Scott County
Health Improvement Plan
2016-2021

Scott County, Iowa

Prepared by the Scott County Health Department
February 2016

Community Health Assessment & Health Improvement Plan Steering Committee

Community Health Care, Inc.
Genesis Health System
Quad City Health Initiative
Rock Island County Health Department
Scott County Health Department
UnityPoint Health – Trinity

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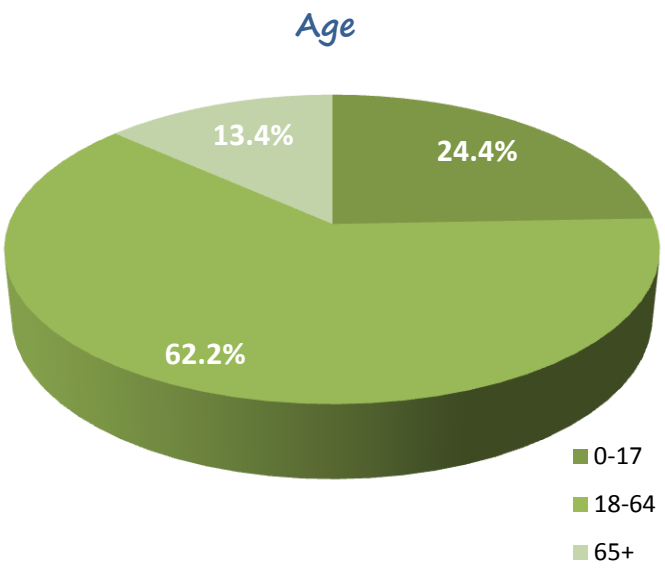
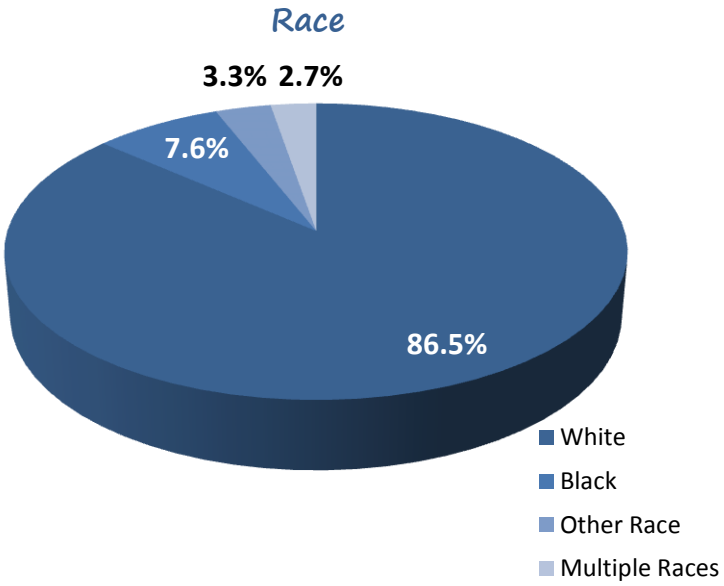
Introduction

Scott County, Iowa, a county of approximately 167,080 residents, is located on the eastern border of the state of Iowa. The County is comprised of a unique make-up of metropolitan areas along the Mississippi River and agricultural and rural communities expanding to the north and west; 86.5% of Scott County residents live in the urban area while 13.5% live in a rural area. Scott County is the third largest county by population in the state of Iowa. Below are the age and racial demographics of Scott County's residents:





In addition, 5.8% of the Scott County population is Hispanic or Latino. Since the year 2000, there has been a 42.7% increase in the Hispanic population in the County. Adding to additional demographic differences among Scott County residents, currently 1.1% of Scott County residents are considered to be linguistically isolated, therefore 1.1% of the total population age 5 and older live in a home where no person age 14 or older is proficient in English (speaking only English or speaking English "very well").

The community health assessment and health improvement planning process is very important to establishing and maintaining the health of the continually changing Scott County community. This local action to promote and protect the health of Scott County residents takes place every five years. This current year's effort marked a unique opportunity to plan for health improvement on a larger scale by collaborating more extensively with area nonprofit hospitals, Genesis Health System and Unity Point Health – Trinity, who have recently been required to identify needs and create strategies for implementing change. Additional health partners included the Quad City Health Initiative, Community Health Care, Inc., and Rock Island County Health Department.

