



# *Quick Reads*

Dr. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, B.S.N., M.Ed., M.D.  
Director, Iowa Department of Public Health

**June 14, 2012**

## **IRIS**

Enhancements to the [Iowa Immunization Registry Information System](#) (IRIS) were launched this month, following more than 18 months of planning. The new [web-based system](#) offers improved data integrity, expanded ability for health care providers to retrieve data in multiple file formats, and creates functionality to exchange immunizations with Electronic Health Records (EHRs). Currently 16 states are using a version of the program Iowa is utilizing and individual state enhancements can be shared among all the states in the system.

## **Falls prevention conference**

Falls are the leading cause of [non-fatal injury and death](#) in Iowa adults age 65 and older. Besides the physical and emotional toll these injuries and deaths take, the financial implications are notable. The cost of hospitalization care in Iowa for falls is estimated at \$92 million each year and the total charges for emergency room visits in Iowa because of falls are about \$35 million per year. The good news is that [falls prevention programs](#) for high-risk older adults can substantially reduce the cost of falls-related injuries; research has shown there is a net-cost savings of almost \$9 in benefits to society for each \$1 invested. On Thursday, June 21, public health and aging experts from around the nation will gather in Des Moines for the Iowa Falls Prevention Summit. The daylong event will focus on federal, state and local strategies for preventing falls among older Iowans, and will highlight successful community-based programs.

## **Facebook**

IDPH's foray into the world of social media continues. The [I-Smile Dental Home Initiative](#) has officially launched its Facebook page. In less than one month, the page

has generated 133 'likes,' with a reach of nearly 90,000. Visit the [I-Smile Facebook](#) page to join the online conversation.

## **ACES**

More than 800 people gathered in Des Moines this week for the Iowa Adverse Childhood Experiences Summit (ACES). The statewide learning forum included representation from health and human services professionals, educators, judges, business leaders, philanthropists, and policy makers to learn about research on the impact of toxic stress on early brain structure and its lifelong impact on health outcomes. [Dr. Robert Anda](#), co-principal investigator of the [Adverse Childhood Experiences \(ACE\) Study](#) and senior research consultant to the CDC, presented his findings showing the linkage between adverse childhood experiences and youth and adult depression, anxiety, suicide, as well as diseases and disabilities that affect everyday workplace, home, school and community environments.

## **Congrats and kudos**

Congratulations to Janice Edmunds-Wells of the IDPH [Office of Minority and Multicultural Health](#), who was awarded the James Derham Health Practitioner of the Year award as part of the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual [Juneteenth Observance](#). James Derham was the first African American to formally practice medicine in America, and was known for his community service. The award presented annually in his name honors an Iowa African-American health practitioner who has demonstrated exemplary community service. [Juneteenth events](#) continue through June 16.

Katrina Altenhofen, program manager with the [Bureau of Emergency Medical Services](#) at IDPH, has been named the [Child Passenger Safety Instructor of the Year](#) by the National Child Passenger Safety Board. Katrina was chosen by the Board out of a field of more than 70 nominations for her exceptional achievements and dedication to the field. She was one of Iowa's first CPS technicians and instructors, and has worked in the EMS field for more than 20 years. Since joining IDPH in 1995, Katrina has worked to raise awareness and funding for child passenger safety, and was instrumental in the development of the "Save Our Kids' Iowa vanity license plate.

## **Stay informed, share your story**

To get *Quick Reads* directly in your inbox, please send a blank e-mail to [join-quick\\_reads@lists.ia.gov](mailto:join-quick_reads@lists.ia.gov). To contribute a news item or smart practice, please write to Polly Carver-Kimm at [Polly.Carver-Kimm@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:Polly.Carver-Kimm@idph.iowa.gov).

*To everyone in public health and all our partners, keep up the great work!*

— *Dr. Miller-Meeks*

