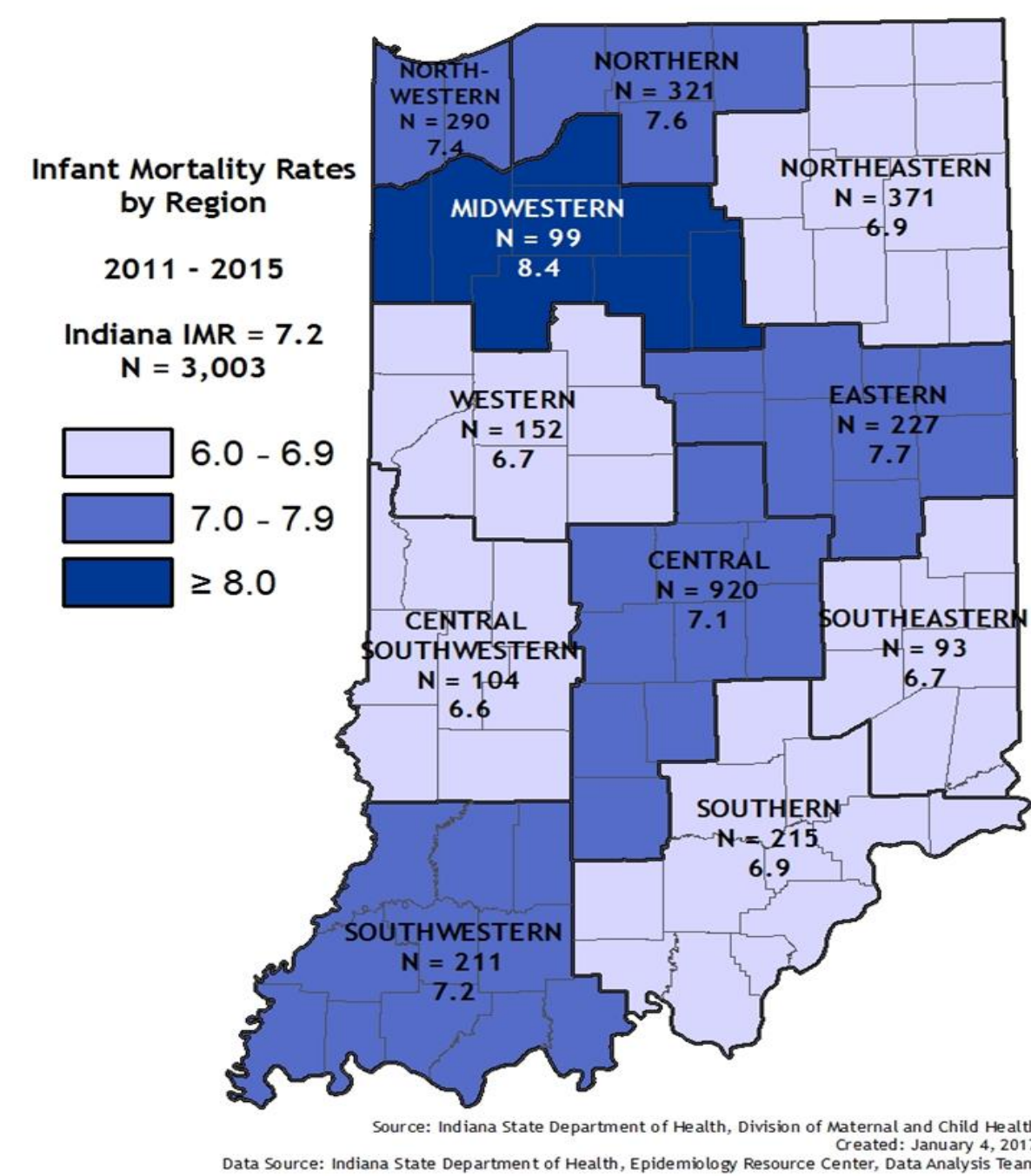


Collaboration of Established and Developing Fetal Infant Mortality Review Teams to Address Infant Mortality in Southwestern Indiana

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1. Problem:

Infant Mortality for Region 10 has been an ongoing health care concern. Regional infant mortality rates have been as high as 11.4 per 1000 live births with 5 year averages for individual counties ranging from 3.9 to 8.6. (1) The southwestern region has urban and rural areas with unique disparities. These disparities include racial and socioeconomic factors impacting access to care. Factors influencing infant mortality in all regional counties include maternal drug use, smoking rates, entry to prenatal care, marital support, and safe sleep practices.



