

# Radiological Health

Division of Environmental Health

Phone: 515-281-3478

[www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/radiological\\_health.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/radiological_health.asp)

Promoting & Protecting the Health of Iowans



You can't see, smell, hear, or feel it. It can save lives, but also endanger lives. The use of radiation must be carefully monitored. The IDPH Bureau of Radiological Health protects Iowans from unnecessary and potentially harmful exposure to radiation.

The machines that produce radiation (like x-ray or mammography machines) and the people who use them are tested and certified to ensure Iowans are being treated by qualified professionals with safe equipment.

You've probably heard of radon – a naturally occurring gas that seeps into homes and can cause lung cancer. The Bureau of Radiological Health licenses experts who can stop radon from getting into a home. IDPH works each day to protect the health of Iowans – even when the “enemy” is invisible!

## Did you know?

In 1986, the state of Iowa entered into an agreement with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to protect the health and safety of Iowans by regulating radioactive material in Iowa.

## Why is Radiological Health important to promoting and protecting the health of Iowans?

- Exposure to radiation in large amounts can cause immediate and long-term health effects, including cancer and death.
- Iowans could be exposed to radiation at any time each day because of the common use of industrial and medical radioactive materials and machines.
- Radiation occurs naturally in the environment; however, anything beyond this natural exposure may be unnecessary and could be harmful.
- Iowa has one of the highest rates of indoor radon levels in the country.
- High quality mammography machines and images are essential to finding breast cancer early.
- Iowans of all ages are at risk for over-exposure to ultraviolet light from tanning beds.

## Which Iowa Public Health Goals are we working to achieve?

Protect against environmental hazards

Strengthen the public health infrastructure

Prepare for, respond to, & recover from public health emergencies

Promote healthy behaviors

## What do we do?

- Inspect, test, accredit, and certify mammography facilities, machines, radiologists, and technologists.
- Issue Permits to Practice for individuals who operate or use ionizing radiation producing machines or administer radioactive material for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes.
- Coordinate radiation emergency response by working with local, county, state, and federal agencies in case of an accident.
- License, register, and inspect facilities that use radioactive materials.
- Educate Iowans about radon gas and credential radon measurement and mitigation specialists.
- Register tanning bed facilities and post health information about the risks of tanning.
- Register X-ray producing machines.
- Investigate allegations and complaints regarding radioactive material and radiation producing machines.

## How do we measure our progress?

- The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) oversees the Iowa radioactive material (RAM) program and conducts an Integrated Material Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) review every three years. The Iowa RAM program successfully completed two consecutive IMPEP reviews scoring SATISFACTORY for all performance indicators.

Due to the outstanding score of the IMPEP reviews, the Iowa RAM program was the first agreement state program to receive an extension by the NRC for the next IMPEP review.

- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) oversees the Iowa mammography program and conducts an annual review. The Iowa mammography program consistently meets or exceeds the requirements set by the FDA.

The Iowa program annually inspects 139 mammography facilities including 166 mammography units and 25 stereotactic facilities. To continue providing services to Iowans, the facilities must correct all non-compliances that are found.

### What can Iowans do to help?

- All Iowans can make themselves aware of the possibility of exposure to radiation, especially from medical procedures.
- All Iowans can report any misuse of radioactive materials or ionizing radiation producing machines by contacting the Bureau of Radiological Health at 515-281-3478 or [melanie.rasmussen@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:melanie.rasmussen@idph.iowa.gov).
- All Iowans should learn about radon gas and how to test for it in their homes. For more information about radon, visit [www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/radon.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/radon.asp).

## Expenditures

Federal funds, intra state receipts\* (Dept of Public Defense), private grants\*, & retained fees\*: K19-1915/1920; 0153-1922/1926.

	State Fiscal Year 2011 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2012 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2013 Estimate
State funds	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal funds	\$250,074	\$252,195	\$242,143
Other funds*	\$1,137,258	\$1,168,934	\$1,367,104
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>\$1,387,332</b>	<b>\$1,421,129</b>	<b>\$1,609,247</b>
FTEs	12.14	11.00	12.75

**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.

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Mammography – Phone: 515-281-0405

Radioactive Materials – Phone: 515-281-0419

Tanning Facilities – Phone: 515-281-0415

Permits to Practice – Phone: 515-281-0415

Radon – Phone: 1-800-383-5992 or 515-281-4928

X-Ray Machines – Phone: 515-281-0415

Radiation Emergency Response – Phone: 515-281-3478