Access to Quality Rural Health Services

Phone: 1-800-308-5986
www.idph.state.ia.us/OHDS/RuralHealthPrimaryCare.aspx

Promoting & Protecting the Health of Iowans

IDPH Iowa Department of Public Health

Rural Iowa has charming towns and productive farmlands. Residents are known for their strong work ethics and mid-west rural way of life. However, for residents in rural areas, it sometimes means a lack of timely access to necessary health care services. There are 82 critical access hospitals, 10 rural hospitals, 144 federally certified rural health clinics, 18 AgriSafe clinics, and several other medical clinics and public health offices offering health and safety services to rural residents.

IDPH' s Rural Health programs have a number of projects with key partners to coordinate strategies that best ensure rural Iowans access to quality health care, occupational safety programs, disease prevention services; and help promote physician recruitment and retention. The program also supports community transportation for rural residents, especially the elderly, to reach health services. In the most recent IDPH Community Health Needs Assessment and Health Improvement Plan (CHNA & HIP), access to health care was ranked as the top need by Iowa counties.

Did you know?

According to the 2012 Census, approximately 43% of Iowans live in rural areas with 78 of the 99 Iowa counties considered rural. While farmers comprised on 7% of the Iowa workforce in 2011, they accounted for 37% of all occupational fatalities. Hospitals, clinic providers, EMS, and several Iowa agricultural organizations are working aggressively to decrease farm accidents and improve the safety and health status of farmers, farm workers, and farm families.

Why is Access to Quality Rural Health Services important to promoting and protecting the health of Iowans?

- All Iowans need timely emergency health care services.
- With the Affordable Care Act, Iowa is transforming to new systems of care. IDPH is assisting facilities in addressing these changes.
- All Iowans need access to primary health care services and required medications to prevent serious health consequences and to reduce unnecessary emergency room visits.
- IDPH can effectively speak on behalf of rural health issues at the national and state levels.
- No other state entity provides a high level of assistance and advocacy for health care access.
- Collaborative actions to support statewide health workforce recruitment and retention strategies.
- The Bureau of Oral and Health Delivery Systems programs maintain Iowa's commitment to become the healthiest state in the nation.

Which Iowa Public Health Goals are we working to achieve?

Strengthen the public health infrastructure

What do we do?

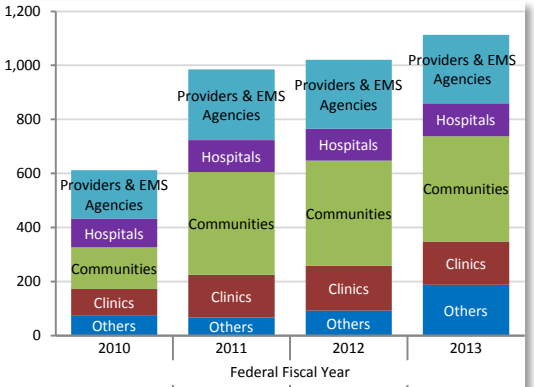
- Provide funding to rural hospitals, organizations, and health systems to assist with implementing projects that will: improve the quality of healthcare, collect data, improve financial and operational performance, and develop collaborative regional and local health delivery systems.
- Provide technical assistance for variety of improvement activities including: project management, staffing, education, technology purchases, and community engagement initiatives.
- Collect and disseminate information on local, state, and national levels rural health issues.
- Develop projects and activities that serve as models for communities throughout Iowa.
- Three rural health delivery system programs (State Office of Rural Health, Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program, and Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program) collaborate with federal-state partnerships to identify and solve problems regarding rural health care access.
- Collaborate with stakeholders and partners to deliver educational offerings and training for health care providers, clinical/clerical staff, local EMS and public health staff.

How do we measure our progress?

❶ **Number of unduplicated technical assistance encounters (substantive information, advice, education, and training) provided to Iowa communities, agencies, networks, clinics, hospitals, providers and others.**

Data Source: Bureau progress reports. Data are available annually.

How are we doing? We continue annually to increase encounters and assistance with a total of 1,113 communities, clinics, hospitals, providers, and others in FY2013.



	2010	2011	2012	2013
Providers & EMS Agencies	179	262	254	254
Hospitals	107	118	118	121
Communities	154	380	390	390
Clinics	99	158	166	160
Others	73	67	92	188

What can Iowans do to help?

1. Learn more about the Bureau of Oral and Health Delivery Systems and the importance of rural health care access by visiting www.idph.state.ia.us/OHDS/RuralHealthPrimaryCare.aspx.
2. Take part in rural health and local community planning for health services.
3. Live a healthful life, get preventive heatlh screenings, exercise and eat nutritiously to stay well.

Expenditures

FLEX: federal grant: 0153-0914. **State Office of Rural Health**: federal grant: 0153-0902. **SHIP**: federal grant: 0153-0916. **Health Delivery Systems**: general fund & intra state receipts*; State funds are used for a 3:1 match for the Office of Rural Health Grant: K07-0767; K09-0905/0979(40%).

	State Fiscal Year 2012 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2013 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2014 Estimate
State funds	$412,844	$455,383	$408,155
Federal funds	$1,547,809	$1,220,316	$1,348,071
Other funds*	$53,686	$50,993	$0
Total funds	**$2,014,339**	**$1,726,692**	**$1,756,226**
FTEs	7.05	6.81	8.00

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 Health Promotion & Chronic Disease Prevention ◇ Access to Quality Rural Health Services

Phone: 1-800-308-5986 ◇ Fax: 515-242-6384 ◇ www.idph.state.ia.us/OHDS/RuralHealthPrimaryCare.aspx

4th Floor, Lucas Building ◇ 321 E. 12th Street ◇ Des Moines, IA 50319-0075

FLEX – Phone: 515-331-2402 ◇ www.idph.state.ia.us/OHDS/FLEX.aspx?prog=FLEX&pg=Home

SHIP – Phone: 515-233-2831 ◇ www.idph.state.ia.us/OHDS/RuralHealthPrimaryCare.aspx?prog=RHPC&pg=SHIP

State Office of Rural Health – Phone: 515-281-7224 ◇ www.idph.state.ia.us/OHDS/RuralHealthPrimaryCare.aspx?prog=RHPC&pg=SORH