2. Process:

From the 1980's, Vanderburgh County has implemented Fetal Infant Mortality case reviews for Warrick, Posey and Gibson counties but the remaining counties in Region 10 lacked resources for review teams. Stakeholders in southwestern Indiana felt that Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) teams throughout Region 10 would identify trends and focus interventions to lower infant mortality.

Daviess County Health Department met with the established Vanderburgh County FIMR team to develop a plan and began reviewing cases in 2016. Initially using the platform of Child Fatality Review, cases were presented to the community team with the support of the local hospital, regional birthing hospitals in the Evansville area and Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH). Within months, a FIMR team was established with area counties of Martin, Knox, Pike and Dubois joining the reviews. Stakeholders have now reached out to Spencer and Perry counties to assure review of all fetal and infant deaths greater than 20 weeks gestation

3. Objective:

Research shows FIMR is an effective perinatal systems intervention. (2) The goal of the review teams is to establish quarterly FIMR team meetings throughout the southwest region. Representatives for regional birthing centers will be present to provide expertise, support discussion of cases, and assist in development of interventions. Region 10 meetings will be held biannually to discuss trends, sentinel events and community interventions. With a regional approach to FIMR team meetings, the goal is to reduce infant mortality for Region 10.

4. Methodology:

With the guidance of the established program and the assistance of ISDH, a format for the review team was developed. Each of the counties' health departments will supply death certificates containing demographics. Local and regional birthing hospitals will provide maternal and infant history. Community service providers including Department of Children Services will provide a report of services provided. The Vanderburgh County data analyst provides statistical assistance.

