

# Quick Reads

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## IDPH welcomes new leaders



New [Behavioral Health](#) Division Director, Dr. Jeffrey Kerber, joins IDPH after 12 years managing outpatient counseling and psychiatry clinics and programs integrating behavioral health and primary care. Dr. Kerber is a Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist, and was in full-time clinical practice for 13 years prior to his management work. He holds a Ph.D. in Human Development and Family Studies from Iowa State University, a master's degree in Marriage & Family Therapy from the University of Wisconsin-Stout and undergraduate degrees from St. Olaf College in Minnesota.

Dr. Nalo Johnson, the new division director for [Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention](#), comes to IDPH having spent time in public health/community health efforts at state and local levels in both chronic disease prevention/health promotion and communicable disease. Nalo was recently awarded the 2019 [APHA](#) Henrik L. Blum Award for Excellence in Health Planning and Policy Development. Originally from Iowa, Nalo received her BA from Williams College (MA) and PhD from the University of Minnesota. She's excited to return to the Des Moines area with her husband, and fourth and sixth grade children.

## Vaping campaign launched

This week, Governor Reynolds announced a statewide campaign to educate parents and teens about the dangers of [vaping](#). Social media is heavily involved and the Iowa Dept. of Education is assisting in educating students, teachers and administrators. According to the 2018 [Iowa Youth Survey](#), e-cigarette use among Iowa 11<sup>th</sup> graders increased from 9.1% in 2016 to 22.4% in 2018.



Gov. Reynolds announces campaign with IDPH Medical Director, Dr. Caitlin Pedati, in attendance.

## Iowa leads nation

According to CDC's December 2019 [Vital Signs](#) report on ending HIV transmission in the U.S., Iowa ranks first in the nation for HIV viral suppression, with 79.6% of people diagnosed achieving viral suppression in 2017. The national average is 62%.

The report also presents pre-exposure prophylaxis or [PrEP](#) (a daily pill that prevents HIV) coverage by state. Iowa ranks fourth in the nation for the proportion of those with need who are on PrEP. Iowa is the only low-morbidity area to be in the top five. Congratulations to all who have made these successes happen!



## New home for LCPH



Congratulations to Linn County on its new state-of-the-art [Dr. Percy and Lileah Harris Building](#). The Cedar Rapids facility houses the county's public health services.

## 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.

[Adams County](#): A behavioral health coalition meets monthly, has hosted adult and youth mental health and first aid classes for 140 community volunteers, and trained over 60 school staff. In one school, the efforts have resulted in fewer absences than in the previous year. For more information, see the complete plans and reports on the IDPH [website](#).

## Flu vaccination campaign

The IDPH Bureau of Immunization and TB's vaccination media campaign is underway. Using traditional and social media, the campaign first focuses on [influenza](#) vaccination, but upcoming companion pieces will encourage HPV and other immunizations.



Quick Reads – December 13, 2019

## IDPH spotlight: Health Statistics

IDPH [Health Statistics](#) collects birth, death and fetal death data in accordance with national standards set by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). The data is used to create the bureau's annual Health Statistics Report, and by programs and researchers through data sharing and research agreements.

The bureau collects a large amount of data that tells Iowa's health story, and helps programs and leadership make informed decisions to affect the public's health. Partnerships with birth registration staff, funeral directors, death certifiers, medical examiners and county recorders are essential to ensure that data being collected are accurate and timely.

Work with stakeholder groups (as required by law) helps ensure timely and accurate record registration processes are in place. IDPH field staff and help desk staff are properly trained to address their needs in a timely fashion. Clear communication and support is provided on an as-needed basis to address the demands of the customers that are ultimately served. Additional partnerships are created to help streamline government processes.

The bureau has built relationships with other government programs to create efficiencies for those programs and to provide a targeted point-of-contact for those government programs. For example, Information Management staff play a big role in program development that supports the statewide electronic vital record system. The bureau works with the Data Management program to ensure all the proper agreements are in place prior to data release.

The bureau has an impressive response record. Statewide, 79% of requests for certified copies of vital records are processed in one day using the statewide electronic vital records system and collaboration with local county registrar offices.





# Monthly data snapshot - Prevent the Silent Killer: Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning

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 Public Health Tracking Portal](#)

In 2017, 31 people in Iowa [died](#) and 244 were [sent to the emergency room](#) from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. CO is a poisonous gas that neither humans nor animals can see or smell. Common sources for CO are heaters and heating systems, portable generators, cooking equipment that uses a flame, coal and wood burning products, and vehicles. Symptoms of CO poisoning include headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain and confusion. CO poisoning often occurs in early winter when home furnaces are first turned on for the season, and may malfunction or be in need of maintenance. CO poisoning can be prevented by installing CO detectors, and having furnaces and other flame producing appliances professionally checked once a year. More information about CO poisoning can be found [here](#) and [here](#). Questions or comments about IDPH data can be sent [here](#).

## Congrats and kudos

Congrats to [Community Health Centers of Southeast Iowa, Inc.](#), recognized by the [Million Hearts®](#) campaign as one of 17 national champions in hypertension control. Champions achieved blood pressure control for at least 80% of their adult patients with hypertension.

CDC, the American Cancer Society, and the American Association of Cancer Institutes have named [Nathan Boonstra](#), MD, FAAP, as a national "HPV Vaccine Is Cancer Prevention" [Champion](#).

Kudos to Lucas County Health Center, named a [2019 Community Star](#) by the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health.

## Hawki anniversary

December marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the [Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa](#) (Hawki) program, a part of the state/federal [Children's Health Insurance Program](#) and administered by [DHS](#). IDPH Hawki Outreach Coordinators provide oversight and outreach to [Title V Maternal, Child and Adolescent](#) agencies, and build strong partnerships with local community organizations including medical and dental providers, schools and school nurses, and diverse/special populations, including faith-based organizations.

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