

# Quick Reads

Gerd W. Clabaugh, MPA  
Director, Iowa Department of Public Health



Deployed IDPH staffers Craig Leaming and Steve Vannatta help oversee the delivery of 400,000 donated water bottles

## Public health disaster declared

Late last month, Governor Kim Reynolds signed a proclamation of a public health disaster emergency for Iowa. This action authorizes the Iowa Department of Public Health to, among other actions, mobilize [public health response teams](#). These teams have been in existence since 2003, and consist of trained volunteers from private industry, health care institutions, and local and state public health staff. I thank Governor Reynolds for giving the department more flexibility to respond to public health emergencies as needed, as flooding events continue to occur across parts of the state.

## Public health conference

IDPH is proud to again participate in the 2019 [Iowa Governor's Conference on Public Health](#). A number of IDPH presenters are on the agenda, as well as other state and national experts. I look forward to seeing you there.

## From our local partners

[Dickinson County](#): The Board of Health has drafted, approved and signed a number of letters of support, including nicotine/tobacco free public spaces, the Good Neighbor program, water fluoridation, and support for the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation trust fund. The board has also been very active with Healthy Hometown and the local Hunger Coalition, and will be helping to plant apple trees in May.

[Story County](#): The Board of Health worked with the Story County Attorney and Ames police to [clarify Iowa CBD laws](#). Environmental Health staff updated the board about Foreign Animal Disease Preparedness, specifically the African Swine Flu. Additionally, the board is considering future changes to the county's swimming pool ordinance, and received training about [Health Impact Assessments](#).



Story County Board of Health members (L-R) Mark Speck (Vice Chair); Dr. John Kluge, DVM; Dr. John Paschen, MD (Chair); Dr. Louisa Tabatabai; and Lauris Olson (Ex-officio).

## NPHW

Congratulations to all our public health colleagues on another successful National Public Health Week (April 1-7). IDPH created this short [video](#) to highlight the work public health does. The department also participated in the NPHW [Twitter](#) chat, which reached more than 98 million Americans, trended #2 in the U.S. and #1 in Iowa.

## STD trends released

2018 IDPH [data](#) shows sexually transmitted disease (STD) diagnoses continue to increase, with one exception. Preliminary data show 14,695 cases of chlamydia (+5.8% from 2017), 4,839 cases of gonorrhea (+28.3%) and 283 cases of syphilis (-1.7%) were reported. IDPH staff continue to partner with local public health, private health care agencies, disease prevention specialists and community-based organizations to provide access to testing, treatment and prevention programs.

## Public health hits the road

IDPH staff have been visiting with Waukee High School [APEX](#) (Aspiring Professional Experience) students to discuss how public health affects their lives. High school seniors in the "Exploration of Health Sciences and Medicine" track took part in the "Life Course Game," which explores the risk and protective factors that affect a person's overall life course and health. The students also heard directly from IDPH staff about how their work helps to protect and improve the health of all Iowans.



Waukee APEX students play the Life Course game.

## IDPH spotlight: Center for Congenital & Inherited Disorders (CCID)

[CCID's](#) newborn blood spot and hearing screening programs assure that all Iowa newborns with abnormal screening results receive referrals to appropriate clinical care services. The programs of CCID (including the Iowa Newborn Screening Program, the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program, newborn screening for critical congenital heart disorders (CCHD), the Iowa Maternal Prenatal Screening Program, the Regional Genetics Consultation Service, Neuromuscular and Related Disorders program, the Iowa Registry for Congenital and Inherited Disorders, the Family Health History initiative, and the congenital Cytomegalovirus (cCMV) awareness program) touch every family in Iowa.

CCID uses data to evaluate progress toward meeting performance measures such as timeliness of newborn screening and provision of follow-up for abnormal screening results, and to conduct needs assessments to target outreach and determine the best location of regional genetics clinics.

