

IDPH ensures quality health services to the entire state of Iowa by working closely with local public health agencies that are located in all 99 counties.

By partnering with local boards of health and boards of supervisors, local public health agencies, community action programs, maternal and child health agencies, substance abuse prevention agencies, emergency medical service providers, and HIV/AIDS prevention and care providers, and others, Iowans get the health services they need when they need them.

IDPH and local public health partners are working toward a common vision to redesign public health in Iowa. The mission of the Redesigning Public Health in Iowa initiative is to have an integrated and fully funded public health system. The mission is being fulfilled through the development of public health standards and preparing for state and federal public health accreditation.

The state public health director is the spokesperson and advocate for public health in Iowa, and acts as a liaison to local boards of health, local public health agencies, health care providers, and consumers. The director also represents the department in a variety of national organizations and works with policymakers at the local, state, national and international levels. Also associated with the director's office are:

- Iowa Board of Medicine
- Iowa Board of Nursing
- Iowa Board of Pharmacy
- Iowa Dental Board
- Office of the State Medical Examiner
- State Board of Health



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# Guide to the Iowa Department of Public Health



Public health provides health services to all Iowans. The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) has more than 60 program areas to promote and protect the health of Iowans. This guide highlights just a few. For a full listing and for the most current information about the department, visit [www.idph.state.ia.us](http://www.idph.state.ia.us).

## Acute Disease Prevention and Emergency Response

Provides support, education, and consultation about infectious disease prevention and control, injury prevention and control, and public health and health care emergency preparedness and response. The division also coordinates department communications, public information, planning, Certificate of Need program, and policy. Some of the program areas in this division are:

- Acute Disease Epidemiology
- Disaster Operations and Response
- Communication and Planning
- Disease Prevention and Immunization
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)



FACT: The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program provides vaccines for children who are uninsured, American Indian/Alaskan Native, enrolled in Medicaid and underinsured children.

## Administration and Professional Licensure

The Division of Administration and Professional Licensure provides and supports the operational and regulatory components of the Iowa Department of Public Health. It provides centralized services that support the functions of Department staff; disseminates public health data; enforces public health laws, rules, and regulations; and assures the protection of all Iowans through management of vital records and licensure of health professionals.

- Professional Licensure
- Health Statistics



FACT: The Bureau of Professional Licensure regulates 40,000 health professionals and 6,000 establishments in Iowa.

## Behavioral Health

Promotes prevention and treatment of problem gambling and substance abuse, prevention of violence, and prevention of secondary conditions among people with disabilities. Regulates substance abuse and gambling treatment programs. Oversees certain substance abuse treatment services provided through the Iowa Plan for Behavioral Health. Program areas include:

- Administration, Regulation and Licensure
- Disability and Violence Prevention
- Gambling Treatment and Prevention
- Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment



FACT: Of the more than 44,000 Iowans who received publicly-funded substance abuse treatment between July 2006 and June 2007, at least 30% were reported as experiencing current mental health problems.

## Environmental Health

Provides both educational and regulatory services to ensure a safe and healthy environment for Iowans. Program areas include:

- Environmental Health Services
- Lead Poisoning Prevention
- Radiological Health



FACT: IDPH provides consultation regulatory oversight for radiation safety, lead professional certification, and public pools, spas, tattoo, and tanning establishments to ensure Iowan's environment is safe.

## Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention

The Division of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention promotes and supports healthy behaviors and communities, the prevention and management of chronic diseases, and the development of public health infrastructure and access to health care and other health services at the local and state level.

- Chronic Disease Prevention and Management
- Family Health
- Health Care Access
- Local Public Health Services
- Multicultural Health
- Nutrition and Health Promotion
- Oral Health



FACT: The Iowans Fit for Life Partnership managed by IDPH, was created in the spring of 2005 and includes a network approximately 500 partners statewide with a vested interest in nutrition and physical activity for Iowans of all ages.

## Tobacco Use Prevention and Control

Promotes partnerships among state government, local communities, and the people of Iowa to reduce tobacco use.

- Quitline Iowa and Other Cessation Services
- Just Eliminate Lies, (JEL) Youth-led Tobacco Prevention Program
- Smoke-free Workplace Initiatives
- Community Partnerships
- Enforcement of Tobacco Sales Laws
- Evaluation and Research



FACT: Estimated annual health care expenditures in Iowa directly related to tobacco use is \$1 billion. The portion covered by Iowa Medicaid is \$301 million.