

STATE OF IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
**Health** AND **Human**  
SERVICES

Healthy Child Care Iowa Annual Report

November 2022 for Fiscal Year 2022



**Healthy Child Care Iowa (HCCI) works to improve the quality of health and safety in Early Care and Education (ECE) programs serving infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-aged children & their families.**

## IOWA HCCI CHILD CARE NURSE CONSULTANTS (CCNCs) IMPROVE QUALITY IN ECE PROGRAMS

HCCI has been serving ECE professionals for over 25 years in Iowa. The local CCNC provides services to ECE providers in the counties that they cover. In FY22, a Health and Safety Analyst was added to the HCCI team at the Department, joining the Program Coordinator and the Professional Development Coordinator. The HCCI state team works with local CCNCs for preceptorship and mentoring. The team also supports and completes annual fidelity visits for the new research-based health and safety checklist that CCNCs use in ECE programs.

- All CCNCs are specialized registered nurses (RNs) who complete the Iowa Training Project for Child Care Nurse Consultants and have expertise in health and safety in Early Care Environments.
- In addition, professional development opportunities are offered to CCNCs on topics that are relevant to trends in health and safety in Early Care Environments.



CCNCs incorporate principles of health equity when working with ECE programs providing consultation, training, technical assistance, information and referral as well as care planning for children with special health needs. The CCNC program is evidence-based, providing onsite visits and technical assistance to help ensure that children have healthy and safe care. Research indicates that child care health (nurse) consultants support healthy and safe early care and education settings and protect and promote the healthy growth and development of children and their families. In FY22 CCNCs:

- Totaled 34 and served all of Iowa's 99 counties to provide services to all types of ECE programs across the state.
- Provided and completed the researched based Health and Safety Checklist for ECE programs participating in the voluntary Iowa Quality For Kids (IQ4K™) quality rating system (required for Level 3 or higher) and to any ECE programs who wanted to improve their ECE environment who were not participating in IQ4K™.
- Continued to assist ECE providers with COVID-19 guidance and other communicable diseases to help decrease the spread of illness.
- Continued to be part of the State's Emergency Plan to help assist ECE providers with any State emergency that may arise.
- Collaborated with DHS, Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R), local Public Health and Iowa Department of Public Health and other community agencies to help ECE programs, children and their families to ensure healthy and safe ECE programs.

MCAH STATE PERFORMANCE MEASURE SPM 3

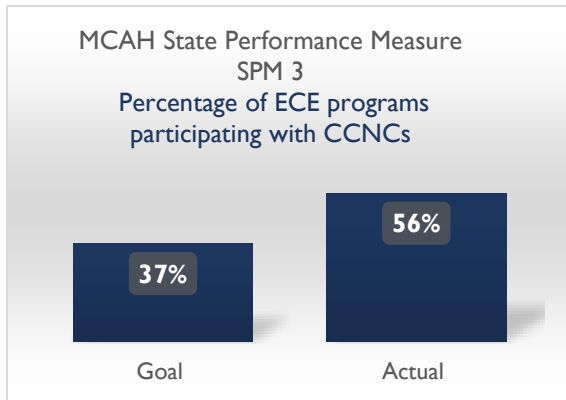


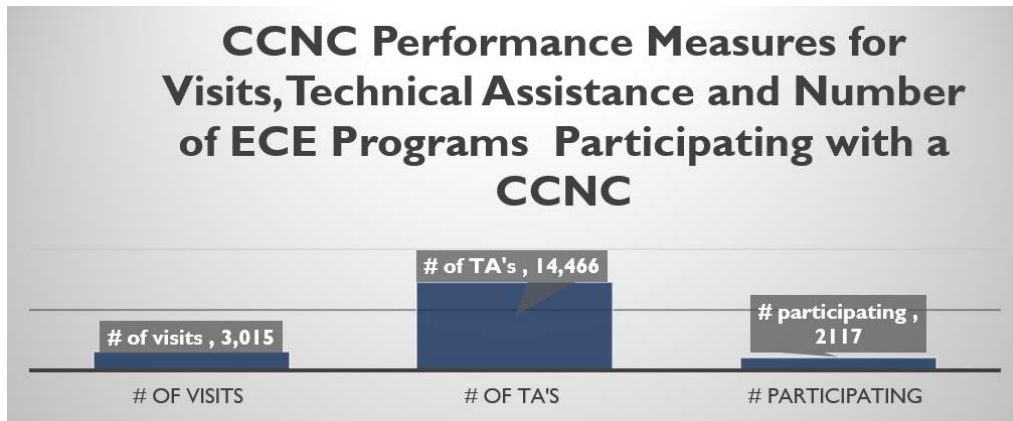
Figure 1: MCAH State Performance Measure SPM3

An important state performance measure is how many ECE providers are working with a CCNC. This year 56% of providers participated with a CCNC (an increase of 2% from the previous year) and exceeded the HCCI goal of 37% of ECE providers who work with the CCNC. The number of providers who participate with the CCNC has continued to grow every year for the last six years.

