

Quick Reads

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IDPH COVID-19 response



IDPH Director Gerd Clabaugh meets with Iowa Congressman Dave Loebsack.

I was pleased to represent IDPH at a White House meeting with state, county and city health officials from more than 30 states and territories to continue discussions on the federal, state and local partnership response to COVID-19. IDPH continues to work with the governor's office, legislators, other state agencies, healthcare providers, the media, long-term care facilities, local preparedness coalitions and public health agencies, schools, businesses, law enforcement, EMS providers, universities and community colleges, and others to create and administer plans and procedures as they are needed. Visit the [IDPH COVID-19 webpage](#) for updated information and data.



The State Emergency Operations Center is activated for COVID-19 response.

Renewed Narcan initiative

In partnership with the Iowa Police Chiefs Association (IPCA) and the Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Association (ISSDA), IDPH is offering one free naloxone (Narcan nasal) kit to every interested law enforcement officer in the state. In addition, in partnership with the Iowa Hospital Association (IHA) and the Iowa Healthcare Collaborative (IHC), IDPH is making these kits available to interested hospital emergency departments that want to provide one to individuals released following a non-fatal opioid overdose. For more information, contact [RaChel Greenwood](#) by April 6, 2020.



IDPH Medical Director Dr. Caitlin Pedati addresses the Iowa Senate Human Resources Committee regarding COVID-19.

HIP highlights

In 2019, local public health agencies submitted progress reports on their health improvement plan (HIP) objectives and strategies. Each month, Quick Reads will highlight one county's work.

[Cherokee County](#): The county is tackling obesity by expanding its trails. A \$1 million trail expansion is proposed and \$500,000 has already been raised in grants, fundraisers and donations. For more information, see the complete plans and reports on the IDPH [website](#).

Wayne County outreach

In July 2019, Wayne County public health began an initiative with the Amish community near Seymour. In October 2019, an immunization clinic resulted in one vaccine administered. Clinics held in December 2019 and January 2020 had similar results. After reassessing efforts, public health pulled out index files to find all Amish children that had been vaccinated through the office and send personalized reminder letters to each family. As a result, a February 18 clinic saw 13 children, with 26 vaccines administered. For more information about Wayne County's efforts, contact Wayne County Public Health Administrator [Shelley Bickel](#).

5-2-1-0 reaches thousands

According to the [5-2-1-0 Annual Update](#), the Healthy Choices Count! initiative reached 289,427 Iowans in 2019. The reports includes data from more than 450 registered sites that include K-12 schools (133), workplaces (130), early care providers (109), health care clinics (49) and out-of-school programs (33).

IDPH fast facts

According to the most recent BRFSS data, the percentage of Iowans reporting they have high blood cholesterol as indicated by a health care professional dropped from 36.3% in 2017 to 34.1% in 2018.



Governor Reynolds signed proclamations designating March as Colorectal Cancer (pictured above) and Problem Gambling Awareness Month.

IDPH spotlight: Office of the State Medical Examiner

In 1999, Governor Vilsack signed a bill into law moving the Iowa Office of the [State Medical Examiner](#) (IOSME) from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Public Health. IOSME strives to maintain a credible death investigation system that operates efficiently to service the needs of Iowans.

Key partners for the IOSME are county medical examiners and law enforcement officers. In the investigation of medicolegal cases (those that involve both medical and legal aspects), county and state medical examiners must determine the scientifically unbiased cause and manner of death, and display honesty and integrity in doing so.

