



A MATTER OF SUBSTANCE: At-a-Glance

DECEMBER 2010

A PUBLICATION OF THE IDPH

DIVISION QUICK FACTS

World AIDS Day: December 1, 2010 marked the 22nd annual World AIDS Day observation. IDPH joined local partners in raising awareness of HIV/AIDS in Iowa, including the importance of HIV testing as a routine part of health care. IDPH data indicate that HIV diagnoses in Iowa have increased, on average, by four persons a year over the past 10 years, to 127 diagnoses reported in 2009. Some of the increase may be attributable to innovative programs that get high-risk individuals in for testing and to increased testing by private health care providers. IDPH recommends:

- Everyone ages 13 to 64 get tested at least once.
- People at high risk for HIV get tested more often. Those at the highest risk (including Injection-Drug Users and their sex partners, persons who exchange sex for money or drugs, sex partners of HIV-infected persons, and men who have sex with men) get tested at least annually.
- Women get tested during each pregnancy.

For more information, go to www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/hiv_aids.asp.

Gambling Reporting System Update: Construction of the new gambling services reporting system continues. The system is “built” and we are testing — and re-testing! — to work out the bugs. We remain on-track to transition to the new system on July 1, 2010, the effective date of the next problem gambling prevention and treatment project period. Required training for problem gambling contractors is tentatively scheduled for the week of June 6. For more information, contact Mark Vander Linden at mvanderl@idph.state.ia.us.

2010 Iowa Prevention Conference is a Success: On November 4, IDPH problem gambling, substance abuse, and tobacco control programs collaborated to host the first Iowa Prevention Conference. More than 200 prevention professionals attended the conference which focused on topics of shared interest such as social marketing, health reform and systems of care. Here are a few examples of the evaluation comments we received:

- Great conference! I was engaged and there were several topics to choose from.
- Good; thought provoking, energizing. Excellent blend of topics.
- Great discussion of overall prevention; comprehensive.
- Very nice to have all of the pieces at this conference.

IDPH hopes to host another Prevention Conference next year. Let us know your recommendations. (P.S. Our thanks to **Training Resources** for their great work (as always!) in making the conference a success!)

Welcome!: The Division of Behavioral Health is welcoming Eric Preuss to our team. Eric begins employment at IDPH on December 13 and will be responsible for providing functional oversight of Division responsibilities with the Iowa Plan for Behavioral Health and for substance abuse data-related activities. Eric comes to us from Community and Family Resources in Fort Dodge and has over 22 years of experience in the substance abuse field. Welcome Eric!

Director’s Corner: Go to www.samhsa.gov/healthReform/, www.healthcare.gov/, and www.idph.state.ia.us/IdphArchive/Archive.aspx?channel=CheckUp to learn about “health homes” and “chronic conditions” and Iowa-specific healthcare reform initiatives and then let me know your questions/concerns. Thanks, Kathy Stone

UPCOMING EVENTS

Role of ROSC in Health Reform December 16, 2010 from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. To register go to www2.gotomeeting.com/register/780501970

Recovery Peer Coaching - Recovery Coaching Academy January 14-15 and 21-22 at Camp Dodge in Johnston. Applications for the 4-day training are being accepted for ATR III providers. For more information, go to www.idph.state.ia.us/atr.

It’s All Greek to Me A workshop on underage, hazardous drinking by college fraternity/sorority members. January 20, 2011 from 2:00-3:15. To register go to www.udetc.org/audioconfregistration.asp

Iowa Health Benefits Exchange Public Meetings in December: 12/13 Des Moines, 12/14 Iowa City, 12/20 Waterloo, 12/21 Sioux City, and 12/22 Ottumwa. Go to http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hcr_committees/health_benefit_exchange.asp for details.

For more information about the Division of Behavioral Health, visit
www.idph.state.ia.us/bh

For questions related to “A Matter of Substance,” contact the editors:

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A MATTER OF SUBSTANCE

DIVISION EXTRA

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary

Presidential Proclamation - National Impaired Driving Prevention Month

Every day, millions of Americans travel on our Nation's roadways. Thousands of these drivers and passengers tragically lose their lives each year because of drunk, drugged, or distracted driving. During National Impaired Driving Prevention Month, we recommit to preventing the loss of life by practicing safe driving practices and reminding others to be sober, drug free, and safe on the road.

Impaired driving and its consequences can seriously alter or even destroy lives and property in a moment. This reckless behavior not only includes drunk driving, but also the growing problem of drugged driving. Drugs, including those prescribed by a physician, can impair judgment and motor skills. It is critical that we encourage our young people and fellow citizens to make responsible decisions when driving or riding as a passenger, especially if drug use is apparent.

This National Impaired Driving Prevention Month, we must also draw attention to the dangers of distracted driving, including using electronic equipment or texting while behind the wheel of a vehicle. When people take their attention away from the road to answer a call, respond to a message, or use a device, they put themselves and others at risk. Distracted driving is a serious, life threatening practice, and I encourage everyone to visit Distraction.gov to learn how to prevent distracted driving.

My Administration is dedicated to strengthening efforts against drunk, drugged, and distracted driving. To lead by example, we have implemented a nationwide ban prohibiting Federal employees from texting while driving on Government business or when using a Government device. This holiday season, the United States Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is also sponsoring the campaign, "Drunk Driving: Over the Limit. Under Arrest." Thousands of police departments and law enforcement agencies across the Nation will redouble their efforts to ensure impaired drivers are detected and appropriate action is taken. Additionally, the Office of National Drug Control Policy is working with Federal agencies to raise public awareness about the high prevalence of drugged driving in our country, and to provide resources for parents of new drivers about how to talk to their children about drugs.

As responsible citizens, we must not wait until tragedy strikes, and we must take an active role in preventing debilitated driving. Individuals, families, businesses, community organizations, drug free coalitions, and faith based groups can promote substance abuse prevention and encourage alternative sources of transportation. By working together, we can help save countless lives and make America's roadways safer for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim December 2010 as National Impaired Driving Prevention Month. I urge all Americans to make responsible decisions and take appropriate measures to prevent impaired driving.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand ten, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fifth.

BARACK OBAMA

THE IOWA PERSPECTIVE

According to the *December 2010 NSDUH (National Survey on Drug Use and Health) Report*, "Combined 2006-2009 data indicate that 13.2% of persons aged 16 or older (an estimated 30.6 million persons) drove under the influence of alcohol in the past year and 4.3% (an estimated 10.1 million persons) drove under the influence of illicit drugs in the same time period." Iowa, in the 14.7-16.9% category, was among 21 states with the **highest** percentages of persons aged 16 or older **driving under the influence of alcohol**. There's better news when it comes to the percentage of persons driving under the influence of illicit drugs — Iowa is one of 10 states in the **lowest** category, at 2.9-3.7%. In fact, Iowa experienced a significant reduction in the percent of persons **driving under the influence of illicit drugs**, dropping from 4.9% for 2002-2005 to 2.9% for 2006-2009.

For the latest information about the dangers of drunk and drugged driving and what can be done to help combat the problem, go to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website at www.stopimpaireddriving.org/.