CCNC PERFORMANCE MEASURES

At the end of FY22, there were a total of 3,763 ECE providers and 1,312 were QRS/IQ4K ECE programs. (Source DHS) CCNC services are voluntary and many

ECE programs utilized CCNCs expertise for onsite visits, technical assistance and training. CCNCs served 2,117 ECE programs during FY22. This is an increase from the prior year.



**Child Care Programs Participating with a CCNC**

2,117 ECE programs

**Number of Child Care Visits Completed by CCNCs**

3,015 Visits

**Number of Technical Assistance Provided by CCNCs**

14,466 Technical Assistance provided (up from 13,807 in FY21)

**Child Care Programs that Improved Health and Safety in Their Environment**

87% improved health and safety

1,839 out of 2,117 programs improved health and safety

IOWA'S QUALITY RATING SYSTEM

The percentage of ECE programs participating in Iowa's quality rating system in FY22 was 35% of regulated child care programs. IQ4K™ has a continuous quality improvement approach incorporating a

focus on health and safety as well as medication administration. CCNC services are a requirement for both homes and centers in IQ4K™ starting at Level 2. CCNCs worked with ECE providers who were seeking a rating of Level 2 or higher in IQ4K™.

### CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH NEEDS IDENTIFIED BY CCNCs

In Iowa, 76% of families with children under age 6 have all parents in the workforce. Of those in care, there are children who have special health needs that require

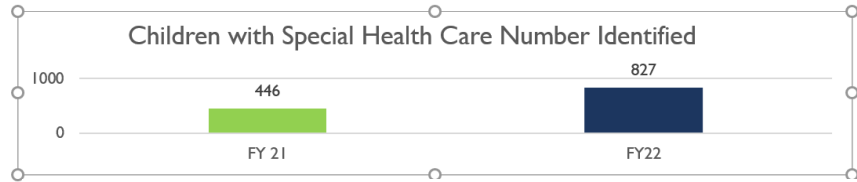
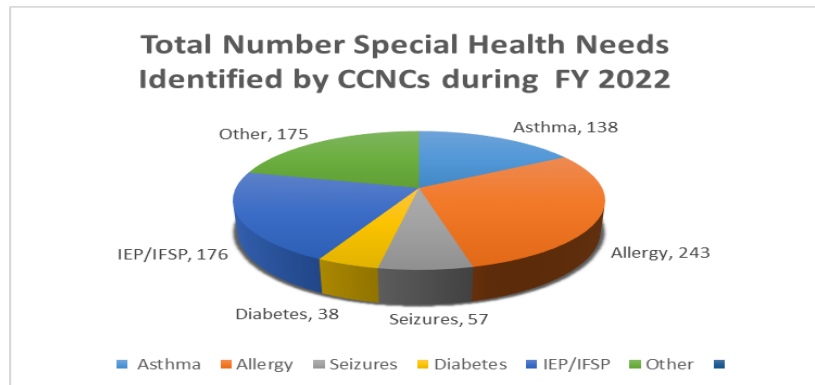


Figure 2: Children with Special Health Care Number Identified

special care by the ECE program caring for them. CCNCs have the skill and expertise that can assist ECE providers and families with helping children with special health needs have a care plan in place. CCNCs identified, when working with ECE providers, the number of special health needs by category and helped to assist the provider to develop and understand the care plan and potential medications that may be administered while the child was in their care. The number of children identified with special health care needs almost doubled from last year. This increase can be attributed to CCNCs have built new relationships with ECE programs during FY22 and stronger relationships with providers over the last two years. These relationships that CCNCs built helped increase the number of visits and the number of providers participating with the CCNC during FY22 and have helped to identify more children with special health care needs.



