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Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant Impact on the Health of Iowans

The **Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant** provides flexible funding for health problems in Iowa. PHHS Block Grant dollars fund eight programs in the areas of education and community-based programs, unintentional injuries, oral health, physical activity and fitness, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and sexually transmitted disease (STD) prevention, and sex offense prevention. PHHS Block Grant funds allow Iowa to use dollars where we need them, when we need them to protect the public's health. This flexibility is critical and serves Iowa's unique rural health needs. The following programs are examples of Iowa's use of PHHS Block Grant funds:

Education and Community-Based (Technical Assistance and Consultation to Local Boards of Health and Local Public Health Agencies)



The development of a strong public health infrastructure in all 99 counties provides the basis for solid health policy decisions and priority setting. The Iowa Department of Public Health, through the regional system of field staff, currently provides technical assistance for the implementation of the health improvement plans. The field staff are educating local public health staff and local boards of health about the Iowa Public Health Standards developed as a product of Redesigning Public Health in Iowa. The standards will bring about consistency of basic public health services across the state; set common expectations for local public health agencies; define responsibilities; and increase accountability, integration and visibility of local public health.

Physical Activity and Fitness



The Physical Activity & Fitness Program promotes individual initiative, supports worksite wellness efforts, helps educate policy makers on the value of physical education and activity, and promotes awareness of the implications of the built environment. Partnerships that provide information targeting Iowa's diverse populations include: Schools via Go the Distance; Women, Infants and Children (WIC); a statewide 100-day wellness challenge (Lighten Up Iowa); and presentations by public health professionals at various conferences and presentations. FITNET delivers electronic motivational messages daily to thousands.

Unintentional Injuries (Emergency Medical Services)



Emergency Medical Services (EMS) operates at the intersection of public health, health care and public safety and therefore has overlapping roles and responsibilities. Mortality rates for many unintentional injuries are highest in rural areas. Smaller, more rural counties with limited health resources, have a larger percentage of persons 65 years of age or older, making EMS a critical component of Iowa's health care system. PHHS Block Grant funds are used to provide Iowa's 117 Trauma Care Facilities and over 800 EMS service programs with technical assistance and resources to assist with development and maintenance of a comprehensive, efficient, and effective statewide EMS System.



Oral Health **(Fluoridation)**

The fluoridation of community water systems serves 91.8 percent of Iowans on community public water systems. Site visits for fluoride surveillance, on-site training, and technical assistance to operators of fluoridation systems doubled from 71 in 2005 to 143 in 2006. This was accomplished with the addition of one staff person.



HIV-AIDS

PHHS funds are used for the maintenance of 20 counseling, testing, and referral sites. In 2006, 7,284 tests were completed at the sites. Fifty positives were identified, giving a 0.69 percent positivity rate and meeting a goal of the HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis Program. Forty-eight percent of the testing conducted in 2006 in Iowa was done in outreach settings. Testing occurred in jails, detention centers, substance abuse facilities, community centers, shelters, a pharmacy, alternative schools, parks, bars, and at special events. The increase in positivity rate during 2005- 2006 means that 20 more people learned of their HIV-positive status and they have the opportunity to access services and notify their partners of potential exposure to HIV.



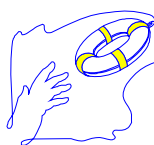
Violent and Abusive Behaviors **(Rape or Attempted Rape—Sex Offense Prevention Services)**

This program supports prevention education services directed to young people and community professionals addressing sexual violence. During fiscal year 2007, there were 67,100 youth and 3,130 professionals served. The average rate of forcible sexual assault in Iowa from 2000-2005 was 72.9 per 100,000.



Sexually Transmitted Disease

Screening tests have been expanded for Chlamydia, the most reported sexually transmitted disease in Iowa. Increased screening efforts have accounted for over 6,500 more tests in the last four years, leading to a steady increase in cases that would have otherwise gone undiagnosed and untreated.



Unintentional Injuries **(Swimming Pools)**

Safe swimming pools and spas are ensured for the more than 50 percent of the population who use them annually. IDPH maintains sanitation and safety regulations for over 2,000 public swimming pools and spas in Iowa. IDPH also provides technical assistance, training and annual oversight to 40 county and city public health agencies that inspect swimming pools and spas for compliance with health and safety standards.