

EPI Update for Friday, July 15, 2016
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Three child drowning deaths prompt reminder**
- **Iowa needs Buprenorphine prescribers**
- **Save endangered ferrets: vaccinate prairie dogs for plague via drones**
- **Infographic: The Facts about Kids and the Danger of Drowning**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Three child drowning deaths prompt reminder

Since July 5, 2016, two 2-year-olds and one 6-year-old have died from drowning. Adults losing track of the children for several minutes appears to be a major factor in these drownings. Drowning is the leading cause of death by unintentional injury in children between the ages of 1 and 5.

Please remind parents and caregivers to provide direct supervision to all young children and non-swimmers, even when lifeguards are provided. Other safety tips to remember when near or in water:

- Use lifejackets for non-swimmers to bridge momentary lapses in supervision.
- All Iowans, children and adults alike, should use lifejackets on recreational waters.
- Learn to swim and teach your children as well. Formal swimming lessons can reduce the risk of drowning, particularly among young children.
- Provide fences with self-closing, self-latching closures around swimming pools and spas.
- Avoid alcohol use while swimming or supervising children.

For additional educational information that can be shared with patients, visit www.idph.iowa.gov/swimmingpoolsandspas/prevention, www.cdc.gov/SafeChild/Drowning/index.html or www.safekids.org/watersafety.

Iowa needs Buprenorphine prescribers

As Iowa works to address the increasing issue of opioid dependence, one difficulty has been the availability of medical providers willing to offer medication-assisted treatment like Buprenorphine. A recognized evidence-based practice, Buprenorphine is a partial agonist that helps reduce opioid cravings and withdrawal symptoms. To prescribe Buprenorphine, physicians need to complete the Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 (DATA 2000) Waiver training, an eight-hour course taken face-to-face or online. Physicians can treat up to 30 patients in the first year after certification, with an option to increase to 100 patients in year two. Starting on August 5, physicians who have prescribed Buprenorphine to 100 patients for at least one year can request an increase of their patient limit to 275.

While increasing the number of patients able to be seen will provide some expansion of services, there are concerns regarding capacity and the ability to accommodate more patients than are currently being seen by one physician. In Iowa there are 36 medical

professionals registered on the SAMHSA Buprenorphine Treatment Physician Locator website – indicating they have completed the DATA Waiver training. For a population of roughly 3.1 million, that is just one prescriber per 86,000 Iowans; however, an additional 35 providers have completed the training but have chosen not to have their name published.

In order to better assist the state in addressing opioid misuse, IDPH requests the following:

- Providers that have completed the DATA Waiver training should consider having their name published on the SAMHSA Buprenorphine Treatment Physician Locator website and begin offering services.
- For those interested in becoming DATA Waiver certified, IDPH is offering this training, free of charge, to any physician that would like to begin providing this service. For more information, visit the Training Resources website at www.trainingresources.org.

Save endangered ferrets: vaccinate prairie dogs for plague via drones

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's plan would take place in Montana, home to a species of ferret that is one of the rarest animals in North America. There are an estimated 300 wild black-footed ferrets in North America, with approximately nine living in the area where the vaccinations will occur. Plague can be lethal in ferrets, but also affects them indirectly by killing prairie dogs, which they rely on for habitat and prey. The drones would be able to distribute more vaccine in a shorter time period with less environmental disruption than conventional methods. To view the full proposal, visit www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/UAS_2016_EA_final.pdf.

Infographic: The Facts about Kids and the Danger of Drowning

www.safekids.org/infographic/facts-about-kids-and-danger-drowning

The Facts about Kids and the Danger of Drowning

THE PROBLEM

Almost 800 children drown in the U.S. every year.



Two thirds of these deaths occur during May – August.

Drowning Risk Varies by Age



More than half of all child drowning deaths are among children ages 0 to 4.

PARENTS' MISCONCEPTIONS

	<p>MISCONCEPTION 1 Nearly half of parents surveyed think that if a child was drowning nearby, they would hear it.</p>	<p>Reality Drowning is silent. There can be very little splashing, waving or screaming.</p>
	<p>MISCONCEPTION 2 1 out of 3 parents have left a child alone in a pool for two or more minutes.</p>	<p>Reality Drowning is quick. Once a child begins to struggle, you may have less than a minute to react.</p>
	<p>MISCONCEPTION 3 More than half of parents surveyed think that when present, a lifeguard is the primary person responsible for their child's supervision at the pool.</p>	<p>Reality Watching your child in the water is your responsibility. A lifeguard's job is to enforce rules, scan, rescue and resuscitate.</p>
	<p>MISCONCEPTION 4 50 percent of parents surveyed would not worry as much about drowning if their child has had swim lessons.</p>	<p>Reality Swim lessons are essential, but skill level varies. A review of children who drowned in a pool revealed that 47 percent of 10 – 17 year olds reportedly knew how to swim.</p>

WATER SURVIVAL SKILLS

5 Survival Skills That Could Save Your Life in the Water

- Step or jump into water over your head and return to the surface.
- Float or tread water for one minute.
- Turn around in a full circle and find an exit from the water.
- Swim 25 yards to the exit.
- Exit from the water. If in a pool, be able to exit without using the ladder.

WATER SAFETY TIPS



- ◆ Watch your kids when they are in and around water, without distraction.
- ◆ Teach children to swim and the 5 Water Survival Skills.
- ◆ Learn CPR and basic rescue skills.
- ◆ Make sure pools have four-sided fencing at least 4 feet high.

Seen on the drive to work this morning (Thanks to IowaDOT):

Who ya gonna call?

Nobody

You're driving

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a healthy and happy (and warmer) week!

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology

Iowa Department of Public Health

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