This collaborative effort has allowed the health partners to establish a common vision and plan in addressing health needs and creating a healthier Quad Cities where people can live, work, play, and raise families in the healthiest communities possible.

Social Determinants of Health

According to Healthy People 2020, "Health starts in our homes, schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, and communities". Physical and social environments need to promote good health in order to allow a community's residents to be healthy.

Healthy People 2020 Approach to Social Determinants of Health; www.healthypeople.gov/2020

The Community Health Needs Assessment process for Scott County acknowledged the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) and identified many health needs that exist for individuals and communities as a result of these social determinants. Economic stability, health and health care, and neighborhood and built environment are addressed in the proceeding priorities and strategies of the Scott County Health Improvement Plan (HIP). One factor of economic stability, income, remains a theme that blends across all priorities for the HIP, as individuals with lower incomes more often experience barriers to physical, mental, social, and emotional wellbeing and healthy living. As strategies are implemented and collaborations are executed, socioeconomic factors and population breakdowns will be aspects that are addressed in making lasting change.

Need Prioritization

During the spring and summer of 2015, the Scott County Health Department and members of the Community Health Assessment & Health Improvement Plan Steering Committee conducted a community health needs assessment to identify health needs, health behaviors, and unique factors about the Scott County population. The initial data gathering process included a community survey to determine the health needs of utmost importance to community members; a household survey of 800 households to gather health status and health behaviors data; and secondary data analysis from a number of local, state, and national resources. For more information on this data, see Attachment 1 or visit http://www.quadcities.healthforecast.net/.

A Stakeholder Committee was created to obtain input on priority community health needs in relation to the data gathered through the community survey, household survey, and secondary data analysis. Community members from the following sectors were invited to participate in the Stakeholder Committee and contribute to a series of meetings to prioritize the community's top health needs based on importance of addressing the need, level of interest/ability to address the need, and if the need is already being addressed in the community.

Stakeholder Committee Sectors

Business/Industry	Human Service Agencies
Civic Groups	Judicial System
Community Not-For-Profit Organizations	Law Enforcement
Departments of Government	Local Board of Health
Elected Officials	Local Health Care Providers
Emergency Management	Local Schools and Academic Institutions
EMS	Media
Faith-based Organizations	Members of the General Public
Fire Department	Other Public Health System Agencies
Food System Stakeholders	Planning Organizations

Throughout the stakeholder meetings, participants discussed barriers and threats to health improvement in the community. This included availability of funding, lack of community awareness, inability to act due to a variety of reasons, lack of commitment or perceived lack of commitment by community leaders, cultural and language barriers, reimbursement issues, cost, and lack of interest by the community on various topics. Community assets and resources were also discussed as planning and prioritization occurred. At the top of the list was existing community programs and coalitions addressing a variety of health issues; also included were knowledgeable providers, committed social service professionals, access to care coordination services, community-minded funders such as the United Way, community interest in sparking change, and a history of community conversation and commitment to healthy living and activities to promote health. A list of all agencies already addressing the top 16 health needs in the community was comprised to help visualize the community partners (health systems, federally qualified health center, private medical and mental health providers, county health departments, health coalitions, city and county governments, state extension services, school health programs and services, mental health programs, and

"***Health*** is a state of complete physical, mental social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."

Definition of health adopted from the World Health Organization

"A ***healthy community*** is one that continuously creates and improves both its physical and social environments, helping people to support one another in aspects of daily life, and to develop to their fullest potential."

Definition of healthy community adopted from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (as noted in Healthy People 2020 report)

faith-based and community-based initiatives) already available and working to meet the health needs in the community. The existence of the Quad City Health Initiative as a community facilitator of health planning and improvement was also highlighted as a community resource for HIP implementation.

