

Phone: 515-281-0921 www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/default.asp

Promoting & Protecting the Health of Iowans



Every summer in lowa, hundreds of thousands of lowans cool off with a dip in a pool. IDPH works to make sure people are the only thing swimming in that pool; not tiny critters that can make people sick. Cryptosporidiosis ("Crypto") is a disease caused by a parasite that results in diarrhea. People get sick when they swallow the parasite. The not-so-appetizing explanation: People get sick when they swallow swimming pool water someone else swam in when they had diarrhea.

That's just what happened in 2005, when a group of Crypto cases was traced to an Iowa wading pool. Pool operators worked fast, closing the pool for special cleaning, and reopening as fast as possible. The Swimming Pools and Spas program helps keep Iowans healthy by helping keep the waters they swim in healthy, too!

## Did you know?

The IDPH Swimming Pools and Spas program inspects and registers about 1,500 pools, more than 400 spas, , and over 300 water slides at about 1,260 locations in Iowa.

# Why are Environmental Health Engineering programs important to promoting and protecting the health of Iowans?

- Environmental health engineering principles are fundamental to ensuring public health measures are in place to keep lowans safe.
- lowans use public swimming pools and spas at a variety of locations: municipal pools, YMCA/YWCA, hotels and motels, health clubs, and water parks.
- There are many health concerns related to swimming pools and spas, including transmission of disease, injuries, and the potential for drowning.
- Plentiful safe drinking water is important to public health.
- Improperly installed plumbing poses a risk to drinking water systems by potentially allowing drinking water and wastewater to mix.
- Proper fluoridation of water is extremely important to good oral health.

Which Iowa Public Health Goals are we working to achieve?

Protect against environmental hazards

Prevent epidemics & the spread of disease

Prevent injuries

## What do we do?

- Contract with local health departments to do inspections at public swimming pools and spas, issue construction permits and approve plans for new pool facilities or renovations to old ones.
- lowa law requires that water treatment systems which claim
  to reduce health-related contaminants from drinking water
  be tested to show that the system achieves the reduction.
  IDPH reviews the health-related contaminant reduction
  claims and maintains a registry of systems that comply.
  Currently, approximately 320 water treatment systems are
  registered under this program.
- IDPH provides technical assistance to interested parties on the benefits of community water fluoridation.
- The Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester Registration program sets training standards for technicians who test backflow prevention devices and maintains a registry of qualified technicians.
- IDPH maintains the Iowa State Plumbing Code and Iowa State Mechanical Code, the minimum standards for plumbing and mechanical work in Iowa cities.

 Number of plumbing and mechanical professional licenses issued by the Plumbing and Mechanical Systems Board.

Data Source: IDPH Licensing Database. Data are available annually.

How are we doing? As of May, 2014, 11,319 plumbing and mechanical professionals and 1,614 contractors were licensed in the state.

### What can Iowans do to help?

- 1. Stay away from swimming pools, wading pools, and spas/hot tubs if you have or recently had diarrhea. Keep sick children away from these facilities.
- 2. Practice good pool hygiene. Take a shower and wash your child thoroughly before swimming.
- 3. You can find out about the status of your community's public water fluoridation by visiting www.idph.state.ia.us/hpcdp/fluoride search.asp.
- 4. To access the list of registered water treatment devices, visit WaterTreatmentSystems.
- 5. Make sure only registered professionals test or repair your backflow prevention assemblies by visiting http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/backflow\_prevention.asp
- Use "Licensed in Iowa" to find a licensed professional to perform plumbing and mechanical systems work www.licensediniowa.gov.
- 7. A list of licensed contractors is available at www.idph.state.ia.us/PMSB, scroll to the bottom of the page.



## **Expenditures**

General fund & retained fees\*: K19-1901(42%)/1903/1905/2041

	State Fiscal Year 2012 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2013 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2014 Estimate
State funds	\$0	\$17,548	\$173,394
Other funds*	\$1,202,567	\$1,012,542	\$1,426,334
Total funds	\$1,202,567	\$1,030,090	\$1,443,882
FTEs	9.03	10.12	12.45

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.



