



Significant Achievements Made in 2007-2008

Access to Quality Health Services: In 2007, the General Assembly established a commission to study wide-ranging issues related to public health and health care access. In response to the recommendations, a number of bills were introduced. If passed, the legislation will be considered a major step in achieving part of Goal 1-1—reducing to zero the proportion of children without health care coverage.

Cancer: The state excise tax on cigarettes was increased by \$1, making the total tax \$1.36. This major advance has meant that Iowa is closer to its goal of reducing cancer incidence to a rate of no more than 450 per 100,000. The tax increase will keep an estimated 37,000 children from smoking.

Diabetes: Based on the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, there has been a small decline in the incidence of diabetes. In 2006, 7.3% of adults reported they had been told by a physician they had diabetes; in 2007, the figure was 6.8%. In view of the serious complications and premature death associated with this disease, this change has significance.

Disabilities: The goal of implementing the legal settlement resolution process is being achieved. This action is vital to the elimination of legal settlement as a criterion for equal access to housing and options for living independently.

Educational and Community-Based Programs: The legislature passed two important measures: one required that each district hire a school nurse and another will increase 3- and 4-year-olds' access to quality preschool to 90% in four years. In 2007, the percent of 3- and 4-year-olds in quality preschools more than doubled.

Environmental Health: The attention which the Iowa Department of Natural Resources has given to safe water supplies is evidenced by the fact that 951 private water wells have been renovated and four pilot projects have been initiated to assess the source of contamination in public wells.

Family Planning: Goal Statement 7-6, assuring "that all abstinence education, teen pregnancy prevention, and adolescent sexual health programs in Iowa are science-based and medically accurate as defined by the standards developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)" and its accompanying action steps were mandated by legislation passed in 2007.

Food and Drug Safety: The University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory has expanded its surveillance to include testing for infections stemming from the non-0157 STEC group, organisms causing food-borne disease cases.

Immunization and Infectious Disease: An assessment showed that by aged 24 months, 91% of children received 4dtp/DtaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3hib and 3 Hepatitis B vaccines. The national immunization goal, like the Healthy Iowans 2010 goal, is 90%.

Maternal, Infant, and Family Health: Not only has a baseline been established for the percent of women with postpartum depression, the Bureau of Family Services also is responsible for training professionals to use appropriate maternal depression screening tools and access resources.

Mental Health and Mental Disorders: The Iowa Department of Human Services has taken steps to organize a behavioral health training institute to identify training curricula for parents and families of children and youth with serious emotional disorders and to enhance evidenced-based practices among stakeholders in Iowa's mental health community. Also important, the Iowa Department of Corrections opened a 170-bed housing unit to treat offenders with mental disorders.

Nutrition and Overweight: Sixty counties have made nutrition and overweight a top priority for taking action. Data from another initiative, taken by the Iowa Department of Elder Affairs, showed that 81% of seniors who were assessed had improved or maintained a regimen of healthy food choices.

Occupational Safety and Health: The Division of Labor Services in Workforce Development has reported that Iowa is ahead of schedule in taking steps to expand voluntary protection programs (VPP), construction site inspections and visits and training—actions important in reducing injuries and promoting safety.

Oral Health: Funds have permitted the development of a surveillance system for children, ages 0-5, installation of new or replacement of old fluoridation equipment and fluoride varnish programs in 23 Title V child health agencies.

Physical Activity and Fitness: More Iowans are being physically active. According to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 77.7% of respondents engaged in some form of physical activity for exercise during the past month other than their regular job, an increase from 75.3% in 2005.

Respiratory Diseases: Asthma: Although asthma prevalence rates have remained stable since 1995-1999, average hospitalization rates for all age groups have declined—an indication that asthma management strategies may be having an impact, especially for children 0-4 years of age. From 1995-1999, the hospitalization rate for this age group was 24.2 per 10,000 children. In 2006, the rate dropped to 13.6.

Sexually Transmitted Disease and Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection: Legislation mandated HIV testing as part of the routine panel of prenatal tests for pregnant women unless they refuse. This prevention measure can help to insure that HIV is not passed on to newborns.

Substance Abuse and Problem Gambling: According to responses in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, the percent of Iowans who have experienced problems with gambling is below the goals set in the state health plan. Only 1.1% reported the money they spent on gambling led to financial problems; 1% reported the time spent gambling had led to problems in family work, or personal life.

Tobacco: Passage of the \$1 tobacco tax resulted in a major increase in the budget for tobacco control efforts. Funds were used to offer a free, two-week supply of nicotine patches or nicotine gum and an extensive media campaign including one directed at teenagers.

Unintentional Injuries: A comprehensive, seven-year study of motor vehicle deaths showed that the motorcycle injury-related death rate has jumped by 91% from 2000-2006. Among all motor vehicle crashes, the most common body region injured was the head.

Violent and Abusive Behavior: Several initiatives have increased capacity to reduce violence. These include a suicide prevention plan, a report card communities can use to measure progress, and anti-bullying and anti-harassment prevention and intervention in the schools.

Vision: A vision team, comprised of nearly every group concerned with vision, has developed such cooperative ventures as data collection and development and distribution of materials.

Emergency Preparedness and Response: Emergency response plans in all local public health agencies are inclusive of the needs of special populations and communication with non-English speaking people.