Initially, 56 health topics were selected through community and stakeholder surveys. The topics fell under the categories of promoting healthy behaviors; preventing injuries; preventing epidemics; protecting against environmental hazards; preparing for, responding to, and recovering from public health emergencies; and three strengthening the public health infrastructure categories: access to quality health services, workforce, and other needs. Following a series of meetings and surveys, stakeholders were provided a host of data regarding health status and healthy behaviors for Scott County, gathered during the community health assessment process. Stakeholders narrowed down the list of community health needs to 16 and then further to 7.
The list included the following:

Top 16 Identified Needs (The later identified top 7 are noted by *)

**Access to medical providers for under-insured, uninsured, or with Medicaid health insurance*	Health coverage (insurance)
Access to oral health care for low-income individuals and families	Address sexual abuse
Access to affordable medications	Address intimate partner violence (dating/physical/emotional/verbal abuse)
**Access to prenatal services*	*Address obesity in youth*
**Increase the knowledge of the community about appropriate use of health care services (ER vs. Convenient Care vs. Primary Provider)*	**Address obesity in adults (obesity needs were combined)*
**Access to mental health care for youth (access to mental health needs were combined)*	**Promote healthy living (healthy eating, physical activity)*
Access to mental health care for adults	**Address poverty among children & adults*
Address mental health needs of returning veterans	Emergency planning and response

Following lively discussion and input from providers and partners in the field, the Stakeholder Committee members voted to address the following community health needs in Scott County in the next 3-5 years:

Top 4 Identified Health Needs in Scott County

1. **Increase access to mental health care for youth, adults, and veterans**
2. **Promote healthy living**
3. **Address obesity in youth and adults**
4. **Improve access to medical providers for under-insured, uninsured, or with Medicaid health insurance**

Mental health is a state of successful performance of mental function, resulting in productive activities, fulfilling relationships with other people, and the ability to adapt to change and to cope with challenges. Mental health is essential to personal well-being, family and interpersonal relationships, and the ability to contribute to community or society.

Mental disorders are health conditions that are characterized by alterations in thinking, mood, and/or behavior that are associated with distress and/or impaired functioning. Mental disorders contribute to a host of problems that may include disability, pain, or death.

Goal: Improve mental health through prevention and by ensuring access to appropriate, quality mental health services.

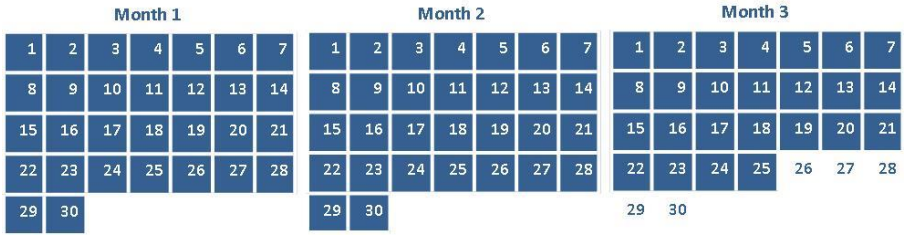
- ***Healthy People 2020***

Increase Access to Mental Health Care for Youth, Adults, and Veterans

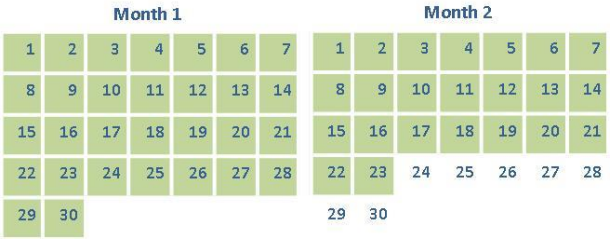
Scott County benefits from the presence of a community mental health center, Vera French Community Mental Health Center, within its borders. Vera French provides a variety of services including outpatient care, school-based therapy, pediatric and adult integrated health programs, supported community living, homeless outreach, and more. Genesis Health System and UnityPoint – Trinity Health System provide additional outpatient and inpatient mental health services within the Scott County community. A network of independent and private mental and behavioral health providers serve as additional mental health resources within the community.

