

# Quick Reads

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## IDPH funding set

The 2019 Iowa Legislature adjourned Saturday, April 27 and May 3, Governor Reynolds signed [HF766](#), which includes \$55.8 million of funding to IDPH. The budget includes funding to expand Your Life Iowa resources to include children's mental health resources, expansion of gambling treatment, and funding to support the annual creation and training of four psychiatric residencies in under-served areas of the state. To keep up-to-date on legislative matters all year, subscribe to the [IDPH Legislative Updates](#).

## Local collaboration provides training to first responders

Since 2013, Matt Powers ([Hiawatha Fire](#)) and Doug Wyman ([Marion Fire](#)) have trained numerous fire department and law enforcement staff on the use of a quantitative respiratory fit tester. [Linn County Public Health](#) provides the tester to volunteer and paid services in Linn and surrounding counties.



Matt Powers and Doug Wyman provide qualitative fit tester training.



The 2019 Governor's Conference on Public Health, held April 23 and 24, offered opportunities to share IDPH programs and initiatives. Pictured: Emily Vogt and Sieglinde Prior with the Smoke Free Homes display. Congratulations to our public health partners on another successful conference.

## IDPH career opportunities

The recent retirements of two department division directors and some organizational changes have resulted in a number of key vacancies, including the following positions:

- Division Director – Behavioral Health
- Division Director – Health Promotion & Chronic Disease Prevention
- Bureau Chief – Planning, Performance and Local Public Health Services
- Bureau Chief – Policy, Communication and Human Resources

These positions, along with other existing and future openings, are posted on the [IDPH LinkedIn](#) page and can be searched on the [DAS Career Pages](#). I encourage you to review and share these opportunities widely.



## Advisories, watches & warnings...oh my

The annual Meskwaki Health Fair drew a large crowd, with a variety of vendors, organizations and exhibits. IDPH staff provided information about diabetes prevention and using the Wizard of Oz as inspiration, [Tama County Public Health](#) staff focused on severe weather readiness, including pet safety, food safety after power outages, and how to make emergency plans and kits. Pictured below: (L) Shannon Zoffka, Tama County Public Health CEO/Executive Director and (R) Claire Shefchik, RN.



## Linn County partnership

Linn County Public Health and 19 local agencies have formed a new collaborative called "[My Care Community](#)," the first of its kind in Iowa. Participating service providers are able to coordinate services for area residents in the program. As a result, providers can make seamless referrals to outside organizations, better anticipate the future needs of clients, and improve quality of life for families.

## IDPH spotlight: HIV/AIDS and Viral Hepatitis

There are an estimated 3,000 Iowans living with HIV, and over 25,000 Iowans diagnosed with hepatitis C. Over 400 Iowans with HIV don't know they have it and potentially, many thousands of Iowans with hepatitis C are unaware of their infection.

The [Bureau of HIV, STD and Hepatitis](#) works to reduce the impact of communicable diseases in Iowa. Prevention and care services target chlamydia, syphilis, gonorrhea, HIV/AIDS and hepatitis A, B and C. Programs within the bureau guide community-based prevention planning, monitor current infectious disease trends, prevent transmission of infectious diseases, provide hepatitis A and B immunizations for adults, provide early detection and treatment for infected persons, and ensure access to health care.

