

# 2022 Iredell County SOTCH Report

## Progress on Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) 2022

### COVID-19 Response Highlights:

- Resources pertaining to the COVID-19 virus such as vaccinations, testing, and transmission prevention were secured and/or created and dispersed to the community at large, to businesses (including schools and childcare centers) and to targeted populations through outreach fairs, point-of service-kiosks, flyers, e-mails, newspapers, and social media outlets.
- Early in 2022, COVID-19 mini-clinics continued to be promoted within businesses, where the community health worker provided support. The COVID-19 community health worker also distributed thousands of masks and transmission prevention products to individuals in areas of high-vulnerable index, in rural areas and within the Hispanic population.
- The ICHD partnered with StarMed Healthcare, an independently owned medical center, to provide vaccination and testing sites throughout the county. The Health Promotion Section made the community at large aware of the off-site clinics.
- The ICHD also produced COVID-19 health risk reduction videos that addressed transmission prevention, in addition to the aftermath of the pandemic related mental health and wellness concerns in the youth and Spanish speaking populations.
- The public health development & promotion team worked to create effective COVID-19 campaigns like "Don't Guess, Take a Test" and "Be Wise & Immunize" that offered information about the benefits of vaccinations, testing, as well as information about transmission prevention. The campaigns were targeted to the community at large and included a targeted deployment scope to reach the marginalized population and those in need.

## **Priority Progress**

### **Mental Health: Suicide**

- A Mental Health 101 training offered in May of 2022, provided mental health information with a focus on youth suicide prevention, it also helped reduced the stigma of mental illness. Over 40 community leaders which included nurses, guidance counselors, coaches, health teachers, and social workers attended.
- Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR), a suicide prevention training to recognize the warning signs of suicide and then question, persuade, and refer people at risk for help, was an additional training provided by the ICHD to community members in late October 2022. A total of 30 community members from various organizations participated.

### **Infant Mortality**

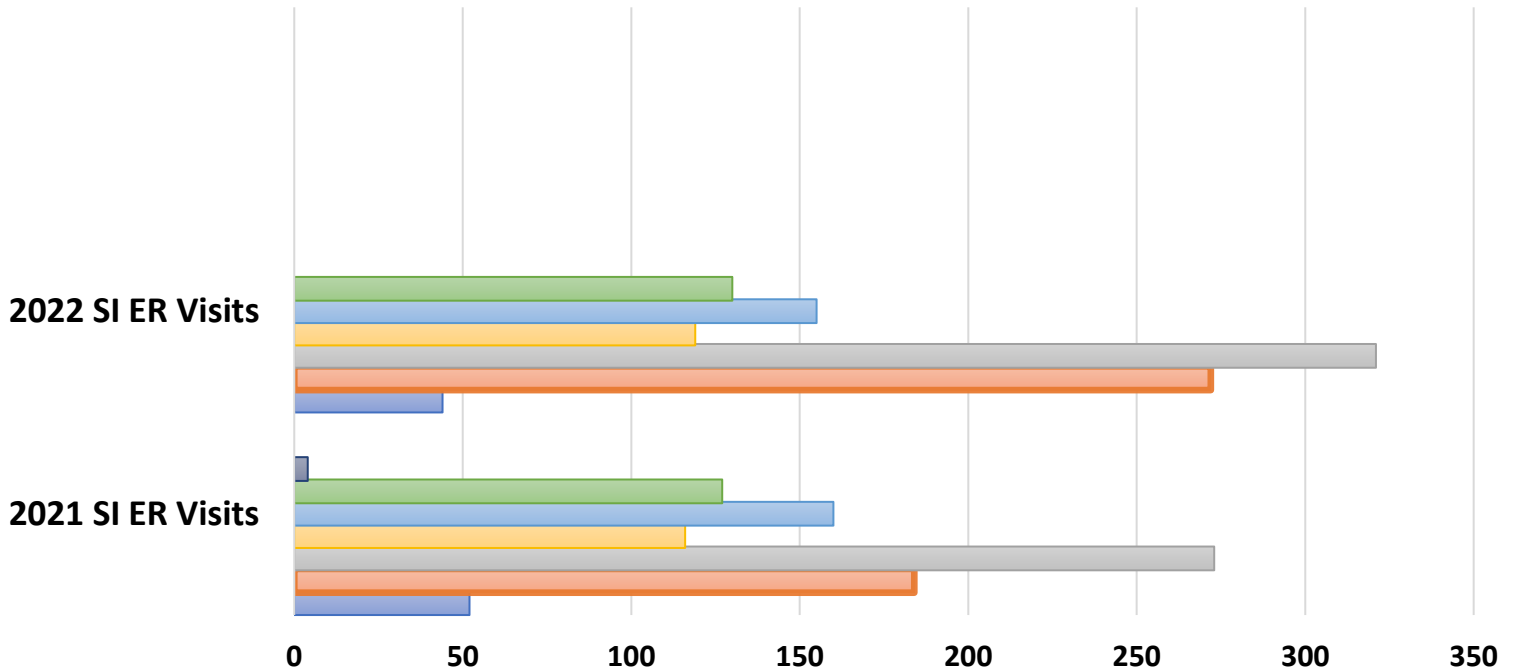
- There were 43 car seat checks completed and hot car safety information was provided to ICHD prenatal patients. Verbal car seat education was provided to each care giver to ensure the proper safety of infants and children in personal vehicles. Booster and belt brochures were also distributed along with hot car window clings and hot car handouts to prevent injury and death.
- Informational kits were distributed relating to prenatal health and safety, prenatal care options, and community organization resources that support the health of women and children. These kits were distributed to community-based organizations and point-of-service providers who shared the information with women of childbearing age who they were already or currently serving and interacting within their practices.
- Safe Kids Iredell Coordination offered many infant risk reduction activities like: reducing substances from home environments, winter weather drive to secure blankets and more for those in need, participation in car seat safety events, helped plan events to reduce drowning and more.

