

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Promoting & Protecting the Health of Iowans

Division of Acute Disease Prevention & Emergency Response

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A broken leg, a heart attack, 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.

Emmet County found a way to overcome money and personnel EMS challenges by bringing together representatives from the county, cities, EMS, emergency management, public health, law enforcement, hospital, local schools, and a college to form the Emmet County Emergency Responders Association. By working together, all the people of Emmet County are assured the same high standard of care when EMS is needed.

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

Did you know?

84% of authorized EMS services in Iowa describe themselves as volunteer and respond to approximately 39% of calls for service. The 16% of EMS services staffed by paid EMS providers respond to approximately 61% 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.

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

- In 2011, Iowa ambulance services received 229,000 calls, resulting in 187,000 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

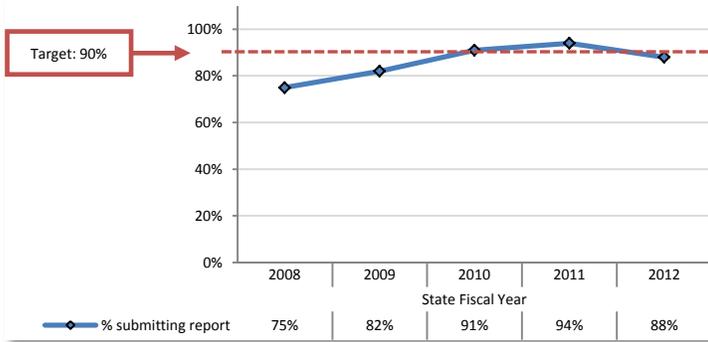
Promote healthy behaviors

What do we do?

- Regulate EMS training programs, as well as individual providers and patient care services. Regulation ensures that baseline standards for training, certification, and service authorization 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 program
 - ✓ Certifies all licensed hospitals at a level of trauma care based on what resources are available in the community.
 - ✓ Collects, analyzes, and provides trauma data to other state programs.
 - ✓ Regulates and provides oversight of Iowa’s trauma care facilities.

How do we measure our progress?

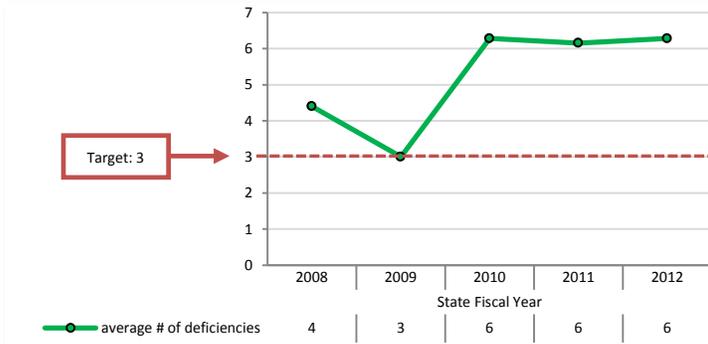
1 Percent of ambulance calls that submit a patient care report.



Data Source: Patient care reports. Data are available annually. SFY 2012 data is preliminary.

How are we doing? Currently, approximately 88% of ambulance calls submit a patient care report.

2 Average number of deficiencies per EMS site.



Data Source: Onsite review reports. Data are available annually. SFY 2012 data is preliminary.

How are we doing? In SFY 2011, the average was 6.15 deficiencies per site.

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. All Iowans can help create public access defibrillation programs in their communities.

Expenditures

General fund, federal funds, & carryover*; General funds are used for maintenance of effort match for the PHHS Block Grant: K19-1941/1943; 0153-1942

	State Fiscal Year 2011 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2012 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2013 Estimate
State funds	\$1,168,929	\$1,084,461	\$1,058,285
Federal funds	\$342,518	\$348,064	\$356,844
Total funds	\$1,511,447	\$1,432,525	\$1,415,129
FTEs	8.20	7.51	8.15

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.