

Quick Reads

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Honored to serve

June 17, I was appointed by Gov. Kim Reynolds to serve as interim director of the [Department of Human Services](#) (DHS) until a permanent DHS director is named. I continue to serve as IDPH director during this time of transition at DHS. I am honored by the opportunity to serve the state in this way, and wish to thank staff at both IDPH and DHS for their assistance and support during this busy time.

Public health soap opera

“Soap opera” may be the best description for a unique outreach opportunity utilized by the IDPH [STD program](#). Des Moines radio station [Le Reina](#)’s 30-minute program called “Entre Amigas” (Among Friends) focuses on different issues affecting the Latino community. Casey Young of the STD program participated in two episodes of the radio drama, which focused on symptoms, prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections.



Pictured L-R: Ana Jimenez, Sexual Abuse Specialist, Crisis Intervention Advocacy Center; Casey Young, IDPH STD program; Elizabeth Balcarcel, Latino Services Specialist, Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Abuse (IowaCASA)



5-2-1-0 expansion

The [5-2-1-0 Healthy Choices Count!](#) initiative continues to expand and grow. New communities each receiving \$30,000 in FY20 include:

- Cherokee, Cherokee County
- Grinnell, Poweshiek County
- Hampton, Franklin County
- Missouri Valley, Harrison County
- Waterloo, Black Hawk County
- Storm Lake, Buena Vista County

FY19 funded communities receiving a second year of funding at \$10,000 include:

- Clinton, Clinton County
- Keosauqua, Van Buren County
- Manning, Carroll County
- Mason City, Cerro Gordo County
- Mount Ayr, Ringgold County

FY18 communities receiving a final year of funding at \$5,000 include:

- Dubuque, Dubuque County
- Malvern, Mills County
- Mt Pleasant, Henry County
- West Union, Fayette County

Fayette County steps up focus on walkability

[Fayette County Public Health](#) is tackling obesity one step at a time. Focusing on the “move more” element of their “Eat Well, Move More, Feel Better” public health messaging, the county conducted a walkability assessment of the county seat of West Union.

Using wheelchairs and walkers, and examining walking routes to schools, it quickly became apparent improvements were needed to make walking an easy choice in the city. Over two years, an astounding number of improvements were made, including:

- 5,756 feet of sidewalks replaced
- 36 curb ramps installed or improved
- A new walkway constructed
- 20 crosswalks painted piano key-style

They're not finished yet. A proposed pedestrian crossing at Highways 150 and 18 is in the works. To learn more about Fayette County's efforts, contact [Jessica Wegner](#).



Governor Reynolds signed two public health proclamations recently: Drowning Prevention Week and Hepatitis Awareness Month, for which staff and partners are pictured above. Over 18,000 Iowans have been diagnosed with chronic hepatitis C since 2000, yet the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 45-85% of people living with hepatitis are undiagnosed.

IDPH spotlight: Emergency Medical Services & Trauma

Iowans rely on the [EMS](#) system for effective and reliable out-of-hospital care. As designated by code, IDPH is the lead agency responsible for the development, implementation, coordination and evaluation of Iowa's EMS system. Seventy-five percent of Iowa's EMS services are entirely volunteer-based and respond to approximately 10% of all EMS calls in the state. The rest of the calls are handled by paid EMS services.

The [Trauma](#) program provides education, technical assistance, training and quality improvement for the state's 118 hospitals. Iowa is unique in that all these hospitals are trauma-designated, ensuring that no matter where an injured Iowan is transported, they will receive optimal care.

