Access to Quality Rural Health Services

Division of Health Promotion & Chronic Disease Prevention
Phone: 1-800-308-5986
http://www.idph.state.ia.us/OHDS/RuralHealthPrimaryCare.aspx

Promoting & Protecting the Health of Iowans

IDPH Iowa Department of Public Health

Rural Iowa has charming towns and productive farmlands. Residents are known for their strong work ethics and mid-west rural way of life. In addition, residing in rural areas sometimes means a lack of timely access to all needed health care services. There are 82 critical access hospitals, 10 rural hospitals, 141 federally certified rural health clinics and several other medical clinics and public health offices offering health and safety services to rural residents.

IDPH' s Rural Health programs have a number of projects, and work with partners to ensure strategies and initiatives so rural Iowans are better able to get quality health care, occupational safety programs and disease prevention services. Transportation services also play a role in the ability of rural residents especially the elderly, to readily see their healthcare provider. In the recent IDPH Community Health Needs Assessment and Health Improvement Plan (CHNA & HIP), access to health care was ranked as the top need by Iowa counties.

Did you know?

Iowa's 2011 population is 3,062,309 people with 1,321,044 or 43% living in rural areas. Of the 92 rural hospitals, 82 hospitals are classified as critical access hospitals and have a maximum of 25 beds. Rural hospitals also bring an array of outpatient services and skilled care centers to communities. Additionally, Iowa also has 141 federally certified rural health clinics with primary care services. Rural health systems are a strong economic engine for rural counties.

Why is Access to Quality Rural Health Services important to promoting and protecting the health of Iowans?

- All Iowans need to be able to get timely emergency health care access.
- With the Affordable Care Act, Iowa will be adjusting to new systems of care. IDPH is assisting facilities in addressing these changes.
- Rural health care providers are increasing cost effective access through the meaningful use of electronic health records.
- IDPH can effectively speak on behalf of rural health issues at the national and state levels.
- No other state entity provides a high level of assistance and advocacy for health care access.
- The Bureau of Oral and Health Delivery Systems programs maintain Iowa's commitment to become the healthiest state in the nation.

Which Iowa Public Health Goals are we working to achieve?

Strengthen the public health infrastructure

What do we do?

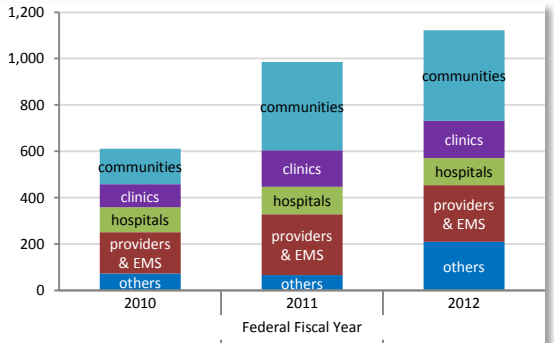
- Provide funding to rural hospitals, organizations, and health systems to assist with implementing projects that will: improve the quality of healthcare, improve financial and operational performance, and develop collaborative regional and local health delivery systems.
- Provide technical assistance for variety of improvement activities including: project management, staffing, education, technology purchases, and community engagement initiatives.
- Collect and distribute information on the local, state, and national levels on rural health issues.
- Develop projects and activities that may be used and serve as models for communities throughout Iowa.
- Coordinate Health Care Reform efforts for Health and Long Term Care and for the Direct Care Workforce.
- The Bureau of Oral and Health Delivery Systems' three health delivery system programs (State Office of Rural Health, FLEX - Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program, and SHIP - Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program) use federal-state partnerships to find and solve problems regarding rural health care access.

How do we measure our progress?

❶ **Number of unduplicated technical assistance encounters (substantive information, advice, education, and training) provided to Iowa communities, clinics, hospitals, providers and others by staff in IDPH's Rural Health Programs and Primary Care Office.**

Data Source: Bureau progress reports. Data are available annually.

How are we doing? We continue to increase encounters and assistance with a total of 1,122 communities, clinics, hospitals, providers, and others to serve Iowans in FY2012.



	2010	2011	2012
# of communities	154	380	390
# of clinics	99	158	160
# of hospitals	107	118	118
# of providers & EMS agencies	179	262	244
others	73	67	210

What can Iowans do to help?

1. Learn more about the Bureau of Oral and Health Delivery Systems and the importance of rural health care access by visiting http://www.idph.state.ia.us/OHDS/RuralHealthPrimaryCare.aspx.
2. Take part in rural health and local community planning for health services.

Expenditures

FLEX: federal grant: 0153-0914. **State Office of Rural Health**: federal grant: 0153-0902. **SHIP**: federal grant: 0153-0916. **Health Delivery Systems**: general fund & intra state receipts*; State funds are used for a 3:1 match for the Office of Rural Health Grant: K07-0767; K09-0905/0979 (40%).

	State Fiscal Year 2011 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2012 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2013 Estimate
State funds	$467,942	$412,844	$408,155
Federal funds	$1,457,858	$1,547,809	$1,408,273
Other funds*	$0	$53,686	$53,686
Total funds	**$1,925,800**	**$2,014,339**	**$1,870,114**
FTEs	7.67	7.05	7.18

Note: Funding information is intended to provide an overview of funding related to the program area. It does not include all federal and state requirements and/or restrictions for the use of funds. Contact the program area for more detailed budget information.

Iowa Department of Public Health ◇ Division of Health Promotion & Chronic Disease Prevention ◇ Access to Quality Rural Health Services

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FLEX – Phone: 515-331-2402 ◇ http://www.idph.state.ia.us/OHDS/FLEX.aspx?prog=FLEX&pg=Home

SHIP – Phone: 515-233-2831 ◇ http://www.idph.state.ia.us/OHDS/RuralHealthPrimaryCare.aspx?prog=RHPC&pg=SHIP

State Office of Rural Health – Phone: 515-281-7224 ◇ http://www.idph.state.ia.us/OHDS/RuralHealthPrimaryCare.aspx?prog=RHPC&pg=SORH