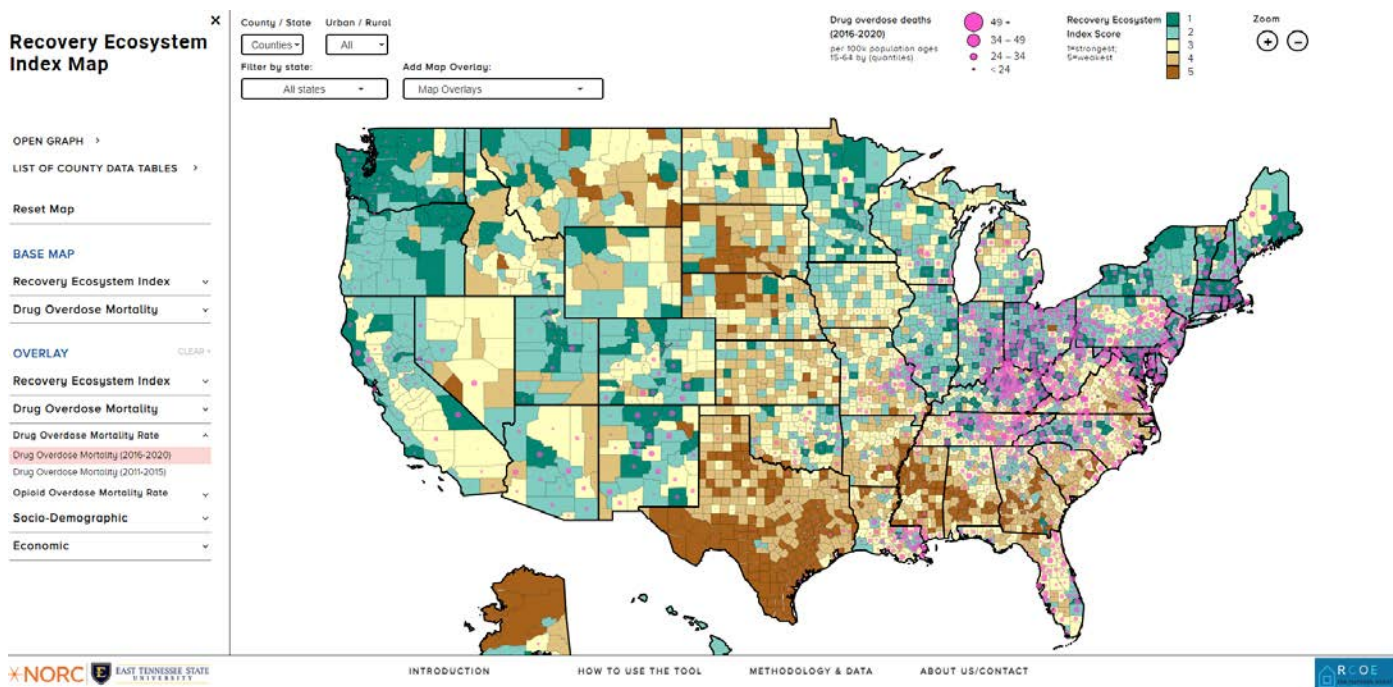
# Recovery Ecosystem Index

The index was designed to measure the strength of rural county-level recovery ecosystems, and provide data to support community planning, programming and technical assistance to strengthen recovery ecosystems throughout the rural United States. The index is broken down into three components that impact the strength of a recovery ecosystem: SUD Treatment; Continuum of SUD Support; and Infrastructure and Social Factors. To be included in the index, data must be available and reported consistently at the county-level. For the overall Recovery Ecosystem Index score, 1 represents the strongest and 5 represents the weakest recovery ecosystem.

- The SUD Treatment component includes the number of substance use treatment facilities per capita, number of providers licensed to administer buprenorphine per capita, average distance to nearest medication-assisted treatment (MAT) provider, and the number of mental health providers per capita.
- The Continuum of SUD Support component includes the number of recovery residences per capita, average distance to nearest syringe-service program (SSP), number of Narcotics Anonymous (NA) or Self-Management and Recovery Training (SMART) meetings per capita, drug court presence, Drug-Free Communities Coalition grant presence, and state-level policy environment score.
- The Infrastructure and Social Factors component includes vehicle availability, severe housing cost burden, broadband access, and social associations per capita.

# Recovery Ecosystem Index Mapping Tool

The Recovery Ecosystem Index Mapping Tool allows users to create overlays and explore how the Recovery Ecosystem Index correlates with other data, including drug overdose mortality, and socio-demographic and economic indicators.



The tool also provides county fact sheets which include all data included in the mapping tool. These fact sheets provide county-level data for all indicators and comparisons to state and national data. These can be printed or emailed to share data with decision-makers and stakeholders working to assess the needs and existing resources of specific communities.

## Bath County, KY

[Print Data Tables](#)

### Recovery Ecosystem Index Score

**1.0** 1=strongest; 5=weakest

**12,421** Population (Rural)

Hover over a variable in the data table, and its definition will appear below

Select data table: Recovery Ecosystem Index

Component	Score	Sub-Component	Bath County, KY	Kentucky	United States
SUD Treatment	1	Substance Use Treatment Facilities per 100k	16.1	10.5	4.3
		Buprenorphine Providers per 100k	24.2	22.7	15.2
		Average Distance to Nearest MAT Provider (miles)	6.5	N/A	N/A
		Mental Health Providers per 100k	297.9	258.7	284.4
Continuum of SUD Support	1	Recovery Residences per 100k	8.1	2.2	1.0
		Average Distance to Nearest SSP (miles)	17.5	N/A	N/A
		NA or SMART Meetings per 100k	8.1	8.3	8.1
		Is there a Drug-Free Communities Coalition?	No	18.3%	15.6%
		Is there a Drug Court?	Yes	47.5%	48.2%
		State SUD Policy Environment Score (10=highest; 0=lowest)	6.0	6.0	N/A
Infrastructure and Social	4	One or More Vehicles	91.6%	93.0%	91.5%
		Broadband Access	76.3%	81.6%	85.2%
		Social Associations per 10k	4.0	9.6	8.7
		Severe Housing Cost Burden	8.8%	11.2%	13.0%

The fact sheet also includes a summary of state-level policies that impact the substance use recovery environment.

#### State Policies:

Policy	Kentucky
Does the law provide protection from probation or parole violations?	No
Does the jurisdiction have a drug overdose Good Samaritan Law?	Yes (Ky. Rev. Stat. Sec. 218A.133) (Ky. Rev. Stat. 218A.133(2))
Is reporting an overdose considered a mitigating factor in sentencing?	No
Does the state require commercial insurers to provide coverage for MOUD?	No
Does the state Medicaid plan include coverage for behavioral health supports for MOUD?	Yes (1115 Waiver)
Does the state have an approved Medicaid State Plan Amendment to facilitate the provision of MOUD?	No
Are licensed SUD programs required to facilitate access to MOUD programs?	Yes (908 Ky. Admin. Regs. 1:374) (902 Ky. Admin. Regs. 20:111)
Does state law allow for the operation of syringe service programs (SSPs)?	Legal
Does state law allow for the possession of syringes by SSP participants?	Yes (Ky. Rev. Stat. Sec. 218A.500 Definitions for KRS 218A.500 and 218A.510; unlawful)

## Next Steps

Fletcher Group, Inc. and the ETSU/NORC Rural Health Equity Research Center will disseminate the Recovery Ecosystem Index Mapping Tool and solicit input for potential future enhancements to the tool. Additionally, we will attempt to validate the index and consider implications for the substance use recovery field.

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