### **Tobacco Policies**

- The ICHD improved the previous Smoke-Free campus policy and transitioned to a Tobacco-Free campus policy. The policy is applicable to the main Statesville Building, Building Standards Building and Government Center South campuses with the goal of maintaining 100% tobacco-free facilities, including in vehicles, on outdoor grounds, walkways and parking lots. "Facility" includes the buildings that are owned, leased, occupied, or controlled by the local health department and where services are provided. The request was approved and the policy became effective December 1, 2022.
- Tobacco Policy Toolkits were distributed to municipality leaders. Toolkits included tobacco cessation services and referrals as policies take effect. Toolkits also provide the effectiveness of the current policies. ICHD also developed new interior and exterior Tobacco-Free Campus signage.

**Morbidity and Mortality Changes Since Last CHA**

**Emergency Room (ER) Suicidal Ideation (SI) Visits in 2021 and 2022  
in Iredell County**



	2021 SI ER Visits	2022 SI ER Visits	
■ Ages 0-1	0	0	
■ Ages 2-4	0	0	
■ Ages 5-9	4	0	
■ Ages 10-14	127	130	
■ Ages 15-18	160	155	
■ Ages 19-24	116	119	
■ Ages 25-44	273	321	
■ Ages 45-64	184	272	
■ Ages 65+	52	44	

## **Emerging Issues Since Last CHA**

- MPox ICHD has closely monitored the latest developments in the global mpox outbreak. Only 1 case of mpox was reported in 2022 in Iredell County.
- RSV was steadily increasing in 2022. The virus is usually more common during the winter, however in 2022 there was a high number of cases in the summer, and fall.
- In 2022, there were 17 confirmed rabies animal cases in Iredell County, compared to 15 in 2021.
- Syphilis was more of a concern in 2022 with 44 cases and 2 of which were congenital, which is rare.

## **New/Paused/Discontinued Initiatives Since Last CHA**

- A new Health Promotion Coordinator was hired in May of 2022.
- A new Youth Risk Reduction Specialist was hired in May of 2022.
- Planning to add two new positions, in FY 23-24, for the Public Health Development and Promotion Division with opioid settlement funding: Substance Misuse Opioid Prevention Coordinator and Opioid Misuse Community Health Worker.

## **Discontinued**

- COVID-19 funding was plentiful in 2022; however, it is anticipated to be reduced in FY 23-24 due to the declining in COVID-19 cases in North Carolina.