Genetics and genomics affect all health. CCID programs work with environmental health programs to assess the effect of the environment on birth defects; with acute disease programs to prevent the transmission of viral diseases that can cause birth defects; with chronic disease prevention programs to promote family health history and hereditary cancer screening programs; and with maternal child health programs to provide continuity of care across the lifespan.

## IDPH's Russell honored

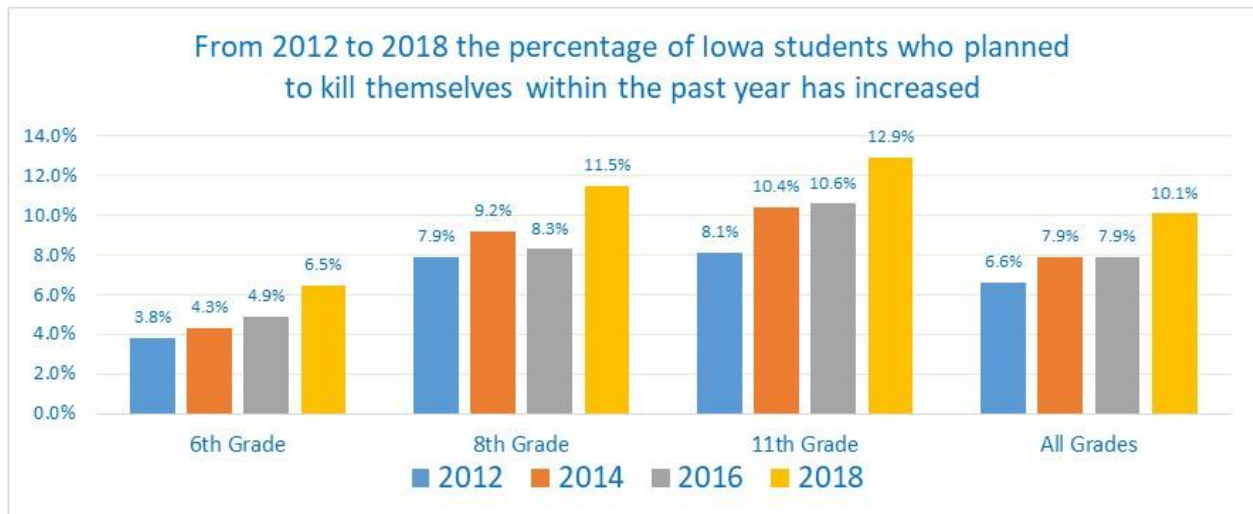
Iowa Public Health Dental Director, Dr. Bob Russell, has been inducted into Drake University [Pi Alpha Alpha](#), the global honor society for public affairs and public administration. Dr. Russell will graduate with a Master of Public Administration this month, and will also address the 2019 graduating class of the Drake's College of Business and Public Administration in May.





# 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.



The Iowa Youth Survey (IYS) has been conducted every two or three years since 1975 to collect behaviors, attitudes and beliefs of sixth, eighth, and 11th grade Iowans. According to the IYS, from 2012 to 2018, the percentage of students who said they had planned to kill themselves increased by 53%. In the same period, the number of sixth graders who planned to kill themselves increased 71.1%. Overall, 1 in 10 students planned to kill themselves in 2018. More information on IYS can be found [here](#), and the latest 2018 IYS report can be found [here](#). If you are feeling suicidal or are concerned about someone else, call Your Life Iowa at 855-581-8111, text at 855-895-8398 or visit the [website](#). Questions or comments about IDPH data can be sent [here](#).

## Congrats and kudos

Congratulations to [Cerro Gordo](#) County Public Health Director Ron Osterholm, who has retired after 30 years in that position. Brian Hanft, the department's deputy director since 2005, has been named the new director.

Kudos to [Johnson County](#) Public Health, which received [PHAB accreditation](#) in late March.

[Scott County](#) Public Health celebrated its November 2018 PHAB accreditation and its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary April 2.



PHAB CEO Kaye Bender and IDPH Director Clabaugh at Scott County's anniversary/PHAB celebration

## Stay informed; share your story

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."