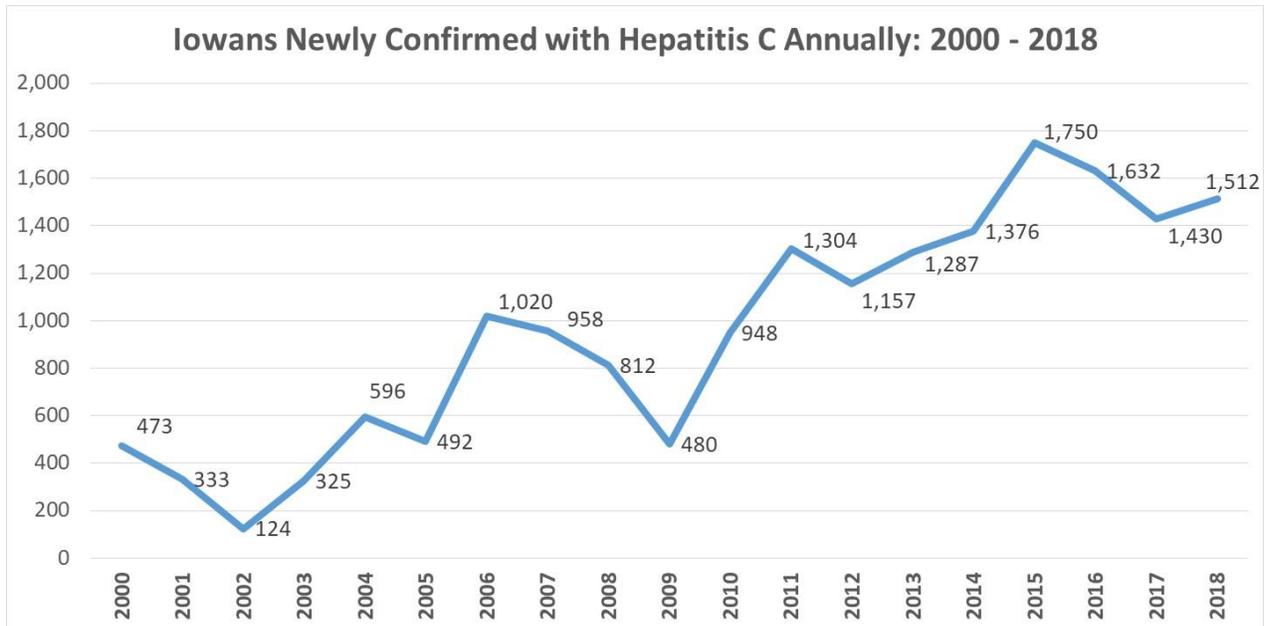
Staff partner with local public health departments, private health care agencies, disease prevention specialists and community-based organizations to interrupt the disease transmission process and provide access to testing, treatment, immunizations and prevention programs.

Disease intervention specialists help people newly diagnosed with HIV learn about the disease, talk to their partners about being exposed and learn how to get into care.

There are some populations of Iowans that are disproportionately affected by HIV, including those who are black/African American or Latino, men who have sex with men, and people who inject drugs. Strategies to address disproportionate burden of disease include utilizing a trauma-informed approach in prevention and care programming; partnering with substance use treatment facilities; and working with the Gay Men's Health and Disrupting Racism committees to address heterosexism and racism.

# Monthly data snapshot

Data are essential to the practice of public health. Each month, Quick Reads highlights selected tidbits to help create awareness of IDPH data and epidemiology.



\*Source: Iowa Disease Surveillance System (IDSS)

Hepatitis C is a curable blood-borne infection of the liver that, if left untreated, can cause cirrhosis and liver cancer. Over 18,000 Iowans have been diagnosed with chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates 45 to 85% of people with hepatitis C remain undiagnosed. In 2018, the Iowa Disease Surveillance System listed 1,512 Iowans newly confirmed with chronic HCV infection. The IDPH Bureau of HIV, STD and Hepatitis recommends Baby Boomers (born between 1945 and 1965), and people who inject drugs or have done so in the past, ask their primary healthcare provider for a simple blood test to screen for HCV. Testing and diagnosis are critical for improved health outcomes, reduced transmission and cure. May is Hepatitis Awareness Month and May 19 is Hepatitis Testing Day. For Iowans who inject drugs, free hepatitis C testing can be found at [these locations](#), as well as through the [Iowa Harm Reduction Coalition](#). More information on hepatitis can be found [here](#). Questions or comments about IDPH data can be sent [here](#).

## Congrats and kudos

Congratulations to Dr. Gerald Wessels, who in 2019 is marking 49 years with the Cass County Board of Health.

Sergeant Bluff pediatrician, [Dr. Ashlesha Kaushik](#), has been named Iowa's Childhood Immunization Champion by the CDC.

Kudos to winners of the IDPH Nutrition & Physical Activity leader awards: [Healthy Harrison Coalition](#), Jacki Schares ([INRCOG](#)), Christina McDonough ([Scott County](#)), Morgan Neuhaus ([Manchester Regional Medical Center](#)) and Holy Family Catholic Schools.

Congrats to Patty Hinrichs, Director of Home Health, Hospice and Public Health for [Poweshiek County](#), who is retiring this month after 42 years in public health.

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