

Quick Reads

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PHAB accreditation

I'm pleased to share the Iowa Department of Public Health has been awarded [national accreditation](#) by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#). This designation is evidence of the department's commitment to ongoing improvement, and dedication to the health of all Iowans. IDPH joins the list of Iowa accredited public health agencies, which includes the Linn County, Cerro Gordo County and Scott County Public Health Departments.

Public Health Hero

Congratulations to retired IDPH Medical Director and State Epidemiologist, Dr. Patricia Quinisk, who was named a [Public Health Hero](#) by the University of Iowa College of Public Health. Dr. Quinisk was honored along with Arlinda McKeen, part of the [State Public Policy Group](#) for nearly 25 years, and Kara Vogelsson, who has been with the [Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health](#) since 2002. "These three award recipients have dedicated their careers to protecting, improving and advocating for the health of Iowans," said Edith Parker, dean of the College of Public Health.



Pictured above L-R: Dr. Caitlin Pedati, IDPH Medical Director/State Epidemiologist; Dr. Louise Lex, IDPH health planner; Dr. Quinisk; Dr. Ann Garvey, Deputy State Epidemiologist and Public Health Veterinarian.

Focus: local boards of health

Warren County is the only county-wide [5-2-1-0 Healthy Choices Count!](#) project in Iowa. With the support of the [Warren County Board of Health](#), Warren County Health Services is encouraging healthy eating and active living for children and families.



A human 5-2-1-0! Pictured L-R: Bill Gross, BOH Vice-Chair (5); Katie Bee (2); Jodene DeVault, Warren County Public Health Administrator (holding 5-2-1-0 poster); BOH Chairman, Dr. Dennis Zachary (1); Wanda Hilton (0); and loving it with heart hands is Sandra Doerring.

Congrats and kudos

Congrats to Hannah Cook, Birth Center Staff Nurse at Mercy Medical Center-New Hampton, and Bill Bruce, CEO of Crawford County Memorial Hospital in Denison for being named [2018 Community Stars](#) for National Rural Health Day.

IDPH Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Division Director Brenda Dobson has been appointed to represent the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics on the [U.S. Breastfeeding Committee](#).

Oral Health America's national report, [A State of Decay](#), ranks Iowa number 3 in the nation for oral health among older residents – up from the previous ranking of 23.



#FluFighter

[Iowa State Board of Health](#) chairman Michael Wolnerman joined the ranks of “flu fighters” as he received his annual influenza vaccination from his local pharmacist. Thank you, Michael, for being a leader in in both words and actions.



Iowa State Board of Health Chair Michael Wolnerman

Holiday spirit

The annual silent auction to benefit the Food Bank of Iowa was held at IDPH December 4-6. All items were donated and all proceeds benefit the Food Bank. Thanks to the generosity (and spirited bidding) of IDPH staff, the auction generated over \$5,000 this year!



IDPH spotlight: Center for Rural Health and Primary Care

Of Iowa’s 99 counties, 79 are considered rural and 43 percent of Iowans live in them. Originally established in 1989 as the Office of Rural Health Advisory Committee, the [Center for Rural Health and Primary Care](#) works to facilitate and advocate for access to quality rural health services. These efforts are guided by data that determine the [Health Professional Shortage Areas](#) (HPSA) in the state, as well as the Governor Shortage Designation counties. These designations inform eligibility for other rural health programs, including the [PRIMECARRE](#) program, state health professional loan repayment and National Health Service Corp.

The Center is responsible for six federal grant programs and projects, and 12 state-funded programs. The key to successfully implementing these programs is partnerships and collaboration. Through meetings, summits, forums and phone calls, these diverse partnerships work regionally and nationally to ensure rural Iowans have access to the same quality of health services as their urban counterparts.

Toward that end, the Center for Rural Health and Primary Care works across the department to share information and make connections that address rural health issues.

