



Quick Reads

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Get on the bus

This month, I announced to staff that IDPH will seek national accreditation from the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#) (PHAB). A thorough self-assessment of the department's ability to meet the [PHAB standards](#) found IDPH meets around half of the PHAB measures. We plan to apply and submit documentation to PHAB in 2017, so we'll be taking the next year to work on the areas needing improvement. These include a stronger emphasis on documentation, developing formal quality improvement, performance management, and workforce development.

I consider the PHAB standards best practices and am encouraging the department to adopt them as such. We've introduced this effort to all staff using the metaphor of a bus ride. As an organization we'll be taking a journey towards developing a culture of quality and accreditation will be one of the stops our bus makes on the way.

I will let you know how our journey progresses!

Healthy Iowans input needed

Over the next several months, IDPH will be coordinating the most comprehensive health needs assessment we have ever undertaken to identify Iowa's critical health issues. This is a first step in developing Healthy Iowans: Iowa's Health Improvement Plan 2017-2021. This statewide effort is designed to keep Iowans living longer, healthier, more productive lives and enjoying our rich, Iowa quality of life.

In addition to information obtained from the [Community Health Needs Assessment and Health Improvement Plans](#) (CHNA & HIP) and recommendations from nearly 200

stakeholder groups and advisory committees, I invite your involvement in the assessment. A maximum of three recommendations may be submitted using the [recommendation form](#) posted on the Healthy Iowans website. All recommendations are due by February 29, 2016.

To sign up for more information about Healthy Iowans and related issues, send a blank e-mail to join-HealthyIowans@lists.ia.gov.

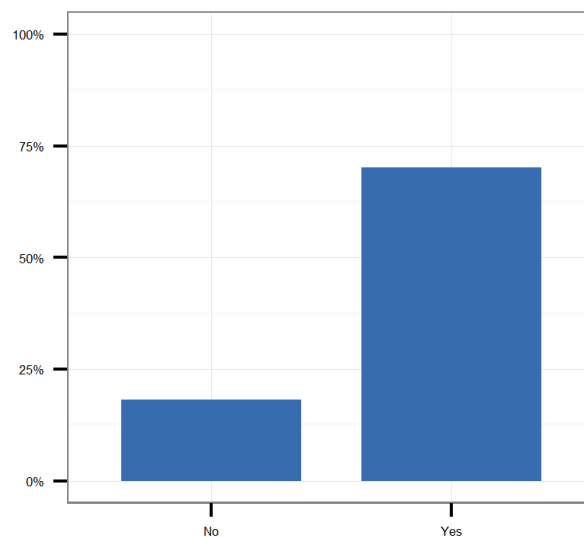
Oral health reports released

The [2015 Burden of Oral Disease in Iowa](#) report is now complete. The report was developed as part of an oral health surveillance plan strategy within the CDC Oral Disease Prevention Grant Project. In addition, the [2014-2015 School-Based Dental Sealant program update](#) report has been posted. Iowa school-based sealant programs have seen a 42.6 percent increase in students served, a 40 percent increase in the number of students receiving dental sealants, and an increase in the number of Iowa counties served from 72 to 78 since the 2013-2014 school year.

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. To discover more of the important and useful data available from IDPH, please visit the [Public Health Data Tracking Portal](#).

Percentage of Mothers Receiving Flu Vaccination 12 Months Prior to Delivery When Recommended or Offered



According to the 2013 [PRAMS](#) data, overall, 52.2 percent of newly delivered women in Iowa reported that they received a flu shot in the 12 months before delivering their baby. Those with a college education or higher and making more than 375 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) were the most likely to get a flu shot.

A health care provider's recommendation seems to influence the uptake of flu shots among expecting mothers. In 2013, 88.8 percent of women reported their health care worker either offered them a flu shot or told them to get one in the 12 months before the delivery of their new baby. Of these women, 70.2 percent did receive a flu shot. On the other hand, of the 11.2 percent who were not offered a flu shot, the vast majority did not receive a flu shot (81.9 percent). Providers were less likely to offer or recommend a flu shot to Hispanic women, those on public insurance (i.e. Medicaid) and those without insurance.

Congrats and kudos

Congratulations to Brenda Dobson, who has been named Division Director for the IDPH [Division of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention](#) (HPCDP). Brenda came to IDPH as a nutrition consultant in 1984, bringing with her knowledge and experience in clinical nutrition services, especially in the areas of diabetes and infant nutrition. Brenda has served the department since 2010 as Bureau Chief for the Bureau of Nutrition and Health Promotion, as well as the interim Division Director for HPCDP for the last 17 months.

The [Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health](#) has been named the fifth [National Diabetes Prevention Program](#) (NDPP) site in Iowa. The four other sites are [Avera Holy Family Hospital](#) in Estherville, [Greene County Medical Center](#) in Jefferson, [Marshalltown YMCA-YWCA](#) in Marshalltown, and [West Lakes Hy-Vee, Inc.](#) in West Des Moines.

Two Iowans were honored at the [2015 Iowa Cancer Summit](#) for their work in comprehensive cancer control. Congratulations to Cynthia Fiester, RN, BSN, BA, Chronic Disease Service Program Coordinator at [Linn County Public Health](#), who received the 2015 Karen Packer Spirit of Collaboration Award and Shirley Roof, formerly of Cedar Falls, who posthumously received the 2015 Iowa Cancer Champion Award.

Janice Edmunds-Wells of the [IDPH Office of Minority and Multicultural Health](#) has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in recognition of her contributions towards implementation of the [National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities](#) as a member of the Heartland Regional Health Equity Council.

John Satre of the [IDPH Bureau of Information Management](#) has been named an [Informatics Training in Place Program](#) (I-TIPP) Fellow. The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists posted a [blog post](#) highlighting Iowa's leadership on the Electronic Lab Reporting project, which John oversees.

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To get *Quick Reads* directly in your inbox, please send a blank e-mail to join-quick_reads@lists.ia.gov. To contribute a news item or smart practice, please write to Polly Carver-Kimm at Polly.Carver-Kimm@idph.iowa.gov.

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

— *Gerd*