However, throughout the community health needs assessment process and need prioritization steps, **access to mental health care continued to rank as the top need to be addressed in Scott County** in the upcoming years. The community health needs assessment completed determined that Scott County experiences on average 19.2 annual deaths per 100,000 population due to suicide. This is higher than the Iowa and national averages of 13.7 and 12.5 respectively. Suicides in the community have trended upward over the past decade. Additionally, the extended wait time for access to an initial psychiatric evaluation at a local community mental health center was cited as an indicator of the mental health need. Currently, the average wait for an adult to receive an initial psychiatric evaluation is 53 days. For youth, 85 days is the current wait time. Challenges continue to exist in the region in attracting additional psychiatric providers, further limiting access to these needed services. Discussions for the HIP centered around how to identify barriers to access to mental health, how to create additional/new entry points to mental health services, and how to increase awareness and reduce stigma of community mental health resources.

Average wait for **YOUTH** to receive initial psychiatric evaluation – *85 days*



Average wait for **ADULTS** to receive initial psychiatric evaluation – *53 days*



Following input from a number of community mental health providers, care coordination professionals, and families of individuals with mental health needs, the following community priority and action steps were created:

		Responsible Partner	*Target Date*
Goal 1	**By 2021, increase collaboration to address access to mental health services in Scott County.**		
Objective 1	(Developmental) Support the Community Mental Health Initiative to work collaboratively to reduce the wait period to receive an initial psychiatric evaluation at a local community mental health center by ___ %.		
	Strategy 1: Convene regular meetings of the Community Mental Health Initiative.	Quad City Health Initiative	2021
	Strategy 2: Establish priorities of the Community Mental Health Initiative to address access to mental health services.	Community Mental Health Initiative	2016
	Strategy 3: Establish a workgroup to address opportunities to reduce wait time for psychiatric evaluations, increase bed capacity, and other barriers to mental health services.	Community Mental Health Initiative	2021
Goal 2	**By 2021, increase training and education regarding mental health resources and information in Scott County.**		
Objective 1	(Developmental) Increase the proportion of primary care facilities that provide mental health treatment on-site by 10%.		
	Strategy 1: Support area health systems to develop a model to co-locate mental health professionals in primary care facilities.	Community Mental Health Initiative	2021
	Strategy 2: Develop a plan to educate and train primary care providers on mental health screening tools and resources.	Community Mental Health Initiative	2019
	Strategy 3: Implement a plan to educate and train primary care providers on mental health screening tools and resources.	Community Mental Health Initiative	2021
Objective 2	Implement a minimum of five annual community-wide activities or events to increase public knowledge and awareness of mental health issues.		
	Strategy 1: Develop and implement a social marketing campaign to educate the community about mental health issues.	Community Health Assessment Steering Committee	2021
	Strategy 2: Promote the Scott County Behavioral/Mental Health Resource and Referral Information Guide to health professionals and the public.	Community Mental Health Initiative	2021
	Strategy 3: Educate local and state elected officials about mental health needs in our community.	Community Mental Health Initiative	2021
Goal 3	**By 2021, advocate to increase funding for mental health services in Scott County.**		
Objective 1	Increase the number of workgroups who advocate for mental health service funding by 1.		
	Strategy 1: Solicit individuals and groups to form an advocacy workgroup to address mental health funding needs.	Community Mental Health Initiative	2021
	Strategy 2: Educate the workgroup on best practices for advocacy work.	Advocacy Workgroup	2016
	Strategy 3: Develop a plan for advocating for an increase in mental health funding.	Advocacy Workgroup	2017
	Strategy 4: Educate local and state elected officials about mental health funding needs for children, adults, and veterans in our community.	Advocacy Workgroup	2021

Objective 2	Implement a minimum of five annual community-wide activities or events to increase public knowledge and awareness of mental health issues.		
	Strategy 1: Develop and implement a social marketing campaign to educate the community about mental health issues.	Community Health Assessment Steering Committee	2021
	Strategy 2: Promote the Scott County Behavioral/Mental Health Resource and Referral Information Guide to health professionals and the public.	Community Mental Health Initiative	2021
	Strategy 3: Educate local and state elected officials about mental health needs in our community.	Community Mental Health Initiative	2021

National Alignment

Healthy People 2020:

- Goal: Improve mental health through prevention and by ensuring access to appropriate, quality mental health services.
- Objective MHMD-5: Increase the proportion of primary care facilities that provide mental health treatment onsite or by paid referral.

