

Quick Reads

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Buchanan County focuses on Amish community



Photo taken with permission. Due to religious and cultural considerations, no faces are shown. (Photo: Kevin Bodensteiner)

In August, nearly 40 individuals attended the fourth Annual Health and Safety Day for the Amish Community, hosted by [Buchanan County Public Health](#) and Fairbank EMS & Fire. The event included opportunities to learn hands-only CPR, [Stop The Bleed](#) and first aid, as well as car seat safety, pedestrian safety, poison prevention, immunization information and well water testing information.

One Amish man shared his story of how he used the Stop The Bleed training received last year. While working at a local sawmill, his co-worker's hand became stuck in a machine, amputating one of his fingers and causing damage to several others. Using the kit he had received during the training, the man applied the tourniquet and a driver got them to the hospital quickly. "This is why we do this event annually," said Buchanan County Public Health Director Tai Burkhart. "If one life is saved, one accident is prevented, one person gets vaccinated, it is worth the time and effort."

Community partners assisting in the fair included Hazelton and Dunkerton EMS, Buchanan County Sheriff, Fairbank Police, and Brittney Koch and John Shaw with transportation research at ISU.

Monroe County one-on-one work pays off

[Monroe County](#) is a rural area with a growing Amish population. Recently, Chris Golston, the county's Child Passenger Safety (CPS) technician, received a call regarding an Amish family working for the caller and her husband. The woman was concerned because the family's three young children didn't appear to have proper child restraints.

The Amish family, which travels frequently to northern Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas, met with Chris for a car seat check. Each of the children, ages 2 months, 12 months and 2 years, were in unsafe or inadequate car seats. The county provided the family with new car seats appropriate for each child's age, weight, height and developmental levels. Chris was able to teach the mother about the proper direction for each seat, location, installation and harnessing. The mother stated she "didn't realize how unsafe her kids were." SafeKids offers this [guide](#) to proper car seat installation.



Members of the IDPH Environmental Health Services Bureau recently volunteered at Meals for the Heartland and helped box 30,000 meals during one shift. Learn more about the bureau in this month's IDPH Spotlight.



Scott County addresses walkability

The [Scott County Health Department \(SCHD\)](#) has developed a [Walk Audit Toolkit](#) based on the traditional [Walkability and Bikeability Suitability Assessment](#) (WABSA) and [AARP Walk Audit Toolkit](#), but also includes input from a paraplegic community member. This participation was especially valuable as the toolkit includes measurements on slope and cross slope, a common barrier for wheelchair users.

The toolkit includes an intersection diagram to record actual measurements, infrastructure factors, walkable environment design, walk audit ranking and recommendations for improvement. SCHD created a user guide to assist individuals interested in assessing sidewalks in their community. To learn more, contact [Christina McDonough](#).



L-R: Ray Weiser, Scott Co. Information Technology; Noah Truesdell, River Action; Christina McDonough, SCHD; Bruce Perry, Ride Illinois Port Byron; Brent Herman, Princeton Sidewalk & Trails Committee



IDPH spotlight: Environmental Health Services & Outreach

[Environmental Health Services & Outreach](#) address a variety of environmental hazards to ensure Iowans are safe where they live, work and play. In addition to providing consultation, training and support to local public health and the public, the program supports efforts involving environmental issues.

In FY18, almost \$3 million was provided to 98 counties to fund water testing for 7,643 private wells, rehabilitation of 176 wells, and plugging of more than 1,700 wells and cisterns. Funding to local health departments supports childhood lead poisoning prevention. In 2017, more than 535 elevated blood lead tests were reported to the department and follow-up testing confirmed 349 lead-poisoned children who received additional health services.

The program regularly partners with the Departments of Natural Resources, Inspections and Appeals, and Agriculture and Land Stewardship to assist in investigations of illness, injuries and deaths.

Public pools and spas are reviewed by the department to ensure they meet state safety requirements and these facilities are inspected at least annually.

New names, new faces

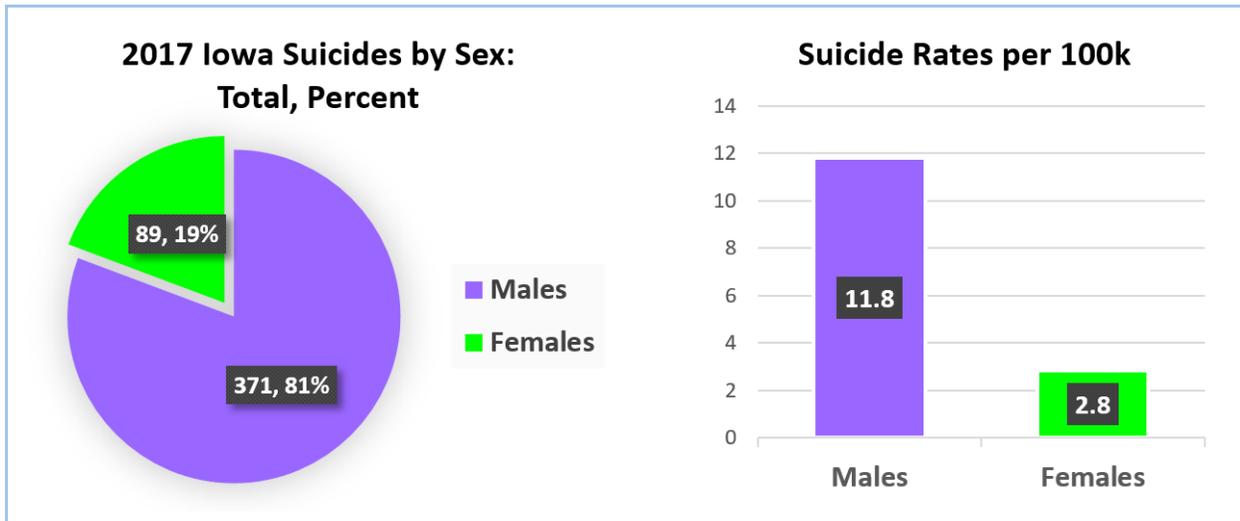
IDPH has two new bureaus. The Bureau of Policy and Workforce Services, led by Susan Dixon, encompasses IDPH human resources, communications, certificate of need, office of health care transformation and health delivery systems staff. The Bureau of Public Health Performance, under Marisa Roseberry, includes local public health services, performance management, quality improvement, planning, data management and health equity.



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.

Iowa Males Four Times More Likely Than Females to Die by Suicide



Data source: Iowa Violent Death Reporting System (IAVDRS)

According to the Iowa Violent Death Reporting System (IAVDRS), in 2017, over three-quarters of violent deaths were from suicide and over 80% of suicides were committed by males. Of the 628 violent deaths, 460 were suicide. The IAVDRS is a CDC funded statewide surveillance system that collects information on deaths from homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention and deaths of undetermined intent. IAVDRS collects data from death certificates, medical examiner and law enforcement reports to aid researchers, policymakers and community groups in developing strategies to reduce violent deaths. Iowa began collecting data in 2015. Find more information on IAVDRS [here](#). If you are feeling suicidal, or concerned about someone else, call Your Life Iowa at 855-581-8111, text 855-895-8398 or visit the [website](#). Send questions or comments about IDPH data [here](#).

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Congrats and kudos

Congratulations to State Public Health Veterinarian and IDPH Deputy State Epidemiologist Dr. Ann Garvey, who has been appointed to the [CDC's Board of Scientific Counselors, Office of Infectious Disease](#).

The IDPH Vital Records bureau has processed its one-millionth order for customers through its electronic system, which launched in April 2014.

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