Health Statistics

Phone: 515-281-4944
www.idph.state.ia.us/apl/health_statistics.asp

Promoting & Protecting the Health of Iowans

IDPH Iowa Department of Public Health

Each year in Iowa, about 40,000 babies are born, another 30,000 Iowans die, and 20,000 people decide to get married. Who keeps track of all these people? The IDPH Bureau of Health Statistics does. Vital records data has been kept in Iowa since 1880 and every person who was born, died, or got married since then is on file at IDPH.

Statistical data isn't just interesting trivia. It's important information that can be used to analyze and report on health trends and issues. It is also the basis for virtually all of the research conducted in the social sciences such as economics, political science, and sociology. These records are also required to prove eligibility for many programs and services, such as a driver's license, passport, or Medicaid. As a convenience, verifying the facts of birth is now available electronically for Medicaid and the DOT's driver services.

Much of Iowa's health history can be told through the "numbers" and the Bureau of Health Statistics helps ensure they "add up" to a healthier future.

Did you know?

Health Statistics are provided to public health research projects approved by the Research and Ethics Review Committee. Data are provided from Iowa records and from the national file maintained by the National Center for Health Statistics, which is a compilation of all state data files.

Why are Health Statistics important to promoting and protecting the health of Iowans?

- Health data is used to monitor trends in health and health care, identify health problems, and measure the effectiveness of public health programs.
- Health data is used to measure progress toward meeting the goals of Healthy Iowans 2010 and other public health plans.
- Vital records are needed to determine eligibility for many programs and services. For instance, a birth certificate is required for a driver's license or passport and provides proof of citizenship.
- Health statistics help us understand the health of Iowans, including disparities in health and the use of health care by different people.
- Health statistics help leaders decide where resources are needed and how they can best be used. Statistics also provide a measure of a program's success.

Which Iowa Public Health Goals are we working to achieve?

Strengthen the public health infrastructure

What do we do?

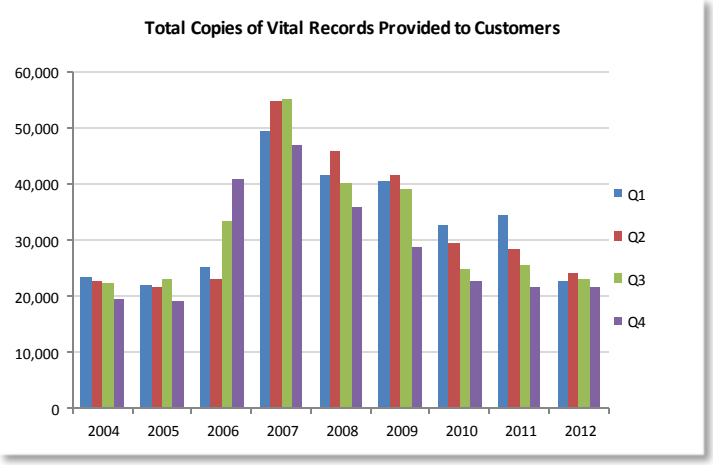
- Provide data to local, state, and national public health agencies so they can plan and measure the effectiveness of programs and make decisions about the use of resources.
- Provide data to state agencies to help them conduct their official duties.
- Provide certified copies of birth, death, and marriage records to Iowans and other entitled people to establish eligibility for many benefits, including U.S. citizenship.
- Provide a database to monitor progress on health objectives, identify emerging health issues, and support policy development.
- Publish the annual Vital Statistics of Iowa and Vital Statistics in Brief, as well as studies on important topics.

How do we measure our progress?

❶ Increasing our capacity to provide records in a timely manner.

Data Source: National Center for Health Statistics report card. Data are available annually.

How are we doing? We have significantly increased the number of vital records provided to our customers over the years. After reaching a peak in 2007, we have consistently provided more records in each of the last four years than we did during the previous five-year period. Tracking this information allows planning for staff capacity and our ability to meet the demand of our customers. The requests for copies are decreasing, after the increase we experienced related to Federal Agencies requiring birth certificates for passports, social security, and Real ID requirements of a birth certificate to obtain a driver's license even if you have one in the system. Travel requirements have also contributed to the increase. Our average turnaround time for requests is 2 business days.



What can Iowans do to help?

1. All Iowans can learn about health trends by accessing health statistic information. For information on health trends, go to www.idph.state.ia.us/apl/health_statistics.asp.
2. All Iowans can find out how to obtain vital records. For more information on health trends, go to www.idph.state.ia.us/apl/health_statistics.asp.
3. Data providers can work with the Bureau of Health Statistics to report accurate and complete data efficiently.
4. Data providers can work with the Bureau of Health Statistics to collect data in standard formats and with standard processes.

Expenditures

Federal funds, retained fees*, and other fees*: 0153-0456/AR22; 0024-0024/1024

	State Fiscal Year 2012 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2013 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2014 Estimate
State Funds	$0	$0	$0
Federal funds	$773,141	$1,050,280	$790,502
Other funds*	$2,466,821	$2,098,105	$3,457,406
Total funds	**$3,239,962**	**$3,148,386**	**$4,247,908**
FTEs	26.39	24.16	27.95

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.