National Prevention Strategy:

- Priority: Mental and Emotional Well-being, Recommendation 4: Promote early identification of mental health needs and access to quality services.

State Alignment

Healthy Iowans Health Improvement Plan 2012-2016:

- Objective 8-1.4: Increase access to services and supports for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis.

Promote Healthy Living

Healthy living is a unique public health goal, requiring both individual-level and community-level interventions. Strategies created to address promotion of healthy living must aim to change community members' perceptions of health, encourage workplaces and educational institutions to create healthy environments for workers and students, and partner with communities to support a culture of health in policies that guide everyday living.

Regular physical activity can improve the health and quality of life of Americans of all ages, regardless of the presence of a chronic disease or disability. Among adults and older adults, physical activity can lower the risk of early death, coronary heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, breast and colon cancer, falls, and depression. Among children and adolescents, physical activity can improve bone health, improve cardiorespiratory and muscular fitness, decrease levels of body fat, and reduce symptoms of depression.

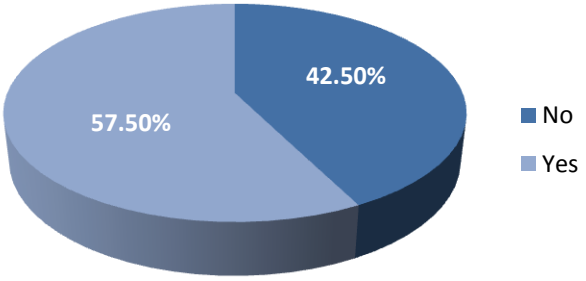
Diet reflects the variety of foods and beverages consumed over time and in settings such as worksites, schools, restaurants, and the home. Interventions to support a healthier diet can help ensure that individuals have the knowledge and skills to make healthier choices; and healthier options are available and affordable.

- Healthy People 2020

Recent data suggests the need exists to promote healthy living policies and choices. 50.2% of Scott County residents do not get enough physical activity to meet the current physical activity recommendations; 42.5% of children are not physically active for one or more hours per day. Adults age 40 and older, lower-income residents, and African American residents were more likely to lack leisure time physical activity in the last month. Additionally, only 37.9% of Scott County adults and 57% of Scott County children report consuming 5+ services of fruits/vegetables per day. The breakdown by demographics for adults shows that women, those ages 18 to 39, very low-income, and white populations tend to come closer to consuming the recommended amounts of fruits and vegetables per day. Further, only 18 worksites in Scott County are currently Be Healthy QC worksites – worksites that have implemented evidence-based activities that promote a healthy workplace and culture of wellness.

50.2%

of adults do not get enough physical activity to meet current guidelines



Children receiving 1 hour of physical activity daily

While community partners in Scott County and Rock Island County in Illinois have aligned their efforts in recent years to address healthy living and physical activity through the **establishment of the Be Healthy QC Coalition**, community partners reinforced the need for emphasis on these priorities in the HIP to be implemented in the next 3-5 years. As a part of this emphasis, the community conversation voiced the connection between healthy living and chronic disease prevention. Efforts of the Be Healthy QC Coalition will parallel, and most likely spearhead this emphasis of the HIP, and will promote worksite wellness policies and programs, comprehensive school wellness policies, built environments that support active living, access to healthy foods, and a cross-sector health promotion campaign on health eating and physical activity.