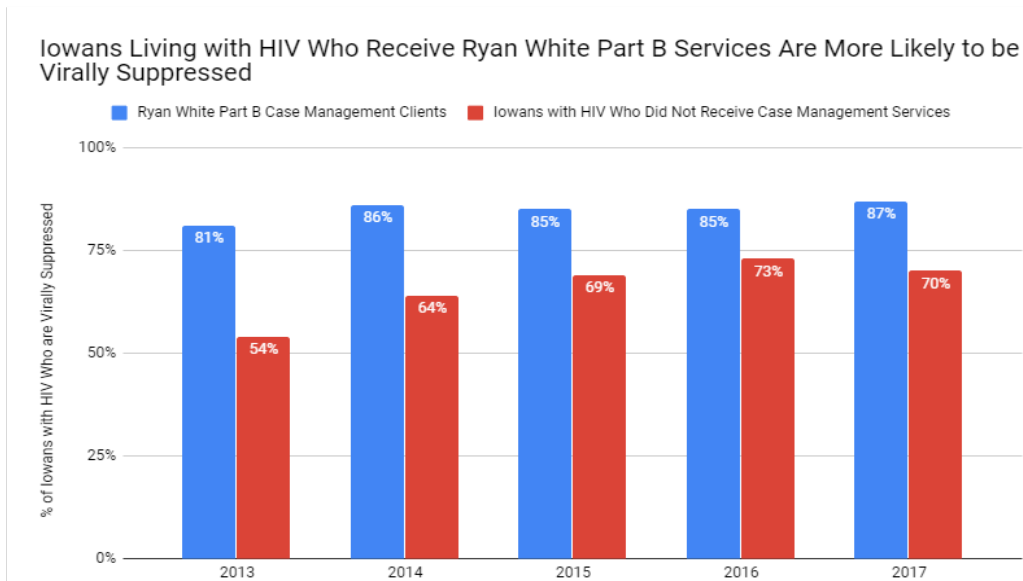
Externally, The Center’s team worked with the Iowa Department of Education, Iowa Workforce Development, Iowa Hospital Association, the Iowa Health Care Association, and other stakeholders to develop the [Opportunities in Health Sciences – Iowa Career Pathway](#) document. The pathway is an introduction to health sciences careers that links into the Future Ready Iowa initiative.

Access to comprehensive, quality health care services is important for promoting and maintaining health, preventing and managing disease, reducing disability and premature death, and achieving health equity for all Iowans.



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.



There are over 3,000 Iowans living with HIV, 86 percent of whom have been diagnosed. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that everyone 15 to 64 years old get tested for HIV at least once in their lifetime. Early diagnosis is critical for improved health outcomes and reduced transmission. In fact, people living with HIV who take their medications as prescribed and have a low amount of virus in their blood are considered undetectable (also known as virally suppressed) and have effectively no risk of transmitting HIV to their sexual partners. This concept is known as Undetectable = Untransmittable, or U=U. This is a tool to prevent the spread of the virus, empower people living with HIV, and help end HIV stigma. In Iowa, [Ryan White Part B Program](#) services are available for people living with HIV. These services are effective in helping people with HIV become virally suppressed by providing case management services and helping with health insurance costs, transportation, housing and other needs. Questions about HIV-related data can be sent [here](#).

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Save the Date!
The 42nd Annual Iowa Governor's Conference on Substance Abuse Facing the Future Together

Mark Your Calendar: April 16 and 17, 2019
 The Iowa Governor's Conference on Substance Abuse will be held at the Veteran's Memorial Community Choice Credit Union - Iowa Events Center in Des Moines.

Call for Presentations
 Watch your inbox for guidance on the opportunity to contribute content. The competitive abstract submission process will run December 15, 2018 - January 4, 2019.

Our Mission: Protecting and Improving the Health of Iowans.
 Our Vision: Healthy Iowans in Healthy Communities.

December 2018

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 IT'S NOT TOO LATE!**

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