

# Quick Reads

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## IDPH unveils new logo

I am happy to share the department's new logo, chosen to represent stability and the foundational work of public health that we do every day. The words "Iowa" and "public health" in bold type affirm our focus on the department's mission: to protect and improve the health of Iowans. Look for this logo to roll out over the next several months.



Last month, IDPH staff spoke about public health careers as part of a panel for the Waukee [APEX](#) Health Sciences high school students. Pictured (L-R): Kelsey Feller, Kim Piper, Nicole Kolm-Valdivia, Joy Harris, Dr. Jonathan Thompson, Owen Parker.

## Legislative session begins

The 2020 Iowa Legislative Session gaveled into session this week. For this session, IDPH has one bill proposal: to strengthen the Smokefree Air Act. The proposal would change the definition of smoking in Iowa code to include vapor products and make other conforming changes. Stay up-to-date on the 88<sup>th</sup> Iowa General Assembly by [subscribing](#) to the IDPH Legislative Update.

## NSDUH survey begins

[The 2020 National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#) (NSDUH) will begin in Iowa and across the nation soon. Sponsored by the [Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration](#), NSDUH is a scientific, national survey of the U.S. population aged 12 and older that provides up-to-date information on alcohol, tobacco and drug use. Randomly selected households will receive a letter explaining the study and advising that an interviewer will be visiting their home. No names are collected and complete confidentiality is assured. I urge your participation to help increase accuracy and reliability of data results.

## Strategic plan update

In October 2019, the IDPH executive team and bureau chiefs met to discuss the [2017-2021 Strategic Plan](#). About halfway through the plan period seemed a good time to review accomplishments and review our stated goals. In order to move our goals forward, the plan has been refreshed. We are currently working to put the "meat on the bones" of the plan and will be creating additional action steps during the first quarter of this year. The Strategic Plan also now intentionally seeks to directly connect the work of bureaus, programs and individuals through a refreshed framework.

## 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.

**Emmet County:** The county has reduced underage drinking from 15% in 2014 to 11% in 2018 by collaborating with two groups—the Emmet County Making Optimal Choices for Successful Youth and the Emmet County Wellness Coalition. For more information, see the complete plans and reports on the IDPH [website](#).

## Public health innovation

IDPH received a \$50,000 grant through the [Telligen Community Initiative](#) to implement a one-year project called "Harnessing the Power of Iowa's Libraries." The project focuses on supporting and equipping libraries with tools, resources and programs to address social determinants of health, as determined by each pilot location's [CHNA & HIP](#). For the pilot, the [Cedar Rapids Public Library](#) is working with [Linn County Public Health](#) and the [Perry Public Library](#) with [Dallas County Public Health](#). Through the project, a toolkit including best practices, success stories and strategies to grow will be created. IDPH is currently seeking additional funding to potentially expand the initiative.



The Cedar Rapids Public Library features treadmills.

## IDPH spotlight: HIV/AIDS and Viral Hepatitis

Two statewide strategic plans and the HIV and Hepatitis Community Planning Group help guide the bureau's activities. One plan addresses [HIV](#), but includes strategies to address the three reportable STDs (chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis); the other plan addresses [hepatitis B and C](#).

The five-year plans answer three questions: Where are we now? Where do we want to be? How do we get there? Public health data help show where we are, and include needs assessments and epidemiological, survey and programmatic data. The community assesses these data and performs a gap analysis to identify improvement areas.