		Responsible Partner	Target Date
Goal 1	**By 2021, increase development and adoption of worksite wellness programs and policies in Scott County.**		
Objective 1	Increase the number of worksites recognized as a Be Healthy QC Worksite by 10.		
	Strategy 1: Convene regular meetings of the Worksite Wellness Be Healthy QC workgroup.	Scott County Health Department	2021
	Strategy 2: Continue outreach for the Be Healthy QC Worksite Wellness recognition program.	Worksite Wellness Be Healthy QC Workgroup	2021
Objective 2	Increase by one the number of Worksite Wellness Conferences hosted in our community.		
	Strategy 1: Determine conference agenda and secure speakers, date, and location.	Worksite Wellness Be Healthy QC Workgroup	2021
	Strategy 2: Promote conference to area worksites.	Worksite Wellness Be Healthy QC Workgroup	2021
Goal 2	**By 2021, implement a cross-sector health promotion campaign on healthy eating and active living/physical activity in Scott County.**		
Objective 1	Increase public and partner messages promoting healthy eating and active living to 72 messages.		
	Strategy 1: Convene regular meetings of the Be Healthy QC Marketing, Branding, and Communications Committee.	Be Healthy QC Coalition	2017
	Strategy 2: Develop cross-sector health messages to increase physical activity and healthy eating in Scott County.	Be Healthy QC Marketing, Branding, and Communications Committee	2016
	Strategy 3: Develop healthy eating and active living communication materials for area physicians and patient navigators.	Be Healthy QC Marketing, Branding, and Communications Committee	2021
	Strategy 4: Promote healthy eating and active living messages to Scott County residents in a variety of locations, avenues, and through partner organizations.	Be Healthy QC Marketing, Branding, and Communications Committee	2017
	Strategy 5: Encourage partner organizations to promote healthy eating and active living through the adoption of the Be Healthy QC logo.	Be Healthy QC Marketing, Branding, and Communications Committee	2017
Goal 3	**By 2021, promote development and implementation of comprehensive school wellness policies in Scott County.**		
Objective 1	Complete in-depth wellness policy assessment of four school districts/schools by 2021.		
	Strategy 1: In collaboration with United Way, the School Wellness Be Healthy QC Workgroup will research available school wellness policy assessment tools.	School Wellness Be Healthy QC Workgroup	2021
	Strategy 2: Complete in-depth wellness policy assessment at four school	School Wellness Be Healthy QC	2018

districts/schools.	Workgroup	
Strategy 3: Analyze and provide technical assistance to schools in strengthening the school wellness policies.	School Wellness Be Healthy QC Workgroup	2021

National Alignment

Healthy People 2020:

- Goal: Improve health-related quality of life and well-being for all individuals.
- Goal: Improve health, fitness, and quality of life through daily physical activity.

National Prevention Strategy:

- Priority: Healthy Eating, Recommendation 2: Implement organizational and programmatic nutrition standards and policies.
- Priority: Active Living, Recommendation 4: Support workplace policies and programs that increase physical activity.

Address Obesity in Youth and Adults

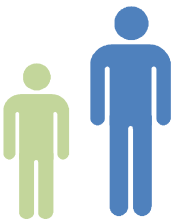
Healthy living goes hand in hand with addressing obesity and reducing chronic disease in order to create a healthier population. Stakeholders attending the community health focus groups reiterated the importance of addressing personal health behaviors as well as worksite, school, and community-wide policies as necessary to address the multi-faceted health topic of obesity.

Primary data collected during the 2015 community health needs assessment process indicated that 24.2% of children age 5-17 in Scott County are considered overweight. 17.8% of children age 5-17 in Scott County are considered obese. The obesity statistic is elevated from the national average of 14.8% and fails to satisfy the associated Health People 2020 target of 14.5% or lower for children age 2-19.

The Nutrition and Weight Status objectives for Healthy People 2020 reflect strong science supporting the health benefits of eating a healthful diet and maintaining a healthy body weight. The objectives also emphasize that efforts to change diet and weight should address individual behaviors, as well as the policies and environments that support these behaviors in settings such as schools, worksites, health care organizations, and communities….Individuals who are at a healthy weight are less likely to: develop chronic disease risk factors, such as high blood pressure and dyslipidemia; develop chronic diseases, such as type 2 diabetes, heart disease, osteoarthritis, and some cancers; experience complications during pregnancy; die at an earlier age.
– Healthy People 2020

The 2015 Quad Cities Community Health Assessment PRC Data Report also shows that 67.1% of Scott County adults reported being overweight; this is higher than the national average of 63.1%. Additionally, 1 in 3 Scott County adults is considered obese; this is a statistically significant increase in obesity since 2002 in Scott County.