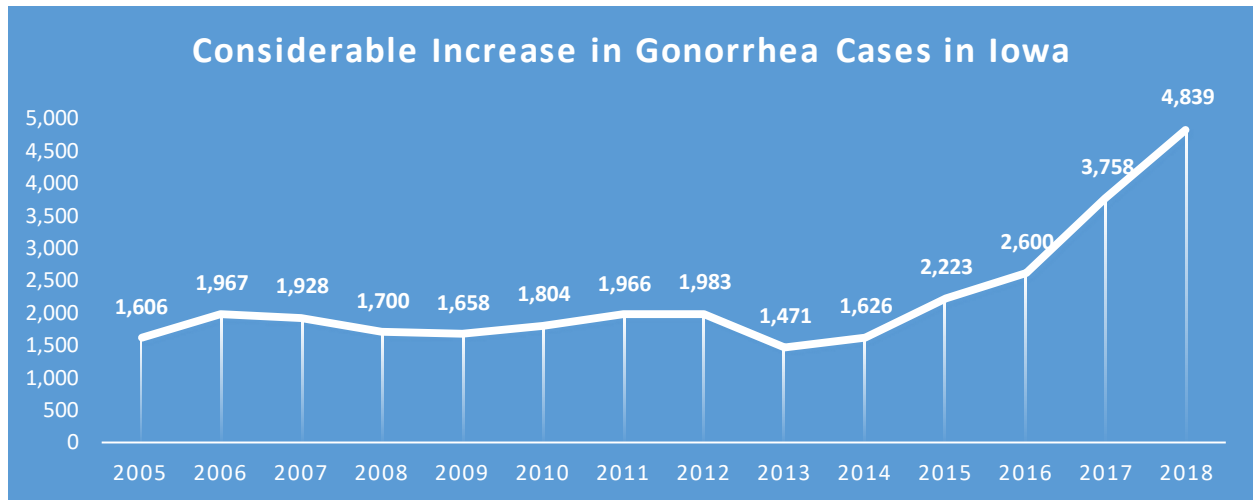
The trauma program also leads the [Stop the Bleed](#) campaign in Iowa – more than 500 individuals have been trained in trauma bleeding control and that number grows monthly.

Last year, more than 500 hospital, public health and emergency preparedness workers attended the state's first Trauma Conference. [Registration](#) is open for the 2019 Iowa Trauma Conference, scheduled for August 27 and 28 in Des Moines.



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.



Data source: Iowa Disease Surveillance System (IDSS)

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted disease caused by the bacterium *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, which can be transmitted during vaginal, anal or oral sex, and at birth to a newborn. The number of gonorrhea diagnoses in Iowa more than doubled from 2015 to 2018, reaching 4,839 cases in 2018. Increased transmission, greater access to healthcare and testing, or both are possible explanations for this increase. Untreated gonorrhea can cause chronic pain, infertility, pelvic inflammatory disease and in rare circumstances, spread to the joints or blood, potentially becoming life-threatening. Prompt diagnosis and treatment prevent adverse health outcomes and reduce transmission. More information on gonorrhea and other sexually transmitted diseases and treatment can be found [here](#) and [here](#). Questions or comments about IDPH data can be sent [here](#).

Congrats and kudos

Congratulations to IDPH Dental Director, Dr. Bob Russell, who has been nominated to the prestigious [International College of Dentists](#).

Kudos to the winners of the Awards of Excellence presented to the following individuals at the 2019 Iowa Immunization Conference: Lisa De Wit, LPN (Sanford Sheldon Clinic); Meri Morris (ChildServe); Robert Nichols (Greenwood Pharmacy); Becky Runnells (Lucas County Health Center Medical Clinic); Tammy Walker-Paris (ISU/Thielen Student Health Center); Dr. Jeffrey Westpheling (MercyCare Prairie Creek); Diane Dolmage, Jamie Kriegel, Kristy Reedy, Sheena Huls, and Crystal VandeKamp (UnityPoint Grinnell Regional Public Health).



Children's Hospital & Medical Center of Omaha recently awarded \$25,000 to [Harrison County Home and Public Health](#)'s Baby Café model - a project to reduce disparities in breastfeeding through peer and professional lactation support. Pictured above: Brad Brake and Madelyn Brunow of HCHPH and Dr. Karla Lester.

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