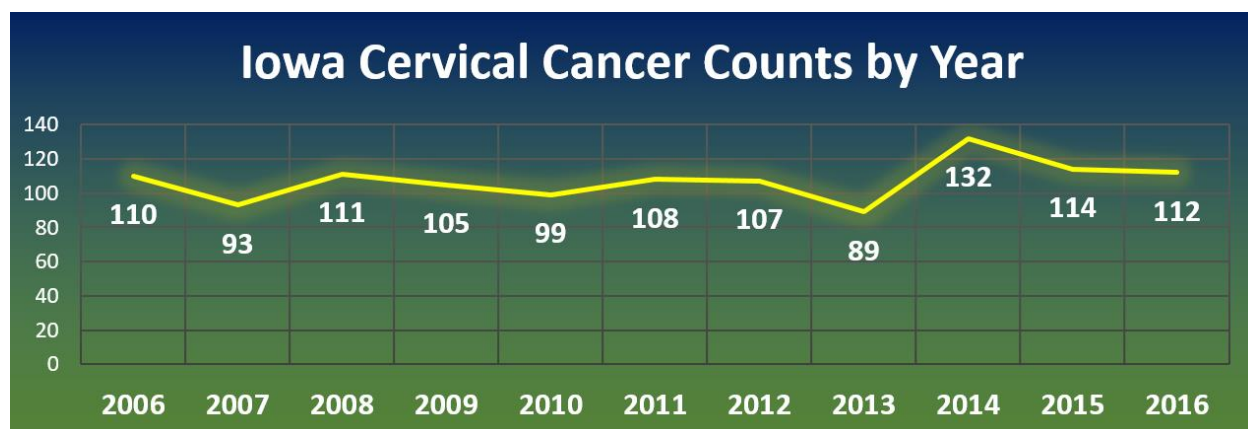
The community then sets goals for the coming five years. These goals address where we want to be and how we will get there, and include specific activities with assigned individuals or groups to oversee those activities. Finally, the community establishes performance measures to track progress on the goals and report progress at regular intervals.

In 2020, the bureau and the community will be engaging in a new and significant round of planning in response to a national effort to eliminate transmission of HIV. On February 5, 2019, the president announced his administration's [Plan for America: Ending the HIV Epidemic \(EHE\)](#), which calls for a 90% reduction in new HIV infections in the U.S. by 2030. All states and cities are asked to be a part of the effort by writing jurisdiction-specific EHE plans.

Accordingly, the bureau and the community will write a Stop HIV Iowa Plan, addressing STDs and hepatitis B and C, but will also look at social determinants of health, health equity, behavioral health and stigma. A late-April kick-off meeting is planned. You can monitor our progress at the [Stop HIV Iowa](#) website.



# Monthly data snapshot - The Preventable and Treatable Cancer: Cervical Cancer



Data source: [Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal](#)

Cervical cancer is the growth of abnormal cells of the cervix. About 100 Iowans get cervical cancer every year, yet cervical cancer can be prevented by getting the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine and can be detected through cervical cancer screening. Almost all cervical cancers are caused by HPV. HPV vaccination is recommended for 11-12 year old boys and girls, but can be given as early as age 9 and at later ages. Getting vaccinated and having regular cervical cancer screening are steps in prevention and detection of cervical cancer. When found early, cervical cancer is highly treatable. Congress has designated January as Cervical Health Awareness Month. More information about cervical cancer can be found [here](#) and [here](#). Questions or comments about IDPH data can be sent [here](#).

## Congrats and kudos

Congratulations to Hardin County Board of Health member Mary Pisney, RN, who has retired after several terms.

Congrats to all 2019 IDPH Employee Recognition Award [nominees](#) and winners. See pictures on following page.



Pictured above (L-R): Hardin County Board of Health members BJ Hoffman, Jeff Hoffman (Chair), Mary Pisney (retiring), Dr. Curtis O'Loughlin and Tim Broer.

## Health equity podcast

The Midwestern Public Health Training Center (MPHTC) has launched a new 10-part [podcast](#) series that explores health equity issues and provides concrete suggestions to advance health equity. IDPH [Division of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention](#) Director Nalo Johnson is featured in an episode. In addition, MPHTC has posted a number of health equity [resources](#).

## IDPH fast facts

In 2019, IDPH [epidemiologists](#) investigated 104 human cases of West Nile Virus infection - the largest number of infections since WNV first became established in Iowa in 2003.

## Share your success

Contribute a news item or smart practice by [email](#). Get more IDPH news and information by subscription through [Granicus](#). For IDPH topics, scroll down to "Public Health, Iowa Department of."

# 2019 IDPH Employee Recognition Awards

## Customer Service



Margot McComas



Informatics Team: Swathi Ramasahayam, Ellen Warner, John Satre, Sree Maddali



Trevor Peters



Lucille Bundy



# 2019 IDPH Employee Recognition Awards Quality Improvement



ABOVE: Volunteer Health  
Care Provider Program QI  
Team: (Row 1) Christel  
Branness, Kathy Karn.  
(Row 2) Michael  
Murdock, Lloyd Burnside,  
Bob Russell, John  
Warming (not pictured:  
Judy Hojati and Kathy  
Weinberg)

RIGHT: Ashley Ezzio