A number of the activities supported by the Be Healthy QC Coalition will impact obesity and active living in Scott County, but stakeholders voted to keep the topic at the forefront of the HIP as a necessary mechanism to improve the community's health. Stakeholders also recognized the close connection between obesity in adults and the incidence of obesity in youth within the same families. Efforts to address adult obesity will most likely have a positive impact on weight status outcomes and knowledge for children. **Education and prevention were highlighted as prominent strategies** to impact obesity on a community-wide level and addressing the barriers to healthy weight and healthy living, including the social determinants of health, will help produce more beneficial outcomes than reactive measures to reduce the number of citizens who are currently overweight or obese.



24.2%
of Scott County CHILDREN age 5-17 are considered overweight
(BMI in the 85th percentile or higher)

67.1%
of Scott County ADULTS reported being considered overweight
(BMI of 25.0 or higher)

		Responsible Partner	*Target Date*
Goal 1	**By 2021, implement a cross-sector health promotion campaign on healthy eating and active living/physical activity in Scott County.**		
Objective 1	Increase public and partner messages promoting healthy eating and active living to 72 unique messages.		
	Strategy 1: Convene regular meetings of the Be Healthy QC Marketing, Branding, and Communications Committee.	Be Healthy QC Coalition	2017
	Strategy 2: Develop cross-sector health messages to increase physical activity and healthy eating in Scott County.	Be Healthy QC Marketing, Branding, and Communications Committee	2016
	Strategy 3: Develop healthy eating and active living communication materials for area physicians and patient navigators.	Be Healthy QC Marketing, Branding, and Communications Committee	2017
	Strategy 4: Promote healthy eating and active living messages to Scott County residents in a variety of locations, avenues, and through partner organizations.	Be Healthy QC Marketing, Branding, and Communications Committee	2017
	Strategy 5: Encourage partner organizations to promote healthy eating and active living through the adoption of the Be Healthy QC logo.	Be Healthy QC Marketing, Branding, and Communications Committee	2017
Goal 2	**By 2021, promote wellness policy and environmental improvements in communities and worksites in Scott County.**		
Objective 1	Increase the number of worksites who implemented a policy or environmental improvement identified in a workplace wellness assessment by 11.		
	Strategy 1: Identify worksites in Scott County to offer the Community Health Assessment aNd Group Evaluation (CHANGE) tool assessment and technical assistance.	Scott County Health Department	2021
	Strategy 2: Complete the CHANGE tool assessment with identified worksites and compile a report of the findings and recommendations.	Scott County Health Department	2021
	Strategy 3: Present findings and recommendations to the worksites and offer technical assistance in implementing policy and environmental improvements.	Scott County Health Department	2021
Objective 2	Increase the number of communities who implemented a policy or environmental improvement identified in a community wellness assessment by 5.		
	Strategy 1: Identify communities in Scott County to offer the Community Health Assessment aNd Group Evaluation (CHANGE) tool and Walkability and Bikeability Suitability Assessment (WABSA) and technical assistance.	Scott County Health Department	2021
	Strategy 2: Complete the CHANGE tool and WABSA with identified communities and compile a report of the findings and recommendations.	Scott County Health Department	2021

Strategy 3: Present findings and recommendations to the communities and offer technical assistance in implementing policy and environmental improvements.	Scott County Health Department	2021

National Alignment

Healthy People 2020:

- Goal: Promote health and reduce chronic disease risk through the consumption of healthful diets and achievement and maintenance of healthy body weights.
- Objective NWS-8: Increase the proportion of adults who are at a healthy weight.
- Objective NWS-9: Reduce the proportion of adults who are obese.
- Objective NWS-10: Reduce the proportion of children and adolescents who are considered obese.

National Prevention Strategy:

- Priority: Healthy Eating, Recommendation 4: Help people recognize and make healthy food and beverage choices.

State Alignment

Healthy Iowans Health Improvement Plan 2012-2016:

- Objective 6-5: An increase in the proportion of adults who get the recommended levels of aerobic physical activity.
- Objective 6-9: A reduction in the proportion of adults who are obese.

