

# KHSC IPAC HUB – Community Mobile Response Team

Lana King\*, Heather Candon, Gerald Evans, Dana Finnegan-Yee, Jane Van Toen, Natasha Salt



## Background

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted gaps in Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) knowledge, skill and/or capacity for congregate living settings. To address this issue, as part of the province's comprehensive plan [Keeping Ontarians Safe: Preparing for Future Waves of COVID-19](#), local networks of IPAC expertise (IPAC Hubs) were developed across the health system throughout Ontario. The purpose of implementing the IPAC Hubs was to enhance IPAC practices in community based, congregate living settings and organizations with the support the new model would provide to these settings.

## Project

Through the new province-wide networks the IPAC Hubs have worked with community partners to build IPAC capacity in community congregate living settings, as per the funding agreement for IPAC prevention, support and outbreak response.

The IPAC Hubs collaboration with partners have included: local hospitals, public health units, Public Health Ontario and community partners from the targeted settings.

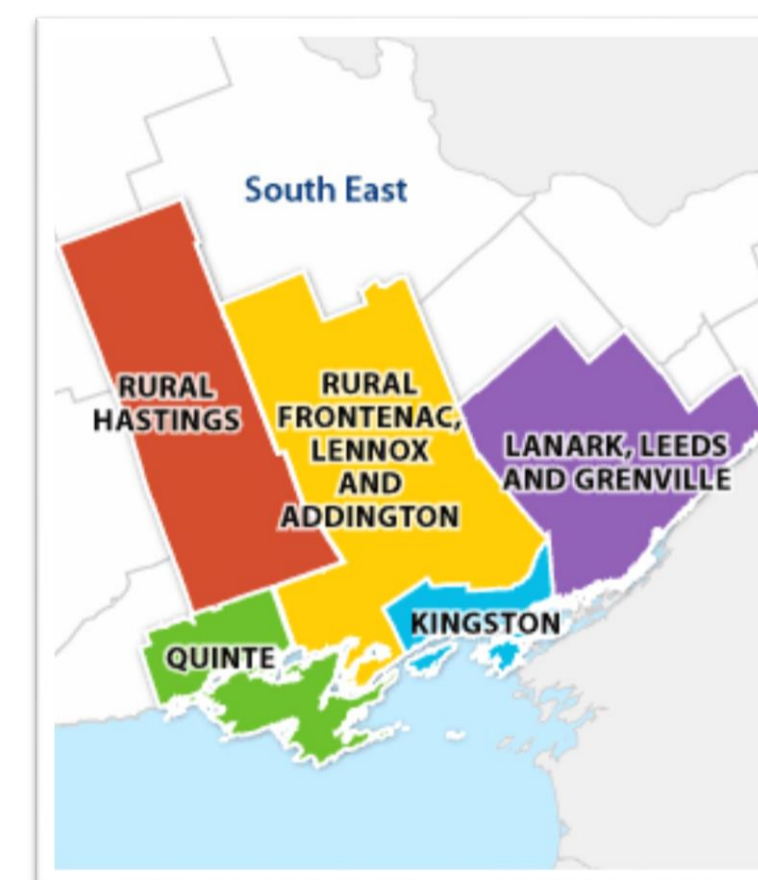
## Strategy for Change

In the Fall of 2020, Kingston Health Sciences Centre (KHSC) was identified as the IPAC Hub for the SE Region, along with 25 other hub sites across the province. January 2021 KHSC integrated the IPAC Hub and Spoke model into the internal IPAC program to support community congregate living settings.

