



2020 Annual Report & Budget Summary

January 2021

Iowa Department of Public Health
Protecting and Improving the Health of Iowans



A Message from the Director

2020 has been a truly unprecedented year for public health in Iowa, including the Department of Public Health. As a lead agency for the state's COVID-19 response, 2020 has been a year of tremendous challenge and incredible teamwork. As 2020 comes to a close, we are focused on COVID-19 vaccine operations, with a goal of getting vaccines distributed in an equitable and ethical way to Iowans as quickly as possible.

In addition to the agency's focus on responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, we have continued our focus this year on protecting and improving the health of all who live, learn, work and play in Iowa by doing everything we can to ensure Iowans have access to the resources and services needed to be healthy.

As part of this commitment, we are partnering with our colleagues at the Department of Human Services in 2021 to participate in an evaluation of services provided to Iowans by both agencies. This work will be focused on identifying opportunities to identify clear, shared program goals, align and integrate programs, practices and policies to improve delivery of services and most effectively leverage available funding sources, identify community based stakeholders and other stakeholders to provide input and guidance to the Departments' programmatic and policy efforts, engaging all levels of staff to inform the departments' established goals and project plans, and create an organizational structure that optimizes delivery of services, supports efficiency and ease of work for staff, and integrates the departments' programs and services with community and other available resources.

A few highlights of IDPH's 2020 work include:

- The department played a lead role in the [state's COVID-19 response](#).
- [Your Life Iowa](#) offers help to thousands of Iowans with concerns about alcohol, drugs, gambling, mental health, suicide, and vaping/e-cigarettes.
- Iowa has had a [30% reduction in HIV diagnoses](#) over the last three years – notably the first sustained reduction in HIV diagnoses since HIV reporting began in 1998.
- IDPH has been awarded [a \\$4.4 million cooperative agreement](#) to partner with the Iowa Primary Care Association and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to help increase colorectal cancer screenings at 10 of Iowa's federally qualified health centers to 60% by 2025.
- [5-2-1-0 Healthy Choices Count!](#) expanded funding to five new communities, while eleven currently funded communities will receive additional grants to create environments that support healthy choices.
- IDPH was one of 16 health departments and Indian Health Boards to be awarded [a three-year project](#) to build capacity to promote Alzheimer's Disease and dementia risk reduction and prevention, early diagnosis, management of comorbidities, and caregiver support.

As we move into 2021, we look forward to continuing to work with Iowans, stakeholder organizations, local and federal public health partners and other state agencies to protect and improve the health of everyone who chooses to live, learn, work and play in Iowa.

All my best,

Kelly Garcia
Interim Director