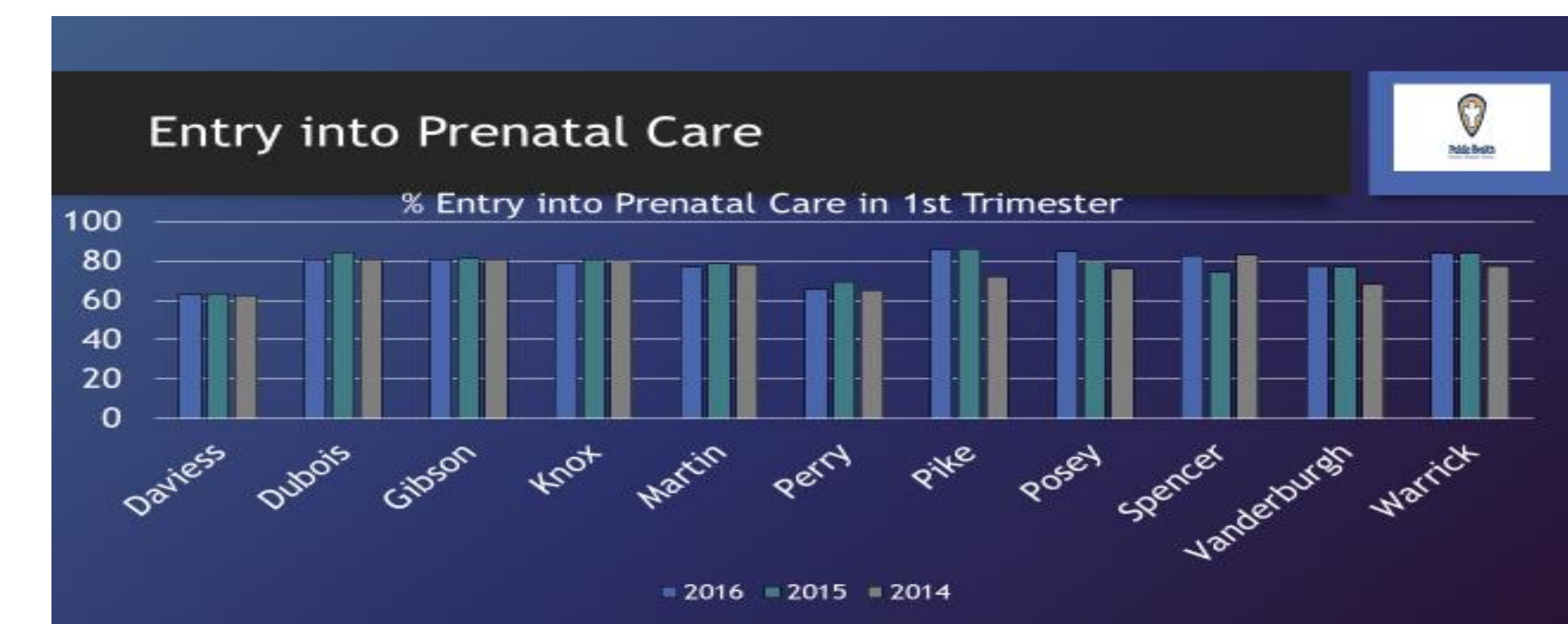
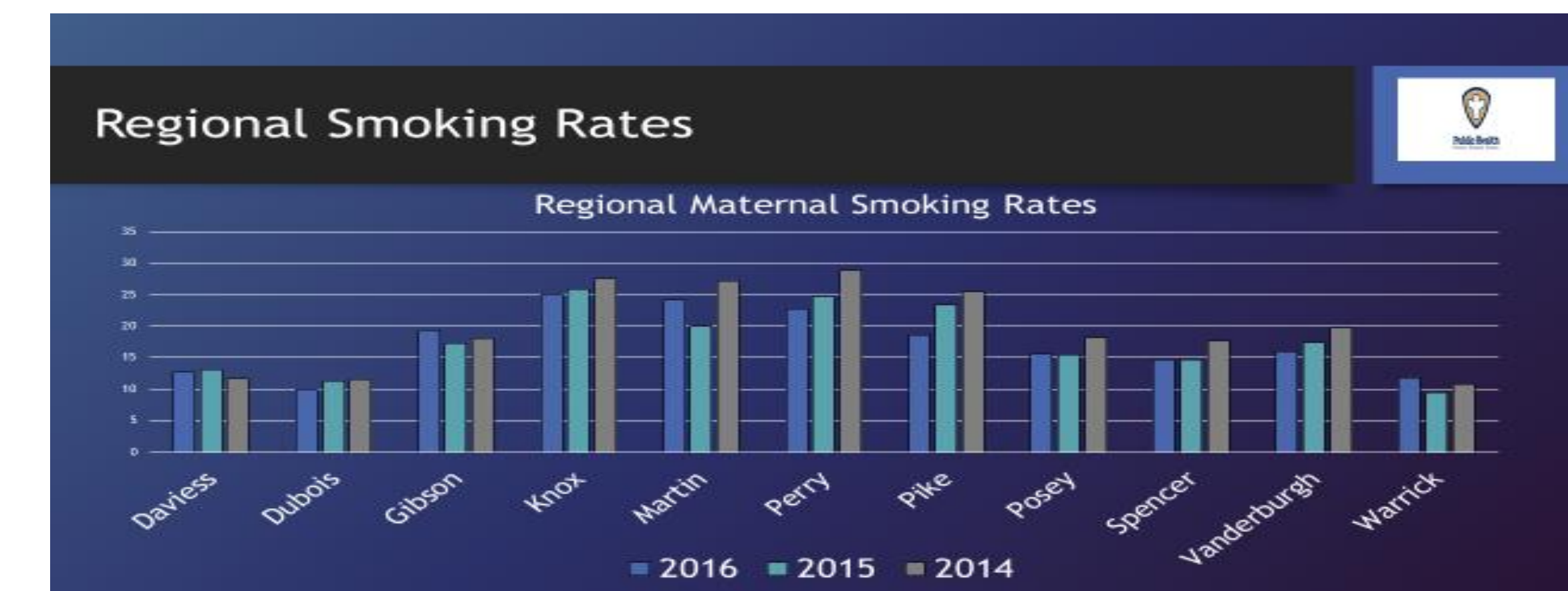
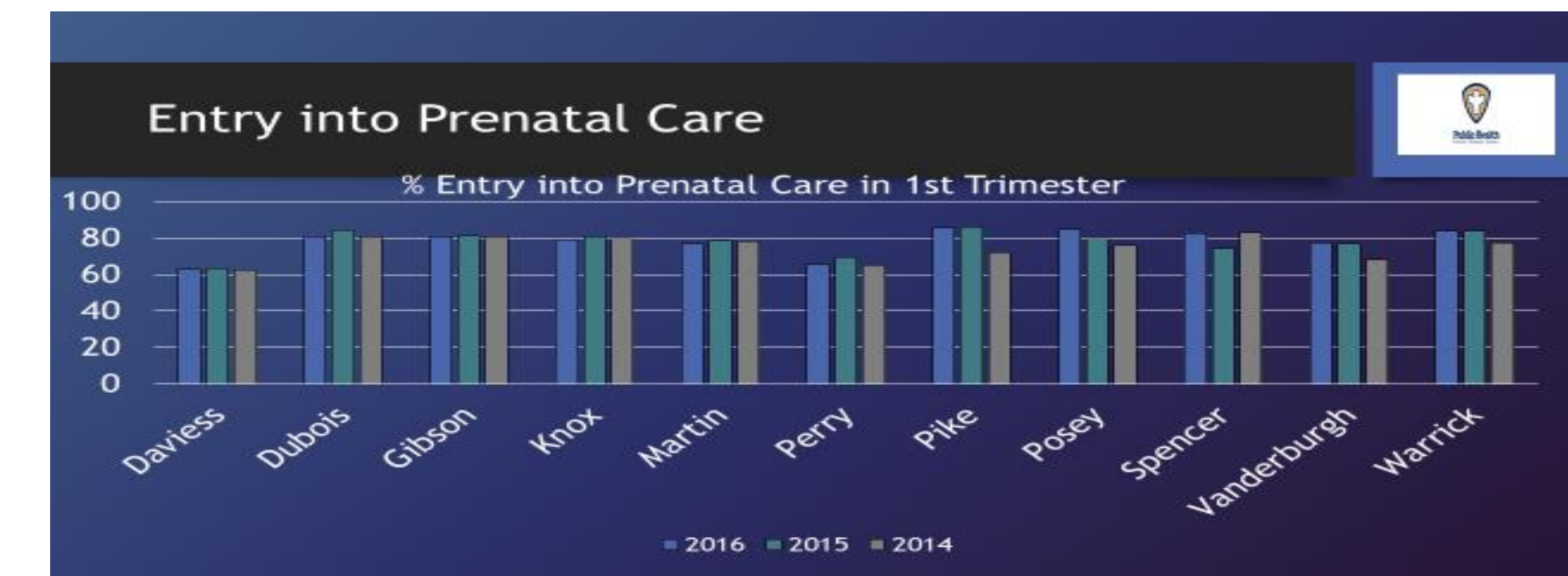


Goals:

- Improve overall health for women of child-bearing age
- Promote early & adequate prenatal care
- Decrease prenatal smoking and substance abuse
- Promote the ABC's of safe sleep
- Increase breastfeeding duration & exclusivity
- Support birth spacing and inter-conception wellness

Key Findings:

By monitoring county trends, areas of improvement and intervention are identified within Region 10. Individual cases are reviewed to assess for improvement in service systems and community resources for women, infants and families.



References:

1. Indiana State Department of Health, Natality Report
2. National Fetal Infant Mortality Review

Acknowledgments:

Indiana Department of Health FIMR/CFR

Daviess and Vanderburgh County Health Departments

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