



# *Quick Reads*

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## **Ebola preparedness continues**

IDPH continues to work diligently to ensure public health and the state health care system are prepared should a case of Ebola be reported in Iowa. There are currently no confirmed or suspected cases of Ebola in Iowa and none of the individuals currently under Ebola-related health orders are exhibiting symptoms of Ebola. All individuals under orders are cooperative. IDPH continues to conduct weekly briefing webinars for local public health, hospitals, and EMS, in addition to working closely with the Iowa Hospital Association and state agency partners. Links to guidance, checklists, and factsheets are available on the [IDPH Ebola web page](#).

## **ACA healthcare reform impact study**

As uninsured Iowans become enrolled in new health plan options available through the [Iowa Health and Wellness Plan](#) (IHAWP) and the [Marketplace](#), IDPH anticipates that some healthcare services the Department has historically funded may become covered benefits under new plans, changing the demand for IDPH-funded services. IDPH contracted with the Milliman actuarial firm to better understand the impact of state-level healthcare reform on certain IDPH programs and healthcare services. While the exact impacts of the ACA remain complex and difficult to predict, this ACA Impact Study represents an initial step in understanding the multiple complex considerations IDPH has identified related to the direct healthcare services the Department has historically funded, and will help IDPH quantify likely changes in the demand for its services and related program and funding implications. A summary of the Milliman study will be posted to the IDPH web page soon.

## **Check your inbox**

The [Title V Needs Assessment Prioritization Survey](#) is now open for public input and will close December 8th. To ensure a comprehensive assessment of the [Maternal and Child Health](#) (MCH) population needs, we are soliciting input from a wide variety of stakeholders. A survey link will be emailed to stakeholders this week. Participants will be provided with links to [Data Detail Sheets](#) to assist in learning about each topic area and the needs statements. Each need statement will be ranked using six criteria selected by the needs assessment team. Results of the prioritization survey will be used to direct the MCH and Child Health Specialty Clinic (CHSC) programs for the next five-year project period.

## **Get screened**

The Iowa Department of Public Health's [Iowa Get Screened: Colorectal Cancer](#) program, the [American Cancer Society](#), and the [Iowa Cancer Consortium](#) have launched a free [online training](#) to teach providers and healthcare professionals how to engage their entire staff, implement policy and system changes, utilize a continuous improvement model to measure practice progress, and receive useful tools and resources to help increase cancer screening rates in busy practices. This training uses interactive, audiovisual demonstrations to show providers how they can engage their entire staff to identify appropriate patients, provide recommended screenings and encourage timely follow-up for recommended cancer screenings.

## **Quality improvement success**

The IDPH [Ryan White Part B](#) program kicked off its formal Quality Management Program by hosting the first quality management team meeting. The team will meet quarterly, and will examine performance measures and continuous quality improvement activities for the Ryan White Part B program.

All Title V contractors with a school-based dental sealant program will now use the same data recording system to submit standardized data to the IDPH [Bureau of Oral and Health Delivery Systems](#) (Oral Health Center). This system was initially developed for sealant contractors in order to allow IDPH to have consistent reporting of the program results, oral health status, and other indicators. The data recording system has been fine-tuned and by extending it to the additional programs, it will provide a more comprehensive, statewide review about the program benefit and the oral health of Iowa schoolchildren.

## **Congrats and kudos**

Gloria Vermie, director of the [Iowa State Office of Rural Health](#), has received the Distinguished Andrew W. Nichols Award from the [National Organization of State Offices](#)

[of Rural Health](#) (NOSORH), given each year to an individual who has made a significant contribution to NOSORH.

Binnie LeHew of the IDPH [Sexual Violence Prevention](#) program has begun a one-year term as President-Elect of the [Safe States Alliance](#), representing injury and violence prevention professionals.

IDPH Communications Director Polly Carver-Kimm has been elected Vice-President of the [National Public Health Information Coalition](#). She was also re-elected as Region 7 Director.

IDPH and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach have received the [Iowa Chapter of the American Planning Association](#)'s (APA) award for the [I-WALK](#) program. I-WALK has helped more than 30 Iowa communities assess their walkability infrastructure with the ultimate goal of initiating improvements.

IDPH [Office of Minority and Multicultural Health](#) Advisory Council Member Lou Ellen Brown has received the Karen Packer Award from the Iowa Cancer Consortium.

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*To everyone in public health and all our partners, keep up the great work!*

— Gerd