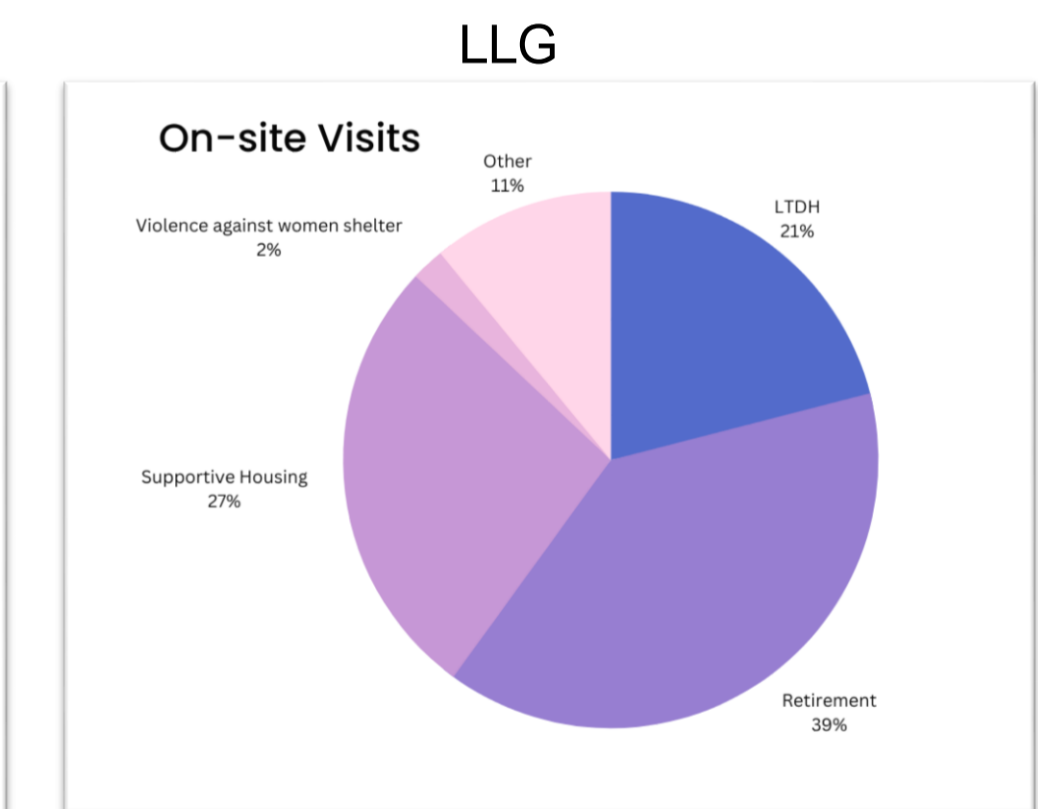
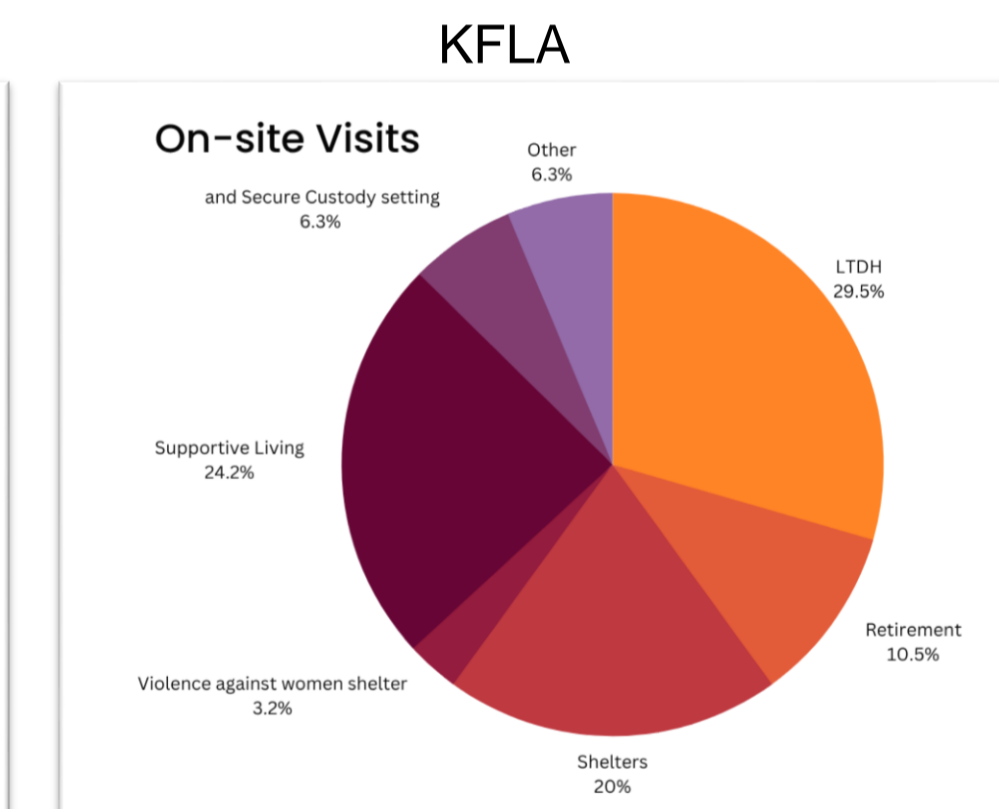
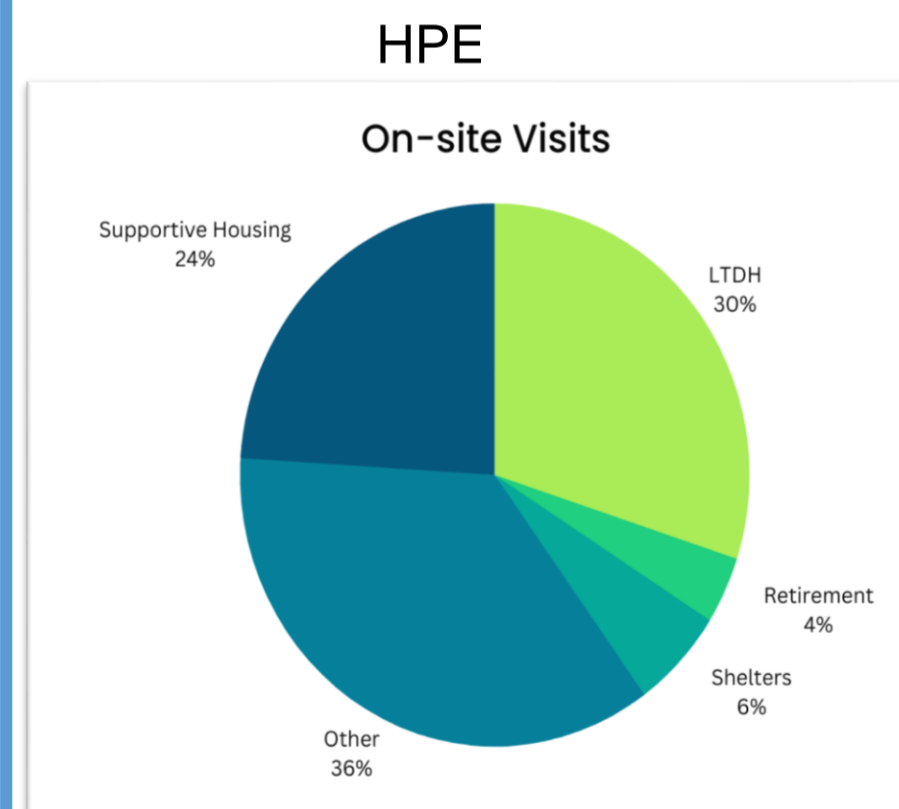
The IPAC Hub team was then formed with new IPAC staff who worked to further build the program and partnerships. Continued collaboration with Ontario Health East Region and a formed Steering Committee were instrumental to create and maintain annual plans as the program integrated into the SE region health system.