Improve Access to Medical Providers for Under-Insured, Uninsured, or with Medicaid Health Insurance

Health equity and quality of life are factors that rely invariably on access to quality health care services. A focal point of quality health care services is the medical providers that make up the health care system in the Scott County community. A variety of factors affect the ability to access quality care:

- Insurance status
- Costs (insurance, co-pays, etc.)
- Lack of transportation
- Office hours that do not work for individuals and families
- Lack of providers
- Providers do not accept insurance
- Providers do not accept new patients

> Access to health services means the timely use of personal health services to achieve the best health outcomes…. Lack of adequate coverage makes it difficult for people to get the health care they need and, when they do get care, burdens them with large medical bills…. Improving health care services depends in part on ensuring that people have a usual and ongoing source of care. People with a usual source of care have better health outcomes and fewer disparities and costs…. To improve the Nation's health, it is important to increase and track the number of practicing PCPs (primary care providers).
>
> ***- Healthy People 2020***

As a result of these factors, individuals and families may choose to, or have no choice but to, delay accessing needed health care services, possibly preventing them from detecting early warning signs or symptoms of illness before it develops into disease and detecting disease at an earlier or more treatable stage.

In 2015, 37.3% of Scott County adults reported some type of difficulty or delay in accessing health care services in the last year. Of the barriers these adults reported experiencing that prevented them from accessing care, **the three most common barriers were: getting a doctor's appointment, inconvenient office hours, and the cost of prescriptions.** In comparison to similar data gathered in 2002, Scott County has seen significant increases related to the barriers of finding a physician, difficulty getting an appointment, lack of transportation, and inconvenient office hours. For those individuals considered very low income (households with incomes less than 100% of the federal poverty level), 41.4% considered the ease of obtaining health care services to be "Fair/Poor," in comparison to "Good", "Very Good", or "Excellent."

Community stakeholders recognized the negative impact individuals lacking preventative services can have on a community's health, health care system, and ability to achieve higher quality of life measures. Conversations further voiced the inequity that exists among accessing health care services for those with a lesser ability to pay or less access to traditional forms of health insurance.

4 out of 10

very low-income Scott County residents considered the ease of obtaining health care to be "fair/poor"

		Responsible Partner	Target Date
Goal 1	**By 2021, increase access to medical providers for under-insured, uninsured, or with Medicaid health insurance in Scott County.**		
Objective 1	By 2021, increase access to medical providers for under-insured, uninsured, or with Medicaid health insurance in Scott County.		
	Strategy 1: Establish or support an existing cross-sector committee that will focus on increasing access to medical providers.	Quad City Health Initiative	2021
	Strategy 2: Create a plan for gathering data to assess the availability of medical providers and health care services, identifying unserved and under-served populations and service gaps and barriers.	Future Committee Focused on Improving Access	2016
	Strategy 3: Research strategies and best practices for increasing access to medical providers and health care services for low-income and under-served populations.	Future Committee Focused on Improving Access	2017
	Strategy 4: Develop strategies to remove barriers, create system changes to improve access to medical providers and health care services.	Future Committee Focused on Improving Access	2021
	Strategy 5: Implement strategies to assist the low-income and under-served populations in obtaining medical providers and health care services.	Future Committee Focused on Improving Access	2021

National Alignment

Healthy People 2020:

- Goal: Improve access to comprehensive, quality health care services.
- Objective MICH-30.1: Increase the proportion of children who have access to a medical home.

National Prevention Strategy:

- Strategic Direction: Elimination of Health Disparities, Recommendation 2: Reduce disparities in access to quality health care.

Conclusion

The Scott County HIP will act as a roadmap for the strategies and activities occurring within Scott County to help make it a healthier community. Collaborative efforts will be undertaken by health partners, community service providers, law enforcement, and many other sectors to make community-wide achievements in the health outcomes addressed in this plan.

While the Scott County Health Department and its five health partners participated in the creation of this plan, the plan is for the community as a whole and the input from stakeholders and the public alike are the factors that will help make health change achievable.

A great *thank you* to the community partners, community stakeholders, members of the public and others that participated in this process. The expertise, commitment, and talents of these groups are the foundation of successful efforts at community change.

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