Type of Special Health Condition	Number of Children Identified
Asthma	138
Seizures	57
Diabetes	38
Allergies (including anaphylaxis)	243
IEP/IFSP	176
Other	175
<b>Total number of Children with Special Health Needs</b>	<b>Percentage of Children Who Had a Care Plan in Place</b>
827	94%

CCNC TRAINING PERFORMANCE MEASURES



HCCI health and safety training are critical to helping ECE professionals gain needed knowledge to implement health and safety best practices in ECE programs. Training were held both face-to-face and virtual to accommodate the needs of the ECE professionals. CCNCs provide a variety of health and safety training for ECE providers and all CCNCs are approved CCR&R trainers. One important training provided by a CCNC is the Medication Administration Skills Competency training. Competency with administering medications is a requirement for ECE providers applying for Level 2 or higher in IQ4K™. In FY22, CCNCs provided 105 Medication Administration Skills Competency training statewide, well above the minimum requirement to ensure that ECE providers had access to the training.



<b>Number of Trainings provided by CCNCs</b>
239 Trainings
<b>Number of ECE professionals reported increased knowledge</b>
1,688 ECE providers
<b>Number of ECE professionals attended trainings by CCNCs</b>
1,867 attended
<b>% of ECE participants reported increased knowledge</b>
90% increased their knowledge

CCNC SUCCESS STORIES FROM THE FIELD

There were many other FY22 successes that were shared by local CCNCs and below are just a few of the great successes that help to “paint the picture” behind the numbers shared in this report.

**HELPING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS**

“A child care program called me after a child in their care presented with a rash and then quickly became unresponsive. They had called 911 and followed all protocols however after the child was transported to the hospital they were unable to reach the child’s parents. They were unsure how to handle this situation so they called me. I walked them through the timing of the event and how to document everything. I sent them the correct incident report and helped them with the information that

was needed to report to DHS. We went through the emergency contact information for the child. I helped them with policies for the future and stressed the importance of having more emergency contacts on file in case parents are not able to be reached in the event of an emergency.

When the child returned back to care they learned that the child would need a new emergency medication. The program was not familiar with this medication or how to administer it so they asked for my help. I scheduled training on how to use this medication as well as assisted with a special needs care plan for this child. If an event were to happen again it is very important that they know how to handle this medication and that they follow the physician's orders. The child care program was very grateful for the help they received from me as this is a new experience for them and something the staff members had never dealt with. The child's parents are now able to send their child to this program with piece of mind that their child is receiving the best possible care with staff members that are fully educated on their child's special health care needs." — Linsey Gilbert RN, BSN, Child Care Nurse Consultant

### **ASSISTING PROGRAMS WITH CHILD HEALTH RECORD KEEPING AND DHS REQUIREMENTS**

"One of the programs that I serve reached out to me because they were feeling their charts were in disarray. The director stated she did not feel like they had kept them up to date because of how busy they had been. I offered to come and look over the files to make sure everything they needed was in the files for a DHS visit that was approaching. I made a visit to their Center for the chart review. It took 2 visits where I reviewed 114 charts that resulted in the need for 67 physical forms, 14 Parent Statement forms, and 58 immunization certificates. These 58 Immunization certificates were printed, reviewed, signed, and sent back to them to file. This was definitely a SUCCESS!" — Maureen Stockdale, RN, BSN, Child Care Nurse Consultant

### **ENCOURAGING GOOD ORAL HEALTH IN EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS**

"A licensed preschool program plans to add toothbrushing to their daily routine. The staff began to discuss children's toothbrushing during the IQ4K™ application process in the spring, identifying the need to develop an oral health policy and an action plan after the Health and Safety Checklist visit. Staff felt that children likely brushed their teeth at home, but found that many children were not brushing at home. This information along with the best practice guidance and support provided by me, led the program to plan for toothbrushing. The children attending this preschool will have the opportunity to learn this lifelong skill and have improved oral health because of the preschool's commitment to providing high quality care." — Jessica Redden, RN, Child Care Nurse Consultant

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

For more information contact Healthy Child Care Iowa Program Health and Safety Analyst Kim Gonzales, RN, BSN, MBA, at the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services: 515-321-4716 or [kimberly.gonzales@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:kimberly.gonzales@idph.iowa.gov).

Reference: [www.iowaccrr.org/resources/files/Data/FY22/Statewide%20FY22.pdf](http://www.iowaccrr.org/resources/files/Data/FY22/Statewide%20FY22.pdf)