

The Update

May
2013

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May is Mental Health Awareness Month!

**Did you know that child wellness includes much more than just physical health? A child's ability to regulate his emotions, interact positively with others, meet developmental milestones and form healthy relationships all play an important role in wellness. Additionally, a child's home environment and personal experiences have a profound impact on how the child perceives and reacts to life stress.
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The Update is a monthly web newsletter published by the Iowa Department of Public Health's Bureau of Family Health. It is posted once a month, and provides useful job resource information for departmental health care professionals, information on training opportunities, intradepartmental reports and meetings, and additional information pertinent to health care professionals.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month!

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May has been designated as Children's Mental Health Awareness Month. You can promote healthy mental development by talking with caregivers about the importance of positive early childhood experiences and environments, encouraging them to provide nurturing and responsive care, and giving them strategies to help resolve conflict in an appropriate manner. Remember to emphasize the importance of developmental screening and provide tips on how they can share the results of the screening with their doctor.

For additional resources, please visit the following websites:

- <http://www.zerotothree.org/child-development/early-childhood-mental-health/>
- <http://www.samhsa.gov/children/index.asp>

Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)

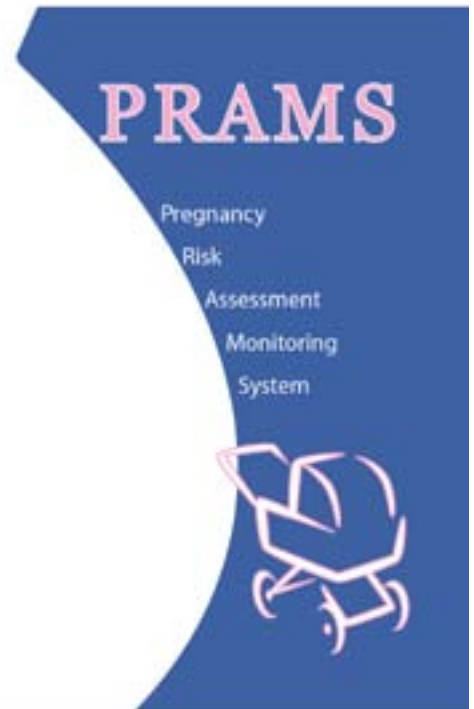
Have You Heard About PRAMS?

PRAMS, which stands for the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, is a new survey within the state of Iowa that asks women about their attitudes and experiences before, during, and shortly after pregnancy. The survey is being sent out by the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) to mothers 2-6 months after the birth of their new baby. If you receive the survey (pictured on the right), or know someone who has, it is important to understand that every mom has a unique story to share about her pregnancy. By answering the survey, her experience could help other Iowa moms and their babies have a healthy pregnancy and birth.

Only a few moms are selected to participate in the survey, so each mother's response is extremely important to provide data and information used by state health officials to improve the health of our state's mothers and infants. PRAMS responses also allow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other participating states to monitor changes in maternal and child health indicators, as well as allowing for comparisons between participating states. Feedback is also used to enhance information from birth certificates used to plan and review state maternal and infant health programs.

The Iowa specific data is used to identify groups of women and infants at high risk for health problems, monitor changes in health status and measure progress towards goals in improving the health of mothers and infants. State and local governments can use PRAMS data to plan and review programs and policies aimed at reducing health problems among mothers and babies. State agencies will also be able to identify other community organizations that have important contributions to make in planning maternal and infant health programs and to continue to develop partnerships with those agencies. Researchers will also be able to use PRAMS data to investigate emerging issues in the field of maternal and child health.

Currently, 40 states and New York City participate in the CDC-funded PRAMS survey. For more information about PRAMS, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/prams/> or <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/prams/>. Or contact the Iowa PRAMS Project Coordinator Sarah Mauch at: sarah.mauch@idph.iowa.gov or 515.725.2289



Calendar at a Glance

Click on the box to see details; Click on the upper right corner of the details box again to remove it

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30						

Legislative Update

Budget: Conference committees for House and Senate were appointed last week and their charge is to negotiate the points of impasse between the two chambers in order to produce a final product for the Governor's consideration.

1st Five: The House and Senator leadership are working together to come to agreement on an increase in funding to 1st Five. There continues to be negotiation between the House and Senate on the funding amount of 1st Five.

Mental Health: There are currently three bills that focus on the recommendations from the mental health work-group report.

The bills to track are SF 440, HSB 229 and SF 452.

Health Care Reform: SF 296 has been assigned to a conference committee to come to common grounds. The committee is working on Medicaid Expansion and Health Benefit Exchange.

SF 419: Requires that a vision screening be conducted on school children before they begin kindergarten and third grade. The bill provides for reporting requirements for parents and guardians, schools and providers of the vision screening. The bill clarifies that a child shall not be prohibited from attending school if such evidence is not provided.

Resources and Links:

IME "[Endeavors Update](#)", April 2013--a communications effort to strengthen partnerships

[IME Informational Letter #1235 - Exclusion from Participation in Federal Health Care Programs](#)