## Focus of SE IPAC Hub Site Visits - 2021

- Long-term care homes
- Retirement homes
- Hospices
- Residential settings funded by the Ministry of Health (MOH)
- Residential settings for adults and children funded by Ministry of Children Community and Social Services (MCCSS)
- Shelters & Supportive Housing



## Results of SE IPAC Hub Site Visits - 2021



## Our Role and Services Provided

- Education and training (onsite/virtual)
- Outbreak support
- Communities of Practice
- Assessments and audits
- Review guidelines to support implementation
- Linking to KHSC for resource support
- Development of resources (tip sheets, videos, presentations, policy templates, newsletters, website)

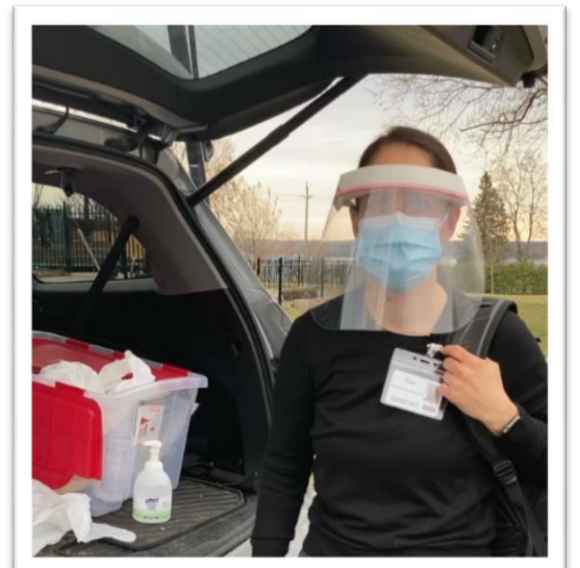


## Lessons Learned Beyond COVID-19: Building IPAC Programs

- Proactive multifaceted IPAC support to implement new IPAC standards released for LTC in April 2022
- Build supportive partnerships through visits that provide tailored operational IPAC guidance
- Support quality improvement projects
- Areas of focus: Surveillance, Hand Hygiene Program, Cleaning and Disinfection, Construction and Renovation

## The Future is Proactive and Collaborative

- Proactive consultations and risk assessments
- Mentor new IPAC practitioners in LTCHs
- Strengthen established collaborative partnerships



The SE IPAC Hub operates out of Kingston Health Sciences Centre and is a mobile team for IPAC response in community congregate settings. Visit our website to learn more!

<https://kingstonhsc.ca/healthcare-providers/infection-prevention-control-hub>