Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Phone: 515-281-0620
www.idph.state.ia.us/ems

Promoting & Protecting the Health of Iowans

IDPH Iowa Department of Public Health

A broken leg, a heart attack, a stroke, or an injured child – whatever the emergency, Iowa's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system is ready to respond. Iowans rely on the EMS system to provide efficient, well-trained, and reliable out-of-hospital care. The EMS system must ensure this care is available to all Iowans, whether urban or rural, even when resources are scarce.

The Emergency Medical Services system works to ensure medical help is there when Iowans need it.

Did you know?

In 2012, 71% of authorized EMS services in Iowa describe themselves as volunteer and respond to approximately 11% of calls for service. The 29% of EMS services staffed by paid EMS providers respond to 89% of calls for service.

Iowa's Trauma System is one of the most comprehensive and established trauma systems in the nation. If an injury occurs anywhere in Iowa, there are thousands of trained providers ready to respond in a timely manner and take the victim to one of the 118 trauma care facilities where life-saving care is immediately available.

In 2012, 15,225 pediatric patients used the EMS system for either a medical or trauma emergency.

Why are EMS programs important to promoting and protecting the health of Iowans?

- In 2012, Iowa ambulance services received 244,011 calls, resulting in 207,823 patients being transported to a healthcare facility.
- According to the Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS), unintentional injury is the leading cause of death for Iowans from age one to 34 and the 6th leading cause of death for all age groups combined (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, 2010).
- Iowa's Trauma System works to decrease the incidence and severity of trauma, and prevent unnecessary deaths and disabilities.
- Iowa's Trauma System works to keep costs down while improving efficiency.
- Early CPR and defibrillation usually result in a greater than 50% long-term survival rate for witnessed cardiac arrests.

Which Iowa Public Health Goals are we working to achieve?

Prevent injuries

Strengthen the public health infrastructure

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

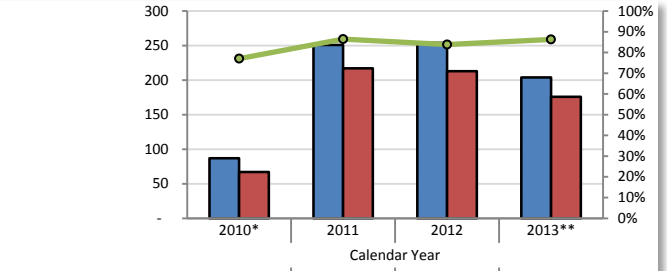
Promote healthy behaviors

What do we do?

- Regulate EMS training programs, individual providers, and patient care services. Regulation ensures baseline standards for training, certification, and service authorizations are met.
- Help county EMS associations by providing funds for training and system development, and by serving as a resource for local EMS services.
- Iowa's Trauma System certifies hospitals at a level of trauma care based on what resources are available in the community.
- Administer the Coverdell National Acute Stroke Project to measure, track, and improve the quality of care and access to care for stroke patients. Distribute injury prevention and child healthcare resources and information to local public health departments and EMS services.

How do we measure our progress?

❶ Number of EMS service onsite inspections with deficiencies



	2010*	2011	2012	2013**
# of Sites Audited	87	251	254	204
# of Sites with Deficiencies	67	217	213	176
% of Sites with Deficiencies	77%	86%	84%	86%

Data Source: Onsite inspection reports. Data are available annually. SFY 2012 data is preliminary.
*2010 data 7/1/2012 through 12/31/2010
**2013 is preliminary

How are we doing? The Bureau of EMS inspects each of Iowa's 776 emergency medical services every three years, or more often when deficiencies are found. For the years noted in the chart above, inspectors found an average of 6.6 deficiencies per onsite inspection.

What can Iowans do to help?

1. Authorized EMS service providers should make sure that all required data is submitted to the Bureau of EMS.
2. Emergency medical care providers must understand the EMS system and the rules that regulate providing emergency medical care.
3. Understand the signs and symptoms of stroke such as trouble walking and talking, and numbness or paralysis in the face, arms, or legs; and summoning emergency care.
4. All Iowans can help create public access defibrillation programs in their communities.
5. All Iowans can learn how to keep children safe from injury, including learning how to properly install child safety seats, and the importance of wearing bicycle helmets.

Expenditures

General fund and federal funds: General funds are used for maintenance of effort match for the PHHS Block Grant: K19-1941/1943; 0153-1942; Coverdell Stroke Project: 0153-0986; EMS for Children: 0153-1714; Injury Prevention "Love Our Kids" license plate sales*: K19-1948; 0163-1722.

	State Fiscal Year 2012 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2013 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2014 Estimate
State funds	$1,084,461	$1,058,285	$1,058,285
Federal funds	$479,070	$725,053	$737,576
Other	$117,919	$83,954	$195,600
Total funds	**$1,681,450**	**$1,867,292**	**$1,991,461**
FTEs	9.12	9.38	9.90

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 Acute Disease Prevention & Emergency Response and Environmental Health
◆ Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
Phone: 1-800-728-3367 ◆ Fax: 515-281-0488 ◆ www.idph.state.ia.us/ems
5th Floor, Lucas Building ◆ 321 E. 12th Street ◆ Des Moines, IA 50319-0075