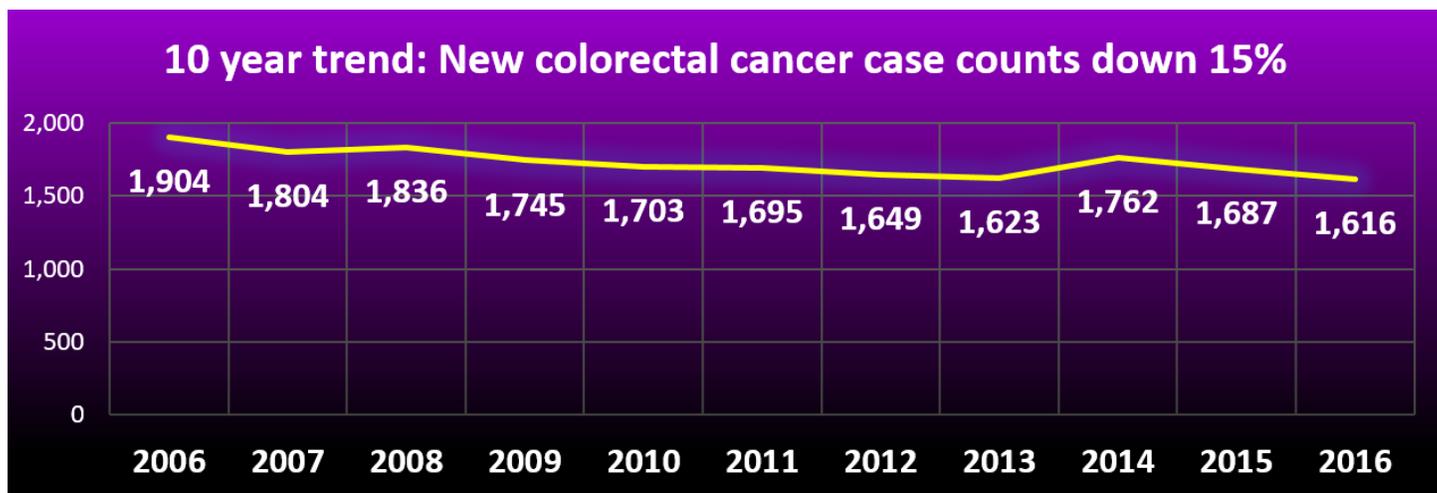
Iowa has more than 28,000 deaths each year and of these, approximately 5,000 need a death investigation. About 1,500 deaths per year require an autopsy and of those, more than 800 are performed at the IOSME offices in Ankeny.

In addition to performing autopsies and reviewing reports (over 5,000 annually), the IOSME provides lectures, tours and presentations to schools, professional groups and other government agencies. IOSME internships are offered for investigators, radiology technologists, clinical laboratory scientists and medical office specialists from many schools throughout Iowa.

The IOSME coordinates and leads the state's Disaster Response Team for mass fatality incidents and oversees the state's Child Death Review Team. State Medical Examiner forensic pathologists also provide expert witness testimony at depositions, grand juries, and state and federal criminal and civil trials – all this while providing 24/7 death investigation consultation to all counties.

IOSME has been accredited by the National Association of Medical Examiners since 2008.

Monthly data snapshot - Colorectal cancer 10-year trend shows 15% decrease



Data source: [Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal](http://iowapublichealthtrackingportal.com)

The number of newly diagnosed colorectal cancer cases in Iowa decreased by 15% from 2006 to 2016. Colorectal cancer is the second most common cancer in the United States when combining men and women. It is often prevented through regular screenings, and is highly treatable with early [screening and detection](#). Screening tests include a colonoscopy, Cologuard, and simple take home stool tests. Colorectal cancer risk can be reduced by maintaining a healthy weight, being physically active and eating a diet rich in fruits, vegetables and whole grains. March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness [Month](#). More information about colorectal cancer and screening can be found [here](#) and [here](#). Questions or comments about IDPH data can be sent [here](#).

Share your success

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Congrats and kudos

The [Association for Biosafety and Biosecurity](#) presented State Hygienic Laboratory Director Mike Pentella with its Arnold G. Wedum Award for "contributions that have improved the practice of clinical microbiology and safety."

West Union and its community partner, [Gundersen Palmer Community Health](#), is one of the [Healthy Hometown Powered by Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield](#) Community Award winners. Other cities awarded include Waverly and Manning.

Congratulations to the IDPH [Bureau of Health Statistics](#), featured in the March National Vital Statistics System [newsletter](#). The newsletter highlighted the bureau's work with the birth registration system. The newly created birth registration facility report card provides a summary to the department, and monitors the averages of birth registration times.

Save the Date!

The 43rd Annual Iowa Governor's Conference on Substance Abuse Working Along the Continuum



Mark Your Calendar: April 21 and 22, 2020

The Iowa Governor's Conference on Substance Abuse will be held at the Hy-Vee Hall at Iowa Events Center in Des Moines.

