

1. Progress on CHIPs (2022):

- Clear Impact Scorecard 2022 – additional training March and April 2022 (Scorecard School); Project ECHO training, and linking to the HNC 2030 Scorecard to create greater awareness of population accountability –
- COVID-19's impact on the CHA-CHIP-SOTCH process and ability to work with partners and implement planned programs – Since March 2020, almost all outreach efforts were curtailed due to COVID-19.

2. Morbidity and Mortality Changes since last CHA (2019)

- COVID 19 data for Scotland County (since March 2020)
 - Total # of cases: (12-31-22) 12,435
 - Total # of deaths: 148
- Demographics:
 - Vaccinated: NC – 71% of pop. fully vaccinated
 - Scotland County Partially Vaccinated: 54%
 - Scotland County Fully Vaccinated: 50%
 - Scotland County Booster: 52%
 - Race: (white 50%; Black 46%; suppressed 32%)
 - Gender: Female – 55% Male – 49%
 - Age:
 - 5 to 11 yrs (8%)
 - 12 to 17 yrs (30%)
 - 18 to 24 yrs (33%)
 - 25 to 49 yrs (50%)

- 50 to 64 yrs (73%)
- 65 to 74 yrs (91%)
- 75+ yrs. (91%)

(NC DHHS Dashboard Data as of Nov. 10, 2022)

Leading Causes of Death 2017-2021:

In **2021**, Scotland County's total death rate was 1,612.80 with 552 deaths (excluding fetal deaths) compared to North Carolina's rate of 1,118.70 (per 100,000 population). **Heart Disease was the leading cause of death in Scotland County** with **94** deaths for a death rate of 274.6 compared to North Carolina's death rate of 201.9 (per 100,000 population) in 2019. The next five leading causes of death in Scotland County were: **Cancer 90; COVID-19 77; Unintentional Injuries 42; Alzheimer's 27; and diabetes 17;** (per 100,000 population). There were four suicide and thirteen homicide deaths in the county. (North Carolina Vital Statistics, Vol. 1, 2, 2021).

3. **Emerging Issues since last CHA:**

- **COVID-19** – Scotland County's first reported case of COVID-19 was March 28th, 2020 and the first death associated with COVID-19 was June 9, 2020. Since then #10,029 cases have been reported as of April 1st, 2022. Today Scotland County has #148 deaths associated with COVID. At this time COVID-19 vaccination percentages are at about 49% fully vaccinated and 53% partially vaccinated. Our goal was to reach and vaccinate at least 60% of our population in Scotland County by end of 2022.
- **Employment/Housing** – Scotland County, like nearly all counties experienced the closing or scaling back of many smaller businesses, restaurants, fast-food eateries, and the like due to COVID-19. Sudden unemployment meant loss of income and/or health insurance, quality housing, inability to afford health care or sufficient food sources, etc. Economic well-being is linked to health outcomes and

because of the pandemic, Scotland County suffered innumerable cases and deaths associated with COVID-19 and of course unemployment. In April 2022, Scotland County's unemployment rate was 7.3% compared to 11.2% this time last year.

- **Mental Health** – (including substance misuse/overdose): mental health has been greatly affected in Scotland County by the COVID-19 pandemic over the past two years (i.e. social distancing, virtual/remote learning for school system and students, number of cases and deaths associated with COVID, job loss and closings, drug misuse and overdose, and others). In 2022, grant funding through the U.S. Department of Education was pursued by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) with \$17 million awarded to increase mental health support for students in public schools. Scotland County is one of eight school districts included. Funding will help increase the number of licensed school-based mental health providers, counselors, and/or social workers beginning 2023.
- Overdose incidences: Narcan was administered 169 times in 2020 with twelve deaths and 113 ER Visits; Narcan was administered 195 times in 2021 with EMS being dispatched to 197 overdose calls; In 2022, EMS was dispatched to 217 overdose calls and Narcan was administered 184 times. The number of deaths associated with drug overdose was not available for 2021 or 2022 at this time.
- Education for overdose awareness and prevention was diminished accept through media/social media. Even so, evidence based strategies are ongoing for substance use/misuse and tobacco prevention through social media, digital ads, public service announcements, news articles and ads and through mass email efforts and partnering with a local pharmacy, Medical Village, placing tobacco and opioid prevention ads on their Rx bags reaching about 30,000 annually.

4. **New/Paused/Discontinued Initiatives since Last CHA 2019:**

- Priorities Scotland County began focusing on, as explained in our CHIP, are ongoing although not through the normal outreach efforts where we meet with, educate and inform people in face to face settings. We have had to think outside the box in delivering our messages, training, education and information endeavors mostly utilizing media resources and social media, along with virtual meetings and classes when possible. At this time we are honoring restrictions according to state and county mandates due to COVID.
- We implemented numerous mass **COVID testing and vaccination events** providing participants with educational materials and items on COVID and other topics along with vaccinations in 2020, 2021 and 2022. We partnered with OPTUM, Mt. Calvary Center for Leadership Development utilizing community health workers, The New Rural Project (NRP) that helped with deep canvassing for COVID vaccine events and The American Legion Post 50, which provided a site to provide the COVID Vaccine and Testing and On Target Preparedness (Emergency Management), Scotland County Schools, Scotland Healthcare System, local media, and others to promote the COVID vaccines/boosters and educate the public. We continue to provide COVID Booster vaccines and COVID home test kits and educate through various media outlets (local newspaper, radio and social media) and community health workers.
- We continued providing education and information for tobacco use, vaping/e-cigarette prevention through EBS/Campaign ads, radio ads, social media, handouts during COVID related events and newspaper articles, and even though limited due to COVID-19, have participated in a few events where we were able to have face to face time.
- **Dental Health** - education, information and dental health screenings will ensue as early as April 2023. We are working closely with our Public Health Dental Hygienist with the NC Oral Health Section, to schedule trainings for those who influence children's and older adult's health.

- **Opioid Awareness/Prevention** outreach efforts have begun again, through education, information and resources provided on social media and other media efforts (newspaper articles, ads and radio PSA's), along with several attempts in providing resource materials and related items to the targeted population. We held our first of three Opioid Community Forums Nov. 15, 2022 and open to the public to learn about overdose data in Scotland County, prevention efforts, Narcan demonstrations and resources available. The Opioid Prevention and Education Network (O.P.E.N.) team is provided updates quarterly with information on relevant webinars, trainings, resources, activities or other needs associated with overdose and drug misuse. We also partner with Eastpointe, M.C.O. for resources, educational materials, supplies and training. Scotland County also is part of EastPointe's Mobile Care Unit implementation that will offer services to anyone needing mental health and/or substance use counseling, screening, support and recovery. The Mobile Care Unit is available Monday thru Friday and managed by Stephens Outreach Center, Inc. as a new resource in Scotland County along with the Opioid Settlement funding the county is tasked with utilizing to enhance programs and services over the next ten years.
- **Physical Activity/Nutrition** - during the Pandemic many of Scotland County's beautiful parks, walking trails, and playgrounds were being updated and made inclusive for disabled youth and adults through collaborative efforts and funding. A new Community Center is being developed at the unused I.E. Johnson Elementary School, along with the new Laurel Hill Community Center that will provide opportunities for active living and recreation in a safe, inclusive environment and will open to the public in 2023.